

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

Dedication and Excellence

NUMBER 4

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October 1, 2008

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Now is the time to schedule your fall recruiting events. We have ample help available to assist your Post. In a month or two it will be too cold to stand in front of Wal-Mart, so get the recruiting events scheduled now. Every Commander was sent an e-mail with a listing of unpaid members a couple of months ago, I asked Department Quartermaster to send it again. Every Commander and Quartermaster has a va.vfwwebmail.com account and should be checking it. If you don't know how to use the e-mail, please get a younger/knowledgeable member to get the information from the e-mail for you. Please use this list to call or send a letter to them asking them to come back and rejoin our organization.

If you have paid employees and/or officers, the Post must be able to produce the By-Laws or Minutes that approve the paid positions. I am requiring all Posts that have paid employees and/or officers send a copy of the approval to State Quartermaster no later than 1 Dec 2008. This is done in the best interest of your Post; every paid position should be in your Post By-Laws. And, your Post By-Laws have to be approved by State and National. If yours are not you must submit them through State Headquarters for approval

Hal Roesch, II
State Commander

2. 2008-09 NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY GOALS:

VA HEALTH CARE

The VFW calls on Congress to pass a sufficient budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs so that it can properly care for all of America's sick and disabled veterans.

The VFW urges funding for VA to be sufficient, predictable and timely, ending the trend of the last decade wherein VA's budget has been delivered months late.

Congress must ensure that the unique health care and benefits challenges of OEF/OIF veterans are met, to include increased funding for TBIs and other related disabilities, as well as improved access to care, especially veterans suffering from mental illness and for the growing number of women veterans accessing the system.

The VFW calls on Congress and VA to increase priority given to women veterans by providing adequate services by hiring specialized health care providers and by providing training in gender-specific issues to help address shortfalls in gender-specific care and mental health care services for TSD, Military Sexual Trauma and other needs.

The VFW urges VA to improve outreach so that all veterans are aware of the range of health care services and benefits available to them, especially female, minority and rural veterans, who may be less aware of their rights than other groups of veterans.

VA BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

The VFW asks Congress to provide adequate resources to enable the Veterans Benefits Administration to reduce the current backlog of claims.

To protect the needs of current and future veterans, the VFW opposes any changes to the current definition of "Line of Duty", structural changes to the programs for disability and survivors' benefits, or curtailment of veterans' or beneficiaries' rights of entitlement or to appeal benefit decisions.

SEAMLESS TRANSITION

The VFW demands a truly seamless transition for those men and women serving in uniform who are transferring from DOD to VA. We envision a system with a truly integrated electronic medical record that travels wherever the service member is stationed eventually to VA where it follows the veteran to wherever he or she receives health care.

The VFW urges Congress and the Administration to improve the transition services and benefits provided to our veterans to ensure a steady and safe return to civilian life, including viable training, employment and education programs that address the realities of the current and future job markets to provide meaningful careers and not just temporary jobs.

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE

The VFW calls on Congress to fully fund all programs that enable our troops to succeed in their mission. We must ensure our active duty, guard and reserve members are provided increased pay, affordable health care, and adequate housing and work facilities for themselves and their families.

Doc Crouch
National Legislative Committee Member

3. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1ST- Date: TBA
Meeting: 11:00 AM - meal after
Location: 7167 Warsaw
Rep: Steve Lasseter, Surgeon

2ND- Date: 11/15/08
Lunch: 12:00 Noon
Meeting: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 3160 Ocean View
Rep: Jim Martin, State JVC

3RD- Date: 11/15/2008
Meeting: 10:00 AM
Location: District 3 Headquarters
Rep: Hal Roesch, State CMDR

4TH- Date: 11/16/08
Meeting: 2:00 PM
Location: 9954 Victoria
Rep: Kim DeShano, State ADJ/QM

5TH- Date: 11/15/08
Meeting: Noon
Location: Post 7800 Stuart
Rep: Charles Absher, Judge Advocate

6TH- Date: 11/16/08
Meeting: 2:00 PM
Location: Post 7854 Floyd
Rep: Rex Faris, State SVC

7th- Date: 12/14/08
Lunch: 11:30 AM
Meeting: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 2123 Winchester
Rep: Hal Roesch, State CMDR

7th- Date: 3/08/09
Lunch: 11:30 AM
Meeting: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 8613 Shenandoah
Rep: Jim Martin, State JVC

<p>7th Date: 5/17/09 (Convention) Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 9760 Clarke County Rep: Charles Absher, Judge Advocate</p>	<p>10th- Date: 12/07/08 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 9274 Falls Church Rep: Steve Lasseter, Surgeon</p>
<p>8th- Date: 11/16/08 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 1177 Leesburg (No Ladies) Rep: Hal Roesch, State CMDR</p>	<p>10th- Date: 02/22/09 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 7916 Woodbridge Rep: Charles Absher, Judge Advocate</p>
<p>8th- Date: 3/8/09 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg Rep:</p>	<p>10th- Date: 05/03/09 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 1503 Dale City Rep: Jim Martin, State JVC</p>
<p>8th- Date: 5/17/09 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 7589 Manassas (Convention) Rep:</p>	<p>11th- Date: 1/11/09 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: 12:30 PM Location: Post 2216 Staunton Rep: Steve Lasseter, Surgeon</p>
<p>9th- Date: 1/09/09 Meeting: 11:00 AM Lunch to follow Location: Post 4667 Marion Rep: Kim DeShano, State ADJ/QM</p>	<p>12th-Date: TBA Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Rep: Jim Martin, State JVC</p>
	<p>13th- Date: 10/26/08 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 8947 Louisa Rep: Rex Faris, State SVC</p>

4. IMPORTANT DATES:

Oct 30-Nov 2, 2008	Southern Conference, Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK Room Rate \$79.00 Deadline for reservations - October 16, 2008. Call 800-522-6220 or 405-947-7681
Jan 16-19, 2009	Council of Administration, Williamsburg, VA Room Rate: \$69.00 Call 800-227-6963 Deadline for reservations –December 24, 2008 to insure a group rate.
Jun 11-14, 2009	Department of Virginia State Convention, Richmond, VA. Reservation Cut-off is May 11, 2009 Room Rate: \$93.00 Call 804-285-2000
Aug 15-20, 2009	National VFW Convention, Phoenix, AZ
Jan 15-18, 2010	Council of Administration, Williamsburg, VA Room Rate: \$67.00 Deadline for reservations – December 24, 2009 to insure group rates. Call 800-227-6963
Aug 21-26, 2010	National VFW Convention, Indianapolis, IN

5. ROSTER CHANGES:

Surgeon	Steve Lasseter 757-321-7167 Home	11124	John R. Dismond, CMDR PO Box 87 Quinton, VA 23141 (804) 932-4246
176	Ervin J. Herzog, SVC 98 Wendfield Cir New Port News, VA 23601	11124	Samford G. Christian, SVC 8730 Samaria Ln Providence Forge, VA 23140
776	Michael A. Ross, QM 6416 Morris Farm Rd. Fair Lawn, VA 24141 540-633-2952	11124	Robert Smith, JVC 6900 Courthouse Rd Providence Forge, VA 23140
2613	Thomas Yancey, CMDR PO Box 864 Columbia, VA 23038	11124	Eugene Williams, QM 5530 New Kent Hwy Quinton, VA 23141 (804) 932-4233
2613	John Mehfoud, QM 6533 Old Columbia Rd Columbia, VA 23038		
7166	Clarence E. Mason, JVC 7338 Sturgeon Rd Warfield, VA 23889		

6. AMERICANISM:

It is time to promote Get Out The Vote! Deadline to register for this year's election in Virginia is October 6th.

Did you know? A phrase in the Pledge of Allegiance goes "One Nation under God". There is no comma after nation but most people seemed to learn it that way. Let us work to remove that comma and say the Pledge of Allegiance correctly (See Manual of Procedure, p 14).

Two hundred-twenty reports have been received from 116 posts. Thirty-three posts have sent multiple reports.
Status as of 9/17/08:

DIST. 1	2296	7167											
DIST. 2	2582												
DIST. 3	10657												
DIST. 4	2163	2584	5313	8902	9954								
DIST. 5	7800	8243											
DIST. 6	1444	1841	4299	4318	4522	4920	5311	5895	7854	8184			
DIST. 7	9660	9872											
DIST. 8	2524	7728	8208										
DIST. 9	2719												
DIST. 10	609	5412	9274										
DIST. 11	452	4204	7701	7814	8479	9480							
DIST. 12	5715	6975	8652	8979	10298	10310							
DIST. 13	1827	2613	8717	8947	10295								

Gary Wagner
Chairman

7. 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 June 30 and is **NOW PAST DUE**.

Congratulations to Districts 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 for 100% reporting.

Posts listed below have **NOT** submitted an Audit Report for the period ending 06/30/08 as of 9/20/08

DIST. 1	960												
DIST. 2	100%												
DIST. 3	100%												
DIST. 4	9954												
DIST. 5	100%												
DIST. 6	1444	4299											
DIST. 7	100%												
DIST. 8	100%												
DIST. 9	100%												
DIST. 10	100%												
DIST. 11	100%												
DIST. 12	100%												
DIST. 13	2613	8717	10546										

8. CLOSINGS:

State Headquarters will be closed October 13, 2008 for Columbus Day.

9. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Congratulations to District 2 for being 100% for the first half. There is still time for all Posts to have a report for the first half.

Posts listed below have **NOT** submitted a report for the first half as of 9/19/08

Dist. 1	2296	7167											
Dist. 2	100%												
Dist. 3	10657												
Dist. 4	2163	2584	8902	10570									
Dist. 5	873	7800	8243	10840									
Dist. 6	1444	1841	4299	4522	4920	5311	5895	7854	8184				
Dist. 7	9872												
Dist. 8	2524	7728	8208										
Dist. 9	2719												
Dist. 10	609	5412	9274										
Dist. 11	452	4204	7701	7814	8479	9480							
Dist. 12	5715	6975	8652	10298	10310								
Dist. 13	1827	2613	8717	8947	10295								

Lynn Harris
Chairman

10. ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR:

State Headquarters has an electric wheelchair available for a needy veteran. The chair is three years old and will require two new batteries. The wheelchair was donated by Portsmouth Post 993.

For more information contact State Headquarters.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. GOLD MEMBER AWARDS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS:

Each year the VFW selects an emergency services person, a law enforcement officer and a firefighter to receive VFW Gold Medal Awards. These three award winners are presented their awards at the VFW State Convention in June or a respective award ceremony. Post Safety Chairman is encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to Department Headquarters by **November 1, 2008**. Documentation required for all candidates should include the following:

- Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone and indentifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
- One page resume of the candidate's overall background.
- One page listing of the candidate's accomplishment and awards in their field.
- Photograph (preferably a head shot) of the candidate.

14. HOSPITAL REPORT:

Congratulations to Districts 2 and 9 for being 100% reported. There are a couple of Districts that need to do a lot of work on their reports. Just because you have sent in a single report does not mean that you have to stop reporting. The more reports the better off your Post or District will be.

Posts who have **NOT** submitted a report as of September 19, 2008:

Dist. 1	2296	7167								
Dist. 2	100%									
Dist. 3	8046	8529	10654	10657						
Dist. 4	2163	2584	8048	8759	8902					
Dist. 5	647	873	7800	8243						
Dist. 6	1444	4165	4299	4318	4522	4920	5311	5895	7854	8184
Dist. 7	9872									
Dist. 8	2524	7728	8208							
Dist. 9	100%									
Dist. 10	609	5412	7327	9274						
Dist. 11	452	4204	7701	7814	8479	8644	9480			
Dist. 12	5715	8652	9600	10298	10310					
Dist. 13	1827	2613	7638	8436	8717	8947				

Steve Lasseter
Chairman

15. INSPECTION REPORT:

Posts that have not been inspected as of 9/17/2008

Dist. 1	960	9358									
Dist. 2	2894	9382									
Dist. 3	4639	8046	9224	10387	11124						
Dist. 4	637	2163	2584	5313	7166	7819	8163	8228	3446	8759	
Dist. 5	1115	2820	7568								
Dist. 6	776	1264	1444	1841	4165	4299	4318	4491	4522	5311	5895
		7854									
Dist. 7	621	1860	2123	2447	7899	9292	9660	9760	9872		
Dist. 8	7589										
Dist. 9	100%										
Dist. 10	609	1503	5412	7327	9478						
Dist. 11	452	1499	2424	3136	4204	4805	8479	8644	9339	10826	
Dist. 12	1994	3782	4301	5715	6975	8652	8979	9600	9830	10298	10310
Dist. 13	2044	2217	2613	8436	8717	10295	10574				

William R. Shifflett
Chairman

16. LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

Congress is back from their Summer/Convention break and your Legislative Committee has been busy tracking legislation, visiting our Virginia Delegations, and preparing for the annual visit to Richmond in January. Some important information is being furnished for necessary actions:

- a. **DAY AT THE RICHMOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.** Plans are being made for the VFW Day at the Richmond General Assembly on Thursday, January 15, 2009. At this time, the legislative package is being prepared. Anyone who wishes to submit proposed legislation to be considered by the 2009 General Assembly needs to contact the Legislative Chairman, JB Young, at e-mail jrbubba3@juno.com or telephone (703) 329-1357. Issues will be considered by the Committee in early November, thus, input must be received by October 31, 2008.
- b. **TRICARE LEGISLATION.** Information has been received from Senator Jim Webb that the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 passed by Congress and signed by the President prohibits an increase in TRICARE enrollment deductible and pharmacy co-payment fees. The Department of Defense has been urged to continue to identify opportunities to improve the quality and effectiveness of military health care. Action is currently being considered to extend to prohibition through FY 2009 (House Resolution 5658). Contact your Congressional representatives to support this Resolution.
- c. **COLA INCREASES.** Congress has approved the Cost-of-Living bill and awaits the President's signature. This Bill provides an increase for veterans with service-connected disabilities, as well as dependency and indemnity compensation for families of deceased veterans. These, along with pensions will match whatever increase is provided in Social Security benefits and would appear in January 2009 checks. Currently, this increase is projected to be 6%.
- d. **CONGRESSIONAL VISIT.** On September 15 and 16 several Virginia VFW members walked the Halls of Congress visiting our representatives to address key issues relating to veterans and their families. Past Department Commander Doc Crouch and Dan Boyer, National Legislative Committeemen, deserve a well done for their superb efforts.

J. B. Young
Chairman

17. MEMBERSHIP:

We need to start thinking about an area of concern - retention of members.

We need to reach out to our annual members and get them to renew, re-enlist, re-up, ship over, or whatever you want to call it. At the present time our annual members are failing to renew for next year and that rate of failure is at an alarming high. Without our membership we cannot carry out our basic programs much less our overall mission. It is time to start contacting these folks by mail or phone calls, better yet, dropping by and say hello; something we should have been doing all along. Let's see why they haven't been to a Post meeting or function lately. To keep these Comrades on board we have to make them feel that they are a part of the organization and not just a number. No one likes to feel that they are being taken for granted. It does very little good to recruit new members just to have them leave us the following year because they didn't feel like they were a part of our team – our family.

Yours in Comradeship,
C. D. —Dc" Crouch
Membership Committee

18. NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES:

Comrades, please let me know if you are involved in any activities which fall under the National Military Services (NMS) Programs. The sub-programs include Military Assistance Program (MAP) Adopt a Unit, Operation Uplink, and Unmet Needs. Your timely reporting of involvement will assist me in compiling the report I send to National on a monthly basis. Please be aware that the National organization has changed some of the guidelines for the programs since last year. There have also been some changes to the forms for the various programs. Please ensure you are using the latest form when submitting a request.

If you require any assistance or have any questions on any of the NMS programs, I'm available to assist you. I would also like to remind all District Commanders to appoint a District NMS Chairman, and let me know who you appointed.

Conrad Yetter
 NMS Chairman Dept. of Virginia
viriniamilitaryservices@cox.net
 Cell 757-373-4746
 Home 757-397-8046

19. POW/MIA:

September 04, 2008

Three Missing WWII Sailors Are Identified

The remains of three U.S. servicemen, missing from World War II, have been identified. They are Ensign Irvin A.R. Thompson, of Hudson County, N.J.; Ensign Eldon P. Wyman, of Portland, Ore.; and Fireman 2nd Class Lawrence A. Boxrucker, of Dorchester, Wis.; all U.S. Navy.

September 09, 2008

Missing WWII Soldier Is Identified

The remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from World War II, have been identified. He is Pvt. James W. Turner, U.S. Army, of Altus, Okla. He will be buried on Sept. 11 in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

Joe Martin
 POW/MIA Chairman

20. SAFETY REPORT:

Comrades,

There are still a good number of Posts who have still not submitted Safety Reports. You have a little more than a month left to submit your first-half reports. Don't wait till the last minute. Additionally, I need your help. When you send in your report please ensure it is complete. EX: A Post reported they had completed 39 projects—but failed to tell how many projects for each category. A few posts don't submit mileage and money information. One post actually annotated these items with "donation." All of the data fields are used in the computation of statistics, so we need that info, regardless of how few miles you drove or how much money was spent. Lastly, I suspect when "number of members" and "member hours" are reported some Posts are missing the relationship. EX: "5 members work 1 hour that is 5 hours not 1 hour.

By increasing our reporting accuracy we will also be increasing the value of the report itself. Your help is appreciated.

Posts who have **NOT** submitted a report as of 9/23/08:

DIST. 1	2296								
DIST. 2	100%								
DIST. 3	10657								
DIST. 4	2163	2584	5313						
DIST. 5	873	7568	7800	8243	8467	10840			
DIST. 6	1444	1841	4165	4522	5311	5895	7854	8184	
DIST. 7	9872								
DIST. 8	2524	8208							
DIST. 9	2719								
DIST. 10	609	9274							
DIST. 11	452	4204	7701	7814	8479	9480			
DIST. 12	5715	6975	8652	10310					
DIST. 13	1827	2613	8717	8947	10295				

Carl A Penning, III
 Chairman

21. 2008-09 CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM:

Deadlines: ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

November 1, 2008: Nominations submitted to Post

November 15, 2008: Post judging completed and submitted to District

December 15, 2008: District judging completed and submitted to Department.

If anyone needs information or assistance, please contact me immediately.

Phone: H: 540-955-3311
C: 540-539-5446

Email: bigredtruk@comcast.net

Chris Birch
Department Chairman

22. VA CLARIFIES VOTER REGISTRATION REGULATIONS:

WASHINGTON (Sept. 8, 2008) – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it has clarified its policy on assisting veterans' voter registration activities, with particular focus on inpatients and residents of VA community living centers, domiciliaries and patients with limited access to community voter registration resources.

The Department will welcome state and local election officials and non-partisan groups to its hospitals and outpatient clinics to assist VA officials in registering voters at VA facilities. Such assistance, however, must be coordinated by those facilities in order to avoid disruptions to patient care.

“VA has always been committed to helping veterans exercise their constitutional right to vote, which they defended for all Americans while serving their nation,” said Dr. James B. Peake, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “We’ve now established a uniform approach to helping those of our patients who need assistance to register and to vote.”

The policy requires that information about the right of VA patients to register and vote, and other patients' rights, be posted in every VA hospital, and that all VA patients be provided a copy of these rights when they are admitted to a VA facility.

