

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAII, 85TH CONVENTION CONDUCTED AT THE ALA MOANA HOTEL, HONOLULU HAWAII

FRIDAY JUNE 10, 2023

1. THE 85TH DEPARTMENT OF HAWAII VFW CONVENTION WAS OPENED IN FORM BY COMMANDER BRAGG; AT 09:12 AM HST AT THE LANAI GARDEN BALLROOM OF THE ALA MOANA HOTEL IN HONOLULU, HAWAII, ON JUNE 09, 2023. THE STATE ADJUTANT BARLETT WAS PRESENT.

2. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:
 - A. State Adjutant Barlett introduced the following guests.
 - i. National Junior Vice Commander in Chief Al Lipphardt
 - ii. Stan Martinez from Utah.

3. FIRST CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT
 - A. QM Enos moved that the roll of delegates submitted as of 08:30 AM being the official roll of voting members of the convention: Posts Presents 15 Post Delegates: 99 Officers voting separately 0; Number of delegates entitled to vote 99.
 - B. The Credentials Report was accepted final report will be adopted tomorrow.

4. READING AND ADOPTION OF CONVENTION RULES
 - A. State Judge Advocate Randy Grant read the Convention Rules for the 84th State Convention and moved the adoption of the proposed 85th Convention Standing Rules.
 - B. The following Convention Standing Rules were adopted as read.

General:

 1. With the exceptions listed below, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised will be recognized as the Parliamentary Authority.
 2. The Commander shall appoint all committees for the functioning of the Convention.

3. The Commander shall control all discussions on resolutions, elections, and other issues to be voted on. All delegates entitled to speak shall be recognized by the Commander.
4. The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in the Convention Hall during official business sessions.
5. Mobile communication devices shall be either turned off or placed on silent or vibrate mode.
6. The chair shall have the authority to escort from the Convention Hall any person interfering with the orderly proceedings of the convention.
7. Only the State Commander or their designated representative may release Convention information to outside information to outside agencies, such as the Press, following decisions made at this Convention.
8. The Convention rules may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates assembled at a Convention, to be taken without debate.

Voting:

1. All votes cast must be paid for. This includes Delegate votes, Commanders votes, State Officers votes, National Councilmember vote, and Past Commanders votes. Delegate fees will be applied as follows:
 - a. Post delegates as determined by Post strength on record with the Department Quartermaster as of June 8, 2023.
 - b. Other votes include Post Commander's votes, State Officer's votes, Past Department Commanders vote, and Current National Councilmember vote.
 - c. In accordance with Section 521, of the Congressional Charter and Bylaws, NO person shall have more than one vote.
2. Voting shall be by acclamation except when a Roll Call vote is requested by three (3) delegates from three (3) different Posts.
3. Each delegate shall not be considered instructed or acting as a proxy.
4. When the roll is called, the Delegate chair shall announce the vote of their delegation.
5. Each delegation may arrive at a vote in any manner, but shall announce it in terms of full units and not a fractional part of a vote.
6. When the roll call of a delegation chair is not acceptable to any member of the delegation, the Department Adjutant shall poll that delegation for clarification.
7. Roll call voting order shall be Post Commander and Post delegates in numerical order, Past Department Commanders, National Councilmember, Department Officers, State Junior Vice, Commander, State Senior Vice Commander, and State Commander.
8. Delegates may abstain on the first round of a roll call, but must cast their vote on the second round.

Delegate Recognition:

1. Any delegate entitled to speak shall go to an appropriate microphone or use the hand microphone as appropriate.
2. Any member wishing to offer any parliamentary action shall inform Officer of the Day or Sergeant at Arms who will inform the Commander.
3. The delegate shall **be recognized**, address the chair as "Comrade Commander", state their name and Post Number or in the case of a Department Officer, they shall state their title; e.g. James Jones, delegate from Post 123 and then speak.

Motions:

1. All motions and amendments shall be submitted in writing.

Debate:

1. Debate shall be limited to two (2) minutes per speaker.
2. A delegate is permitted to speak, but twice on any subject or resolution, except by consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting strength present. Committee Chairs may speak as necessary to clarify the motion.

Bylaws Amendments:

1. The 2022-2023 Bylaws Committee shall be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the membership in connection with bylaws amendments adopted at the 85th Convention.

Election Rules:

1. Nominations and election for each office shall be done in the following order: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander Quartermaster, and Chaplain.

2. Nominating speeches for candidates to any elected position shall be limited to two (2) minutes each. Seconding of a candidate is not required but, only one seconding speech of two (2) minutes shall be made for any candidate.
3. Candidates are allowed 3 minutes to speak.
4. Voting shall be by Roll Call vote.

5. PRESENTATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE 84RD STATE CONVENTION HELD AT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, HONOLULU HAWAII.

- A. Proceedings for the 84th State Convention are available for review upon request.

6. BYLAWS CHAIR

- A. The following Department of Hawaii Bylaws change was recommended.

Section 405. Department Officers

Part A Currently reads:

The Officers of this Department shall be as provided in Article V of the National Bylaws.

Should read:

The Officers of this Department shall be as provided in Article V of the National Bylaws. In addition the Judge Advocate and Surgeon are also elected.

The Bylaws Committee moves that this change be adopted.

Motion was seconded and passed.

- B. Bylaws Committee member Barlett reported that the same two (2) resolutions were received from Post 10154 and Post 12138 It was approved by Post 10154 on May 23, 2023 and Post 12138 on May 27, 2023. The resolutions are as followed.

- C. Resolution 1:

Resolution to Create Patrol Insignia Awards for the SS, SSG, SSN, and SSGN Submarine Crews

Whereas the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is “a national association of veterans who as soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen served this Nation in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters,” and is committed to “Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their

earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.” and

Whereas the mission of the VFW is “To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities.” And especially “To advocate on behalf of all veterans.”

Whereas the SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia was approved and authorized to be issued to members of SSBN, Boomer, submarine crews in 1969 and retroactive to the first deterrent patrol of the USS George Washington SSBN 598 in 1961, and has been issued to all crews of these submarines to the present after completion of an SSBN deterrent patrol, and

Whereas the SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia has been referred to by the US Navy as the successor to the World War II era Submarine Combat Patrol Insignia (SCPI) and as an insignia that is a combat insignia or badge, and

Whereas the Navy failed to issue an equivalent, appropriate, and consistent combat patrol insignia or award to SS, SSG, SSN, and SSGN crews and opted for the awarding of the Navy Expeditionary Medal (NEM) as a combat award for these crews albeit inconsistently, and

Whereas the SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia has been a divisive award within the Submarine Force, diminished Force cohesiveness, and a negative influence on Force morale, and

Whereas the above has extended to the Submarine Force veterans and the VFW and resulted in SSBN crewmembers and veterans receiving recognition for eligibility for membership while many SS, SSG, SSN, and SSGN crewmembers and veterans being excluded from membership even though they have participated in many deep water, extended, sensitive, and extremely hazardous patrols, without being awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, the members of VFW Department of Hawaii request that the VFW National Headquarters and leadership commence efforts to petition US Navy Submarine Force commands, commanders, and US Navy officials at the Pentagon to design, approve, and authorize patrol insignias for the SS, SSG, SSN, and SSGN crews retroactive to 1947 and holding the same award rank as the SCPI and SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignias.

Post 10154 approved this resolution on May 13, 2023

Post 12138 approved this resolution on May 27, 2023.

D. Resolution 2:

Resolution to Create Patrol Insignia Awards for the SS, SSG, SSN, and SSGN Submarine Crews

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Post 10154 approved this resolution on May 13, 2023

Post 12138 approved this resolution on May 27, 2023.

- A Motion was made to accept both resolutions. The motion was seconded and passed.
- E. QM Enos reported on finances of the Department. QM Enos made a motion: “To accept the QM’s report.” Motion was seconded and passed.
- F. Service Officers Report: Service Officer Jason Seal reported on the status of the Service Office and the current issues affecting claims processing at the VA.

- G. A recess was called at 0955. At the Joint session, Ron Han from the State Veterans Office was the keynote speaker.
- H. The Convention was reconvened at 1059.
- I. Committee Reports:
 - i. Commander/ Teacher Award.
 - 1. *Commander Bragg thanked everyone for their support*
 - 2. *Teacher's Award. 8 Posts Participated with 15 teachers nominated and Post 10276 submitted the entry that was forwarded to National.*
 - ii. Sr. Vice Commander
 - 1. *Sr Vice Commander Schaedel Reported on Buddy Poppy, National Home and Legacy Life Membership.*
 - 2. *Buddy Poppy 13 Posts reported on 13 Posts participated in the Program. National has been having some issues with delivery and manufacturing of Poppies. Poppy costs to the Post have increased to \$275 per thousand and are ordered through the Department QM.*
 - 3. *National Home remembers to direct all donations to the Hawaii home.*
 - 4. *Legacy Life. The benefits to the Post and membership of increasing Legacy Life members were emphasized.*
 - iii. Jr Vice Commander
 - 1. *Jr Vice Commander Fuata reported on the National Home trip and their preparations for the upcoming 100th anniversary in 2025.*
 - iv. Chaplain
 - 1. *Chaplain Fernandez reported on the importance of the rituals of the VFW.*
 - 2. *OVC will be conducting a Massing of the Colors on June 14, 2023*

7. ADJOURNMENT

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 on Friday 09 June, 2023 to meet again at 09:40 AM on Saturday June 10, 2023 after the Memorial Service at 0900.
- B. Department Training will commence at 1315.

