

**Minutes of the 73rd Annual Convention
Department of Alaska
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Convened May 3-5, 2018
North Pole, Alaska**

JOINT OPENING

The 73rd Annual Convention of the Department of Alaska and the 53rd Annual Convention of the Auxiliary was called to order by State Commander Dan Garcia and Auxiliary President Amy Vukasin at 9:30 a.m. on May 4, 2018. Acting State Chaplain Troy Eck gave the opening prayer. State Commander Garcia led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Distinguished Guests included:

Alaska Governor Bill Walker
Mayor Bryce Ward, North Pole, Ak
Mayor Jim Matherly, Fairbanks, Ak
Mayor Karl Kassel, Fairbanks North Star Borough
Colonel Chad Bondurant, 354th Fighter Wing
Colonel Richard Adams, 168th Wing Alaska National Guard
Verdie Bowen, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Director
Peggy Haake, National Auxiliary Junior Vice President
Barney Hill, Director of Operations of the VFW National Headquarters
Josh Revak, assistant to Senator Dan Sullivan

Distinguished guests addressed the delegates.

State Commander Garcia called recess and announced a 15 minute break, with awards ceremony to follow.

AWARDS CEREMONY

State Commander Garcia reconvened the awards ceremony at 10:35 a.m. and turned the ceremony over to the Master of Ceremonies, Senior Vice Commander Dave Lemelin.

Awards Master of Ceremonies - Sr. Vice Commander Dave Lemelin

Department would like to recognize and extend a thank you to the following Department Chairpersons for their work during the 2017-2018 year.

RECOGNITION OF the following Department Chairpersons:

Americanism	-	Duane Gonzales and Tammy Bailey, Auxiliary
Buddy Poppy	-	J.R. Hackett
Community Service	-	Ed Lopez
Extension/Chief of Staff	-	Mistie Hammond, Auxiliary
Hospital	-	Tina Stoddard, Auxiliary
Legislative	-	Bill Yudiskas and Bobby Ness, Auxiliary
Membership	-	Dave Lemelin and Jennifer Henley, Auxiliary
Patriot's Pen	-	Betty Keao and Al Stoddard, Auxiliary
Safety	-	Pat Russell
Veterans & Military/Family Support	-	J.R. Hackett and Dave Kacal, Auxiliary
Voice of Democracy	-	Lorraine Roehl and Al Stoddard, Auxiliary
Youth Activities	-	Kevin Hassin and Charlotte Maynard, Auxiliary

CERTIFICATES and Awards presented by State Commander Dan Garcia and State President Amy Vukasin to the following:

**Captain James G. Lee Memorial Post 1685 and its Auxiliary -
Commander Garcia - 100% Membership Jacket**

Americanism
Safety

Youth
Community Service
Patriot's Pen
Voice of Democracy
Buddy Poppy

Auxiliary - Appreciation Hospital / VAVS
Vicki Webb-Nelson/Joan Katkus Scholarships

Auxiliary - Merit Americanism
Flag Poetry
Legislative
Membership / Leadership
Scholarships
Veterans & Family Support
Youth Activities

Golden Heart Post 3629 and its Auxiliary -

Americanism
Safety
Youth
Community Service
Patriot's Pen
Voice of Democracy
Buddy Poppy

Myron F. "Ace" Ebling Memorial Post 3836 and its Auxiliary -

Voice of Democracy

Auxiliary - Appreciation Americanism
Flag Poetry
Hospital / VAVS
Membership / Leadership
Veterans & Family Support

Auxiliary - Merit Vicki Webb-Nelson/Joan Katkus Scholarships

Ragnar Myking Post 4352 and its Auxiliary -

Patriot's Pen
Voice of Democracy

Auxiliary - Merit Vicki Webb-Nelson/Joan Katkus Scholarships

Taku Post 5559

Americanism
Safety
Youth
Community Service
Voice of Democracy

Robert Lee Spencer Memorial Post 7056 and its Auxiliary -

Auxiliary - Appreciation Flag Poetry
Legislative
Membership / Leadership

Susitna Post 9365 and its Auxiliary -

Americanism
Safety
Youth
Community Service
Patriots Pen
Voice of Democracy
Buddy Poppy

