

MINUTES SUMMARY

Council of Administration

September 21, 2024



Today's Half and Half is to help the Hawaii Home at Eaton Rapids.

Commander Ben Fuata called the Department of Hawaii Council of Administration (COA) meeting to order at 0918, following the prescribed format:

Roll Call of officers:

Commander - Ben Fuata:	Present
Senior Vice Commander - Jason Seal:	Not Present
Junior Vice Commander – Lynn Mariano:	Present
Quartermaster - Norbert Enos:	Present
Adjutant - George Barlett:	Present
Judge Advocate - Patsey Takemura:	Present
Surgeon - Lynn Gernert:	Present
Chaplain - Stan Fernandez:	Present
Chief of Staff - Randy Grant:	Present
Inspector - Randy Grant also COS	Present
Immediate Past Commander - Ronald Schaedel:	Present
Past Commander: - Joseph Bragg	Present
Past Commander:	Not Present
Past Commander:	Not Present
Post 94:	Not Present
Post 110: ADJ/QM	Not Present
Post 352:	Present
Post 849: Sr Vice	Present
Post 970:	Present
Post 1540:	Present
Post 1572:	Present
Post 2875: Sr Vice	Present
Post 3292: QM	Not Present
Post 3391:	Not Present
Post 3830: QM	Not Present
Post 3850: Via Zoom	Present
Post 3855:	Not Present
Post 3870:	Not Present
Post 3875: ADJ	Not Present
Post 8616: also Jr Vice	Present
Post 10154: QM	Not Present
Post 10276:	Present
Post 12122:	Not Present
Post 12138:	Present

MINUTES SUMMARY

Council of Administration

September 21, 2024



Note: The Adjutant confirmed a quorum was present after the roll call.

- Guests in attendance: None.
- Adjutant recognized Past Department Commanders and Past National Councilmembers

Reading/approval of the minutes:

- The minutes from the June 22, 2024, meeting have been distributed and are available on the website. A motion to approve the minutes, with no corrections or additions, was made, seconded, and passed.
- Report on Balloting since the last COA: None.

Quartermaster (QM) Report:

- Quartermaster N. Enos presented the report as of September 21, 2024. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and passed. The report is available for review at the Department Headquarters.

Correspondence:

- Commander B. Fuata read a letter emphasizing the importance of remaining nonpartisan during the current political season.
- A letter from Fred Apgar was received, requesting assistance in publicizing his book, "Return to War on the Plaine des Jerres".
 - Note: The Adjutant will ensure the book and its QR code are publicized for members to purchase.
- A letter from Grouper regarding Social Fitness Benefit was read.
- A reminder letter was received noting that Western Conference housing reservations close on September 30, 2024.

Comrade/Family of a Comrade in Distress:

- Past Post Commander Danny "Kana" Kanahele, Post 3850, passed away. Services are scheduled for September 28, 2024. Adjutant George Barlett will represent the Department of Hawaii following the scheduled Post Inspection.
- Comrade P. Maple, Post 10276, underwent surgery and is currently recovering.

Service Officer Report: No Report

Officer and Committee Reports:

- **Commander - B. Fuata:**
 - Requested posts to submit inputs for the *Lava Ledger* to highlight their activities and members.
 - Reminded that the "Grapevine" is a quick send document and will be followed by a General Order as required. The key to ensure that information is delivered out to the members in the timely manner similar to an Alert and/or Warning Order followed by the G.O. for more details concerning the information blast.

