

Southern Conference Zoom Meeting  
 9 March 2022 1830CST  
 All minutes are paraphrased

Meeting Called to order at 1930 est

**Roll Call of Southern Conf Members**

Chairman	Bobby Lovergne	Present
Vice Chairman	Victor Letourneaut	Present
Treasurer Secretary	David Moske	Present
Chaplain	Harry Sayles	Absent
Alabama	Scott Gedling	Present
Arkansas	Mark Davis	Absent
Florida	Dani Hernandez	Excused
Georgia	Kevin Hammond	Present
Kentucky	Ed Vincent	Absent
Louisiana	Tim Sloan	Present
Mississippi	Gail Wilson	Absent
North Carolina	Russ Chambers	Present
Oklahoma	Jim Bassett	Present
South Carolina	Dwight Hora	Absent
Tennessee	Brian Walker	Absent
Texas	Lynn Toomer SVC	Present
Virginia	Harold Schupska	Absent
West Virginia	Corrina Boggess SVC	Present
National ASST AG	Dan West	Present
Audit Chairman	Gene Perino	Excused
Budget Chairman	Jeff Carroll	Present
Bylaws Chairman	Mike Rhew	Present
Resolution Chairman	Russ Chambers	Present
Time and Place Chairman	Brian Duffy	Excused
Social Media Chairman	Glen Tilley	Excused
Additional Attendee	PCIC Hal Roesch	
Additional Attendee	Lupita Perez	

Treasurer Report:

The current balance of the Southern Conference is \$99,671.53. A new account has been opened with Chase Bank for ease of access for the current and future Treasurer.

Treasurer stated in the past we have bonded through Tallman Insurance Agency. I can find nowhere in our current bylaws that require any position within the conference to be bonded. However, it is the practice of and a bylaws requirement of our national organization for any accountable officer of funds or property to be bonded. After speaking with the officers of the southern conference I bonded the office of the treasurer for \$100,000.00. the price of the bond is \$667.00 for the next three years of coverage.

The Website solutions page is still in development I asked for an update today and did not receive a reply. However, National Programs has agreed to pay for the first year of the website eliminating the initial cost. Their request is that we push as much reporting as possible through website. This will make it easier for everyone involved for more information please contact Lynn Roth.

### **Discussion of Upcoming Conferences**

Bobby- in November we voted to have elections for national candidates at national convention this leaves a bit of space available at our conference meetings. What would the Departments like to see at the Conference Meeting?

Dan West stated that senior leadership at nation is trying to bring back some version of the flying squadron, it would need to be something that is promoted before the conference that way it is not just a repeat of training that was already received by 90% of the people attending the conf.

Bobby – to the commanders what would you like scene from the training.

Jim Bassett- advocate of doing the training, feels like he can learn a lot.

Mike Rhew- would like to be more informed about things at the conference level. How do we operate as a conference. Are there any changes since National Convention that would effect Departments, Districts Post?

Bobby How do we make the conference worth coming to.

Scott gelding- Some training on how to maintain status and at the same time progress in the future. There is power in networking and developing a resource communication and we don't get a lot of information on that.

Victor- This is a great example of us evolving with with times. This why we are doing a zoom to make sure that we are communicating with everyone.

Jeff Carroll- coordinated quorum for each type of officer CMDRs, QMs, ECT... would be nice to focus on those types of training.

Norm Maccey- Something that I noticed during the last Conference Meeting is a lack of VFW protocol. I think it would be a good idea to do a class like a VFW 101.. This would be good for the new members but it appears that some of our senior leadership has forgotten the traditions and foundation that makes us what we are. Need to make sure we do not have a sloppy meeting.

Scott Gelding- reinforces VFW 101

Tim Sloan- We have marketing issues therefore it would be nice to have a class on how to market to our veterans. Some sort of training on how to market to veterans

Corrina Boggess- Like having the option to do breakout sessions with officer specific and a real focus should be on legislative issues and how do we as a conference help our region. Breakouts like the do at national would be effectiveal. Best business practices how to spread that amongst the conference

Scott Gedling- facilitating sharing with the other states

Hal Roesch- do we do this at the southern conf? There is a possibility that this could be a huge expense. Is this something that should be done on zoom? A real advantage is that it is after the leg conf and all the changes in bylaws. This could be a great opportunity to reinforce the changes and promote legislative pushes

Dan West- Hal and he met at a flying conference years ago. I have been doing this for years. Conference exists to elect candidates for national office. The entire reason is to select national officers to present to the delegates at a national convention to hopefully elect. There came a handshake agreement but the rotation of national candidates but there was never formalized. Training at the southern conference should be at a higher level so that we can train those for tomorrow. As long as we are able to get national at larger conference, we will do our best to facilitate. Need to have the comradery connection but the purpose is to put forth candidates.

Bobby- good ideas and a way to make a plan to get the conference together. Marketing especially. The VFW is not hitting where we need to be. Where do we need to be marketing ourselves to veterans?

### **Southern Conference Night at the national convention**

Bobby- I talked to Brian Duffy and want to try to get it going again. Need to see about doing it at phoenix since this year is so close. Wanted to make sure that the night is for our conference and not just a boondoggle where all the conferences show up, it might be a good idea to issue armbands and prevent it from turning into a party where other conferences start showing up. Looking at presenting formal idea at the convention in July.

Dan West- National is looking at the possibility of doing an all-conference night in phoenix

Hal Roesch- still a significant cost to the department

### **Update of Southern Conference Cruise**

26 of 30 suits are already taken Dec 12-17 of 2023

### **Update of National Convention for Dan West**

Was done in the above

### **S. Conference Committee Chair Briefing**

Budget- would like the minutes for the past three years (to jeff Carroll)

Bylaws- would like to look at all southern conf proposed changes to get the conference on board of backing each other when the changeless are proposed at the national convention

Resolution committee- reached out to everyone

Social media- really need the dept social media contact for southern conf fb page

### **North Carolina Southern Conf Brief**

Committee is meeting every other week, link on dept website for registration. Still working on some loose ends.

Southern Conf Chair would like to attend the next meeting

Vic new attendees for the southern conf will be drawn for hotel room payment. Badge for new attendees, southern conf polo available at Conf meeting, VFW store will be at Southern Conf NC.

Send contract to NC HDQTS and PCIC will work on getting the Mississippi Flag

**Oklahoma Southern Conf Brief**

Not Present to present a report

**Open Discussion**

Keep the meeting to CMD and SRV

Make sure that everyone has the ability to speak at the meetings especially when it comes to elections

Need to make all officer available on Facebook and Webpage

Meeting Closed at 2100est