Auxiliary - Appreciation Hospital / VAVS
Veterans & Family Support

Auxiliary - Merit Americanism
Flag Poetry
Legislative
Membership / Leadership
Scholarships
Vicki Webb-Nelson/Joan Katkus Scholarships
Youth Activities

**James C. Kealiher Post 9569 -
Commander Darling - 100% Membership Jacket**

Eagle River Post 9785 and its Auxiliary -

Americanism
Safety
Youth
Community Service
Patriot's Pen
Buddy Poppy

Auxiliary - Merit Americanism
Flag Poetry
Hospital
Legislative
Membership / Leadership
Scholarships
Veterans & Family Support
Vicki Webb-Nelson/Joan Katkus Scholarships
Youth Activities

General John R Noyes Post 9978 and its Auxiliary -

Americanism
Safety
Youth
Community Service

Auxiliary - Appreciation Americanism
Flag Poetry
Membership / Leadership
Veterans & Family Support

Auxiliary - Merit Hospital / VAVS
Scholarships
Vicki Webb-Nelson/Joan Katkus Scholarships
Youth Activities

South Anchorage Post 9981 Auxiliary

Auxiliary - Merit Membership & Leadership

Weldon M. Rucker Post 10029 and its Auxiliary -

Americanism
Safety
Youth
Community Service
Voice of Democracy
Buddy Poppy

Auxiliary - Appreciation Hospital / VAVS
Veterans & Family Support

Auxiliary - Merit Americanism
Membership / Leadership
Youth Activities

Burchett Jackson Osborne Post 10032 and its Auxiliary -

Americanism
Safety
Youth
Community Service
Patriot's Pen
Voice of Democracy

Auxiliary - Appreciation Hospital / VAVS

Auxiliary - Merit Americanism
Legislative
Membership / Leadership
Scholarships
Youth Activities

Robert V. Lindsey Post 10041 and its Auxiliary -

Americanism
Safety
Youth
Community Service
Patriot's Pen
Voice of Democracy
Buddy Poppy

Auxiliary - Appreciation Membership / Leadership

Auxiliary - Merit Flag Poetry / Essay
Hospital / VAVS
Legislative
Veterans & Family Support
Youth Activities

Jerry V. Horn Post 10046 and its Auxiliary -

Americanism
Community Service
Patriots Pen
Voice of Democracy
Buddy Poppy

Auxiliary - Appreciation Americanism
Flag Poetry
Hospital / VAVS
Membership / Leadership
Scholarships

Auxiliary - Merit Legislative
Veterans & Family Support
Vicki Webb-Nelson / Joan Katkus Scholarships
Youth Activities

Virl (Pa) Haga Memorial Post 10221 and its Auxiliary -

Americanism
Safety
Youth
Community Service
Patriot's Pen
Voice of Democracy

Auxiliary - Appreciation Flag Poetry
Vicki Webb-Nelson / Joan Katkus Scholarships

Auxiliary - Merit Americanism
Hospital / VAVS
Legislative
Membership / Leadership
Veterans & Family Support
Youth Activities

Bison Post 10450
Commander Cassidy - 100% Membership Jacket

Buddy Poppy

Glennallen Veterans Memorial Post 10682 -
Commander Becker - 100% Membership Jacket

Americanism
Community Service

National Participation Awards -

Presented by State Commander Dan Garcia, National Director of Operations Barney Hill,
Alaska State Auxiliary President Amy Vukasin, and National Auxiliary Junior Vice President Peggy Haake

Outstanding Participation Certificates presented to the following:

Duane Gonzales	Department Citizenship Education Chairman Department Teacher Award Chairman
J.R. Hackett	Department Buddy Poppy Chairman
Kevin Hassin	Department Youth Activities Chairman
Betty Gail M. Keao	Department Patriot's Pen Chairman
Ed Lopez	Department Community Service Chairman
Lorraine Roehl	Department Voice of Democracy Chairman
Pat Russell	Department Loyalty Day Chairman Department Safety Chairman
Tammy Bailey	VFW Auxiliary Americanism Chairman
Dave Kacal	VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support
Charlotte Maynard	VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman
Al Stoddard	VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman

Veterans and Military Support Programs
Certificate of Recognition presented to the following:

VFW Department of Alaska Auxiliary
J.R. Hackett
Captain James G. Lee Memorial Post 1685
Susitna Post 9365
Eagle River Post 9785
Eagle River Post 9785 Auxiliary
Weldon M. Rucker Post 10029
Burchett Jackson Osborne Post 10032
Virl (Pa) Haga Memorial Post 10221 Auxiliary

Individual Recruiter Awards-

Presented by State Commander Dan Garcia and National Director of Operations Barney Hill
As reported through April 1, 2018

NAME & POST	RECRUITER COUNT	REWARD
Ken Speegle (Post 9785)	21 new recruits	Commander-in-Chief Belt Buckle Embroidered Black Brief Bag
Walter W. Watts, Jr. (Post 3629)	12 new recruits	Commander-in-Chief Belt Buckle

VFW BUSINESS SESSION

Reconvened May 5, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Acting State Chaplain Troy Eck opened the Bible. State Commander Garcia led the Officers and Delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The State Adjutant was directed to call the Roll. The following were in attendance:

Post 1685 - Commander Dan Garcia	State Commander Dan Garcia
Post 3629 – Commander Jeff Roach	State Sr. Vice Commander Dave Lemelin
Post 3836 – Sr. Vice Commander Sheppard	State Quartermaster John Minnick
Post 5559 - Commander Kevin Hassin	Judge Advocate Carol Kacal
Post 9365 - Commander J.R. Hackett	State Surgeon Todd Maynard
Post 9785 - Commander Dan Staicer	State Inspector Bill Yudiskas
Post 10029 - Commander Troy Eck	Past Department Commander John Guinn
Post 10041 – Sr. Vice Commander Joel Bowles	Past Department Commander Bill Timmons
Post 10046 – Commander John Walker	Past Department Commander Bob Myles
Post 10252 - Commander Ed Lopez	Past Department Commander Walter Watts, Jr.

Credential Committee reported 176 votes with 89 being the majority.

Officers and Chairpersons Reports (see appendix on page 18 for written reports):

Post Reports Submitted (see appendix on page 18 for written reports):

Convention Committee Reports.

Membership and Quota – Given by Dave Lemelin

Time and Place – Given by Mel Sheppard . Written report to follow.

	2019 Mid-Winter Conference will be held at Post 9365 Wasilla on January 10-11, 2019
	2019 State Convention - Post 10252 Anchorage
	2020 Mid-Winter Conference - Post 10252 Anchorage
	2020 State Convention - Post 10029 North Pole
<i>tentative</i>	2021 Mid-Winter Conference will be held at Post 9365
<i>tentative</i>	2021 State Convention- Post 9785 Eagle River

Veterans Service - Given by J.R. Hackett

Resolutions and By-Laws – Given by Chairman John Minnick
Motion by J.R. Hackett to adopt Resolutions 401-419. Second by John Minnick.
Motion passed.
Motion by Todd Maynard to adopt Resolutions 601-628. Second by John Minnick.
Motion passed.

Unfinished Business.

Quartermaster Minnick motioned to update the Department By-Laws reflecting the officer travel budget allowing 50% of the budget for out of state travel. Seconded by J.R. Hackett. Motion carried.

Minnick further motioned to remove Article XIII sec. 6, referencing the Men's Auxiliary. Seconded by J.R. Hackett. Motion carried.

Judge Advocate Kacal motioned to approve the Department Community Service Recognition Award, discussed at the mid-winter conference. John Walker seconded the motion, all were in favor. Criteria for the award will be published at a later date.

Quartermaster Minnick reminded the delegates of Hospitality Room pledges.

Western Conference update for 2019:

Western Conference will be held in Anchorage from 10/31 - 11/03/19

Western Conference will be held at the Downtown Anchorage Marriott, room rates are \$130. Per night.

Food for the event is still being worked.

Post 1685 is working with a local van company to arrange transportation.

