

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE  
VETERANS OF FORGEIGN WARS

Saturday, November 21, 2015  
Savannah, Georgia

Meeting called to order by Chairman David Pipes, at 10:35 am with prayer and pledge. He also cited the "Objects of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Chairman Pipes recognized National Senior Vice Commander Brian Duffy and National Surgeon General Doc Bohlman. He also recognized Past Commanders-in-Chief Jack Carney, John Gwizdak, Jim Nier, Glen Gardner, John Hamilton and John Smart.

Past Commanders-in-Chiefs. Roll call by Secretary/Treasurer W. Benny Bachand with only 13 State Commanders, Department Senior Vice of West Virginia and all Fourteen National Council members present. A

Motion to approve minutes of Southern Conference Caucus held in Pittsburg, Pa. Motion passed.

Secretary/Treasurer W. Benny Bachand gave financial report. Audit Committee Chairman Jack Carney gave audit report and found that all bank balances were correct. Motion to approve audit, Motion passed.

Dan Duffy, Florida, Vice Chairman, Constitution/By-Law Committee had no report.

Time and Place Committee Chairman Glen Gardner gave information to host a Southern Conference night at the National Convention in Charlotte, NC. He indicated that he was working with a VFW Post in NC and information about cost would be sent to the Departments.

John Gwizdak, Chairman of Budget committee stated that once we fully understand the expected revenue of the Conference, they were prepared to present a budget to the Conference.

Jim Nier had no report of the Resolution Committee.

Department of Arkansas gave a report on the Conference meeting that will be held in October, 2016.

Al Lipphardt gave a report on this Savannah meeting. Ask all in attendance to stand and be recognized for their outstanding efforts in organizing and implementing this meeting.

Under New Business, Carl Kaelin moved to support Brian Duffy for Commander-in-Chief. Motion passed. Brian Duffy thanked the Conference for their continued support as he has progressed through the chairs.

**Nominations for Southern Conference Officers:**

John Gwizdak nominated Kim DeShano for Conference Chairman. One ballot cast for his election.

Dan West nominated Al Cantu, TX for Conference Vice Chairman. One ballot cast for his election.

Jack Carney nominated W. Benny Bachand for Secretary/Treasurer. Kim DeShano cast one ballot for his election.

Conference Chairman Pipes asked to remember the National Home.

Under Good of the Order, State Commanders and National Council members gave their reports.

Debra Anderson, Assistant Quartermaster General provided some financial information about the National Organization. She outlined some of the major source of revenue and expenses. They expect to have a surplus by the end of the fiscal year.

Adjutant General John Hamilton talked about new agreements with AAFES and Yuengling beer.

Hal Roesch, VA., announced that he is a candidate for National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief in 2018.

Commander-in-Chief John Biedrzycki, Jr. spoke to the members about their service to this country, service to their communities and the need to increase our membership. Only a strong and growing membership will give the VFW the tools to provide services and care to Veterans.

Commander-in-Chief Biedrzycki installed the Southern Conference Officers'

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

David Pipes, Conference Chairman

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W. Benny Bachand, Secretary/Treasurer