

Department Meeting  
Friday, June 8, 2018  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Commander Cain called the business meeting to order at 2:00 pm, Friday.

Present: Commander Willis Cain, SVC Donnell Nichols, Chaplain Joe Tallon, A/Q Trish Peoples, Judge Lee Yake, Surgeon Jayson Zimmerman, Chief of Staff Clarence Styvar, Inspector Jim Pedersen, Jr. PDC Dennis Miller, District 1 Commander Mike Higgs, District 2 Commander Sam Cotton, District 3 Commander Robert Marquez, District 4 Commander Earl McDonald and District 5 Commander Dale Winston. Excused: JVC Josh Schmidt (Service Officer training)

Posts in attendance: District 1: 954, 2673, 3628, 5054, 10056  
District 2: 1560, 2469, 7756  
District 3: 2221, 6125, 9439  
District 4: 2321, 4797  
District 5: 1881, 2918, 3558, 4343, 4471, 11453

Commander Cain introduced guests, including the VFW National Representative, John Muckelbauer and the State Coordinator for Military Funeral Honors, Laura Ward.

Rod Birkle made a motion to adopt the Convention Rules as read by the Adjutant. Cheryl Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

LTC Leo Liebreich from the Secretary of Defense's Office addressed the general membership about the Bells of Balangiga.

Laura Ward, from the Wyoming Military Department, spoke about working as a team to provide the best Military Funeral Honors available to our veterans.

Commander Cain spoke about the mission of the Consolidation Exploratory Committee. The Montana Adjutant/Quartermaster, Tim Peters took questions along with A/Q Peoples. Preliminary findings of the committee will be presented at Mid-Winter.

The first nomination of 2018-2019 officers was held.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:30 pm, Friday.

Department Meeting  
Saturday, June 9, 2018  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

The meeting was re-convened at 9:00 am, Saturday.

The officers and posts remained the same, with the exception of the arrival of the JVC.

Don Mack presented the following awards.

Citizenship Certificates

4471, 2673, 1560, 4801, 954, 2221, 6125, 2281, 2321, 2469, 3558, 11453, 1881, 4343,  
10056, 7756, 9439, 4797

Veterans in the Classroom Certificates

4471 – Jil Stroud, Steve Keigley, Don Mack, Willis Cain, Jerry Wood, Al Montgomery  
10056 – Darrell Graff, Nathan Williams, Eric Sanderson, Tom Herret, Boyd Livingston,  
Ding Dailey, Vernon Lejeunesse, Sadie Williams

7756 – Bill Shedden

4801 – Jim Washam, Richard Brewer, Jon Gibson, Jim Percy

3558 – Rod Birkle, Ed Cox

1881 – Hank Miller

Teacher of the Year was presented at Friday's luncheon.

Greta Ayers, Guernsey, K-5

Sarah Hummel, Gillette, 6-8

Pete Berg, Cheyenne, 9-12

Commander Cain presented Don Mack with certificates for Citizenship Education Activities and Department Teacher Award Activities

Donnell Nichols gave out Community Service Awards to 4471 (Community Service Post) and 11453 (Post Special Project Award)

The Commander presented Donnell Nichols with certificates for Outstanding Participation for Department Community Service Activities.

Chuck Sutter and Vernal Cleverley announced the Scout of the Year, Mickayla VanNatter. She received her award at the Saturday luncheon. The Commander presented Chuck with a certificate for Outstanding Participation for Department Scouting Activities. He also presented Vernal Cleverley with a certificate for Outstanding Participation for Department Youth Activities.

The A/Q announced the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners and announced that the new themes are in the Post Commanders' packets. The two first-place winners received their awards at the Friday luncheon.

Voice of Democracy

Jacob Brogdan

Mickayla Van Natter

Brooke Hornberger

Big Horn, Wyoming

Guernsey, Wyoming

Pinedale, Wyoming

Patriot's Pen  
Jaden Campbell  
Ethan Kemp  
Keegan Tunnicliff

Encampment, WY  
Pinedale, Wyoming  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Membership – Trish Peoples and Ray Cassell announced the following:

All-State Commander: Donnell Nichols from VFW Post 7756 in Gillette, Wyoming.

