

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAII, 84<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION CONDUCTED AT THE ALA MOANA HOTEL, HONOLULU HAWAII

**FRIDAY JUNE 10, 2022**

1. THE 84<sup>TH</sup> DEPARTMENT OF HAWAII VFW CONVENTION WAS OPENED IN FORM BY COMMANDER LEWIS; AT 09:05 AM HST AT THE LANAI GARDEN BALLROOM OF THE ALA MOANA HOTEL IN HONOLULU, HAWAII, ON JUNE 10, 2022. THE STATE ADJUTANT BARLETT WAS PRESENT.
  
2. READING AND ADOPTION OF CONVENTION RULES
  - A. State Adjutant Barlett read the Convention Rules for the 84<sup>th</sup> State Convention and moved the adoption of the proposed 84<sup>th</sup> Convention Standing Rules.
  - B. The following Convention Standing Rules were adopted as read.
    1. With the exceptions listed below, Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised will be recognized as the Parliamentary Authority.
    2. The Chair shall control all discussions on resolutions, elections, and other issues to be voted on. All delegates entitled to speak shall be recognized by the Chair.
    3. The chair shall have the authority to escort from the Convention Hall any person interfering with the orderly proceedings of the convention.
    4. When a delegate desires to make a motion or speak at the Convention, The delegate shall rise, **be recognized**, address the chair as “Comrade Commander”, state their name and Post Number or in the case of a Department Officer, they shall state their title; e.g. James Jones, delegate from Post 123 and then speak. Debate shall be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.
    5. A delegate is permitted to speak, but twice on any subject or resolution, except by consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting strength present.
    6. All votes cast must be paid for. This includes Delegate votes, Commanders votes, State Officers votes, National Councilmember vote, and Past Commanders votes. Delegate fees will be applied as follows:
      - a. Post delegates as determined by Post strength on record with the Department Quartermaster as of May 31, 2022
      - b. Post Commander’s votes
      - c. State Officer’s votes
      - d. Past Department Commanders vote
      - e. Current National Councilmember vote

7. Voting shall be by acclamation except when a Roll Call vote is requested by three (3) delegates from three (3) different Posts.
8. Each delegate shall not be considered instructed or acting as a proxy.
9. When the roll is called, the Delegate chair shall announce the vote of their delegation.
10. Each delegation may arrive at a vote in any manner, but shall announce it in terms of full units and not a fractional part of a vote.
11. When the roll call of a delegation chair is not acceptable to any member of the delegation, the Department Adjutant shall poll that delegation at that point.
12. Roll call voting order shall be Post Commander and Post delegates in numerical order, Past Department Commanders, National Councilmember, Department Officers, State Junior Vice, Commander, State Senior Vice Commander, and State Commander. In accordance with Section 521, of the Congressional Charter and Bylaws, NO person shall have more than one vote.
13. Delegates may abstain on the first round of a roll call, but must cast their vote on the second round.
14. Nominating speeches candidates to any elected position shall be limited to three (3) minutes each. Seconding of a candidate is not required but, only one seconding speech of two (2) minutes shall be made for any candidate.
15. The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in the Convention Hall during official business sessions.
16. Only the State Commander or their designated representative may release Convention information to outside information to outside agencies, such as the Press, following decisions made at this Convention.
17. The above rules may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates assembled at a Convention, to be taken without debate.

### 3. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM.

- A. A quorum was achieved.

### 4. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

- A. State Adjutant Barlett introduced the following guests.
  - i. National Adjutant General Kevin Jones
  - ii. Representatives from Humana and National Life Group

### 5. FIRST CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

- A. QM Enos moved that the roll of delegates submitted as of 08:30 AM be the official roll of voting members of the convention: Post Delegates: 108 Officers voting separately 0; Number of delegates entitled to vote 108.
- B. The Credentials Report was adopted.

**6. PRESENTATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE 83<sup>RD</sup> STATE CONVENTION HELD AT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, HONOLULU HAWAII.**

- A. Proceedings for the 83<sup>rd</sup> State Convention are available for review upon request.

**7. BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT**

- A. George Barlett of the Bylaws Committee recommended the following change.

Section 405. Department Officers

Part A Currently reads:

The Officers of this Department shall be as provided in Article V of the National Bylaws.

Should read:

The Officers of this Department shall be as provided in Article V of the National Bylaws. In addition the Judge Advocate and Surgeon are also elected.

The Bylaws Committee moves that this change be adopted.

Motion was seconded and passed.

Delegate Randy Mau Post 2875; Called for the question. Motion died No Second

- B. Bylaws Committee member Barlett read resolution from Post 3391 member Joe Davis and moved to approve the resolution as read. Motion was seconded and passed. Resolution will be forwarded to National.

