



**PLEASE READ
VERY IMPORTANT!**

State Convention will be held June 15 – 18, 2006 at the
Sheraton Richmond West Hotel
6624 West Broad Street
Richmond
804-285-1234

The banquet/dance will be held on June 17th. You will **NOT** be able to purchase tickets the weekend of the Convention.
You **MUST PRE-REGISTER**.
Dinner/Dance tickets are \$40.00

Your choice of:

Roast Beef au Jus

Served with Mashed Potatoes and Green Bean Almondine

~or~

Almond Crusted Tilapia with Grilled Pineapple Relish

Served with Rice Pilaf and Green Bean Almondine

Both Served with:

House Salad with Mixed Greens, Cucumbers, Carrots, Cherry Tomatoes
Warm Rolls and Butter
Chocolate Cake

Your choice of Iced Tea, Iced Water, Coffee, or Hot Tea

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY June 9, 2006 No Exceptions No Refunds after June 9th
Check, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name) _____ Phone: _____

Please fill out completely for each person you are registering including Post number.

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ Food Choice: (circle) Beef or Tilapia

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ Food Choice: (circle) Beef or Tilapia

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ Food Choice: (circle) Beef or Tilapia

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ Food Choice: (circle) Beef or Tilapia

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ Food Choice: (circle) Beef or Tilapia

Please charge my card: \$ _____ Name on Card: _____

Please Circle One: MasterCard or Visa Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Pre-paid tickets will not be mailed to you; they will be available for pick up at registration.



SERVING VETERANS AND COMMUNITY

NUMBER 10

403 Lee-Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112
Website: www.vfwva.org

FAX (540) 886-1731

April 1, 2006

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521
Email: stateheadquarters@vfwva.org

COMMANDERS MESSAGE:

This month has been packed full of activities and has passed just as quickly as last month. I have begun to use a large calendar to track the months since I'm running out of fingers.

I recently spent four days traveling around the state with our National Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Gary Kurpius. We visited 14 Posts from Richmond to Northern Virginia and down the Shenandoah Valley to Roanoke and out to the far Southwest. At each stop, the Senior Vice outlined the changes at National Headquarters. There is a new Adjutant General and Quartermaster General. Three Assistant Adjutant Generals have been replaced by one new one. The organizational structure has been redrawn and personnel reassigned. There is a renewed emphasis on membership and the National Budget has been reduced.

Next, the Senior Vice shared his thoughts on the coming year when he will be Commander-in-Chief. His theme for the year will be "Veterans First." He reminded everyone that we are first and foremost a veterans' service organization. While he appreciates the importance of community service and youth development, he feels that Posts should devote at least 51% of their charitable giving to veterans' causes. He also intends to reduce the number of programs that VFW sponsors and expects the Posts to support. Over time, these programs have increased and spread our Posts activities too thin. He will concentrate on four core programs—Veterans' Service, Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and the teacher recognition programs. Under Veterans' Service, the VFW will institute 25 new scholarships—5 each for each branch of Service—for a total of \$75,000. He emphasized that if a program which the National VFW has de-emphasized works within your community, you should continue to support it. He summarized by noting that we are not a "one size fits all" organization.

Comrades, to use a baseball analogy, we have rounded third base and have home plate in sight. But, just as the catcher blocks the path in baseball, we, too, have some obstacles to overcome. Let's run a little faster and knock these obstacles aside and stride home for a successful year.

To have such a year, the Posts and Districts must complete those pesky Community Activity reports. I want to congratulate the 7th, 9th, and 12th Districts on achieving 100%. Some Districts are close to 100% and a few are lagging. Comrades, you can reach 100 percent in reports.

Membership, of course, represents the grand trophy. As of 21 March, we are at 96.3% of our 103% goal. We need 1260 members to reach 100%. Congratulations to the 7th District on achieving over 104 % in membership. Some memberships are in the pipeline from successful recruiting the past two weekends and from our trip with the Senior Vice. Dues notices to annual members were mailed 15th March, and the Department funded over 4000 mailings to previous members and unpaid members at large who have moved into our state. Hopefully, we will get some return.

Comrades, I appreciate what you have done so far, but we must redouble our efforts to reach our goals in reports and membership. We can do it if we want to.

Daniel Boyer
State Commander

GENERAL ORDERS:

The cut off for the General Orders is the 20th of the month. No EXCEPTIONS. If you received a hard copy of the General Orders and have the ability to print satisfactory copies from the internet please call us or email us at stateheadquarters@vfwva.org. Subscriptions for General Orders are \$24.00 for the year or \$2.00 per issue.