Post 1685 and Post 10252 are sponsoring this convention. They are looking for help!

New Business.

PDC J.R. Hackett motioned for the Department of Alaska to full endorse Tim Borland for National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief for the year 2020. Seconded by PDC Bob Myles. Tim spoke expressing his gratitude. Commander Garcia and Commander-elect Lemelin agreed to extend the offer of a 100% membership jacket to any post commander who makes 100% by June 30th

The following pledges were made for the National Hospitality Room:

Post 1685	\$250.00	Bill Timmons	\$100.00	Dan Nortolano	\$100.00
Post 3836	\$250.00	Dave Lemelin	\$100.00	Ed Lopez	\$150.00
Post 9365	\$300.00	Dan Garcia	\$250.00	Carol Kacal	\$100..00
Post 9785	\$500.00	Mel Sheppard	\$100.00	Todd Maynard	\$100.00
Post 10029	\$200.00	Bob Myles	Smoked sausage and salmon	Loraine Roehl	\$100..00
Post 10046	\$200.00	Bill Yudiskas	\$100.00		
Post 10252	\$200.00	Troy Eck	\$100.00		

Commander Garcia opened the nominations for the ensuing year:

Life Member Ed Constantine nominated Dave Lemelin for State Commander.
PDC Bob Myles nominated Ed Lopez for State Senior Vice Commander.
Post 10029 Commander Troy Eck nominated Carol Kacal for State Junior Vice Commander.
PDC J.R. Hackett nominated John Minnick for State Quartermaster.
PDC J.R. Hackett nominated Todd Maynard for State Judge Advocate.
Post 10029 Sr. Vice Commander Spilinek nominated Troy Eck for State Surgeon.
Mel Sheppard nominated Marty Harris for State Chaplain.

PDC J.R. Hackett asked Department Commander Garcia to cast a unanimous ballot for all uncontested officers. Quartermaster Minnick 2nd the motion.

Commander Garcia instructed Adjutant Sheppard to cast one unanimous ballot for all elected positions. Adjutant Sheppard complied.

State Commander Elect, Dave Lemelin made the following appointments:

Adjutant Mel Sheppard	Post 3836
Service Officer Lisa Robinson	Post 9365
Service Officer Ryan McNeely	Post 9365
Chief of Staff Mel Sheppard	Post 3836
Inspector Dan Garcia	Post 1685
Legislative Officer Bill Yudiskas	Post 9785
Veterans & Military Support Programs J.R. Hackett	Post 9365
Women Veterans Chairman Betty Keao	Post 10252
Veterans Service Chairman J.R. Hackett	Post 9365
Citizenship Education Teacher Chairman Barbara Henning	Post 1685
Buddy Poppy J.R. Hackett	Post 9365
Community Activities Chairman Carol Kacal	Post 10029

Disaster Chairman John Minnick	Post 9365
Employment Chairman Walter Watts, Jr.	Post 3629
Fundraising Chairman Ed Lopez	Post 10252
Homeless Veterans Chairman Ali Young	Post 9365
Hospital Chairman John Walker	Post 10046
Life Membership Chairman Ed Lopez	Post 10252
Loyalty Day Chairman John Walker	Post 10046
Membership Chairman Ed Lopez	Post 10252
National Home Chairman Bob Myles	Post 1685
Patriot's Pen Chairman Betty Keao	Post 10252
POW/MIA Chairman Clyde Torgerson	Post 10032
Public Relations Chairman Bob Martin	Post 15002
ROTC/JROTC Chairman Troy Eck	Post 10029
Safety Chairman Troy Eck	Post 10029
Scouting Chairman Dan Garncarz	Post 10029
Student Veterans of American Chairman Bob Martin	Post 15002
VAVS Chairman Joe Simms	Post 10252
Voice of Democracy Chairman Loraine Roehl	Post 10029
Youth Activity Chairman Dan Garncarz	Post 10029

Announcements.

Adjutant Sheppard asked for stand down dates, none were scheduled.

Commander Dan Garcia performed the closing ceremonies at 11:45 a.m.



Mel Sheppard
Department Adjutant