

# MINUTES SUMMARY

## Council of Administration



**February 10, 2024**

**Commander Schaedel opened meeting in form 0918.**

**Roll Call of officers:**

Commander Ronald Schaedel:	Present
Senior Vice Commander Ben Fuata:	Present
Junior Vice Commander Jason Seal:	Present
Quartermaster Norbert Enos:	Present
Adjutant George Barlett:	Present
Judge Advocate Randy Grant:	Excused
Surgeon Robert Bretschieder:	Excused
Chaplain Stanley Fernandez:	Present
Chief of Staff Ron Lockwood;	Present
Inspector Ron Lockwood: Also COS	Present
Immediate Past Commander J "Frank Bragg":	Excused
Past Commander: F. Chang	Present
Past Commander:	Excused
Past Commander:	Excused
Post 94:	Excused
Post 110: Commander Present (State JVC)	Present
Post 352:	Excused
Post 849:	Excused
Post 970:	Excused
Post 1540:	Present
Post 1572:	Present
Post 2875	Present
Post 3292:	Excused
Post 3391:	Present
Post 3830:	Present
Post 3850:	Present
Post 3855:	Excused
Post 3870:	Excused
Post 3875:	Present
Post 8616:	Present

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Post 10154:	Excused
Post 10276:	Present
Post 12122:	Excused
Post 12138:	Present

**We have a quorum.**

Guests in attendance: National Junior Vice Commander in Chief Carol Whitmore and Brad Whitmore from Iowa. Shawn Watson from DPA.

**Adjutant Report:** Minutes for December 9, 2023 meeting have been distributed and are on the website. Motion to approve the minutes with no corrections or additions was approved. Report of Balloting since last COA: None

### **Quartermaster (QM) Report:**

Lahaina Wildfire update. Report to National will be sent next week. We distributed \$270,000 donated from National Disaster Fund and \$80,000 from the Department Relief Fund. We are still receiving donations and will distribute them appropriately.

QM Enos as of January 31, 2024. Motion to approve the report was made seconded and approved.

**Correspondence:** Distributed.

### **Comrade/Family of a Comrade in Distress:**

Joe Anchetta Services 1000 February 15, 2024; at Punchbowl.

Charles Womack from Post 12138 in hospice.

Beverly Brennan from Post 12138 suffered from broken bones.

Post 3391 reported 3 members passed.

Post 10276 Service for member Hamasu 17 February and Akimoto February 22

### **Service Officer Report:**

Attached

### **Officer and Committee Reports:**

Commander Schaedel:

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Sr. Vice Commander Fuata

Junior Vice Commander Seal:

National Home-

See attached report.

QM Enos reported that after sending last set of donations from various Posts we are now in black.

We need all Posts to contribute to help our Hawaii House. Please send donations to the State Quartermaster or be sure that all donations made directly are earmarked for the Hawaii House or they will go in to the General Fund.

Quartermaster Enos: Membership, Recruiting and Life Membership reports circulated. Membership is our voice. Look at the National and All-State membership programs. We are currently at 93.5 %. Convention/Time and Place: State Convention will take place June 20-23 at the Ala Moana Hotel. More information will be available soon as we finish more details for the Convention. 3 Posts are over 102% Posts 110, 849, and 3850. Listen to the Membership Monday webcasts, remember that are recorded and can be viewed anytime.

Chaplain Fernandez: Any wishing Ritual Team Guidance please contact the Chaplain. OVC is having a social celebrating veterans.

See attached report

Chief of Staff Lockwood:

See attached report.

VFW National id pushing for everyone to do a Day of Service event in May 2024.

Community Service- Submit your reports. Post Adjutants must entry this data on the Programs dashboard.

Student Veteran-

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Inspector: Our support of the Maui Wildfire Disaster has delayed Post Inspections. The goal is to inspect all Posts.

State Adjutant Barlett

Youth Activities (Includes VOD, Scouting). Post Adjutants are responsible to make entries in the Programs dashboard.

