

LESSONS LEARNED

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Resources

- The first National Workshops I attended did no actual training
- Later on National began to publish copy of original “Chaplain’s Handbook” on the Leadership CD that was distributed to Posts.
- Later: National began adding digital copy on VFW.org website
- National Chaplain’s Workshop began to do actual Training

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My Personal Challenges

- Setting Goals as Dept. Chaplain
 - Knowing that average Post Chaplain has no formal Training or experience
 - A Chaplain is not same as the minister of a Church or religious group
 - Finding material to aid in the process to train Chaplains
 - Finding Posts to host a Chaplain's Workshop

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First Chaplain's Workshops Fall 2009

- Several throughout State of Kansas (ten to twenty-five in attendance.
- I invited Auxiliary Chaplains as well.
- I had a Fire Department Chaplain attend one.
- Later I produced a shorten version to use in my workshops
- By 2011, I produced a "Chaplain Resource CD" to give to each one who attended one of my workshops

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EXAMPLES OF WHAT I LEARNED

- Where to stand during certain ceremonies.
- Learning where to find various Prayers
- Learning the VFW Rituals
- Learning the various protocols
- Role is much more than the meetings.
- Different ways to conduct rituals for deceased comrade.
- Realizing that most Commanders do know what role of Chaplain entails.

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RESOURCES TODAY

- Experienced Leaders available today.
- Learning who they are.
- Various areas of expertise available
- Hospital Chaplains
- Suicide Awareness
- Post, District & Department Chaplains

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RESOURCES TODAY

- Many Departments' Webpage have a "Chaplain's Corner" with educational / training for Chaplains
- Today, in 2025, we are greatly blessed with the resources and experienced Leaders!
- I encourage you to take advantage of the resources of today, especially the Zoom Training by Past National Chaplains.

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Chaplain Must Minister to All

- "We must be reminded that the Veterans of Foreign Wars is comprehensive in nature, embracing all religions and faith groups within its ranks. The Chaplaincy, being non-sectarian must minister to the spiritual needs of all, without regard to either church/synagogue/mosque affiliation or non-affiliation. Chaplains will need to provide ministry to people wherever there is a need."

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Chaplain (Sky Pilot) Dale A. Iannello has been consolidating all of our material in one location at the national level.

Check out:

https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html