Every hospital is now also required to publish a written policy on voter assistance, allowing patients to leave the hospital to register and vote, subject to the opinions of their health care providers. Patients unable to leave the facility must be assisted to register and to vote by absentee ballot.

In their written policies, VA hospitals are required to establish the criteria they will use to evaluate requests from outside agencies to register voters, and to determine where, when, and how such registration activities will be conducted. They will also develop procedures to coordinate offers of assistance from state and local governments and from non-partisan organizations, and how to work with VA's Regional Counsel offices to determine whether or not groups offering registration help are non-partisan, as required by law.

Voluntary Service Program Managers at each of VA's 153 hospitals will be responsible for implementing the new policy, and for providing timely and accurate voting information to veterans cared for at their facilities. They will also obtain and maintain materials that are needed to assist veterans with voter registration requirements.

23. VIRGINIA'S WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM :

Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) are two of the most prevalent injuries incurred by military service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to the Rand Corporation, more than 30 percent of returning service personnel have a mental health condition or reported experiencing a traumatic brain injury.

For Virginia, this means that more than 50,000 veterans may need help over the next 20 years. And, when you factor in spouses and children, the number of veterans and family members who may need help increases to 200,000.

Dist. 8	1811	2524								
Dist. 9	2719									
Dist. 10	609	9274								
Dist. 11	452	4204	7701	7814	8479	8644	9480			
Dist. 12	5715	6975	8652	10298	10310					
Dist. 13	1827	2613	8717	8947						

John Miska
Chairman

Official:



Kim A. DeShano
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Harold Roesch
State Commander

2008-2009

Voice of Democracy Program Reporting Dates

9th through 12th Grade Students

“Service and Sacrifice by America’s Veterans Benefits Today’s Youth by ...”

Student Entry	Deadline: November 1, 2008
Complete Post Judging	Deadline: November 15, 2008
Complete District Judging	Deadline: December 6, 2008
Awards to be given to Department Winner	Winter Council Meeting

The District Winner must be mailed and received by Earle (Buddy) P. Weekley, Jr., Department Voice of Democracy Chairman, 595 Bowman Road, Dayton, VA 22821 by **Saturday, December 20, 2008.**

No exceptions!

Be sure you send all of the District information that is needed. This means the Official Student Entry Form, a Typed Script and Recorded Cassette/CD and a photo of District Winner. If you do not have the District information that is requested according to the guidelines, your District winner will not be eligible. **Also, you must complete the District Chairman Report Form (which you will receive from National Headquarters in November) and send to me by January 10, 2009.** National Headquarters will obtain all other information from the Department winning student.

Department Judging will be held on Saturday, January 3, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Myers-Hodges VFW Post 8644 in Bridgewater, Virginia.

Voice of Democracy Department Awards:

1 st Place Winner	Student will receive \$1,000.00 and be expected to attend the Winter Council Meeting to be held in Williamsburg on January 17, 2009, to read their entry and receive this award. In addition, student will receive a check for \$500.00 from the Department of Virginia Commanders Club.
2 nd Place Winner	Will receive \$600.00 which the Department will mail
3 rd Place Winner	Will receive \$400.00 which the Department will mail

Each Post that participates in the Voice of Democracy Program will receive a Citation.

The Post that sponsors the Department’s 1st Place Winner will be awarded the Clarence E. Kelley Memorial Voice of Democracy Trophy and will be presented at the Awards Ceremony at the Department Convention in June 2009.

Earle P. (Buddy) Weekley, Jr., VFW Chairman
Debbie Weekley, Ladies Auxiliary Chairwoman

RECOGNITION

GOLD MEDAL AWARDS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects an emergency services person, a law enforcement officer and a firefighter to receive VFW Gold Medal Awards. The presentation of these awards is made at the VFW Department Convention in June/July or a respective award ceremony. Post Safety Chairmen are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to their Department Headquarters by November 1. The Department must select a single candidate for each award and submit those to VFW National Headquarters by November 17. Eligible candidates for each award are as follows:

Emergency Medical Technician Gold Medal

Any individual who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation's citizens.

Law Enforcement Gold Medal

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individual employed by private companies or security services.

Firefighters Gold Medal

Any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

Criteria for all Gold Medal Awards:

Candidates must have demonstrated:

- Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve.
- Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties.
- Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

Documentation required for all candidates:

- Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
- One page resume of the candidate's overall background.
- One page resume of the candidate's background in their field.
- One page listing of the candidate's accomplishment and awards in their field.
- Photograph (preferably a head shot) of the candidate.

Nomination:

Post Safety Chairmen should send the above information to their Department Headquarters to arrive no later than November 1. Departments should forward their candidate and documentation to arrive no later than November 17 to:

VFW National Headquarters, Attn: Programs – Gold Medal Award, 406 W 34 St
Kansas City, MO 64111

PATRIOT'S PEN THEME
"WHY AMERICA'S VETERANS SHOULD BE HONORED"
REMINDER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Student Entry Deadline:-----November 1, 2008
Complete Post Judging: Deadline: -----November 15, 2008
Complete District Judging: Deadline:-----December 6, 2008
Complete Department Judging Deadline:-----January 7, 2009
Dept Winner to National Deadline:-----January 15, 2009
Department report to National Deadline:-----January 31,2009
Awards to Dept Winner:-----Winter Council Meeting

The District Winner must be mailed to Don Hall, Dept Patriot's Pen Chairman, VFW Department Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401 and must be in my hands BEFORE midnight January 5, 2009.

Be sure you send ALL of the information that is needed:

- 1. The official student entry form**
(Be sure the Post Cmdr and/or Auxiliary President signs the form as required)
- 2. The typed essay**
- 3. A head and shoulders photo of the winner (not computer or faxed generated)**
- 4. Both (2) completed District Report Forms**

There is no time allowed for follow-up phone calls so none will be made.

If you do not have all of the information requested, your District Winner will NOT BE ELIGIBLE

Department Awards:

1st Place Winner: Student will receive \$500.00 and be expected to attend the Winter Council Meeting to read their essay and receive the award.

2nd Place Winner: Student will receive \$300.00, which the Department will mail.

3rd Place Winner: Student will receive \$200.00, which the Department will mail.

Although not required the sponsoring Post/Auxiliary will be expected to provide one(1) night's lodging and one (1) banquet ticket for the Dept. Winner at the Winter Conference.

All information was given to all District Chairmen at the school's of instruction.

All schools in the Staunton area were given all necessary information for all programs.

The press release was given to the local newspaper in August but as of this date it has not been published.

Any questions or comments call me at VSDB 540-332-9016

Don Hall
Patriot's Pen Chairman

District	Post	Life	New	Reinstate	Continuous	Current	Prior	%	City
1	176	80	8	0	16	104	153	67.97	NEWPORT NEWS
1	824	66	4	1	11	82	103	79.61	GRAFTON
1	960	60	4	0	4	68	92	73.91	YORKTOWN
1	2296	32	0	1	21	54	70	77.14	TASLEY
1	3219	424	34	3	48	509	675	75.41	PHOEBUS
1	5500	49	1	0	19	69	109	63.3	HAMPTON
1	6002	85	8	0	33	126	181	69.61	DENBIGH
1	7167	58	5	1	33	97	131	74.05	WARSAW
1	8252	260	2	0	11	273	308	88.64	GLOUCESTER
1	8629	10	0	0	4	14	23	60.87	CHINCOTEAGUE
1	9358	8	0	0	3	11	23	47.83	TANGIER
District	Totals	1132	66	6	203	1407	1868	75.32	Sixth
2	392	1301	33	7	90	1431	1735	82.48	VIRGINIA BEACH
2	993	100	7	0	13	120	159	75.47	PORTSMOUTH
2	1211	36	0	0	6	42	53	79.25	VIRGINIA BEACH
2	2582	29	2	0	7	38	49	77.55	SUFFOLK
2	2894	37	1	0	13	51	70	72.86	CHESAPEAKE
2	3160	653	46	2	75	776	978	79.35	NORFOLK
2	4411	77	1	1	14	93	108	86.11	FRANKLIN
2	4809	948	8	2	109	1067	1319	80.89	NORFOLK
2	8545	79	7	2	11	99	109	90.83	SMITHFIELD
2	9382	94	4	0	16	114	141	80.85	SUFFOLK
District	Totals	3354	109	14	354	3831	4721	81.15	Second

