



# Convention Highlights

Saturday, July 31, 2021  
National Council of Administration Meeting

## Masks Required Monday Morning

VFW Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch II opened the National Council of Administration meeting today by saying, “it’s been a year of firsts.” Over the last year, VFW has held such events as its first virtual Council of Administration meeting, its first virtual address to a joint hearing of the Senate and House VA committees, as well as the first virtual national service officer training. Last year was the first time in VFW history that an in-person national convention did not take place.

Adjutant General Kevin Jones announced that beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Monday Aug. 2, face masks will be required to be worn in places of “public accommodation” as mandated by the city of Kansas City, Mo. Jones also announced that Dan West will assume the duties of assistant adjutant general on Sept. 7. West is currently the adjutant/quartermaster of the Department of Texas. Jones encouraged all members to download the VFW Events app on Google Play or Apple App stores. The app offers VFW members the latest information on the convention.

Quartermaster General Debra General announced that a budget surplus is expected. The surplus is due in large part to a reduction in travel and the use of virtual meetings throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite COVID-19, she said it was a “good year.” Anderson noted that next year’s budget includes \$334,000 for VFW’s Military Assistance Program (MAP) grants. MAP provides grants to VFW Posts, Districts and Departments sponsoring events for troops and their families.

VFW’s national officers concluded the meeting by commending the efforts of VFW’s national staff since the work-at-home order was implemented on March 25, 2020.

“To our staff, our heartfelt thanks for everything you did this year to get the work done,” Roesch said. “In my 30 years of being a member, I have never been prouder.” Roesch noted that in his travels across the country, members expressed their appreciation for VFW employees and their continuation of service. “They always answered the call,” Roesch said. “They deserve the credit.”

“Everyone is thanking the council, but I want to thank all the members who showed up,” Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic said. “I also want to thank our Commander-in-Chief for his guidance. It was difficult, but we did it.”

“Recruiters in this room, this last year we’ve been challenged,” Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland said. “But we never stood still. My congratulations to everyone who recruited at least one person. Without you, we wouldn’t be where we are.”