



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Motorcycle Group of Texas

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To: Membership

From: C. Norm Brawner – Unit 1 President

Date: June 10, 2008

Re: State Newsletter

Hello Comrades,

It's been awhile since I have written all of the Units and congratulated all of you for all the good work each of you do. For those of you that don't know, I finally decided to retire from my paying job several months ago. Since then I have been trying to catch up doing projects I have been putting off for years. I find myself working harder now around the house than I ever did at work.

Let me give you a quick break down of what has been happening with the Motorcycle Group here in Texas. We have had one new Unit start up since the Mid Winter Conference and it looks like there will be three more starting by the time we go to the State Convention in Dallas. That will bring us to a total of 14 Units and just over 450 members. That is a 4570% growth rate since we formed the VFWMG four years ago. There are very few groups that have grown that successfully in such a short time. Each of you is responsible for achieving this success and should be very proud of what you have accomplished. The number of projects that everyone has completed over this past year reflects the efforts and pride that each Unit has in their VFW Posts and their Communities. Great Job and I salute each and every one of you for doing so well.

With this in mind I need your reports of the activities each Unit has done since Mid-Winter as soon as possible, so I can report this information to our State Commander and the Council of Administration. I have included a form that I hope you will find very easy to record your activities on. The format is simple, quick, uniform and complete. It was designed by the incoming State Chairman Dennis "Moose" Montgomery. It will help me on my final report and the future Motorcycle Group Chairman to compile the necessary information to present at the State Convention and Mid Winter Conferences Council Meetings. I can not stress enough the importance of filing these reports to Department on a regular basis in order for us to maintain creditability as a working Motorcycle Group. It also helps to keep the Nay Sayers in check and proves that we are a productive and viable asset to our Communities and the VFW Organization. Please take time and return these forms ASAP so I have time to compile my report for the VERY CLOSE State Convention in Dallas.

Unfortunately, we will not be having a ride at this Convention, mainly because of the Location of the Hotel. It is difficult to plan a ride in and out of the Airport and the parking problems associated with the Hotel. If someone has a plan to overcome the problems please step up and plan a route we can all live with and some may want to ride.

I hope to see as many as possible at the Convention even though it is in Dallas this year. I know it is not the most favorite place to be for many of you, but we have several items that we must

address and vote on. There are some big changes taking place at this time. We have grown so fast, and as we are all aware of, not without some growing pains. Never the less we have grown to such a size that changes are necessary. I still need the names of several Units prospective Council Members as discussed and voted on at the Mid Winter Meeting. It is important that each Unit be represented at this meeting.

We also need ASAP all of the Units newly elected officers for 2008-2009. Judy wants to get the Web Sites up to date before handing everything off to the State Council. So please ask your Secretaries to get this information sent in soon. We are trying to make this transition as easy as possible for the incoming State Council Secretary.

As usual the meeting place will be announced once I find out the place from the State Adj. /Quartermaster, Roy Grona. The time is 1:00 pm on Saturday the 28th of June. We will have a booth set up and you can check there for any information needed. We will also need a few volunteers to help out with the Membership Recruiting and Raffle Items as usual. Please help out for an hour or two if you can. Donations of Raffle items are needed from each Unit to help support the MAP Program that we have always donated to in the past. The nicer the item the more monies we raise so please help us to continue to set the bar higher as we have in the past. Our first time we raised \$500.00, and the last time we raised almost \$1,000.00 for the MAP Program. Let's surprise our incoming State Commander, Jerry Murphee by exceeding last year's donation. We can do it with everyone's help.

The proposed changes to our By-Laws are attached. Please look over them and be sure your members as well as your delegates understand why the changes are being made. Our group is growing ever so fast and we need to change as we continue to grow. If you have any questions please call or E-Mail, with your concerns and or ideas that may help improve our organization. Again it is important that each Unit be represented at this meeting so they can better understand the proposed changes. The last thing we need is to make changes without the majority of our members having a voice in the future of the VFWMG.

It has been a pleasure serving as your Co-Coordinator/Chairman of the VFWMG over the past few years. And I hope to continue to work with the New Chairman in the future. It is time for me to step aside and let someone with new and better ideas to lead the group in the insuring years. The incoming State Commander, Jerry Murphee has chosen Dennis "Moose" Montgomery to be his Special Events Chairman which includes the VFWMG Chairmanship for 2008-2009. Moose is from Unit 3 and has been working closely with this program since its beginning. He has worked diligently over the last few months to get ready to carry us forward for the New Year. He is a very dedicated person and believes very strongly in the VFWMG and all it stands for. I have no doubt in his leadership skills and new ideas to help our organization to grow even bigger and better. I would ask that you would support him, just as each of you has me, to help promote our group in the past. It has been a great ride and I appreciate each one of you, for your support and know that Big John, our past State Commander would be proud of you, as I am, for how we have made his dream come true and become a reality of greatness. I look forward to seeing you in Dallas.

Until then ride with pride and don't let the pot holes get ya!

Norm Brauner

Norm Brauner
Unit 1 President

CNB; jmb

Cc: file