DISTRICT MEETINGS:

- FIRST** – TBA POST 4856 EXMORE, Meeting 11:00 AM, State Representative Judge Advocate Hal Roesch
- SECOND** – 05-21-2006 POST 4809 NORFOLK, Meal at 1:00 PM, Meeting to follow at 2:00 PM, State Representative Adjutant Quartermaster Kim DeShano
- THIRD** – 05-06-06 3rd DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, Meeting 1:00 PM, Meal to follow, State Representative Senior Vice Commander Charles Crouch
- FOURTH** – 05-07-2006 FORT PICKETT OFFICERS CLUB jointly sponsored by Posts 5313 Nottoway County, 7897 Blackstone, and 7819 Crewe. Meeting 2:00 PM, State Representative Junior Vice Commander Jimmy Lee Wallace
- FIFTH** – 05-21-2006 POST 1115 HILLSVILLE sponsored by POST 7568 GALAX, Meeting Noon, State Representative Commander Daniel Boyer
- SIXTH** – 05-07-2006 BLDG 76 SALEM MEDICAL CENTER sponsored by POST 1841 Troutville, Meeting 2:00 PM, State Representative Surgeon Rex Faris
- SEVENTH** – 05-21-2006 POST 1860 FRONT ROYAL, Meeting 11:30 AM, State Representative Chief of Staff Roy Swanner
- EIGHTH** – 05-21-2006 POST 3103 FREDRICKSBURG, Meeting 1:00 PM, State Representative Junior Vice Commander Jimmy Lee Wallace
- NINTH** – 05-07-2006 POST 6000 NARROWS, Registratation 10:30 AM, State Representative Chief of Staff Roy Swanner
- TENTH** – 05-21-2006 POST 1503 DALE CITY, Meeting 1:00 PM, State Representative Senior Vice Commander Charles Crouch
- ELEVENTH** – 05-07-2006 POST 632 HARRISONBURG, Meeting 11:30 AM, State Representative Judge Advocate Hal Roesch
- TWELFTH** – 05-06-2006 POST 9600 POUND 10:00 AM, followed by lunch, State Representative Chief of Staff Roy Swanner
- THIRTEENTH** – TBA

IMPORTANT 2006-2007 DATES:

- April 22, 2006 Commander and Ladies Auxiliary President's Homecoming, See attached flyer
- May 12, 2006 All-State Deadline
- June 9, 2006 Deadline for pre-registration for State Convention
- June 15-18, 2006 State Convention, Sheraton Richmond West Hotel, Room Rates are \$85.00 per night Reservations 804-285-1234. Reservation must be made by 5/15/2006 for group rate.
- July 15-16, 2006 School of Instruction, Holiday Inn Select, Lynchburg, Room Rates are \$64.00 per night. Telephone 434-528-2500. Reservations must be made by 6/15/2006 for group rate. Pre-registration enclosed. Deadline 7/7, meals must be pre-paid.
- July 29, 2006 Satellite Training
- August 26-31, 2006 National VFW Convention Reno, Nevada, Must book by July 26, 2006 for group rate. Each reservation must have a separate form, which is attached to the GO.
- July 12-14, 2007 School of Instruction, Holiday Inn Select, Lynchburg, Room Rates are \$64.00 per night. Telephone 434-528-2500 must be made by 6/12/2007 for group rate.

ROSTER CHANGES:

Eighth District CMDR, John S Nealey, 9347 Inkberry Ct, Manassas Park, VA 20110, 703-368-7636
 SVC, Bruce D Richardson, 10793 Blake Ln, Bealeton, VA 22712, 540-439-0545
 JVC, John Miska, 86 Lumber Ln, Barboursville, VA 11812, 434-760-1940
 ADJ/QM, Richard Raskin, 8767 Bradley Forge Dr, Manassas, VA 20112, 703-369-2732

POST 4318 Meeting Location Change to the DAV Lounge 2383 Roanoke Blvd, Salem, VA 24153, 3rd
 Monday of Month at 7:00 PM

POST 3103 FAX, 540-373-2166

POST 5500 CMDR, Joseph McClinton, 11832 Fishing Dr, Suit #600, Newport News, VA 23606

POST 1184 CMDR, Herman Smith, 2528 Lowmans Ferry Rd, Pulaski, VA 24301
 ADJ/QM, Bennie Hill, Sr., 622 Hickory Ave, Pulaski, VA 24301

AUDIT REPORTS:

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, Duty of Trustees. Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each Quarter, one of which ends December 31, 2005 and is now Past Due. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager and Bingo Chairman. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster records.

Audit Reports for period ending **6/30/05** have not been received from the following Posts and Districts as of 3/21/06

DIST. 8	4468													
DIST. 11	10773													

Audit Reports for period ending **9/30/05** have not been received from the following Posts and Districts as of 3/21/06

DIST. 3	10387													
DIST. 4	8228													
DIST. 11	10773													
DIST. 13	8717													

Audit Reports for period ending **12/31/05** have not been received from the following Posts and Districts as of 3/21/06

DIST. 1	9358													
DIST. 2	993													
DIST. 3	3125	10387												
DIST. 4	7819	District												
DIST. 5	100%													
DIST. 6	1033	7854												
DIST. 7	100%													
DIST. 8	8208													
DIST. 9	100%													
DIST. 10	609	8815												
DIST. 11	100%													
DIST. 12	100%													
DIST. 13	1827	8717	8947											

AWARDS:

JUDGING for awards will be on May 13 & 14, 2006. All judging material must be at State Headquarters by 5:00 P.M. (1700 Hours) on May 12, 2006. (NO EXCEPTIONS!)

