



124TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Convention Highlights

Saturday, July 22, 2023
National Council of Administration Meeting

Chief Encourages Full Attendance at Opening Session

VFW Commander-in-Chief Timothy Borland opened the VFW National Council of Administration meeting by announcing that 48 Departments made All-American status this year. Borland also encouraged all VFW members present to attend the business session Monday at 11:45 a.m., to recognize the achievements of those Departments for living up to the Chief's motto, "Every Veteran Counts."

"I want all appointees to be in that room because by God, comrades, I want a good showing," Borland said. "We want you there to fill the room and recognize our fellow Department leaders because they deserve those awards."

VFW Adjutant General Dan West thanked the Council for approving his appointment last year and reflected on the past year under his and Quartermaster General Marc Garduno's leadership. West added that because of the changes they have made, VFW could save between \$1 million and \$1.5 million over the next several years.

"We questioned many longstanding practices and traditions," West said. "We found new and innovative ways to identify savings and now offer competitive salaries for those who want to work. VFW is also the top veteran's organization in Washington, D.C. We must continue to remain the leading veterans voice on Capitol Hill."

VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci announced that VA Secretary Denis McDonough will speak at the business session on Tuesday. "If you see him around the convention, please thank him for the implementation of the *PACT Act*," Gallucci said. Gallucci also said Vice Minister of the Taiwan Veterans Council Wu Chih-Yang will speak at Monday's Joint Opening Session and that VFW's onsite VA claims assistance at convention will continue through Wednesday.

VFW's national officers concluded the meeting by commending the National Council of Administration.

Borland offered his thanks to the Council and those in attendance: "I want to remind everyone of their appointments here at the VFW National Convention. Your place of duty is at your meetings and to be present at the joint opening session. Take it back to your Departments."

VFW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento lauded those VFW members in attendance: "Thank you for your dedication. We decide how to govern ourselves, and we vote on our own rules."

VFW Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Alfred Lipphardt said he was impressed with the attendance at the Council meeting: "This is a tremendous showing. This is where you learn. This is your board of directors."

-The End-