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Steve

From: Steve <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, July 05, 2019 5:54 PM
To: 'bj@[redacted]
Cc: 'JDuncan@[redacted]; 'DProhaska@[redacted]; 'KJones@[redacted]; 'stephanierutz@[redacted]
Subject: VFW/ Fix This Now!

Importance: High

Tracking:

Recipient	Read
'bj@[redacted]	Read: 7/5/2019 6:16 PM
'JDuncan@[redacted]	
'DProhaska@[redacted]	Read: 7/5/2019 10:34 PM
'KJones@[redacted]	Read: 7/5/2019 8:10 PM
'stephanierutz@[redacted]	
A. Kight	
'Russell Amsberry'	

Commander,

I just got off the phone and the comments I'm hearing around my community are completely unacceptable and I'm holding you responsible.

I DEMAND that the VFW Department of Texas actions be corrected immediately!!

Pino and I have been defamed and harassed by the Department of Texas for months. Your staff has been alerted to this on numerous occasions. The ring leader in all of this is Dan West. There is no doubt there is a conspiracy at play to destroy our good name in the community by making outlandish allegations of "THEFT"!

We have done everything we have been asked to do since the start of all of this. Pino and I have followed the By-Laws, even though the Department of Texas constantly doesn't.

I have told you it was lies, in not one but two (2) appeals, submitted to you by certified mail.

The constant belittling, intimidation and bullying has led my members, out of an act of pure desperation, to vote unanimously to surrender the Post Charter, dissolving our relationship with the Department of Texas, in the hopes that the harassment and defamation would stop. Our members are the youngest and most active veteran group in Atascosa County. We can provide Food with our food bank, housing, employment opportunities and even legal counseling for our veterans. We just want to get back to helping veterans in a community. Franchising with the VFW was obviously a mistake. We have no interest in the constant bickering, envy and drama associated with the VFW. We are tired of it. We all have jobs and families, none of us have time for that crap! We thought by canceling our charter, this would

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allow us to get back to what we love to do- help our fellow veterans. Instead we get attacked even more by the VFW!

What in hell is going on here?

I have answered the charges I was presented with. They are all lies!! I have stated this time and time again, Over and Over again. I have followed the By-Laws and put myself through this kangaroo system. This entire process has absolutely no resemblances of being fair or impartial. I have had to prove my innocence from day one, labeled GUILTY from the start, because the Department of Texas said so... What's that all about? This Disciplinary procedure was nothing more than a prerequisite that the Department of Texas had to check off before they could justify terminating my membership to silence me. That's all. I'm just "Guilty"! Why?- Because they don't like you! Appeal? DENIED! GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE!

Is this what this organization is really about?
You're guilty because we say so? Anytime we say so?

I was never even made aware of what the final imposition of penalties from the May 23, 2019 hearing were until being notified on June 1, 2019. As you are aware I did not attend that hearing by advice of legal counsel. The By-Laws state I have 30 days to appeal. I did, and within the allotted time. How the hell can I appeal something if I don't know what the verdict was? All I have asked for is fairness in this process and I have yet to get any from the VFW Department of Texas. It's just one malicious attack after another. Shut him up! Oh... he doesn't want to go away quietly- call the police department and make up some bullshit about him. That will embarrass him and shut him up!

I am just so damn confused by all of this... Is anyone in charge at any level in this organization? How many other times has Dan West done this to other members?

I only joined this organization to help veterans. I thought that was what this organization was all about. HELPING VETERANS! Hell, I formed a new post from scratch and grew a post from 0 to 110 members in only 14 months. Over 23% of our total membership were female veterans and more than 70% were veterans of the desert wars with OIF Veterans making up the majority. Our average age of our members was 48 years old. We were the only post in Atascosa County active in the community consistently every month. Our community service activities are showcased in numerous publications and even television broadcasts. We landed a UH-60 helicopter for the kids and purple hearted two cities and two schools working in collaboration with the Order of the Purple Heart. I mean, WTH else do you want? I solved every issue facing the VFW today and I get punished for it??? What's the point in all of this? What's the logic here? It's obvious this is a personal attack. These actions taken by Dan West and the Department of Texas are only destroying the credibility of the VFW in Atascosa County at this point. The truth will be known. I assure you. Count on it! I was born and raised here. My family founded these towns.

It's time for National to take action.

Does anyone even check these guys' backgrounds? Dan West has had numerous criminal arrests and convictions, including a conviction for "Tampering with Government Record" in

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2008. A specific violation of the National By-Laws Section 902(11). Why wasn't he removed a member back then? Why am I being victimized by a convicted criminal that now is employed by the Department of Texas? Why are you and National allowing this to occur?

I have only been asked two question during the entire course of all of this by Dan West and that was:

1. **"Do you have a Debit card?" and I replied "yes".**
2. **Who else has a Debit card? And I replied; "Pino".**

That's it! Nothing else.
Neither Dan West nor Andrew Camplen asked me any further questions during this so called "investigation" or any time since, but I have been maliciously accused of just about every damn thing they can think of and National has allowed this to continue. This is nothing more than a campaign of intimidation and defamation.

I will NOT be intimidated.

You would think that if this was truly a legitimate "investigation" and if you really believe there was an actual "theft"- you would probably ask the trustees about it right? No. None of the trustees have ever been questioned. Nor was any of the officers been questioned. Nor the members. At the meeting of January 14, 2019, No one asked any questions of the trustees that were in attendance that night. Dan West's fat ass just paced around making wild unsubstantiated hearsay accusations in attempt to divide our members and slander Pino and myself. He tried and failed to Put Vietnam members against Desert war members by grand standing and uttering outrageous slanderous statements with the goal to create dissention amongst the post members. It was pathetic.

I'm tired of all of these games!

As you know we are a progressive post that use digital mediums to communicate with one another in real time. The members have access to all of the evidence via a password protected website that was set up and updated for them to keep track of the Disciplinary process. Since you will not launch an investigation on my request or Pinos, maybe you will do it if they request it? I am sending you a dropbox address that you can download member's requests. I will have Pino print and mail the requests to you by certified mail to ensure you receive them.

This has been a shit show sham job from day one, we are being punished for our hard work and I have done everything I have been asked to do to no avail and all this while it is effecting my personal life and businesses. I can't have this anymore.

I WILL NOT ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE!

Listen to the members. Go to the website. Read the evidence.

Correct this.

Thank you,