MINUTES SUMMARY

Council of Administration

September 21, 2024



- Advised not to submit quick links for National Awards directly to National. Posts are instructed to ensure all National Awards are submitted to the Department for proper review and approval before being forwarded to National for their review and approval.
- **Sr. Vice Commander - J. Seal:**
 - Submitted a written report on the National Home.
- **Jr. Vice Commander - L. Mariano:**
 - Buddy Poppy: Encouraged Posts to distribute Buddy Poppies and to send orders to the State Quartermaster. A new Buddy Poppy order form is available.
 - Legacy Life Membership:** Urged Posts to promote Legacy Life membership. The Department currently has 135 Legacy Life members.
- **Chaplain - S. Fernandez:**
 - Reminded Post Chaplains to contact him if they need assistance with their duties.
 - Announced that the Oahu Veterans Council (OVC) is organizing the Veterans Day Ceremony at Punchbowl at 1000. **This year's theme will honor the Air Force.**
- **Chief of Staff - R. Grant:**
 - Instructed Post Commanders need to contact the inspection team if they need to change inspection dates.
 - VOD/PP/Teacher Programs: Submission **deadline to Posts is October 31, 2024;** the **Department deadline is November 30, 2024.**
 - Reminded that all VOD/PP submissions must use the "Scholars App". If students do not enter their data, Posts must do so. Judging at the Department and National levels will be done using the **"Scholars App"**.
- **Quartermaster - N. Enos:**
 - Provided a membership review based on the latest data.
 - Encouraged members to watch the "Membership Monday" webcasts, which are recorded and available for viewing anytime are on the VFW National website.
- **State Adjutant - G. Barlett:**
 - Attended Adjutant/Quartermaster training, noting that many aspects of the training will be incorporated into the Department's training program.
 - Reminded all COA members to submit proof of eligibility to the Department, including Post leadership as the Post Commander is a council member.
 - Announced the 2025 National Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio, from August 9-13, 2025. Attendees should plan to arrive by August 8, 2025.

MINUTES SUMMARY

Council of Administration

September 21, 2024



- Noted the Blue Angels will perform at MCBH on August 9-10, 2025. We are forming a committee for this event; if you would like to assist, please contact the Department.
- **Note: Adjutant Administrative Reminders:**
 - Post Commanders must ensure election reports are filled out correctly, including meeting dates, times, EIN numbers, and required positions.
 - To maintain a "Good Standing" status, posts must submit quarterly Trustee Report of Audit, as officer voting rights at the COA depend on this.
 - Post Adjutants must submit quarterly Community Service reports through the dashboard—only two Posts have submitted for this quarter.
- **Surgeon - L. Gernert:**
 - Gave a presentation on flu shots and emphasized awareness of veteran suicide prevention.
- **Judge Advocate – P. Takemura:**
 - No Report.
- **Past Department Commander/NCM - R. Schaedel:**
 - In reference to Commander in Chief Al Lipphardt's remarks, urged caution when speaking to the press, as statements can be taken out of context.
 - Reminded Posts that the VFW brand and Cross of Malta are trademarked and require permission from the VFW National Quartermaster General to use them.
 - Mentioned potential changes to the VOD student trips and award presentations due to liability concerns.
- **Comrade - T. Wong:**
 - Budget and Audit Committees: No report.
- **Comrade - J. Taueu:**
 - Encouraged the promotion of safety programs, including child and bicycle safety.
 - Reminded Posts to submit Firefighter, Police, EMT, and Lifeguard of the Year entries to the Department.
- **Comrade - J. Schaedel:**
 - Legislative: Submitted a written report, reminding members to be cautious of "Claim Sharks."
- **Comrade – C. Mack:**
 - State Convention: Commander B. Fuata appointed J. Schaedel as co-chair of the State

MINUTES SUMMARY

Council of Administration

September 21, 2024



Convention Committee. The convention will be held at KMC on the Big Island, and the Commander encourages all Posts to bring their colors and showcase their achievements.

- Media and Public Relations: No report.
- **Comrade – P. Maple:**
 - POW/MIA and Outreach: While Comrade Paul Maple is recovering from surgery, the Department intends to coordinate with him for a DPPA visit during the Western Conference.
- **Comrade - R. Boucher:**
 - Veterans and Military Service: Announced that US Vets is holding a Golf Tournament on October 8, 2024, with proceeds benefiting homeless veterans.
 - Noted that grants are available for Adopt-a-Unit and military unit activities.
 - Those interested in VMS pins should contact him.
 - Emergency Preparedness: Reminded attendees to take home the giveaways on the table.
 - VA Akaka Clinic holds a food distribution event on the 2nd Friday of the month.
- **Veteran Employment and Programs - S. Willis:**
 - Submitted a written report and announced a job fair at JBPHH Employment.