C. Resolution reads as follows:

- D. Resolution ELIMINATE ANNUAL EARNINGS LIMIT FOR ALL SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT RECIPIENTS

WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration (SSA) pays retirement and disability benefits to 64.8 million recipients, 8.5 million of whom are military veterans; and

WHEREAS, all senior citizens drawing Social Security retirement can continue working if they choose, but the Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act of 2000 only eliminates the Annual Earnings Limit for beneficiaries once they reach Full Retirement Age (currently 66 years and two months). The law was created to encourage older workers to return or remain in the workforce, but it left intact a disincentive for 62 to 65-year-old beneficiaries to work, a penalty that originated

with the Social Security Act of 1935 that required full retirement as a condition to receiving government benefits; and

WHEREAS, the penalty has been revised many times over the years, and today reduces Social Security retirement benefits by \$1 for every \$2 earned over the 2022 Annual Earnings Limit of \$19,560 – or \$1 for every \$3 earned if the individual reaches Full Retirement Age this year and earns more than \$51,960. Whatever amount SSA withholds is returned in the form of higher retirement checks once the beneficiary reaches Full Retirement Age; and

WHEREAS, individual life circumstances determine whether senior citizens continue working in their retirement years to supplement their earned Social Security benefits. Yet nearly 4 million beneficiaries face a reduction in benefits if they choose to continue working simply because they are too young and because they earn too much; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of May 1, there were 11.4 million job openings but only 5.9 million unemployed workers to fill them. So even if the nationwide unemployment rate dropped to zero, there would still be a shortage of 5.5 million workers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and our U.S. Territories. More should be done to counter a nationwide worker shortage by eliminating this government disincentive that financially penalizes millions of Social Security retirement beneficiaries who might choose to remain in or return to the workforce; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon Congress to modernize the Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act of 2000 by eliminating the Annual Earnings Limit for all Social Security retirement recipients.

## Reports of Officers

- E. The following officers presented reports.
- i. State Commandeer
  - ii. State Senior Vice Commander
  - iii. State Junior Vice Commander
  - iv. State Quartermaster
    1. *QM Enos moved to accept QM's Convention report. Motion was seconded and passed.*
  - v. State Adjutant
  - vi. State Service Officer.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. The following Committee reports were submitted.

- i. Social Media
- ii. Community Service
- iii. Student Veterans
- iv. Auxiliary Liaison
- v. Buddy Poppy
- vi. Budget
- vii. Ways and Means
- viii. National Home
- ix. OVC
- x. Youth Programs

## 9. RECESS FOR LUNCH.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

A. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 on Friday 10 June, 2022 to meet again at 10:20 AM on Saturday June 11, 2022.

## 11. DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER FUATA CONDUCTED POST SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

## 12. CALL TO ORDER

A. Commander Lewis reopened the Convention in form at 10:40 AM HST at the Lanai Garden Ballroom of the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii, on June 10, 2022. The State Adjutant Barlett was present.

## 13. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

A. National Adjutant General Kevin Jones

14. ROLL CALL WAS CONDUCTED.

15. FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT

- A. State Judge Advocate P. Takemura moved that the roll of delegates submitted as of 08:30 AM be the official roll of voting members of the convention: Post Delegates: 108 Officers voting separately 0; Number of delegates entitled to vote 108.
- B. The Final Credentials Report was adopted.

16. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Election and installation of officers.
  - i. No delegates from Post 352 therefore the total vote count was reduced 5 and delegate were removed from the count and the number need to achieve a majority is now 52.
  - ii. J “Frank” Bragg Post 12138 was unanimously elected as State Commander
  - iii. Ronald Schaedel Post 10276 was unanimously elected as State Senior Vice Commander.
  - iv. Ben Fuata Post 3830 was elected as State Junior Vice Commander
    - 1. Tellers Report for office of State Junior Vice Commander
      - a. *Votes Cast:103*
      - b. *Necessary to elect:52*
      - c. *Ben Fuata received: 77 votes*
      - d. *Sherman Willis received:26 votes*
      - e. *Commander Lewis declared Ben Fuata Post 3830 elected State Junior Vice Commander*
  - v. Norbert Enos Post 2875 was unanimously elected as State Quartermaster
  - vi. Stanley Fernandez was unanimously elected as State Chaplain.

17. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS INCOMING J “FRANK” BRAGG MADE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS.

- A. State Adjutant George Barlett Post 10154
- B. State Chief of Staff Ronald Lockwood Post 8616
- C. State Service Officer Ben Fuata Post 3830
- D. State Judge Advocate Randy Grant 3292
- E. State Surgeon James Q. Jones Post 12138

- F. State Officer of the Day Nu'u Teofilo Post 3830
- G. State Sergeant of Arms Russell Andrews Post 2875
- H. National Legislative George Barlett Post 10154
- I. National Programs Randy Grant Post 3292
- J. National Veterans Service Ben Fuata Post 3830

## 18. INSTALLATION OF OFFIERS

- A. National Adjutant General Kevin Jones installed Department of Hawaii's Officers for the 2022-2023 Administrative year.

## 19. ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

- A. Delegate Ben Fuata moved, "To adjourn the Department of Hawaii Veterans of Foreign Wars 84<sup>th</sup> Convention *Sine die*."
- B. Commander J "Frank" Bragg declared the 84th convention adjourned sine die at 12:20 AM.
- C. Convention was closed in form.

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George Barlett, State Adjutant