15.5

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

February 14, 2019

Inge Conley, Commander
Department of Texas VFW
8503 N. IH 35
Austin, Texas 78753

Commander Conley,

On 11 Feb, 2019 at 1900 hrs, I called the Pleasanton VFW Post 12162 to order. After the opening ceremonies, I declared the Post open for business and went into the Business Session of the meeting. At this time Steve Mueller ask to be recognized. I recognized him and he said that he was going to make a motion, he motioned to turn in the Post Charter and was immediately seconded by Stephanie Pino. The members present resounded with a very loud "Aye". I informed him that no motions except the election of a Jr Vice Commander and a Quartermaster would be accepted. He stated that that was not his motion. I asked him if he was refusing to nominate and elect the officers to the vacant positions, he said yes.

I then stated that I needed to make a statement. I addressed the members as to the decision of letting the Post charter be pulled and the Post be closed. I told them that I believed they had been misled and that the Post didn't need to close. I explained that the Post could still be very active and productive. There were no comments and then an individual stood up and said that they are young and want to make a difference and that they are tired of all the "back stabbing" going on in the VFW organization. I asked for specifics and he referred to the Section 214 letter sent by the State Commander and stated that the VFW was jealous of their accomplishments and wanted to shut them down. I informed him that he was wrong and gave him the truthful specific details of why the letter was sent, but he refused to accept them.

After the brief statement from that member, another member, a Viet Nam Veteran asked if all this could be delayed until April so they could re-elect Steve as the Commander and let things get back to normal. I told him I would relay his concerns to the State Commander. I told him that by refusing to elect the officers needed, the Post would have to surrender the charter.

Steve Mueller again asked to be recognized. I recognized him and he stated that Section 210 of the National Bylaws stated that if a post decided to surrender the charter, that they had 20 days before the membership had to vote on it a second time. I informed him that that didn't apply because the Post was in suspension and the only thing the Post could do was to elect the officers required. That if they refused to elect the required officers, they would have to surrender the charter per Article II-Posts, Section 211-Suspensions and Revocation of Charter, para. (2.), (*Notwithstanding the provisions above*

the Commander-in-Chief shall automatically revoke the Post Charter if, while under suspension, the Post fails to establish a meeting quorum or elect officers as required in Section 216.). His next comment was, "Are we done?" I informed him that if he was refusing to elect the required officers, we were done.

I then asked for all the documents and property belonging to the Post. There was a box on the floor with items in it. An inventory of the box is in the enclosures to this document. The question was asked by Comrade Larry Sanders as to the location of the rifle purchased by the post for a raffle. Steve Mueller stated that it was still at the Trading Post (gun store), where it was purchased. After a count of the tickets sold, by the Administrative Committee, it was decided to draw a ticket and award the prize to complete the raffle. A winning ticket was drawn by Steve Mueller and the individual was called by Stephanie Pino to notify them to go pick up the rifle at the gun shop.

Immediately after the meeting, Steve Muller called all the members present to have another meeting to elect officers for an organization he had formed or was forming. At that time, the Administrative Committee left the building.

The Post has failed to elect officers to fill the vacancies created with the relief of the Commander and Quartermaster. At both meetings held by the Administrative Committee, they have refused to elect new officers. The relieved Commander and Quartermaster have done nothing but hinder any process to keep the Post open and undermined all efforts of the Administrative Committee. The relieved Commander is trying to get a 20 day additional time frame, even after he wanted to immediately turn-in the Charter. Also, the current Commander, Lance Yaws stated, he would resign if the Post stays open.

It is the recommendation of this Committee that the Charter for Post 12162 be revoked immediately.

John E. Shipley, Commander (Chair, Administrative Committee)
District 20, Department of Texas VFW

Larry Sanders, Commander
Post 12041

Robert Martinez, Deputy Inspector
Department of Texas VFW

Encls.
Minutes for 11 February
Box Inventory
Report on Receipts Found in Box

15.6

Inventory of Box
From Post 12162

2 Boxes of Buddy Poppies

2 packs of Blank membership application

Assorted bland VFW forms (Quartermaster form, Quarterly report form, receipt book, etc.)

VFW Training material

Community Service report receipts (email)

55 books of raffle tickets

255 raffle ticket stubs (of which the winner was drawn)

3 District 20 directories

6 completed membership applications

Several packets of recruiting material, pamphlets

Post Charter

The rifle for the raffle was at the gun store and was picked up be the winner on 12 Feb, 2019.

15.6

Report on Receipts found in Post 12162 Records

Most of the bank receipts were for deposits and one was for a withdrawal of $60.

Some of the debit card transactions include:

Texas VFW - $124.00, (Buddy poppy order and auxiliary book)

Polo shirt order $1000.00

Dollar Tree, photo frames - $6.50

Plaques - $67.01

Yummy Buffet - $27.89

RB Printing, Raffle tickets - $27.00

I reviewed minutes from the membership meetings and didn't find where the expenditures were approved by the membership.

Robert Martinez
Administrative Committee