Award Presentation: All-State caps were presented to J. “Frank” Bragg, Rodney Boucher, Larry Enomoto, Kevin Beall, and Tim Wong.

National Home Prayer

Unfinished Business:

- Western Conference this year will be at Ala Moana Hotel. **Rooms reservations close on September 30, 2024.** If you are going, please register for the Conference do so soon.
- Please check with the Department QM or Adjutant to confirm your registration and meal payment. There are some people who have secured their room reservations however, failed complete their conference registration application to include meals.

New Business:

- **Appointment Changes:**
 - The upcoming appointment changes will be published in General Order #4.
- **Commander’s Membership Challenge:**
 - To help Posts achieve their goal of 102% membership, for each new or reinstated

MINUTES SUMMARY

Council of Administration

September 21, 2024



member recruited, the Post will receive \$5.00. For every new life member, the Post will receive \$10.00.

- **Note:** Change to National Membership guidance. Installment life members count as annual members and recruiters will be given credit for reinstates.
- **Department Fundraiser & American Life Mailout:**
 - Preparation will begin on November 5, 2024. Volunteers are needed to help stuff and address envelopes at Headquarters. If interested in assisting, please contact the office.
- **Submarine Advocacy Group (SAG):**
 - On behalf of the SAG, R. Boucher introduced a letter outlining the group's purpose, mission, vision, and goals of the group. He plans to submit a resolution to the Department seeking VFW support for the group. All new resolutions, should have Post approval, then submitted to the State Chief of Staff and State Judge Advocate for review of proper formatting and veteran advocacy before being present to the Department Convention for approval. Refer to the Bylaws and Resolution SOP for further guidance.
- **Fundraising Requests from Posts:**
 - Post 12138 and Post 849: Plan to conduct golf tournaments in January and February 2024, with details to be announced.
 - Post 3850: Will host a Commander's Dinner on October 31, 2024, in conjunction with Halloween celebration.
 - Post 3830 and Auxiliary: Will hold a Dachshund race and Oktoberfest on October 12, 2024 at Shipmen Park in Keaau.
 - **Department Commander: Approved all fundraising requests.**

Good of the Order:

- **Military Order of the Cooties:**
 - Randy Grant gave an informational briefing on the Military Order of the Cooties. The Department is working to revive our pup tent and will host an informational meeting on October 12, 2024, at 1300 at VFW Department of Hawaii Headquarters, for eight attendees with Zoom Access available. Please e-mail Randy Grant at rwgrant65@outlook.com, if you plan to attend in person or via Zoom.
- **Veterans Day Ceremonies:**
 - Kansas City Barbeque: All-day event.
 - 0700: Veterans Day ceremony at the WWII Memorial, in partnership with the American Legion.

MINUTES SUMMARY

Council of Administration

September 21, 2024



- 0730: Veterans Day ceremony at the Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials, led by the State of Hawaii VFW.
- 1000: Veterans Day ceremony at Punchbowl, sponsored by the Oahu Veterans Council (OVC), with a focus on honoring the Air Force.
- 1000: Veterans Day event at the Natatorium.
- 1100: Veterans Day ceremony at Parke Memorial, Subbase.
- **Upcoming Ceremonies/VFW Events:**
 - Post 970: Will retire U.S. flags at Punchbowl on September 21, 2024, at 0900.
 - Post 3875: Will conduct a Buddy Poppy distribution at KTA on November 8-9, 2024.
 - Comrade Sherman Willis: Announced that his daughter, Amy is working at the Kapolei VA Center, focusing on PTSD.

Closing Ceremony and Remarks:

- Commander Fuata officially closed the meeting in form at 1050.
- The next Council of Administration (COA) meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2024, with setup at 0900 and meeting start at 0915.

Additional Announcements:

- The Commander's Homecoming is scheduled to take place the Friday, 7 February 2025 at the Natsunoya Tea House. Information on to the menu, cost and time will be distributed soon.
- The Winter/Spring COA meeting will be held at 09:15 on February 8, 2025, at the Oahu Veterans Center (OVC). Set up will commence at 08:45 followed by registration from 09:00-09:15.

Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G1 B A", is written over a horizontal line.

Department Adjutant
George Barlett

Approval Date: State Adjutant

Initials: