

05 November 2020

Important Mid-Winter Conference Announcement:

As State Commander, it is my responsibility to make every attempt within reason to maintain a safe environment for all members whether it is within the posts or at conferences and conventions. Fall Conference is now behind us and from it; we have learned some valuable lessons. This is especially true regarding the cases of positive COVID-19 tests following this conference. Notwithstanding the camaraderie of conferences and hospitality rooms, it is incumbent upon me to lay down some guidelines that must be adhered to at our upcoming Mid-Winter Conference.

1. **HOTEL & MALL:** Given, the Florida Hotel loves us and they bend over backward to make us feel welcome, we should not abuse this welcome atmosphere by violating the hotel’s rules and the guidelines and mandates of Orange County. Anytime our members are in the public spaces of the hotel and/or the Florida Mall, masks are to be worn with the exception of the spaces provided for eating/drinking while doing such in those designated spaces. Let’s show the hotel that we care about them as much as they care about us.
2. **HOSPITALITY ROOMS:** Should any District, Post or Candidate for Office desire to have a hospitality room during the conference, the following rules will apply.
 - a. No more than 10 patrons in the hospitality room at one time. Responsible party of the hospitality room will ensure the maximum number is not exceeded.
 - b. Except when eating or drinking, masks are to be worn at all times.
 - c. Workers operating the hospitality room shall wear masks.
 - d. Hospitality rooms shall be closed during all meetings and/or ceremonies.
3. **C-of-A MEMBERS:** All Department Officers and District Officers, by virtue of your leadership position, it is your responsibility to ensure and enforce the above rules whenever you see an unsafe practice.

I certainly do not want to lose any more VFW or Auxiliary members to this COVID pandemic. Just one is one too many and we have the ability to maintain safety by our own practices and actions.


Glen Tilley
State Commander

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