2005-2006 ALL STATE TEAM

There will be a maximum of 25 Posts on The All State Team.

The 25 All State Posts will receive an All State Post Banner.

For a Post to be eligible, it must have reached 100% of their Membership Quota by the day prior to awards judging excluding MIPS.

The Post Quartermaster must be bonded.

The Post must have been inspected by the day prior to awards judging.

All Audit Reports must be turned into State Headquarters by the day prior to awards judging.

Posts with less than 50 members are not eligible for the All State Team. To be eligible the Post must increase their membership to 50 members excluding MIPS. The Post will then be classified as 100%.

All State Judging Points will be given for participation in the programs as outlined below:

40 Points - For 100% in Membership

10 Points - For submitting a Community Service Record Book for judging

5 Points - For participating in the Buddy Poppy Program.

5 Points - For having the Post Commander or an authorized member attend each District Meeting/Convention.

5 Points - For having all four (4) Quarterly Audit Reports on file at Department Headquarters.

Reports must be submitted each quarter.

5 Points - For being credited in the Voice of Democracy Program.

5 Points - For being credited in the Patriot's Pen Program.

* 5 Points - For being credited with at least two Hospital Reports

* 5 Points - For being credited with at least two Americanism Reports

* 5 Points - For being credited with at least two Community Activities Reports

* 5 Points - For being credited with at least two Safety Reports

* 5 Points - For being credited with at least two Youth Activities Reports

ADDITIONAL POINTS for MEMBERSHIP - **When the Post has completed all the above programs**, one fifth (1/5) of one (1) point will be assigned for each additional member above 100% (MIPs will not count).

HOSPITAL REPORTS/AMERICANISM/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/SAFETY/YOUTH ACTIVITIES REPORTS:

Post's must report at least twice to receive 5 points once during the first reporting period (May 1 through October 31) and once during second period reporting period (November 1, through April 30).

Posts submitting Hospital Reports for 1st and 2nd reporting periods will receive a State Citation.

Posts reported in 3 categories of Community Activities, 4 categories of Safety, 8 categories of Americanism and 4 categories of Youth Activities during the reporting period of May 1, 2005 through April 30, 2006 will receive a State Citation.

ALL STATE TEAM AWARDS

The All State Post Commanders will receive: A Citation; an All State cap; an All State pin; two (2) free tickets for you and your spouse/guest to the State Convention Banquet to be held on Saturday night. A check in the amount of \$300.00, to assist in payment of expenses while attending and participating at the State Convention, will be presented. Time of payment will be at the discretion of the Department Commander.

The All State Post Quartermasters will receive: A Citation; an All State cap; an All State pin; two (2) free tickets for you and your spouse/guest to the State Convention Banquet to be held on Saturday night. A check in the amount of \$300.00 to assist in payment of expenses while attending and participating at the State Convention will be presented. Time of payment will be at the discretion of the Department Commander.

The All State Commanders and All State Quartermasters will be individually recognized at the Awards Program during the State Convention.

From the All State Team, the Post with the highest points in the All State Judging will be designated as the Outstanding Post of the Year 2005-2006. The Commander and Quartermaster of this Post will be the Captains of the All State Team.

The Awards and Citation Committee will break all ties and their decision will be final.

2005-2006 ALL STATE DISTRICT COMMANDERS

For a District Commander to qualify, the Commander must meet the following All State District Commanders criteria:

1. Have the District at 100% or more in membership by the day prior to awards judging excluding MIPs.
2. Have all Posts, in the District, inspected by January 31, 2006.
3. Have Post Quartermasters, for all Posts in the District, properly bonded by the day prior to awards judging.
4. Have all Audit Reports, for all Posts in the District, turned into State Headquarters by the day prior to awards judging.
5. Have all Posts in the District reported in: Americanism, Community Activities, Hospital, Safety and Youth Activities in each reporting period.

ALL STATE DISTRICT COMMANDERS AWARDS

Each All State District Commander will receive the following: A Citation and an All State District Commander's cap.

The All State District Commander(s) will also receive two (2) tickets for you and your spouse/guest to the State Convention Banquet to be held on Saturday night. (Duplicate awards will not be given if a similar one has been earned). Time of payment will be at the discretion of the Department Commander.

Each All State District Commander will receive a VFW Jacket if the District is 100% or more in membership excluding MIPs.