Department of Hawaii is hosting the 2024 Western Conference.

Tauau:

Safety Push Safety programs, including child and bicycle. Also, a reminder for Posts to submit Firefighter, Police, EMT and Lifeguard of the entries to Department.

J. Schaedel

National Legislative: Appointments with our legislative members have been made for the upcoming Legislative Conference.

State Legislature: A "Claim Shark" Bill was introduced to State Legislature on January 17, 2024. VFW was there to testify in favor of the bill.

Gernet: Scouting:

JROTC: The Department is looking for a JROTC Cadet of the Year. Due March 1 to National.

Chelsea Mack: POA

Public Relations- Looking to start a department newsletter and looking for inputs want calendars and stories from Posts. Please send her stories or events you want publicized.

Homeless Veterans: J. Seal and R. Schaedel are on the Mayor's Homeless Committee.

R. Boucher:

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Please use the dashboard. Adopt-a-Unit and Disaster Prep information was presented.

S. Willis:

### **National Home Prayer/Short Version**

#### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Western Conference will be in Hawaii October 31- November 3, 2024. About 60 % of the available rooms have been reserved. Please reserve your room. We are looking for sponsors for the Western Conference and the State Convention. Please refer any leads to the Department office.
2. Department Fundraiser:
3. VFW National Convention will be held at Louisville Kentucky from July 26- August 2, 2024.
  - a. Inform the Department Adjutant if you are planning to attend the Convention. Be sure to include; names of attendees (include family members attending), contact information to include phone number, email, days attending, and the hotel you are staying at.

#### **New Business:**

1. Fundraising Requests from Posts.
  - a. Post 8616 Post Coin fundraiser.
  - b. No Post fundraisers will be permitted at the Western Conference in November.

Department Commander approved all requests.

#### **Good of the Order: Announcements:**

1. Shawn Watson from Department of Pacific Areas announced that he is running for National Junior Vice Commander in Chief for 2028 and discussed his "Self, Family, Veteran platform. Comrade Enos moved to: "that the Department of Hawaii endorse Shawn Watson candidacy." Motion was seconded and passed.
2. National Junior Vice Commander Chief Carol Whitmore presented coins to members and talked about the VFW.

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Meeting was closed in form at 1103. The next Council of Administration meeting will be conducted on after the Department Convention.

Immediately following the COA today

1. Post 10154 hosting the VOD/PP Award Luncheon.

Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Barlett", is positioned below the "Submitted:" label.

Department Adjutant  
George Barlett

Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_

State Adjutant Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CHIEF OF STAFF - REPORT – Saturday, 10 February 2024**

**DUTIES:** include representing the Department Commander when he is unavailable; assisting at HQs on projects, answering telephone inquiries or in-person visits. In addition to my Committee responsibilities.

### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.**

With the changeover to Post Adjutants posting these activities, OUR numbers are way down. Commanders, talk with your Adjutants to resolve this STAT. The form is downloadable on the Department web-site. Everyone here today has received a copy. Help is available through myself or our Department Adjutant. Collect your data, open up the VFW.org website go to the Dashboard and call George or myself. We will walk you through it.

FYI, your 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report (Oct- Dec) was due before the end of January on the Dashboard.

I've more information on

1. Post Special Project Award
2. Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award
3. New Member Community Service Volunteer-of the Year Award
4. National Outstanding Community Service Post Award

**IF YOU MISSED IT, National Convention housing opens up on MONDAY, 18 MARCH on the website...[vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention). Located in Louisville KY, the convention is scheduled for 27 July through 1 August. A 'tentative' agenda will be available also.**

### **INSPECTIONS.**

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We are running behind for various reasons, at HQs and at Post levels. My Post will be inspected last so I can focus on y'all. All Post bonds have been received so expect myself or one of our four (4) other inspectors at your meeting in February or March.

#### **LOYALTY DAY.**

Is known as Lei Day in Hawaii, so this should be easy to incorporate as a Post project. Pass out red, white, blue lei. Need a more formal idea? The VFW National website offers numerous informational resources. Hold a flag etiquette class for the JPOs at an elementary school.