All-State Quartermaster: Ray Cassell from VFW Post 7756 in Gillette, Wyoming.

The top two recruiters for the Department who received \$100: Ray Cassell and Ron Steffensmeier. Donnell Nichols and Pete Quinnell tied for third and each received \$50. \$100 gift certificate Recruiter and 100% post drawings were given. 100% Membership Post drawing for \$100. District 2 earned \$25 for being at 101%.

All posts achieving 100% by June 30<sup>th</sup> will receive a plaque plus a 100% Pin for the Post Commander and Quartermaster. As of the convention, those posts were:

2516, 4311, 7756, 8473, 4274, 4797, 2918, 3558, 4471, 11453, 5054, 7798

Rod Birkle announced that VFW Post 11453 and VFW Post 9439 earned Buddy Poppy awards. Commander Cain presented Rod Birkle with Outstanding Participation for Department Buddy Poppy Activities.

Rod Birkle gave a National Council Briefing

Dennis Miller gave a briefing on his legislative duties.

Dennis Miller announced the Past Department Commander/Past Department Scholarship winner, Keara Martin, from Gillette.

In Sheridan, VAVS money was given to the Boy Scouts to help with VA projects. Duffy Jenniges is Sheridan VAVS.

In Cheyenne, VAVS money was used for Living Center Bingo, Living Center Holiday Party, Veterans' Couples Therapy, and an Ice Cream Social. Trish Peoples is Cheyenne VAVS.

The VFW Department of Wyoming continues to be the fiscal agent for the POWWOW (Promoting Our Women Warriors of Wyoming).

As the Student Veteran representative, Trish Peoples read names at UW Memorial for military who died in combat since 9/11, delivered packages of tea for UW Student Veterans, and purchased supplies for Casper College's Student Veterans' Center.

Before the Convention, \$2,865 had been given to the National Home. During the Convention, the comrades raised \$700, which will also be sent.

Trish Peoples gave the Council of Administration Report.

The Veterans' Aid Spreadsheet is available for everyone. The bond paperwork is in the Post Commanders' Packets, and bonds are due to the Department by August 25<sup>th</sup>. The decision to keep using IMarketing is on hold until the company updates our contract. The money to Voice of Democracy winners at Department level is no longer a scholarship and will be paid directly to the winners. Post 6680 surrendered its charter. The Department will continue the 900 Club, and 900 Club tickets were distributed. The Department will start its search for a new Claims Consultant. By-Laws were updated. Major changes included the paragraph on Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. The Department doesn't just use the interest on post closure to pay for these awards; therefore, the By-Laws shouldn't reflect something the Department doesn't do. Also, mention of MOC was deleted. Other grammar and aesthetic changes were proposed.

Jim Pedersen gave a Time and Place update.

2019 Mid-Winter – VFW Post 3558 in Wheatland

2019 Convention – VFW Post 7756 in Gillette

2020 Mid-Winter – Vacant

2020 Convention – VFW Post 2469 in Casper

2021 Mid-Winter – VFW Post 2918 in Torrington

Donnell Nichols made a motion to name Tim Borland as our Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Candidate from the Western Conference. Jim Pedersen seconded. Motion carried.

Jim Bush made a motion to support the VFW Pacific Areas Resolution to return the Bells of Balangiga. Mike Higgs seconded. Motion failed (53/81).

Trish Peoples made a motion to accept the By-Law changes. Clarence Styvar seconded. Motion passed.

2018-2019 elections were held.

Commander: Donnell Nichols

Senior Vice Commander: Josh Schmidt and Sam Cotton nominated. Josh Schmidt won.

Junior Vice Commander: Joe Tallon

Chaplain: Jim Rish

Quartermaster: Trish Peoples

Judge Advocate: Jayson Zimmerman and Clarence Styvar nominated. Jayson Zimmerman then withdrew his nomination.

Surgeon: Jayson Zimmerman and Foy Jolley nominated. Foy Jolley then withdrew his nomination.

Donnell Nichols made a motion to relieve the committees. Trish Peoples seconded. Motion carried.

Commander declared the Department Convention in recess, to reconvene for the Joint Installation. The commander announced the next meeting will be the Department Mid-Winter Conference in Wheatland, Wyoming.