THE W. I. WOODDELL MEMORIAL POST QUARTERMASTER AWARD is awarded annually to the Post Quartermaster who has shown outstanding dedication to his Post and the Department. Submission of nominee is to be sent in by the Post Commander. Submission must be received the day prior to the awards judging. The recipient is to be selected by a committee headed by the State Quartermaster. The award will consist of a custom-lettered citation, plus a check in the amount of \$200.00 from the Department. This award will be presented at the State Convention.

THE SAMUEL B. DeVAUGHAN MEMBERSHIP AWARD is awarded to the member who recruits the most new and/or reinstated members (MIPs not included) of the 2005-2006 Membership Year. Entry must be certified by Post Quartermaster and entry with names of recruited members must be submitted by the day prior to awards judging. Post quartermasters are excluded from this award. (Post Quartermasters are entitled to participate in most phases of the State Membership Campaign and are eligible to earn other individual awards). This award will be presented at the State Convention.

THE GEORGE C. DALBY AWARD is awarded to any Post member for outstanding participation in VFW programs. Rules for this contest are enclosed. Deadline for submission to State Headquarters is the day prior to awards judging. Post and District Commanders are excluded from this award. This award will be presented at the State Convention.

THE W. B. SHAFER, JR. MEMBERSHIP AWARD is awarded to the Post making the greatest percentage gain in membership as shown by the State Membership Report dated the day prior to awards judging (MIPs not included). This award will be presented at the State Convention.

THE RICHARD A. (AL) GUAGER AMERICANISM AWARD is awarded annually and rules for this contest are enclosed. Deadline for submission to State Headquarters is by the day prior to awards judging. This award will be presented at the State Convention.

THE GEORGE E. McCracken Honor Guard/Color Guard Award is awarded to the most outstanding Post Honor Guard/Color Guard. Deadline for submission to State Headquarters is by the day prior to awards judging. This award will be presented at the State Convention.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD BOOK should be kept from May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2006 for State judging. Plaques will be awarded to the top three (3) entries. Special Citations will be awarded to the fourth through tenth places; and all other entries not placing in the top ten will receive a citation. The top ten winners will be presented plaques/citations at the State Convention. One award from National will be presented for the top State entry.

In addition to the above awards, all Posts entering a Community Service Record Book will have a chance to win a monetary award in the amount of \$200.00 if judged best overall entry in their respective membership category. One (1) check will be issued to each membership category.

Category A - Posts with Membership of 10 thru 100.

Category B - Posts with Membership of 101 thru 200.

Category C - Posts with Membership of 201 thru 500.

Category D - Posts with Membership over 500.

NOTE: To receive the monetary award for a record book entry in any of the four categories a Post must be 100% in membership.

NOTE: Record Book entries may be used to help break any ties in the All State Team Judging. The amount of effort placed in preparing the entry will be considered.

AMERICA BANDS TOGETHER:

Battle of the Bands is in full swing! Are you wearing your patriotic "I Support Our Troops" wristband and supporting your Post's efforts to sell them? You can help your Post become the Band winner! Across the nation Posts are competing to win top honors. The First place winner in each conference will be recognized by the Commander in Chief in a press release, receive mention in the VFW Magazine and the National Convention Program, and on the America Bands Together website. It's a win-win situation. All proceeds from America Bands Together will benefit VFW Programs that serve active duty military, veterans and their families. And, the Post keeps all funds collected above the cost of the bands.

Get on the Bandwagon! If you have any questions contact Ben Vargas at 816-756-3390 ext. 552 or e-mail bvargas@vfw.org. More than 725,000 wristbands have already been distributed. Be a part of this great campaign to show support for our troops and veterans. Make Every Day Veterans Day!

BUDDY POPPY:

As the upcoming Memorial Day approaches, and given the daily hazards confronting our military on a daily basis during *Operation Iraqi Freedom*, it is appropriate that we direct as many VFW resources as possible to supporting our troops and their families.

In the ongoing effort to provide as much assistance as possible to those serving in the military, I recommend that proceeds or portions from this year's annual poppy distribution be designated for the purpose of providing VFW support to our military. Via the VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP), Posts now have the opportunity to assist qualified military personnel through the MAP *emergency financial grant* process.

In keeping with the intent of Section 704 (A) (C) of the Manual of Procedure "Relief Fund," this year's poppy campaign can play a direct role in demonstrating to those who are charged with protecting and defending our way of life that we appreciate and value their sacrifice.

We have set up a special account at the Department for the Military Assistance Program (MAP), any one wishing to make a donation send a check to Department Headquarters earmarked (MAP).

Buddy Poppy Chairman
Kim A. DeShano

GOLDEN AGE GAMES:

Comrades and Sisters: This being the month of April can only mean that we are just days away from showing the Veterans from all over the country "THAT WE CARE". Also, this means that this is the last chance I will be able to plead to you for financial and volunteer assistance. (I'm sure a lot of you reading this are saying "THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT"). But my only wish is that should I ever enter these special games for veterans being treated at the VA facilities all over the states that there is someone like me that shows they care by doing whatever they can do. I'd like to take the time to "Thank the following Posts for their donations: 2894, 3150, 5500, 8184 and District 2. Now I do not have the list of donations that were given by the Auxiliary. Having said that I would like all the ladies that have donated money to please know that I Thank You from the bottom of my heart. A special Thanks goes out to the Headquarters Staff for the designing of the website so that it's easily accessible to those with computers to make personal or Post/Auxiliary donation thru PAY PAL. Once again thanks to the Adjutant/Quartermaster for all his assistance. I look forward to seeing those that have signed up for different activities as I make my rounds during the entire event. If I can help anyone with reservations please do not hesitate to contact me at (757)846-3849 (Cell) or (757)838-4588. Those that received the old Pink Form to volunteer must be sure to go to the web site for the Long White Form as it has more detail including T-Shirt sizes as ALL volunteers will be receiving one.

In closing I wish to thank those that have come forward as well as Plead to those Post and Auxiliaries and Districts to come forth and assist.

THIS IS THE LAST YEAR THE VFW WILL CO-SPONSOR THE EVENT. BUDGETARY CUTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL! LETS MAKE IT THE BEST EVER!

Lawrence F. (Larry) Mattera
Department of Virginia, PDC
2002 - 2003 and Department Chairman
for the National Golden Age Games

HOMECOMING:

State Commander Dan Boyer and Auxiliary President Debbie Martin's Homecoming will be held April 22, 2006 at the Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton. See enclosed flyer.

MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades we have a problem with membership. The National Headquarters has recently sent out a dues renewal notice to assist our Posts in attaining their goal of 100%+ for this year. This notice to all of our Comrades who were annual members in 2005 is most welcome; HOWEVER, the bad news is that they were having to contact almost 20 percent of the folks that were members in good standing at this time last year. While we appreciate National's help, it is time for us to help ourselves. It is time to call and visit these Comrades to see why they have not renewed. Are they throwing away these mailers unopened, are they marching in a different direction, are they themselves in need of assistance. It is far easier to retain current members than it is recruit new ones. If you don't believe me ask those Comrades in your Post who have stood in front of Wal-Mart, Giant, or Food Lion in cold weather trying to help your Post. We need to move and move quickly to keep these good Comrades on board.

Yours in Comradeship,
C. D. "Doc" Crouch

ACTIVE DUTY, GUARD, RESERVE, & MILITARY RETIREES: BEWARE OF COPYCAT MYPAY SITES:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has advised that there are copycat or look-a-like websites being developed to make people think they are accessing the Department of Defense MyPay website. The information leads investigators to believe that some of these sites may request personal information that, if provided, could cause a variety of problems.

These are some the sites that use the words "MyPay" as part of their web address. While they may be legitimate business concerns, there are **not** in any way affiliated with DFAS and MyPay.

- A. [HTTP://WWW.MYPAY.COM](http://www.mypay.com)
- B. [HTTP://WWW.MYPAY.SE/INDEXEN.HTML](http://www.mypay.se/indexen.html)
- C. [HTTP://WWW.MYPAYSOLUTIONS.COM/](http://www.mypaysolutions.com/)
- D. [HTTP://WWW.MYPAYLOANSERVICES.COM/](http://www.mypayloanservices.com/)

B.

Please be sure to use the official DFAS web page of <https://mypay.dfas.mil> to access your DFAS MyPay account and do not provide personal information to the copycat, look-a-like or other sites that use MYPAY in the web address.

NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 222 of the National By-Laws, which provides that each Post shall register, in advance, at least one delegate to the National Convention by the payment of a fee in the amount of ten dollars (\$10.00) per delegate. Advanced registration for the 107th National Convention should be mailed with each delegate's name and address to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111 or you may register on-line at vfw.org.

NOMINATION, ELECTION, & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post Election Report forms are being mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete and return the forms directly to National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers.

Section 222 of the National By-Laws provides that Posts shall elect delegates and alternates to County Councils at the same time the annual election of Post officers is held; two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates for the first fifty (50) members or fraction thereof, and one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each additional fifty (50) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election.

Delegates and alternates to District conventions shall be elected at a regular Post meeting held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District convention at which District officers are to be elected; one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each fifteen (15) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of election or as the Department By-Laws may provide.

Delegates and alternates to the Department convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department convention. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election or as the Department By-Laws may provide.

Pursuant to Section 405 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department convention. District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 414 of the National By-Laws.

PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS- MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE:

I am writing this letter to provide you with advance information on a subject the chair officers, myself and the Quartermaster General are solidly behind. I sincerely hope that you will also lend your support to this effort.

Three separate By-Law amendments addressing dues increases are going to be presented at the National Convention in Reno this year. The first one will be a Life Member fee increase proposal that raises the payout to \$9. A Life Member fee increase proposal with a COLA fell just short of the two-thirds majority required last year so we believe a proposal without the COLA will be successful this year. We must assure that future leaders of our organization - 10 and 20 years from now - have the revenue they will need to serve us and the veterans that follow in our footsteps.

The second amendment will propose a \$3 annual member dues increase. Any dues increase is a sensitive and potentially controversial subject, however, we feel justified in making this recommendation at this time. You will recall that a \$3 annual dues increase was approved in 2002. One dollar of that increase is returned directly to the departments: \$1 is allocated to the Veterans Service Grant Fund and, as you know, that money is distributed back to the states as well. The last \$1 is restricted to Veterans Service Training Fund, which is used to train department service officers. Bottom line is that none of the \$3 dues increase is available to help us offset cost increases in postage, travel, paper and the other expenses associated with running our business. The last annual dues increase that was not specifically allocated was in 1991 and the increase was \$1. I don't think I need to waste your time detailing how much a first class stamp was or how much a roll of magazine paper cost in 1991 versus what it costs today. Moreover, since 1991 there has been a huge increase in the amount of direct financial support provided by National Headquarters to the departments, from less than \$1 million to nearly \$9 million.

We need an annual member dues increase. We have become far too dependent on donations from little old ladies to meet our budget requirements and to support the departments. Three dollars will not solve the problem but it will help. You know that we have made significant cuts in the national budget for the last 4 years. We will continue to cut expenses and create efficiencies wherever we can. You must understand that this strategy can only go so far before core programs suffer.

The role of the VFW is probably nevermore relevant Ulan it is today. Programs such as Operation Uplink, Military Assistance Program, Unmet Needs and our world-class Veterans Service are all being taxed to the limit. Certainly

we receive a lot of help for these programs from members and non-members, but they would not work without our involvement.

The third amendment will raise the member at large and the national portion of department member at large dues by \$5. Member at large dues have not been increased since the inception of the program. .

I wanted you all to be advised of our plans to promote these dues increases. Larry will likely provide additional background at the NCA meeting in Washington next month. We are developing documents to be distributed at the Conference that will detail the reasons for the dues increase. We will also detail our commitment that the increases will be used to offset program expenses and to restore the eleventh issue of the VFW Magazine and will not be used for other purposes. I know that any discussion about a dues increase will meet with resistance. We also recognize that objections may increase because all three proposals are being made simultaneously. However, the proposals are interrelated and are based on the need to wean the organization off of its dependence on non-member solicitations and put it on sound financial footing for the future. We however, are firmly committed to this because it is the right thing to do. We would like to have your support as well. If Larry or I can answer any questions, please give us a call.

Yours in Comradeship,

Allen "Gunner" Kent
Adjutant General

VFW SPECIAL INTEREST LICENSE PLATE UPDATE:

At the Winter COA meeting held January 14, 2006 in Williamsburg the COA voted to pay for the first 350 applications submitted to State Headquarters to insure the production of the plate. Now is the time to make the decision and submit your application to State Headquarters. Applications will be **FREE** to **THE FIRST 350 APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO STATE HEADQUARTERS**. The form is attached to the front of the General Orders. To date we have received 132 applications.

AMERICANISM:

Congratulations to Districts 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 and 12 for attaining 100%. Thirty seven posts have a scant 30 days to get their activities completed and get their reports in --- or likely just to get their reports in as I know most of you have done the work already!

Time is here to make your plans for Loyalty Day and look ahead to Memorial Day.

Now is also the time to begin your Americanism Record Book for submission to the Awards and Citations judging committee in May. Winner receives The Richard A. (AL) Guager Americanism Award at the Department Convention in June. For further information, see 2006 Membership Awards Program in July 2005 General Orders, part two, or click on Membership Program and Awards on the state webpage (www.vfwva.org). If no further guidelines are provided, use those for the Community Activities Record Book as far as size and other general specifications.

Two hundred twelve reports have been received from 141 posts.

J.Gary Wagner
Vice Chairman for Americanism

POST LISTED BELOW **HAVE NOT** SUBMITTED AN **AMERICANISM REPORT** FOR THE 2ND HALF AS OF: 03/17/06

DIST. 1	100 %											
DIST. 2	100 %											
DIST. 3	2583	3125	4639	10387	10654	10657	11124					
DIST. 4	8048	8228	8599	10570								
DIST. 5	100 %											
DIST. 6	484	4920	5895	8184								
DIST. 7	100%											
DIST. 8	472	1177	2524	4468	7728	8208						
DIST. 9	100%											
DIST. 10	609	5412	7327	8815								
DIST. 11	452	632	4204	4805	4989	7814	8479					
DIST. 12	100 %											
DIST. 13	2613	7638	8436	8717	10295							

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Comrades, we have only one month to go. Please send in your reports.

Lynn Harris
Community Activities Vice Chairman

POST LISTED BELOW **HAVE NOT** SUBMITTED A **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES REPORT** FOR THE 2ND HALF AS OF: 03/17/06

DIST. 1	100 %											
DIST. 2	2582	8545										
DIST. 3	1426	2239	2583	3125	4639	9501	10387	10654	10657	11124		
DIST. 4	2584	8599	10570									
DIST. 5	873	7568	10840									
DIST. 6	484	4920	5895	8184	9805							
DIST. 7	100%											
DIST. 8	472	1177	2524	4468	7728	8208						
DIST. 9	100%											
DIST. 10	609	5412	7327	8469	8815							
DIST. 11	452	632	4204	4989	7814	8479						
DIST. 12	100%											
DIST. 13	1827	2613	7638	8436	8717	10295						

HOSPITAL:

With only a month or so left in the second half reporting period, only 132 of the 177 Posts in the Department of Virginia have submitted Hospital Reports. This is just 74.57%.

One district only needs one Post to be 100%, another needs 8. Phone calls and/or visits are needed to remind these Post of the need for Hospital Reports.. With the various means of reporting these activities; online, e-mail, fax, the US Postal Service, it only takes a few minutes to submit a report. Each Post has at least one member who has been involved in some type of activity which falls under the guidelines of the Hospital Report.

We are striving for 100% for the Second Half. This is obtainable if each of us does our part as Department, District and Post Officers.

Yours in comradeship,
Rex Faris
Hospital Chairman

POST LISTED BELOW **HAVE NOT** SUBMITTED A **HOSPITAL REPORT** FOR THE 2ND HALF AS OF: 03/17/06

DIST. 1	7167	8629										
DIST. 2	2582	8545										
DIST. 3	2583	3125	4639	10387	10657	11124						
DIST. 4	8048	8599	8617	8902	10570							
DIST. 5	647											
DIST. 6	484	1841	4165	4920	5895	8184						
DIST. 7	100%											
DIST. 8	472	1177	2524	4468	7728	8208						
DIST. 9	100%											
DIST. 10	609	5412	8815									
DIST. 11	452	632	3136	4204	4989	7814	8479	10773				
DIST. 12	100%											
DIST. 13	2613	7638	8436	8717	10295							

INSPECTION:

97% OF THE POSTS HAVE BEEN INSPECTED.

Yours in Comradeship,
William R Shifflett
State Inspector

POST LISTED BELOW **HAVE NOT** SUBMITTED AN **INSPECTION REPORT** FOR THE 2ND HALF AS OF: 03/17/06

DIST. 1	9358											
DIST. 2	100%											
DIST. 3	8529	10387										
DIST. 4	100%											
DIST. 5	100%											
DIST. 6	100%											
DIST. 7	100%											
DIST. 8	472	8208										
DIST. 9	100%											
DIST. 10	100%											
DIST. 11	100%											
DIST. 12	100%											
DIST. 13	100%											

SAFETY:

Safety Reports have not been received for the Second Reporting Period for the posts shown below. Congratulations to the District Commander and members of District 1 for 100% reporting. With approximately one more month remaining in the reporting period, I am urging the District Commanders to contact these posts and make a final effort to have them prepare and submit the reports.

We have received reports from 137 or 76.97% of the 178 posts in the Department.

Charles B. Harris
Safety Vice-Chairman

POST LISTED BELOW **HAVE NOT SUBMITTED A SAFETY REPORT** FOR THE 2ND HALF AS OF: 03/17/06

DIST. 1	100%	For	2 nd	Half	100%									
DIST. 2	8545													
DIST. 3	2239	2583	3125	10387	10654	10657	11124							
DIST. 4	2584	8048	8599	8902	10570									
DIST. 5	1115													
DIST. 6	484	1444	4920	5895	8184	9805								
DIST. 7	100%	For	2 nd	Half										
DIST. 8	472	1177	2524	4468	7728	8208								
DIST. 9	100%	For	2 nd	Half										
DIST. 10	609	5412	7327	8815										
DIST. 11	452	632	4204	4989	7814	8479								
DIST. 12	100%	For	2 nd	Half										
DIST. 13	2613	7638	8436	8717	10295									

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

Comrades so far for the 2nd Half reporting period we have received 174 reports from 137 (77.40%) of 177 Posts. Thanks to the Post that have submitted their reports. Please do not forget to double-check your reports for accuracy and legibility before you send them to the Department.

Congratulations to District(s) 1, 5, 7, 9 & 12 for reaching 100% in reporting.