8. DEPARTMENT TRAINING.

- A. Service Officer Jason Seal and VFW Service Officer Jessee Worthen conducted Post Service Training. Discussed was filling out forms and processes in filing claims and what the Post Service Officer can and mostly cannot do.
- B. State Adjutant Barlett conducted Programs Dashboard training and OMS training.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2023

9. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Commander Bragg reopened the Convention in form at 09:15 AM HST at the Lanai Garden Ballroom of the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii, on June 10, 2023. The State Adjutant Barlett was present.

10. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

- A. National Junior Commander in Chief Al Lipphardt
- B. Stan Martinez from Utah.

11. FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT

- A. State Judge Advocate Randy Grant moved that the roll of delegates submitted as of 08:30 AM being the official roll of voting members of the convention: Post Present 16, Post Delegates: 119 Officers voting separately 1; Number of delegates entitled to vote 120.
- B. The Final Credentials Report was adopted.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Committee Reports Continued:
 - i. Chief of Staff
 - 1. *COS Ron Lockwood reported*
 - a. *He is running for National Home Trustee.*
 - b. *Community Service is now reported quarterly*
 - c. *Loyalty Day*
 - d. *Student Veterans are a good resource*
 - e. *Inspector (Next Year) We expect to have all inspections completed by end of December. Please sign up on your availability.*
 - ii. Adjutant
 - 1. *State Adjutant Barlett Scouting, Legislation pending and the importance of being part of VFW Action Corps,*
 - 2. *National Convention. Anyone attending the National Convention in Phoenix please send your contact information and dates you are*

attending the Convention so that we may coordinate activities and special events at the convention.

3. *4th of July parade Muster at 0800 qt Kailua Intermediate school.*
4. *Website we are transitioning to a new VFW sponsored website url vfwhi.org*

iii. Judge Advocate

1. *J.A. Randy Grant report was distributed. He highlighted the low participation in VOD/PP programs and ways we can increase Post Participation. He also commented on how Posts and Auxiliaries need to work together and to remember that the Auxiliary is a separate organization for us and must follow their bylaws.*

iv. Public Relations

1. *Please get information about the projects and events so he can get them out to various media sources.*

v. VMS

1. *Comrade Boucher. Reported on VMS programs*

vi. Comrade Willis

1. *Comrade Willis reported on employment opportunities at Homeland Security and in Hawaii.*

B. Bids for the 86th Convention June 13-16 2024. No bids were received, so the matter was referred to the Conventions Time and Place Committee.

C. Election and installation of officers:

- i. Ron Schaedel Post 10276 was unanimously elected as State Commander
- ii. Ben Fuata Post 3830 was unanimously elected as State Senior Vice Commander.
- iii. Nominations for State Junior Vice Commander were opened. Sherman Willis Post 1540, Jason Seal Post 110, and Lynn Mariano Post 8616 were nominated for State Junior Vice Commander.
 1. Tellers Report for office of State Junior Vice Commander
 - a. *Votes Cast: 120*
 - b. *Necessary to elect: 61*
 - c. *Jason Seal received 61 votes*
 - d. *Lynn Mariano receives 34 votes*
 - e. *Sherman Willis received: 25 votes*
 - f. *Commander Bragg declared Jason Seal Post 110 elected State Junior Vice Commander*
- iv. Norbert Enos Post 2875 was unanimously elected as State Quartermaster
- v. Stanley Fernandez was unanimously elected as State Chaplain.

13. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS INCOMING RON SCHAEDEL MADE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS.

- A. State Adjutant George Barlett Post 10154
- B. State Chief of Staff Ronald Lockwood Post 8616
- C. State Service Officer Jason Seal Post 110
- D. State Judge Advocate Randy Grant 3292
- E. State Surgeon Robert Bretschneider Post 10276
- F. State Officer of the Day Nu'u Teofilo Post 3830

14. INSTALLATION OF OFFIERS

- A. National Junior Vice Commander in Chief Al Lipphardt installed Department of Hawaii's Officers for the 2023-2024 Administrative year.

15. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- A. CiC Al Lipphardt gave an inspirational talk about the VFW and its future.

16. ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

- A. Delegate George Barlett Post 10154 moved, "To adjourn the Department of Hawaii Veterans of Foreign Wars 85th Convention *Sine die.*" *Motion was seconded and passed.*
- B. Commander Ron Schaedel declared the 85th convention adjourned sine die at 11:20 AM.
- C. Convention was closed in form.

GEORGE BARLETT

George Barlett, State Adjutant