

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

Service to Others

NUMBER 10

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April 1, 2008

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

As we begin April, we must be aware that this is the last month for all Community Activities Reports to be sent in. The cut-off for the second half is April 30th and they must be turned into State Headquarters no later than May 11th, let's get these reports in, and give credit to the volunteers, the Posts and the Department.

Membership is coming along very nicely. On March 19th, the Department exceeded 100% in membership, making us an All American Department. I want to personally thank all of those who gave that extra measure to bring worthy comrades into our great organization.

We still have way too many Posts that have not recruited any new, reinstated or Life members this year. That's just poor leadership on the part of those Posts. The Department has provided each Post Commander with a copy of the Departments Recruiting Handbook, we've offered assistance at the District level and the Department level. There is simply no excuse for not recruiting ANY new members into this great organization. Hopefully, in the future, more Post Commanders will understand that an active and growing membership is essential for the survival of their respective posts.

For those Post Commanders who have exceeded the membership goals we established, I salute you. You have stood up to the plate, and worked hard for your Post, your District and the Department. Job Well Done!

Our Ladies Auxiliary still needs our assistance in reaching their membership goals. When you do get a new member, don't forget about our Ladies. Most new members have a wife, a mother, a daughter, etc. Considering how much they do for the VFW, it's the least we can do for them.

As you know, Post elections happen during the month of April. This is a very important process within the VFW. It's the time that we elect those folks who will lead our respective Posts for the next year. I urge all you to elect

those people who are willing and able to provide the type of leadership a Post needs to be successful, and not just someone who wants a title or a hat.

I also want to personally thank all the volunteers who continue to offer themselves to the many, many programs and projects we have in the VFW. Without your constant support, the organization would certainly be in dire need.

Jimmy Lee Wallace
State Commander

2. VA INCREASES TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT TO ELIGIBLE VETERANS:

WASHINGTON – Over a million eligible veterans will see their mileage reimbursement more than double starting tomorrow, for travel to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities. “This increase helps veterans -- especially those living in rural areas -- offset some of the gasoline costs as they travel to VA’s world-class health care,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “Increasing the mileage reimbursement is one more step by VA to help veterans access the health care they deserve.”

The 2008 appropriations act provided funding for VA to increase the beneficiary travel mileage reimbursement rate from 11 cents per mile to 28.5 cents per mile. The increase goes into effect on Feb. 1.

After little more than a month on the job, Secretary Peake used his authority to establish the first increase in the mileage reimbursement in 30 years, fulfilling a pledge he made during his Senate confirmation hearing last month.

While increasing the payment, VA, as mandated by law, also equally increased the deductible amounts applied to certain mileage reimbursements. The new deductibles are \$7.77 for a one way trip, \$15.54 for a round trip, with a maximum of \$46.62 per calendar month. However, these deductibles can be waived if they cause a financial hardship to the veteran.

For the latest news releases and other information, visit VA on the Internet at <http://www.va.gov/opa>. To receive e-mail copies of news releases, subscribe to VA’s list server at: http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/opalist_listserv.cfm

3. SECTION 213 OF THE NATIONAL BY-LAWS:

Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National By-Laws concerning any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council meetings (if applicable), District, Department and National conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies

4. AUDIT REPORTS:

In Accordance with the SOP and the National By-Laws, **three Trustees must sign** the Trustees’ Report of Audit before it can be accepted.

Attention is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure Duty of Trustees, Form P-113. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which is March 31 and is now **DUE**.

Please submit to State Headquarters. 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.

Congratulations to Districts 2, 3, 5, 9 , 10, 11, and 12 for 100% reporting.

Posts listed below **HAVE NOT** submitted an Audit Report for the period ending 12/31/07 as of 03/20/08

Dist. 1	8629					
DIST. 2	100%					
DIST. 3	100%					

DIST. 4	637	2163	5313	10570		
DIST. 5	100%					
DIST. 6	2157	8184	9877			
DIST. 7	621					
DIST. 8	8208					
DIST. 9	100%					
DIST. 10	100%					
DIST. 11	100%					
DIST. 12	100%					
DIST. 13	100%					

5. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1ST- **Date:** 05-03-08
Time: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 7167 Warsaw
Rep: State SVC Hal Roesch

7th **Date:** 05-18-08
Time: 11:30 AM
Location: Post 9760 Berryville
Rep: Judge Advocate Jim Martin

2ND- **Date:** 05-18-08
Lunch: 1:00 PM
Meeting: 2:00 PM
Location: Post 4809 Norfolk
Rep: PDC Bobby R. Walls

8th **Date:** 05-04-08
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg
Rep: Judge Advocate Jim Martin

3RD- **Date:** 05-10-08
Meeting: 10:00AM
Location: District Headquarters
Rep: State Surgeon Bob Loy

9TH- **Date:** 05-04-08
Time: 11:00 AM Lunch to follow
Location: Post 1184 Pulaski
Rep: State JVC Rex Faris

4TH- **Date:** 05-18-08
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: Post 8163 Clarksville
Rep: Chief-of-Staff Roy Swanner

10TH- **Date:** 05-18-08
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 1503 Dale City
Rep: State Cmdr Jimmy Lee Wallace

5TH- **Date:** 05-18-08
Lunch: 12:00 Noon
Location: Post 1115 Hillsville Hosted by
Post 7568 Galax
Time: Following Lunch
Rep: Chaplain Ray Wells

11TH- **Date:** 05-18-2008
Lunch: 11:30 AM
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: Post 632, Harrisonburg
Rep: PDC James F. Werner

6TH- **Date:** 05-18-08
Time: 2:00PM
Location: Post 5311, Christiansburg
Rep: State Surgeon Bob Loy

12TH- **Date:** 05-10-08
Meeting Time: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 8979 at the High School
Rep: Chaplain Ray Wells

13th **Date:** 05-18-08
Time: 1:00 PM Lunch after Meeting
Location: Post 8947 Louisa
Rep: State SVC Hal Roesch

6. ROSTER CHANGES:

7360 James Ratliff, CMDR
27990 Riverside Dr.
Grundy, VA 24614

8184 Calvin McIlroy, QM
PO Box 323
Madison Heights, VA
Transferred from 8446

7897 John W. Hill, Jr.
410 6th St.
Blackstone, VA 23824

8446 Jordan M. Taylor, Sr., QM
15107 W. James Anderson Rd.
Buckingham, VA 23921
(434)969-0490

7. IMPORTANT DATES:

May 16, 2008	Deadline for All-State Judging – 5:00 p.m. NO EXCEPTIONS
June 12-15, 2008	State Convention Room Rates \$89.00, Sheraton Richmond West Hotel, Richmond, VA, Telephone 804-285-2000. Room rates through May 21, 2008
August 16-21, 2008	National VFW Convention, Orlando, FL
January 14-19, 2009	Council of Administration, Williamsburg, VA Room Rate: \$69.00 Deadline for reservations – December 24, 2008 to insure group rate.
August 15-20, 2009	National VFW Convention, Phoenix, AZ
January 15-18, 2010	Council of Administration, Williamsburg, VA Room Rate: \$67.00 Deadline for reservations – December 24, 2009 to insure group rates
August 21-26, 2010	National VFW Convention, Indianapolis, IN

8. ALL-STATE JUDGING:

There will be a maximum of 20 Posts on The All State Team.

The 20 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.

The Post Quartermaster must be bonded.

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

The Post Commander must attend each District Meeting or have an authorized member attend.

All Audit Reports must be turned into State Headquarters as required by the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

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. The Post will then be classified as 100%.

The Post must participate in the following programs.

Buddy Poppy Program (minimum of 5 poppies per member of the 2007-2008 quota)

Voice of Democracy Program

Patriot's Pen Program

Teacher of the Year Program

The Post must have submitted the following reports at least once during the first half of the year (May 1 thru October 31) and once during the second half (November 1 thru April 30)

Hospital Report

Community Activities Report

Youth Activities Report

Americanism Report

Safety Report

Post must submit a Community Service Record Book for judging.

An individual recruiter may also receive for:

15 New or Reinstated Members - a Pen and Pencil Set.

25 New or Reinstated Members - a Department Aide-de-Camp Recruiting Award with engraved citation and an official cap.

50 New or Reinstated Members - a National Aide-de-Camp Recruiting Award with engraved citation and an official cap.

100 New or Reinstated Members - a Century Recruiter Award with engraved citation, an official cap, and a pen and pencil set.

RECRUITER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The recruiter signing up the most new or reinstated members by May 16, 2008 will receive the following:

Round trip airfare to the 108th National Convention in Kansas City, MO.

One National Convention banquet ticket.

Expense check in the amount of \$500 to help defray expenses.

Department citation.

Distinctive cap and name badge.

A NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERSHIP PLAQUE will be awarded to the Post that recruits the most new and reinstated members by the day prior to awards judging. This plaque will be awarded at the State Convention.

A LIFE MEMBERSHIP INCREASE PLAQUE and \$100.00 will be awarded to one Post in each District. To qualify, the increase must be at least 5% over the total at the beginning of the year. The greatest percentage of increase in Life Members by the day prior to awards judging will determine the Posts selected. The plaques will be awarded at the State Convention.

DRAWING FOR \$200.00 CASH AWARD - There will be three (3) Posts selected for this award. Posts must meet their membership quota by the day prior to awards judging to be eligible. Drawings will be held on the day of awards judging.

POST RECOGNITION AWARDS

A POST MEMBERSHIP BANNER will be awarded to each Post that meets their 2008 Membership Quota by May 16, 2008.

Victory Streamer for reaching the previous years' membership by May 16, 2008.

100% plus Post Commander and Quartermaster pins to Posts exceeding 100% by May 16, 2008.

Post Commander and Post Quartermaster Ball Cap to Posts who are 100% in membership by May 16, 2008.

THE SAMUEL B. DeVAUGHAN MEMBERSHIP AWARD is awarded to the member who recruits the most new and/or reinstated members of the 2007-2008 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 sent to each Post in the spring. 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. 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 sent to each post in the spring. 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.

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 ROBERT H. RINER AWARD is awarded to the District Commander with the highest percentage gain in membership over last year. Membership gain will be as shown by the State Membership Report dated the day prior to awards judging. This award will be presented at the State Convention.

WILLIAM T. (BILL) ALLEN HOSPITAL AWARD is awarded to Posts for their outstanding reporting in hospital work. Plaques for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be presented. The winning Posts will be determined by the State Hospital Chairman. These awards will be presented at the State Convention.

EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

The Eagle Scout selected for this award will receive a plaque and a check for \$500.00. The award will be presented at the State Convention.

This competition is open to any Eagle Scout between the ages of 15 and 18 who is still in High School. Each scout must submit his application to a VFW Post for sponsorship. Each District may submit one (1) entry to the Chairman. Entry must be submitted no later than April 1, 2008.

Each **Post** participating in the Eagle Scout Program will receive a citation.

Department judging for this award will be conducted by the Department Eagle Scout and Scouting Committee. The Department's winning entry will be submitted to National for judging.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD BOOK should be kept from May 1st to April 30th 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.

Post will receive points for membership - **When the Post has completed all the above programs, reports, and submitted Community Service Record Book**, one fifth (1/5) of one (1) point will be assigned for each additional member above 100%.

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 1st through April 30th 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 2007-2008. 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.

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.
2. Have all Posts, in the District, inspected by January 31st.
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 **the District and** all Posts in the District, turned into State Headquarters **as required by the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.**
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 and a check in the amount of \$300.00. (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 **all Post** within the District are 100% or more in membership.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

All individual recruiting awards must be certified to State Headquarters, by the Post Quartermasters, by the day prior to awards judging. The names of the individuals recruited, Post Number and the name of the recruiter must be received before any award is given.

An annual member who recruits 5 New or Reinstated Members will receive:

Annual Dues (National & Department portions) paid, for the current year, by the Department.
Name and membership number entered into a drawing for a Life Membership.
(For each additional 5 members recruited, an additional entry will be made in the Life Membership Drawing).

A Life Member who recruits 5 New or Reinstated Members will receive:

Name and membership number entered into a drawing for one of three \$100.00 cash awards.
(For each additional 5 members recruited, an additional entry will be made in the cash award drawing).
The drawings for the Life Membership and cash award listed above will be conducted on the day of awards judging.

9. AMERICANISM:

Only one month to go to complete your Americanism projects before the end of the reporting year: 30 April. Reports are due at State HQ by 11 May. This is also a good time to complete your planning for Loyalty Day, 1 May, one of the more important days on the VFW calendar!

Posts listed below **HAVE NOT** submitted an Americanism Report for the 2nd Half as of 03/19/08

Dist. 1.	824	2296							
Dist. 2	2582								
Dist. 3	2583								
Dist. 4	8048	8228	8902	10570					
Dist. 5	873								
Dist. 6	1841	4165	4522	4920	7854	8184			
Dist. 7	100%								
Dist. 8	2524	7728							
Dist. 9	100%								
Dist. 10	100%								
Dist. 11	452	4204	4989	8479					
Dist. 12	100%								
Dist. 13	10295	10574							

J.Gary Wagner
Vice Chairman, Americanism

10. BUDDY POPPIES:

Commanders on all levels should begin organizing their 2008 Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Campaign. Every Post is urged to order and distribute VFW Buddy Poppies. Do not wait until May to place your order.

11. CLOSINGS:

State Headquarters will be closed for the following holiday: May 26, 2008, Memorial Day.

12. COMMUNITY ACTIVITY REPORTS:

With only a month and a half to go in this reportable year, it is down to wire for all Posts to report all of their second half community activities. It is probable that the majority of the Posts in the Department have un-reported activities. Community Activities is one reason for the existence of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is the duty of each Post to be involved in their community. While the vast majority of Posts are active in their home towns, they only report about 40% of these events. REPORT, REPORT, REPORT.

Rex Faris
Jr. Vice Commander

13. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Comrades, time is running out for you to get your reports in for the 2nd half. With only two months to go, so get your reports in. It only takes a few minutes to fill out a report form.

I would like to thank Districts 7, 9, 10 and 12 for being 100% for the second half.

Posts listed below **HAVE NOT** submitted a Community Activities Report for the 2nd Half as of 03/20/08

Dist. 1	2296	7167	8629						
Dist. 2	2582								
Dist. 3	2239	2583							
Dist. 4	8048	8228	10570						
Dist. 5	873	7568							
Dist. 6	1841	4165	4522	4920	7854	8184			
Dist. 7	100%								

Dist. 8	1811	2524	7728					
Dist. 9	100%							
Dist. 10	100%							
Dist. 11	452	4204	4805	4989	8479			
Dist. 12	100%							
Dist. 13	10295	10574						

Lynn Harris
Community Activities Vice Chairman

14. FORM 990-N FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

Form 990-N, also called the E-postcard, is a short electronic notice that most small, tax-exempt organizations (such as [501\(c\)3s](#)) have to file with the IRS, starting in 2008 for activities from January 1, 2007 onward. Form 990-N is a way of ensuring transparency among small non-profits.

Who must file Form 990-N?

If your nonprofit organization:

- Is Tax-exempt
- Has gross receipts of \$25,000 or less
- Is not required to file another IRS form such as Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-PF
- Is not part of a group return

Then the organization must file the e-postcard with the IRS. Your organization may choose to submit a completed IRS [Form 990 or Form 990-EZ](#) instead. However, the Form 990-N is much simpler and quicker to fill out.

What is required in Form 990-N?

The IRS's e-postcard is short and simple. Here is what you must provide:

- Organization's name
- Any other names your organization uses
- Organization's mailing address
- Organization's website address (if applicable)
- Organization's employer identification number (EIN)
- Name and address of a principal officer of your organization
- Organization's annual tax period
- A statement that your organization's annual gross receipts are still normally \$25,000 or less
- If applicable, indicate if your organization is going out of business

Why is Form 990-N necessary?

Before, most small non-profits (grossing less than \$25,000 a year) did not have to file anything with the IRS. However, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) changed that. Requiring that you file annually ensures that the IRS and potential donors can access up-to-date information on your organization.

How do I file Form 990-N?

The IRS requires that the e-postcard be filed electronically. There is no paper form. You must be able to access the internet, but no software or download is required. If your non-profit does not have a computer, you will be able to fill out Form 990-N using a computer at a public library.

When is Form 990-N due?

Form 990-N must be filed every year; however there is no one due date for filing the e-postcard. Instead, you must file "by the 15th day of the 5th month after" your non-profits' fiscal year ends. For instance, if your fiscal year is the

same as the calendar year (ie, ending on December 31st), your organization does not need to file the e-postcard until May 15.

What happens if I don't file Form 990-N?

If your non-profit fails to file the e-postcard for three consecutive years, the IRS will revoke the organization's tax-exempt status. Form 990-N is meant to be quick and easy to file, however, so there should be no reason for this to happen.

15. 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@va.vfwwebmail.com. Subscriptions for General Orders are \$24.00 for the year or \$2.00 per issue.

16. HOSPITAL:

Posts listed below **HAVE NOT** submitted a Hospital Report for the 2nd Half as of 3/20/08

Dist 1	7167							
Dist 2	2582							
Dist 3	2583							
Dist 4	2163	8048						
Dist 5	873							
Dist 6	1841	4165	4522	4920	7854	8184		
Dist 7	100 %							
Dist 8	2524	7728						
Dist 9	100%							
Dist 10	7327							
Dist 11	452	4204	4989	7701	8479			
Dist 12	9600							
Dist 13	10295							

Bob Loy
Surgeon

17. INSPECTION:

All Districts and Posts are 100% reported as of this General Orders printing.

William R. Shifflett
State Inspector

18. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

Our visits to Capitol Hill in conjunction with the VFW's Community Service Awards and Legislative Conference in Washington, DC went quite well. We were able to visit all the offices of our Senators and Representatives and bring to their attention our VFW Legislative Priority Goals for 2008.

Although all the goals were presented, additional emphasis was placed on support of our troops currently serving our nation, adequate funding for the Veterans Administration and the G.I. Bill for the 21st Century. Your line officers and National Council Member Dan Boyer were in the lead during our visits, but I would also like to thank the following for taking time out of the busy schedules to assist: Chris Braun (VFW-7327), Joe Martin (VFW-1827), Jerry Peterson (VFW-3150), Bob Ponzio (VFW-3150), David Tyler (VFW-9478), J. Gary Wagner (VFW-3150), E. "Buddy" Weekley (VFW-8644) and D. Weekley (LAux-8644).

Copies of our 2008 legislative goals brochure have been provided to the District Commanders to share with their respective Posts, but anyone who has not seen them and would like to receive a copy please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Comradeship,
C. D. "Doc" Crouch
Legislative Committee Member

19. LIFE MEMBERSHIP 2009 PAYOUT:

As indicated by the attached signed document from the Life membership Board of Trustees, (see attachments at end of General Orders) the 2009 payout for Plan A, B, and C life members will be \$3.50 and \$9.00 for Plan E Life members. With respect to Plan D, the actuaries have advised us that there are funds available to pay out \$4.46 and the Board of Trustees has determined to pay that amount subject to an amendment to Section III of the By-Laws confirming the authority for that payment. As indicated in the By-Laws, payment will be made in September 2008 for all life members recorded as of August 31, 2008. In addition, a payment will be made in January 2009 for all life members processed during the period September 1 through December 31.

20. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

The weather is turning warmer, the flowers are starting to bloom, the birds are nesting and some Posts are still in the winter doldrums when it comes to their dwindling membership. While the season will allow us to go out and recruit new members more comfortably, what about the annual members we had who didn't renew before 31 December. Almost every Post could be 100%+ if they talked to their unpaid members and got them to renew. It's easier to keep the members we have than to get new ones.

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

21. MOTORCYCLE RAFFLE TICKETS:

If you have any books or partial books of tickets for the Motorcycle Raffle that are not selling please return them to State Headquarters immediately. We have run out of tickets and need yours to sell. Posts are asking for tickets and we don't have any left. We are very pleased with the response and thank everyone who has participated. Please remember that money and sold tickets must be sent to State Headquarters no later than June 1st to be included in the drawing. Do **not** wait until the Convention to turn in your unsold tickets, we will not have a chance to sell them before the drawing.

22. NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN:

Our financial standing as of 9/30/07, end of FY 2008, 1st qtr was:

Beginning Balance \$21,476 July 1, 2007

Expenses \$680.00

Income \$475.00

Balance \$21,271.00

This information has not been audited

National Home Children learn about fire safety.

Children cared for at the Ladies Auxiliary Nursery were treated to a morning of fire safety information, as a part of National Fire Prevention week.

Children were shown demonstrations of how the fire truck is used, then they were given a ride through the campus on the fire truck.

The Roger A. Graef Foundation, a non-profit corporation, awarded the National Home a \$20,000 grant to help install Internet Access in all 40 of our homes. This \$50,000 plus project will provide each home with a connection to the Internet. The Internet has become today's telephone. It has become increasingly difficult to communicate in the world without it-especially if you are a student.

Traveling Vietnam Memorial touches thousands during National Home visit. From Aug 9-13, 2007 the National Home hosted The Moving Wall, the traveling half-scale replica of the Washington D.C. Veterans Memorial. The exhibit was open free to the public 24 hours per day. Various volunteer Honor Guard groups provided security to the Wall 24 hours a day. Around the clock volunteer wall aides assisted those looking for names.

To refer a child or family, or for more information on National Home Services call the National Home toll-free number 1-800-851-0238.

If you feel I can help you my phone number is 703-354-0568 my address is 7006 Catlett Street Springfield, VA 22151

E-Mail is WJLVFW1@aol.COM

WJ Leonard
Virginia VFW National Home Chairman

23. 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.

24. PATRIOT'S PEN:

"WHY I AM AN AMERICAN PATRIOT" 2007-2008 Report

Participation Totals

Posts Reported: 72 Auxiliaries:49 Students: 1822 Districts: 13 of 13 (Thank You)

Total Awards and Expenses: Posts, Districts and Department \$46,183.25

Department Winners:

First Place: Andrew Traylor, 7th Grade Home Schooled, District 11, Post 2216 & Auxiliary and Post 3060

Second Place: Tiffany Gurley, 8th Grade, Graham Middle School, District 9, Post 9696 & Auxiliary

Third Place: Kendra Howell, 8th Grade, Plaza Middle School, District 2, Post 392 & Auxiliary

4th Place: District 10 5th Place: District 7 6th Place: District 12 7th Place: District 13 8th Place: District 1
9th Place: District 3 10th Place: District 6 11th Place: District 8 12th Place: District 5 13th Place: District 4

Thanks to all Post and Auxiliary Chairmen who made this year's participation the best. Also, Thanks to Joe Martin for filling in for me while I was keeping the doctors and nurses busy at Augusta Medical Center, and to the Headquarters staff for helping keep the essays and paperwork from snowballing while I was out.

Don Hall
Department Chairman

25. POW/MIA:

JANUARY, 2008 KOREAN WAR

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors. He is **PFC Billy M. MacLeod**, U.S. Army, of Cheboygan, MI. MacLeod was a member of Company B, 32nd Infantry Regiment, then making up part of the 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, operating along the eastern banks of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. From Nov 27 – Dec 1, 1950, the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces overran the U.S. positions, forcing their southward withdrawal. Regimental records compiled after the battle indicate that MacLeod was killed in action on Nov. 28, 1950. Between 2002 and 2005, three joint U.S. – Democratic People's Republic of Korea teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), excavated an area with two mass graves on the eastern shore of the Chosin Reservoir. They were believed to be burial sites of U.S. soldiers from the 31st RCT. The teams found human remains and other material evidence. Analysis of the remains subsequently led to the identifications of eight individuals, including MacLeod.