Stanley Dixon
Vice Chairman – Youth Activity

POST LISTED BELOW **HAVE NOT SUBMITTED A YOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT** FOR THE 2ND HALF AS OF: 03/17/06

DIST. 1	100%													
DIST. 2	8545													
DIST. 3	2239	2583	3125	4639	10387	10654	10657	11124						
DIST. 4	8048	8599	8902	10570										
DIST. 5	100%													
DIST. 6	484	1444	4165	4920	5895	8184								
DIST. 7	100%													
DIST. 8	472	1177	2524	4468	7728	8208								
DIST. 9	100%													
DIST. 10	609	5412	7327	8815										
DIST. 11	452	632	4204	4989	7814	8479								
DIST. 12	100%													
DIST. 13	2613	7638	8436	8717	10295									

THANKS:

Debbie and I would like to thank the Department, Posts, and Auxiliaries for the outpouring of flowers, love gifts and cards following the passing of my father, Don Martin. Your concern and prayers has been overwhelming and I can never thank all of you enough for helping me get through this. My Dad was a World War II Navy Veteran and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in New Castle, Indiana. Your kind thoughts and prayers are very much appreciated.

Thank You,
Joe and Debbie Martin

DEEPEST SYMPATHY:

Our condolences go out to the family of the family of Past State Commander Gerald Jonas who passed away on March 17th, 2006, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Official:



Kim A. DeShano
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Daniel D. Boyer, Jr.
State Commander

84th ANNUAL CONVENTION
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
SHERATON RICHMOND WEST – RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
JUNE 15 – 18, 2006

Harry Huff
Convention Chairman

Eugene Chavis
Convention Vice Chairman

**Thursday,
June 15, 2006**

8:00 AM	5:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	BALLROOM FOYER
9:30 AM	1:00 PM	REGISTRATION, MOC	BALLROOM FOYER
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	ADVISORY MEETING	TIDEWATER ROOM
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING	TIDEWATER ROOM
11:00 AM	NOON	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATON MEETING	CHESAPEAKE
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICES	BALLROOM B/C/D
7:00 PM	10:30 PM	JOINT PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	BALLROOM B/C/D

**Friday,
June 16, 2006**

8:00 AM	5:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	BALLROOM FOYER
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	JOINT OPENING SESSION	BALLROOM B/C/D
9:30 AM	1:00 PM	REGISTRATION, MOC	BALLROOM FOYER
11:30 AM	2:00 PM	COMMANDERS CLUB LUNCHEON	CAPITOL
2:30 PM	5:00 PM	BUSINESS SESSION	BALLROOM A
5:30 PM	8:00 PM	COOTIE GRAND SCRATCH	MONTICELLO
9:00 PM	MIDNIGHT	DANCE	REGENCY BALLROOM

**Saturday,
June 17, 2006**

7:30 AM	8:30 AM	PAST STATE COMMANDERS/PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST	TIDEWATER ROOM
9:00 AM	3:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	BALLROOM FOYER
9:00 AM	1:00 PM	BUSINESS SESION (NOMINATION OF STATE OFFICERS)	BALLROOM A
2:00 PM	5:00 PM	NEW DISTRICT COMMANDERS SCHOOL	BALLROOM C
1:30 PM	4:30 PM	SERVICE OFFICERS MEETING	SHULA'S
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	RECEPTION	MONTICELLO A/B
7:00 PM	9:00 PM	ANNUAL BANQUET	REGENCY BALLROOM
9:00 PM	1:00 AM	DANCE	REGENCY BALLROOM

**Sunday,
June 18, 2006**

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	JOINT DEVOTIONAL SERVICE	BALLROOM
9:30 AM	1:30 PM	BUSINESS SESSION (ELECTION & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS)	BALLROOM A
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CLOSE OF CONVENTION	BALLROOM A

Registration \$3.00 (**All persons are required to register**)

FRIDAY DANCE: \$TBA per person

SATURDAY BANQUET AND DANCE TICKETS

MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED- THEY CAN NOT BE PURCHASED AT THE CONVENTION

The hotel will not have cash bars set up for either dance. Bottles will be permitted in the ballroom during both dances. The hotel will furnish ice and mix. **THERE WILL BE NO ADMITTANCE AT EITHER DANCE WITHOUT A TICKET. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

HOSPITALITY ROOMS

State – Room 147 ** First & Second Districts – Room 267 ** Third District – George Washington Room**
Fourth District - Room 257 ** Tenth District – Madison Room ** Cooties –Room 139

STATE COMMANDER
Dan Boyer
&
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Scheduled for
April 22, 2006

Debbie Martin
HOME COMING

Location, Staunton Gypsy
Hill Park

Schedule of
Events

1. Fishing tournament will start at 8 am till 11am at the fishing pond in Gypsy Hill Park with a prize to the one who catches the largest fish and a prize to the biggest fish story.
2. Lunch at the Park starts at 12:30 pm with presentations starting at 1:30 pm rain or shine covered shelter available. (no alcohol permitted in park).
3. Dance at the National Armory from 7 pm to 12 am with live band. Adult beverages and non alcohol drinks provided.
4. Hotel prices are \$55 for single and double occupancy at the Comfort Inn (540-886-5000).

Anyone or Post wishing to make a donation towards a gift for the Commander may do so by sending a check to State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401 earmarked Commander's Homecoming.