

**Business Session**  
**Mid-Winter Conference – Cody, Wyoming**

Commander Cain called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm on January 13, 2018. Acting Chaplain Miller gave the opening prayer, and the Commander led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following officers were in attendance:

Commander Willis Cain  
SVC Donnell Nichols  
JVC Josh Schmidt  
A/Q Trish Peoples  
Chief of Staff Clarence Styvar  
Inspector Jim Pedersen  
Jr. PDC Dennis Miller  
District 2 Commander Sam Cotton  
District 3 Commander J. Robert Marquez  
District 4 Commander Earl McDonald  
District 5 Commander Dale Winston

Chaplain Joe Tallon, Judge Advocate Lee Yake, and Surgeon Jayson Zimmerman were excused for medical conditions. The District 1 Commander recently passed away and the SVC, Josh Schmidt, is already a member of the Council.

The Commander welcomed everyone, observed a moment of silence for the deceased District 1 Commander, J. Dee Darnell, and introduced national guests.

Roger Frye, VFW National Chief of Staff  
Rick Butler, VFW National Membership Director  
Candidate for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Tim Borland

The Commander also recognized our Past Department Commanders.

Pete Quinnell	John Mergenthal
Rod Birkle	Jim Pedersen
Larry Parkins	Cheryl Shannon
Dennis Miller	

A/Q Peoples called the post roll:

Post 2673, Cody: Commander, Quartermaster + 8  
Post 3093, Worland: Quartermaster

Post 3305, Greybull: Absent  
Post 5054, Powell: Commander + 1  
Post 2281, Thermopolis: Commander, Quartermaster  
Post 954, Lander: Absent  
Post 3628, Riverton: Commander  
Post 10056, Dubois: Commander, Quartermaster + 4  
Post 1560, Sheridan: 1  
Post 2469, Buffalo: Commander + 1  
Post 2516, Newcastle: Absent  
Post 4311, Sundance: Absent  
Post 7756, Gillette: Commander, Quartermaster + 2  
Post 8473, Moorcroft: Absent  
Post 3511, Lusk: Absent  
Post 9439, Casper: Commander + 2  
Post 10677, Casper: Absent  
Post 2221, Laramie: Absent  
Post 2311, Rawlins: Absent  
Post 6125, Encampment: Absent  
Post 6680, Hanna: Absent  
Post 2321, Green River: Commander + 3  
Post 4274, Jackson: Absent  
Post 4280, Evanston: Absent  
Post 4797, Afton: Absent  
Post 4801, Pinedale: Absent  
Post 7798, Mountain View: Absent  
Post 1881, Cheyenne: Quartermaster + 2  
Post 2918, Torrington: Commander  
Post 3558, Wheatland: Commander + 1  
Post 4343, Cheyenne: Commander + 1  
Post 4471, Guernsey: 1  
Post 11453, Cheyenne: Commander, Quartermaster + 3

Comrade Dennis Wright from the Philippines gave a presentation on the Bells of Balangiga.

Mike Clark from Wyoming Protection and Advocacy spoke on how his non-profit organization can help veterans with disabilities.

A/Q Peoples reported on Council of Administration deliberations.

- Council granted a \$7,200 loan to Rawlins (through Carbon County Veterans) to fix its roof
- Service office now has more open space, desk risers and a children's play area
- Council granted a 2% pay raise for Service Officer and Claims Consultant
- Service office voicemail response will be addressed in Employee Handbook
- Due to surplus Veterans' Aid funds, the Department is making the following donations
  - \$1,000 to VFW National's Unmet Needs Program
  - \$1,000 to Wyoming 211
  - \$500 to VFW National's Disaster Relief Fund
  - \$500 to J. Dee Darnell's widow
- PCI fundraiser is starting soon
- VOD Payments will be made to the individuals when they win
- A motion to create a Department of Wyoming Safety/Public Servant Award in J. Dee Darnell's name will be taken to the membership in June.

The following program reports were given.

Legislative Committee Dennis Miller

National Program Committee/  
Inspector/Time and Place Jim Pedersen

- District 1: April 7, 2018, Thermopolis, 10:00
- District 2: April 14, 2018, Moorcroft, 10:00
- District 3: April 15, 2018, Casper (9439), 10:00
- District 4: May 5, 2018, Afton, 10:00
- District 5: April 21, 2018, Guernsey, 10:00

June 2018 Convention: Post 1881, Cheyenne  
 January 2019 Conference, Post 3558, Wheatland  
 June 2019 Convention: Post 9439, Casper

Teacher of the Year Winners

- Grades K-5: Greta Ayers, Post 4471
- Grades 6-8: Sarah Hummel, Post 7756
- Grades 9-12: Pete Berg, Post 11453

VOD/PP (John DeRouen)

Patriot's Pen 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jaden Campbell, Post 6125

Patriot's Pen 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Ethan Kemp, Post 4801

Patriot's Pen 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Keegan Tunncliffe, Post 1881

14 posts, 260 entries, \$4,646

Voice of Democracy 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jacob Brogdan, Post 7756

Voice of Democracy 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Mikayla Van Natter, Post 4471

Voice of Democracy 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Brooke Hornberger, Post 4801

18 posts, 39 entries, \$5,820

Loyalty Day/POW/MIA

Dale Winston

Homeless Vets/VMS

Ron Steffensmeier

Community Service

Donnell Nichols

Veterans Service

Cheryl Shannon

\$1,293,402.89 paid out to veterans, July-December 2017.

National Council/Poppy

Rod Birkle

Membership/Life Membership

Ray Cassell

Those present who had recruited members were entered in a drawing. We are still a bit ahead on Utah in recruiting numbers.

Safety (Trish Peoples)

Emergency Medical Technician Public Servant

Sharon Holloway, Post 4471

Law Enforcement

Kyle Thomson, Post 4797

National Home (Josh Schmidt)

We've collected \$1,350 for the National Home, with a promise from Riverton of \$1,000 more.

The commander led the closing ceremonies. The next meeting will be the Department Convention hosted by Post 1881 in Cheyenne, June 2018.