



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Motorcycle Group of Texas

Special Events Chairman

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To: All Members

From: Dennis Montgomery - Dept of Texas Special Activities Chairman

Date: Feb 21, 2009

Re: Mid Winter Summary

The VFW Midwinter Roundup was held in January at Austin and the VFWMG made an outstanding showing of members present. We are now at 15 Active Units with the addition of Unit 13 – 6797 in Post, Texas, Unit 15 – 2137 in Azle, Texas, Unit 16 – 12058 in Kyle, Texas and Unit 18 – 4694 in Mexia, Texas. Posts in Vidor, Duncanville, Granbury and New Braunfels are planning new Unit startups. With attendance of over 107, this was the biggest meeting we have had yet and keeps making me very proud of what we have done in the short time since we started in 2005.

I would like to commend the ones who had the dream to get this started and the patience to follow through. I know it took some planning and a lot of talking to get permission to do something different. Now that they have us going, I can only imagine the things we can do and where we can grow.

With all of the Units busy doing the programs and being involved with the communities where we live, try not to forget to send in After Action Reports. This is the way Lorree and I get the information to report to the VFW about all the outstanding work we are doing in our communities. Some of the reports that have been coming in show a lot of imagination and new ways of doing projects that shows we can change and adapt to the times. Just fill out the one page report and send it as soon as possible. If you send the one page report, we can keep a running report so when the Dept Commander requests it I can be ready. Then follow up with a more detailed report including your pictures and newspaper articles that will be posted on the web site. Being seen in you community and being involved with your community is great PR for your Unit and the VFW.

Our Secretary, Lorree is trying to keep up with all the paperwork you send her and is getting a lot of information to me. She is getting calls from other Post wanting information and we can see more growth in sight. You can contact her at vfwmgtx@yahoo.com, PO Box 2106, Cleburne, TX 76033-2106, By fax 817-556-2724 or by phone at 817-648-2419.

Web Master Jeff Piety has informed me that VFWMG has renewed our contract for the website for the next 2 years and he has more web space to post our upcoming events and After Action Report with pictures. He is also telling me he has some other ideas of ways to improve our website. Be sure to send Flyers of upcoming events to him so members from all over the state will know what you are doing and have the necessary information to join you if they are able. Now that it is getting warmer, you never know who might show up at your Runs and Programs.

As before, any changes in your Officers names, address, phone numbers and such must be sent to the State Secretary to be changed on the web. Flyers and news articles can be sent directly to Jeff at; jeffpiety@hotmail.com .

During our meeting at Mid Winter the By-Laws changes that were brought up from the State Convention were discussed and changes were made. The new By-Laws are now posted on the website. Any proposed changes must be sent to me in writing now for consideration at our next meeting.

Discussion was held about the Ride to the VFW National Home sponsored by Post 6974 in Burnet, Texas. William Pratt informed our meeting that the name had been changed to **THE JOHN FAIR MEMORIAL RIDE FOR THE KIDS**. Information on this ride can be found on the website under Current Activities and Happenings.

State Adjutant / Quartermaster Roy Grona addressed our meeting stating how pleased he and the State are with the work that the VFWMG is doing and the way we are helping our Posts.

At Mid-Winter this year, the VFWMG booth collected \$928.00 from our raffles and we rounded the total up to make a \$1000.00 donation to the MAP program through the VFW.

This is a very good donation as it comes from just 3 days of raffle ticket sales and I would like to thank the nine Units who donated items to make this possible. I know the word did not get out to all the Units in time for everyone to make donations this time around, but be assured that I will notify you in plenty of time before the State Convention!

Some of the Units came up with some new Items to sell for their fundraisers and we are going to work on getting a VFWMG Store page on the website so all can see what is available.

Remember, we only have two meetings each year and it is VERY important to have a representative from your Unit there. Your Council of Units members should be there but we want all members present as your involvement and input will decide the success and future growth of the VFWMG. We need to continue to work hard and prove to the rest of the VFW that we will be beneficial in supporting the VFW principles and programs as well as being a good recruiting tool. We can show that we can get the work done and have fun at the same time. The State Convention will be held in Corpus Christi, TX from Wednesday, 24 June 2009 to Sunday 28 June 2009. Please check with the district website for updates on specific meeting times and places. We will also ask our Web Master to get the information on our website as soon as possible.

I would like to again say THANK YOU to all the people who helped get this organization started and to those who are continuing to help the VFWMG grow as it has. I am very PROUD of how far we have come and look forward to the years ahead.

Veterans With the Love of Riding

Dennis Montgomery

Dept.of TX. Special Activities Chairman