



Angeles City Post 2485  
District 7 (Philippines)  
Department of Pacific Areas  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

**General Membership Meeting**

**04 January 2017**

**OPENING CEREMONIES:** Commander Smith called the meeting to order at 1400 hours in the Post Home. Opening ceremonies were held in accordance with VFW Ritual. Nineteen (19) members were present. Adjutant Chaplin assumed duties as Post Chaplain for this Meeting.

**DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS:** Commander Smith recognized the following distinguished Members:

Past National Council Member: **Bob Zaher**  
Department of Pacific Areas Chief of Staff: **Bob Zaher**  
District VII Chief of Staff: **Bob Zaher**  
Past Department Commanders: **Bob Zaher, Paul Gasperson**  
Past District VII Commanders: **Bob Zaher, Carl Burke**  
Past Post 2485 Commanders: **Bob Zaher, Carl Burke**  
Past Supreme Commander: **Marty Ellingwood**

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:**

<b>Commander</b>	Norman Smith	Present
<b>Sr. Vice Commander</b>	James Collins	Present
<b>Jr. Vice Commander</b>		
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Mike Compton	Present
<b>Adjutant</b>	Gerald Chaplin	Present
<b>Chaplain</b>		
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Lynn Travers	Excused
<b>Surgeon</b>	Anthony Grimm	Present
<b>Trustee One-Year</b>	Charles Dwyer	Excused
<b>Trustee Two-Year</b>	Tom Aldrich	Excused
<b>Trustee Three-Year</b>	Barry Larson	Excused
<b>Service Officer</b>	Warren Marr	Excused
<b>Officer of the Day</b>	Eric Zariello	Present

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:** Chairman Wilsey stated there were four (4) new applications for membership for period ending 3 January 2017:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Eligibility</u>	<u>Recruiter</u>
(1) Antone Espino	N	VSM	Wilsey
(2) Jeff Andrejcik	LN	ICM; KDSM	Andrejcik
(3) Jay Kliewer	LT	ICM	Wilsey
(4) Anthony Chaya	LN	SWASM	Smith

Chairman Wilsey made a motion, seconded by Comrade Grimm, that the four (4) applicants be accepted for membership in our Post. **Motion Passed.**

**READING OF MINUTES:** Adjutant Chaplin made a motion, seconded by Comrade Zarriello, that the 7 December 2016 General Membership Meeting Minutes be accepted as posted, subject to correction. **Motion Passed.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Adjutant Chaplin mentioned the “VFW Fact Sheet” which is posted on the Commander’s bulletin board. Briefed the email message concerning the “Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016”, which is posted on the VA/TRICARE bulletin board. Briefed that the Post webmaster was in the U.S., camping and not able to update the Post 2485 website until his return around the middle of the month of January.

**TRUSTEES’ REPORT:** Adjutant Chaplin reported, for Trustee Larson, that the Quartermaster audit was completed 2 January 2017 and found to be in order.

**QUARTERMASTER’S REPORT:** Quartermaster Compton gave report for the month ending 31 December 2016. Motion was made by Comrade Wilsey, seconded by Comrade Zarriello, for the financial reconciliation be accepted as presented and audited. **Motion Passed.**

Any Post 2485 member who wishes to see Quartermaster documents may do so with the approval of the Post Commander.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS:**

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER:** Comrade Collins – No report.

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER:** Vacant

**JUNIOR PAST POST COMMANDER:** Comrade Burke – No report.

**CHAPLAIN:** Vacant

**JUDGE ADVOCATE:** Comrade Travers – No report.

**SURGEON:** Comrade Grimm – Reported that from 14-28 November 2016, Tony Houston, conducted TRICARE assistance each Monday. He assisted in filing eleven (11) claims; answered nine (9) questions regarding TRICARE standard-overseas. From 5-19 December 2016, Tony Houston, assisted in filing eighteen (18) claims; answered twelve (12) questions concerning TRICARE. Comrade Grimm assisted Veteran who was admitted to Medical City-Clark, clarifying that the Veteran’s condition was covered by VA. Comrade Grimm reported he visited eleven (11) VA/TRICARE patients admitted to Medical City-Clark during December 2016.

