

Comrades,

To say this has been an unusual and difficult year is an understatement. I am writing this to bring you up to speed on our Department, and National, status.

First, The National Convention in **Reno, Nevada is officially cancelled. Also Cancelled is our own Department Convention in Bangkok, Thailand.** This all falls under the category of an “Act of God”. Both National and us are under tremendous pressure to still follow through with what needs to be accomplished, as far as business for our organization. By that, I mean elections, next year’s convention site, budget, etc. No matter the circumstances, these must be addressed.

The National Council has voted that present National officers will vacate their positions at the end of the VFW year, and those scheduled to move up, I.E. SVCinc, Hal Roesch, and JVCinc, “Fritz” Mihelcic, will assume their new positions in the VFW National hierarchy. The Council will fill the other positions once they are able to meet.

Here in the Pacific, I will be holding a virtual meeting with the Council of Administration on June 13th, where we will hold elections for the 2020-21 VFW year. The Outgoing CofA will conduct their business in conjunction with this virtual convention, including a vote on next year’s convention site, and upon completion, the Incoming CofA will hold their meeting, including a vote on the Dec. CofA site. More details in the weeks ahead will be coming on the agenda for this. It will be very condensed, including the normal reports which will be emailed to the Adjutant, and not read. We will be, upon approval from National, conduct an Installation Ceremony, virtually.

Now, along with the cancellation of Bangkok, this year’s convention book is also cancelled. Any Post or District that have purchased pages will be refunded.

Also, since convention will not be held, delegate fees for this year will be waived.

Comrades, the health and safety of our members is more important than the Convention. And believe me when I tell you, this was a very difficult decision. But, it is the only decision that could be made, and it is the right decision. We still have several months in the 2020 year. There will still be All-State awards, All-American awards, and our Department awards. These will be handed out at the CofA in December. We are less than 100 new members to go for our 100% goal. Keep plugging away, and make the department proud.

The Department of Pacific Areas will weather this difficulty, and CofA and next year's convention will most certainly be one to remember. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Rick Farris
Commander
VFW Department of Pacific Areas
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