FEBRUARY, 2008 W W II

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of three U.S. servicemen, missing from World War II, have been identified and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors. They are **2Lt. John F. Lubben**, of Wisconsin Rapids, WI; **Sgt. Albert A. Forgue**, of North Providence, RI; and **Sgt. Charles L. Spiegel**, of Chicago, IL.; all U.S. Army Air Forces. They will be buried on April 18 in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. On Dec. 12, 1944, these men crewed an A-20J Havoc aircraft departing from Coullomiers, France, to bomb enemy targets near Wollseifen, Germany. The aircraft was last seen entering a steep dive near Cologne, Germany. Several searches and investigations of this area and reviews of wartime documents failed to provide information concerning the incident. In 1975, a German company clearing wartime mines and unexploded ordnance near Simmerath, Germany, reported the discovery of a gravesite northeast of Simmerath where American service members were buried. U.S. officials evaluated the remains and determined they represented three individuals, but they could not make identifications at that time. The remains were subsequently buried as unknowns in the Ardennes American Military Cemetery in Neupre, Belgium. In 2003, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) was notified that a group of German citizens had information correlating the three service members who were buried as unknowns with the crew from the 1944 A-20J crash. Based on that information, JPAC exhumed the three unknown graves from the Ardennes American Military Cemetery in 2005.

MARCH, 2008 W W II ERA

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a U.S. Army Air Forces airman, missing since 1942, have been identified and will soon be returned to his family for burial. He is **Aviation Cadet Ernest G. Munn**, U.S. Army Air Forces, of St. Clairsville, OH. Munn was one of four men aboard a routine navigation training flight that departed Mather Field, Calif., on Nov. 18, 1942. Their AT-7 Navigator aircraft carried about five hours of fuel, and when the plane did not return to base, a search was initiated. It was suspended about a month later with no results. In 1947, several hikers on Darwin Glacier in the Sierra Nevada mountain range discovered the aircraft wreckage. Human remains found at the site were buried in the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, CA. Several other hikers on Mendel Glacier, which is adjacent to Darwin Glacier, discovered frozen human remains, circumstantial evidence and personal effects in October 2005. Park rangers from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and a forensic anthropologist from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) recovered the remains, which were later shipped to the JPAC laboratory in Hawaii and identified as Cadet Leo M. Mustonen. In 2007, two other hikers on the Mendel Glacier found human remains of a second individual near the 2005 discovery site.

Joe Martin
POW/MIA Chairman

26. PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICERS:

All Posts, Districts and Departments should be reminded of the provisions of Sections 215, 414(c), and 515(d) of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective adjutant for review.

27. RESOLUTIONS NEEDED FOR STATE AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS:

During the 2007 State Convention of the Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 11 Resolutions were submitted by our membership for consideration. Of these 11 Resolutions, eight were defeated at the State Convention, three were forwarded to the National Convention for consideration. One of the three considered at the National Convention were approved: World War One Generation National Honors.

It is time to consider submission of Resolutions for the 2008 VFW Virginia State Convention in June. Resolution should be prepared in the proper format: a listing of WHEREAS justifying the recommendation followed by RESOLVED outlining the proposal. If you have any questions or in need of assistance, please contact the Resolution Chairman (JB Young) at telephone (703) 329-1357 or e-mail jrbubba3@juno.com. Resolution must be received by the State Quartermaster not later than 30 days prior to the State Convention or May 16, 2008.

J. B. Young
Resolutions Chairman

28. SAFETY:

DIST. 1	824	2296	7167						
DIST. 2	2582	4411							
DIST. 3	2583								
DIST. 4	8048	8228	10570						
DIST. 5	873								
DIST. 6	1841	4165	4522	4920	7854	8184			
DIST. 7	100% Reported								
DIST. 8	2524		7728						
DIST. 9	100% Complete								
DIST. 10	5412								
DIST. 11	452	2424	4204	4989					
DIST. 12	100% Complete								
DIST. 13	10295	10574							

Posts that have submitted Safety Reports have been removed from the matrix. The Posts that are still showing have not submitted their Safety reports as of this date. Congratulations to District 7, District 9, and District 12 for being 100% reported. Districts 3, 5 and 10 are all getting close to being complete. We only have a couple of months to get the remainder of the reports in. Thank you for your assistance to complete this task.