**CASUALTY ASSISTANCE OFFICER:** Adjutant Chaplin read the report. Comrade McAuliffe reported for the month of December 2016:

**Casualties:**

The Casualty Assistance Office, during the month of November, recorded a total of eleven (11) American deaths in Pampanga Province.

two (2) were VFW Members; one (1) was American Legion Post 123 Member; three (3) Veterans; two (2) Veterans from Subic area; two (2) non-Veterans; and one (1) Filipino American female.

There were two (2) unreported deaths in the month of November 2016 that the Casualty Assistance Officer was not notified, but discovered during weekly visits of funeral homes. One (1) was Veteran and one (1) non-veteran.

There is currently one (1) Veteran from Subic area that is unclaimed and awaiting decision by TRICARE as to whether or not they will pay the hospital bill. Veteran is in storage at funeral home.

There is one (1) non-veteran that is claimed but his will has been challenged by his wife and the U.S. Embassy has issued a stop order while awaiting Philippine Probate Court to confirm the will's validity before giving authorization to proceed with burial.

There is one (1) American whose identity has been tentatively id'ed but not positive id'ed. His status as a veteran remains unknown and no one here in Philippines nor from the U.S. has made any inquiries. Funeral is awaiting the clearance from the U.S. Embassy to bury Laws.

#### **Disposition:**

Two (2) Veterans were buried at Clark Veterans Cemetery. One (1) Veteran was returned to U.S. for Burial in Gig Harbor, Washington.

#### **Will / Lawyer Assist:**

Veterans Lawyer Assistance Program was held 14 December 2016 with fourteen (14) Veterans and four (4) non-veterans receiving Legal Assistance. In addition, office visits for six (6) Veterans for Legal advice and assisted a non-veteran with Final arrangements in the hospital.

The next schedule Lawyer Assistance is on hold due to a recent ruling by the U.S. Embassy on the requirements and validity of having a Philippine Will, if there is a Next-of-Kin. Also, the U.S. Embassy ruling states that all Final Wills will have to be probated here in the Philippines or in the U.S., if challenged.

Chairman McAuliffe provided packets or assistance to twelve (12) Veterans, five (5) non-veterans and five (5) foreign nationals in the preparation of their final arrangements and burial.

Chairman McAuliffe conducted weekly visits of local Funeral Homes to find or assist Families of fallen Comrades in the funeral and burial arrangement.

Post Members questioned the decision to place the Casualty Assistance Program on hold. They expressed their feelings as to the success of the Program and its value to Veterans. Commander Smith explained the situation with regards to the U.S. Embassy and the position the Embassy has taken with these and associated issues.

**SERVICE OFFICER:** Comrade Marr – No report.

**SAFETY OFFICER:** Comrade Ryan – No report.

**ROVING AMBASSADOR:** Comrade Prinz – No report.

**LIBRARY:** Comrade Turner – No report.

**HISTORIAN:** Comrade Metherell / Comrade Johnson – No report.

**WEBMASTER:** Comrade Harcourt – No report.

**BUDDY POPPY:** Comrade Travers – No report.

**SEAM SQUIRREL:** Comrade Korder – No report.

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 485:** Scoutmaster LaBenne – Provided a flyer displaying a “recap of Troop 485 activities in the month of December 2016”. A copy of this flyer will be posted on the bulletin board.

**COMRADE OR FAMILY OF A COMRADE IN DISTRESS:**

Commander Smith mentioned comrade Lyn Travers in Medical City-Clark. Comrade Ellingwood mentioned Joe Carsley’s wife hospitalization.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

**POST HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Chairman Ellingwood reported on the PHC Meeting, 2 January 2017. See the PHC Meeting Minutes, 2 January 2017, for the complete update of the PHC and the status of on-going and completed projects.