#### **STUDENT VETERANS of AMERICA.**

UH- Manoa and West O'ahu lead the way. The SVA National Convention is over and UH-Manoa has its 3<sup>rd</sup> VFW fellow in the program, helping to develop issues of National concern.

**Chief of Staff Report – page 2**

#### **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY.**

As you will hear later today, our VoD program continues. I must say, judges do an incredible job, listening and reading these essays. They work separately, the scores are tallied and they thank me for an incredible experience, but never again. It's a long 5+ hours for them, with a break for lunch. No judge is part of Auxiliary or the VFW.

Our winner will be off to Washington D.C. to compete against the other Department winners. Best wishes.



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### **WAYS & MEANS.**

Our drawing for the \$200 quarterly prize will be held today. If you have sent in your tickets early, you have a better chance today. Our mail out was delayed as our focus was on assisting Maui veterans. It takes a team effort to collate, label, stamp, sort by zip code. Mahalo to all that assisted.

Please encourage your Post members to participate and send in the tickets and funds. Don't forget, your Post needs to purchase Four booklets for \$100. Hopefully, you budgeted for it.

### **POST SPECIAL PROJECT AWARD.**

If your Post conducted a special project that you think should be recognized by VFW National Headquarters, let us know before the end of March. The deadline to submit to the Department of Hawaii is 1 April.

### **FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING POST SPECIAL PROJECT AWARD.**

The above Special Project Award is automatically entered, to be judged in May. The winning Post receives a plaque at the National Convention and a \$1,000 to use for community service. A round-trip ticket for two, cash stipend and accommodations are included in this award.

### **NEW MEMBER COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD.**

The Department of Hawaii will recognize a 'New Member ...of the Year'. For this award, any VFW member in good standing who has been a member of your Post for less than two years is eligible. Each Post is asked to nominate at least one (1) new member for this award, using an

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entry form, to be provided. DEADLINE for submission to the Department (attn: Community Service chair) is 15 March.

### **NATIONAL OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST AWARD.**

The Department of Hawaii is required to select one (1) Post to receive the National Outstanding Community Service Post. The award includes a plaque, a \$599 stipend to cover part of the expenses to the National Convention and other forms of recognition. The criteria is: All reports submitted on time; Actively support and participation in VOD/ Patriot Pen/Teacher of the Year programs; participate in the Buddy Poppy Program and have an active involvement in community programs.

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Hawaii

### REPORT OF THE STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICER TO THE VFW - DEPARTMENT OF HAWAII COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

5 February 2024

Aloha e Comrades,

I am happy to report that Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento appointed me to represent and serve our state and department as a member of the VFW's National Legislative Committee as of 12 January 2024. I am deeply honored and humbled by the trust and expectations bestowed upon me by our Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Junior Vice Commander, and for their recommendation and concurrence for me to serve our department on the committee over the next three years. I hope to serve all of you well with duty and diligence while echoing the VFW proclamation that "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS."

I wish to extend a huge mahalo (thank you) to our Department Adjutant, Comrade George Barlett, for his years of service while serving as our state's member on the National Legislative Committee. I am only now beginning to understand the kuleana (responsibility) of this appointment, and the amount of time Comrade Barlett was expected to provide. Mahalo Comrade Barlett for your years of service. I look forward to learning from and working with you moving forward.

House Bill No. 2225 and Senate Bill No. 2095 are an exception to the bulk of my report below. They are the claim shark bills that I reported to you about during our last COA held 9 December 2023, which is why I report about them first. The bills are state level initiatives introduced to protect our veterans from claim sharks until Congress passes the GUARD VA Benefits Act. The Proposed House Draft No. 1 to House Bill No. 2225 allows attorneys to assist veterans with their claims if they need that kind of assistance.

**HB2225/SB2095**

Status: HB 2225 / Tentative hearing on 7 February 2024 (Proposed HD1) / FPI: Hashem

Status: SB 2095 / Hearing cancelled / FPI: Wakai

We look forward to your continued support of the bills as we move forward during this legislative session.