Steve Lasseter
Safety Vice-Chairman

29. SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA VETERANS CEMETERY AT DUBLIN:

Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery is now accepting pre-applications, contact: Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery, 5310 Milners Rd, Suffolk, VA 23434; phone (757)255-2717

30. VOD & PATRIOTS PEN THEMES 2008-2009:

VOD Theme: Service and Sacrifice by America's Veterans Benefits Today's Youth by

Patriot's Pen Theme: Why America's Veterans Should be Honored

31. YOUTH ACTIVITES:

Posts listed below **HAVE NOT** submitted a Youth Activities Report for the 2nd Half as of 3/20/08

Dist 1	2296	7167					
Dist 2	2582						
Dist 3	8529						
Dist 4	5313	8228	8902	10570			
Dist 5	873						
Dist 6	1841	4165	4522	4920	7854	8184	
Dist 7	100 %						
Dist 8	2524	7728					
Dist 9	100 %						
Dist 10	100 %						
Dist 11	452	4204	4989	8479			
Dist 12	100%						
Dist 13	10295	10574					

John Miska
Youth Activities Chairman

32. 109TH NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING:

109th National Convention in Orlando, Florida, August 16-21, 2008 and we anticipate many members will take this opportunity to plan family vacations. To assist our members we will open housing and convention registration early this year – *December 31, 2007*.

This early open will be communicated to each post by email. It is however, our understanding, many posts may not access their email accounts on a regular basis. Convention registration and housing information will also be mailed with the election reports scheduled for February.

Our Department has been assigned to the Rosen Centre with a block of **30** rooms.

NOTE: All sleeping room reservations, other than suites, must be made through the housing bureau. Housing officially opens December 31, 2007. Please use the attached housing form to make a reservation.

A list of amenities for your hotel may be found on the hotel website www.rosencentre.com or by contacting the hotel at 407-996-9840.

Be sure to book your reservations by **July 14, 2008** in order to receive special convention rates noted below:

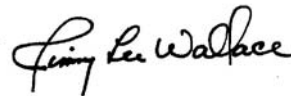
Rates for:	Single:	\$115
	Double:	\$115
	Triple:	\$135
	Quad/Club Level:	\$155

Official:



Kim A. DeShano
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Jimmy Lee Wallace
State Commander

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Life Membership Fund, also known as the Life Membership Committee, I have reviewed the reports prepared by VFW and correspondence from The Cottonwood Group, calculating the amount of payout that the Life Membership Fund can support.

For the year 2009, I agree that the Plan A, B and C Life Membership Fund can support a total payout of \$10.50 for each Life Member in Plans A, B and C. I understand that a payment in the amount of \$3.50 for each Life Member in Plans A, B and C will be made to their Post, Department and National Headquarters.

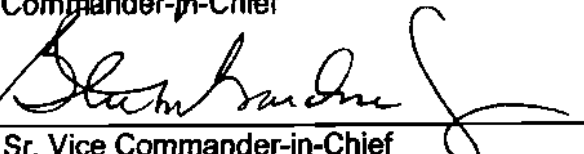
I also agree that the Plan E Life Membership Fund can support a total payout of \$27.00 for each Life Member in Plan E. I understand that a payment in the amount of \$9.00 for each Life Member in Plan E will be made to their Post, Department and National Headquarters.

I understand that Plan D Life Membership Fund cannot support a \$16.50 payout and that, on an actuarial basis, funds are not available in Plan D to make the \$16.50 payout. After reviewing the actuarial information, I agree that the Life Membership Fund can support a total payout of \$13.38 for each Life Member in Plan D. I recognize that there is a dispute concerning the proper interpretation of Section 111 of the By-Laws with respect to authority to pay out less than \$16.50 on Plan D Life Members where on an actuarial basis, sufficient funds are not available to make a \$16.50 payout and that an Amendment will be submitted to the National Convention confirming that the fund should only pay out funds to the extent funds are available on an actuarial basis. I understand that a payment in the amount of \$4.46 for each Life Member in Plan D will be made to their Post, Department and National Headquarters, provided that the National Convention approves the Amendment. The payout will be \$16.50 in the event the Amendment is not approved.



Commander-in-Chief

2/29/08
Date




Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief

2/29/08
Date



Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief

2/29/08
Date



Adjutant General

2/29/08
Date



Quartermaster General

2/29/08
Date