The PHC Minutes are posted on the Member bulletin board and may be viewed at:

<http://www.vfwpost2485.com/VFWPHCMinutes.html>

**MEMBERSHIP:** Chairman Wilsey reported that total membership currently stands at 1634 of which 1575 are Life Members. This represents 98.49% of last year end figure (1659). He emphasized the continuing requirement to recruit new Members. Also mentioned the “Early Bird Recruitment Program” and a drawing for two (2) free Life Memberships to be conducted during New Business.

**CHILDREN’S OPERATION PROGRAM:** Chairman Wilsey reported one cleft lip operation. Two follow-on procedures. Total expended \$278.32. Encouraged Members to bring in children in need of cleft lip/pallet operations. Also reminded that up to \$700 may be spent towards children’s operations with other issues on a case by case basis.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:** Chairman Zaher reported the completion of 156 community activity projects this past month in the following categories:

- Post Members assisted Boy Scout Troops on their campout
- Veterans Burials
- Post hosted AA Meetings
- Post Service Officer has continued to reach out and help Veterans

Post members requested financial assistance for team members travelling to Palawan to look for two World War II military members remains who were executed in 1943

Post members donated 101,000 Pesos to help pay for team members expenses

Chairman Zaher thanks all Comrades for your generous donations and to please keep up all the good work in the Community.

**HOSPITAL:** Chairman Grimm – Reported 94 admissions to Medical City under Tricare/VA. He made 11 visits to hospitalized Americans in December and 6 to date in January. He also discussed the need to report this information to the Community Activities director for monthly reporting.

**CEMETERY/GRAVE DIGGERS:** Chairman Smith provided the following report:

Processing of Burial requests through ABMC and CDC takes 3-4 business days. Phase one of construction (perimeter and support buildings) is well under way at the cemetery. The cemetery grounds are undergoing reconstruction.

Our Burial Assistance Program, wills and testaments portion, has hit a legal snag and is suspended pending a ruling from American Citizens Services, US Embassy, Manila. We are working to resolve the issue with our burial assistance lawyer to prevent an increase in indigent veterans as wills can be contested and sent to probate court. We continue to work with families to provide proper and timely burial for veterans.

I encourage all veterans to have a clean and readable copy of their DD214 on file both at home and with their veteran's organization. At times, not finding a non-VFW member veteran's DD214 causes delays in burial and other benefits. We are working a source for retrieving DD214s, as needed, for burial purposes.

Significant Activities (2):

14 Dec - VFW Post 2485 provided interment burial services and military honors for Lance Collins, SPC, USA at Clark Veterans Cemetery.

29 Dec - VFW Post 2485 provided interment burial services and military honors for Henry Montgomery, SPC, USA at Clark Veterans Cemetery.

From 1 January to 31 December 2016, 50 Veterans have been buried at Clark Veterans Cemetery and one offsite. As of 31 December 2016, Grave Digger life membership stands at 1367. We are currently processing a few other Grave Digger Memberships, as well.

Sergio Gonzalez

VFW Post 10216

Thank VFW Post 8180 for their generous donation during the midterm C of A.

Grave Digger Memberships will continue to be offered as a legacy commemorative program with donations used for indigent Veteran burials, upgrade of burial equipment, and to help defray the expenses of our annual Veterans Day Ceremony.

Thank each of you who have made possible a dignified burial service at no expense to the government for our fallen veteran comrades and their surviving family.

Information is available on the Post 2485 website: <http://www.vfwpost2485.com> and Clark Veteran's Cemetery Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ClarkVeteransCemetery>

**NATIONAL HOME:** Chairman Collins – No report.

**VOD/PP:** Chairman Collins – No report.

**POST REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Adjutant Chaplin reported the committee had reviewed the four (4) applications for Membership and found all to be eligible and worthy.