#### **Bills Introduced in 2024**

**HB1790 (HB LRB 24-0477)** – Current law exempts VA 100% service-connected disabled veterans from paying state motor vehicle registration fees. In addition to exempting state registration fees, HB 1790 proposes to exempt VA 100% service-connected disabled veterans

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### VFW Department of Hawaii Service Officer Report

#### Veterans serviced by Hawaii DSO receiving first time disability benefits:

- October: 8 (\$18,579.00)
- November: 14 (\$26,745.00)
- December: 5 (\$4,984.00)
- January (\*): 10 (\$11,000.00)
- Total new awardees: 37
- Total new awards: \$54,563.00

#### Community outreach:

- Service Officers accompanied VFW Dept of Hawaii contact team supporting Veterans impacted by Lahaina Fire Disaster. Four visits to Maui (Sept/Oct/Nov/Jan). Total # of Veterans supported with Disability Claims support: 112.
- Service Officers continue to provide Disability Claims briefing as well as Claims support to Veterans at US Vets, Barbers Point.

#### New VFW Service Officer locations:

- 1) VFW Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Service Officer Hawaii on track for establishment on 1 April 2024
  - Memorandum of Agreement between Commander JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam and VFW approved.
  - Office space identified at Hangar 2 at JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam.
  - Memorandum of Agreement btwn VFW & JB Pearl Harbor Hickam has been approved.
  - Those interested in applying for the position can visit <https://www.vfw.org/careers>. Application window open thru 18 February 2024.
- 2) VFW Dept of Hawaii Service Office satellite office at new Akaka CBOC on track for establishment o/a 15 April 2024
  - Satellite office will provide disability claims processing support as currently offered at the VFW DSO office TAMC.
  - Location/room #: 1K1D7.

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### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

#### STATE CHAPLAIN'S REPORT SEP 23 -FEB 11 2024

ALL POST COMMANDERS SHOULD HAVE A POST CHAPLAIN ELECTED/APPOINTED TO SERVE THEIR MEMBERS. THE CHAPLAIN SERVES AS AN INTEGRAL POSITION IN THE POST. THE DUTIES OF THE POST CHAPLAIN ARE:

#### POST MEETINGS

1. SET UP THE SALUTATION TABLE WITH THE VFW CLOTH, BIBLE, AND THE MINATURE FLAG. BIBLE SHOULD BE CLOSED UNTIL THE OPENING OF THE MEETING.
2. PRESENT THE OPENING PRAYER (PRESCRIBED IN THE MOST CURRENT RITUAL/BYLAWS HANDBOOK)
3. RENDER THE CHAPLAINS REPORT WHEN CALLED UPON.
4. PRESENT THE NATIONAL HOME PRAYER (MID-POST MEETING)
5. RENDER THE CLOSING PRAYER FOR THE POST(PRESCRIBED IN THE MOST CURRENT RITUAL/BYLAWS HANDBOOK).
6. BIBLE IS CLOSED UPON THE ENDING OF THE POST MEETING. (PRAYERS ARE ALSO PRINTED IN CARD FORMAT, MAY BE PURCHASED FROM VFW STORE). SECURE THE VFW CLOTH, BIBLE AND THE MINATURE FLAG UPON CLOSURE OF THE MEETING.

#### GENERAL DUTIES

1. THE POST CHAPLAIN SHALL PERFORM SUCH DUTIES AS ARE INCIDENT TO THE OFFICE OR AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE REQUIRED BY THE LAWS AND USAGES OF THIS ORGANIZATION OR LAWFUL ORDERS FROM PROPER AUTHORITY.
2. RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMING THE POST RITUAL TEAM. AND LEADING THE RITUAL SERVICES FOR MEMBERS WHEN CALLED UPON TO PERFORM THIS DUTY. TEAM TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF FIVE MEMBERS (SEE ATTACHED TEMPLATE).