**POST RELIEF COMMITTEE:** No report.

**VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN:** Adjutant Chaplin led the prayer for the National Home for Children.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None reported.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Comrade Ellingwood made a Motion; we, the PHC, move to accept, in full, the newly revised Lamp Post Lease Contract commencing on 1 April 2017 and to expire automatically on 31 March 2024. Motion was seconded by SVC Collins. **Motion Passed.**

2. Comrade Ellingwood made a Motion to accept the proposed aggregate increase of 10,000,000 Pesos for our Insurance Coverage and the total additional annual premium of \$44,712.43 with deductible 20,000 Pesos – third party property damage only. Motion was seconded by Comrade Zarriello. After considerable discussion, a motion was made by Comrade Zaher, seconded by Comrade Wilsey, to table the above motion pending analysis of the transition from the old policy to new in conjunction with new Lamp Post contract. **Motion to “lay on the table” Passed.**

**Note:** SVC Korder resigned his office effective 31 December 2016, as noted in the December 2016 General Membership Meeting Minutes. JVC Collins ascended to the SVC office with no other formality, per VFW National By-Laws. Quartermaster Power resigned his office effective 7 December 2016, as noted in the December 2016 GMM Minutes. Comrade Michael Compton was appointed Quartermaster Pro-Tempore effective 7 December 2016. Comrade Turner resigned as Chaplain, effective 14 December 2016. Letter on file.

3. Nominations were opened for the position of Post 2485 Junior Vice Commander. No nominations were made.

4. Nominations were opened for the position of Post 2485 Quartermaster. Comrade Zaher nominated Mike Compton. Comrade Compton accepted the nomination.

5. Nominations were opened for the position of Post 2485 Chaplain. Comrade Zarriello nominated Tony Grimm. Comrade Grimm accepted the nomination.

Note: All the above nominations will remain open until the 8 February 2017 General Membership Meeting and subsequent elections.

6. Commander Smith briefed rescheduling the February General Membership Meeting from February 1 to February 8, 2017, due to conflict with the District 7 Meeting and VFW Post 124 Fun Day/Golf Tournament, February 1-2 in Baguio City. Comrade Zaher made a motion, seconded by Comrade Grimm, to move the Post 2485 Membership Meeting to 8 February 2017. **Motion Passed.** Commander's notification letter on change of meeting date posted on main bar area bulletin board and the Post website Facebook page.

7. Membership Chairman Wilsey conducted a drawing for two (2), Post 2485 paid, Life Memberships, for two (2) annual Members. The two winners of the drawing for free Life Memberships were Comrades Gerald Picus and Luddy Duffey.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

1. Comrade Zaher mentioned he was still taking reservations for rooms for the District VII Meeting 1-2 February. Several have already signed-up. Twenty (20) rooms available at the Baguio Country Club. Mentioned the support for the Post 124 sponsored Golf Tournament.
2. Commander Smith briefed on the Grant received from VFW National Headquarters, in the amount of \$5,000. This grant was coordinated through VFW Commander-in-Chief, Brian Duffy, and Department of Pacific Areas, Senior Vice Commander, John Gilbert. This Grant was presented to the "Duyan Ni Maria" Orphanage. The 600 Air Base Wing, Philippine Air Force, Clark, was also represented at the presentation of the check to the Orphanage.
3. The monthly free membership dinner winners were Comrades Ned Tighe and Len Leake. These free meals are provided by the Management of the Lamp Post Restaurant and Bar.
4. The Post 50/50 drawing winner was Comrade LaBenne with 800 Pesos collected for the Post and 800 Pesos to the draw winner. The National Home for Children drawing winner was Comrade Smith with 850 Pesos to the National Home and 850 Pesos to the draw winner.
5. Comrade Grimm suggested the post provide small gift baskets to hospitalized Veterans as a show of support along with the visit itself. Suggested contents; toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, etc.....

**CLOSING CEREMONIES:** Closing Ceremonies were held in accordance with VFW Ritual. The meeting was adjourned at 1510 hours. The next General Membership Meeting will be 8 February 2017, at 1400 hrs. The Officers' Call will be held 6 February 2017, at 1100 hours.

**OFFICIAL:**

//signed//

Gerald Chaplin  
Adjutant

**APPROVED:**

//signed//

Norman Smith  
Commander

DISTRIBUTION:

File  
Bulletin Board  
District Adjutant  
Webmaster