District	Post	Life	New	Reinstate	Continuous	Current	Prior	%	City
3	1426	39	5	3	9	56	83	67.47	MIDLOTHIAN
3	2239	138	4	2	25	169	215	78.6	COLONIAL HEIGHTS
3	2583	11	0	0	16	27	31	87.1	ASHLAND
3	4639	93	5	1	21	120	181	66.3	WILLIAMSBURG
3	6364	167	7	0	18	192	242	79.34	RICHMOND
3	8046	35	0	0	4	39	50	78	NORGE
3	8356	45	0	0	28	73	110	66.36	WEST POINT
3	8529	73	0	0	18	91	123	73.98	SANDSTON
3	9224	33	0	1	11	45	53	84.91	RICHMOND
3	9501	21	1	0	8	30	42	71.43	AYLETT
3	9808	597	11	2	54	664	810	81.98	MECHANICSVILLE
3	10387	24	0	0	2	26	136	19.12	PETERSBURG
3	10654	85	0	0	5	90	99	90.91	RICHMOND
3	10657	63	0	0	7	70	90	77.78	GLEN ALLEN
3	11124	12	0	0	5	17	22	77.27	QUINTON
District	Totals	1436	33	9	231	1709	2287	74.73	Seventh
4	622	77	2	0	17	96	193	49.74	PETERSBURG
4	637	181	3	1	74	259	341	75.95	HOPEWELL
4	2163	54	0	0	15	69	89	77.53	CHESTERFIELD
4	2584	16	0	0	6	22	38	57.89	CULLEN
4	5313	50	1	2	7	60	75	80	NOTTOWAY
4	7059	110	7	3	30	150	220	68.18	FARMVILLE
4	7166	144	1	0	23	168	218	77.06	SOUTH HILL
4	7819	62	0	1	14	77	114	67.54	CREWE
4	7897	24	0	0	7	31	42	73.81	BLACKSTONE
4	8048	16	0	0	5	21	38	55.26	LAWRENCEVILLE
4	8163	71	6	0	26	103	155	66.45	CLARKSVILLE
4	8228	10	0	1	6	17	20	85	CHASE CITY
4	8446	31	4	0	11	46	54	85.19	BUCKINGHAM
4	8759	29	2	0	16	47	70	67.14	AMELIA COURT HSE
4	8902	11	0	0	5	16	22	72.73	KEYSVILLE
4	9855	43	0	0	19	62	107	57.94	APPOMATTOX
4	9954	117	1	0	22	140	174	80.46	VICTORIA
4	10570	21	0	0	6	27	40	67.5	POWHATAN
District	Totals	1067	27	8	309	1411	2010	70.2	Thirteenth

District	Post	Life	New	Reinstate	Continuous	Current	Prior	%	City
5	647	233	1	0	70	304	371	81.94	DANVILLE
5	873	17	0	0	6	23	26	88.46	GRETNA
5	1115	515	4	2	216	737	930	79.25	HILLSVILLE
5	2820	24	4	1	23	52	100	52	BASSETT
5	4637	69	0	0	48	117	171	68.42	MARTINSVILLE
5	7568	28	1	1	17	47	73	64.38	GALAX
5	7726	165	4	0	75	244	443	55.08	INDEPENDENCE
5	7800	65	0	1	16	82	101	81.19	STUART
5	8243	42	5	0	44	91	128	71.09	HALIFAX
5	8467	70	0	0	25	95	138	68.84	MEADOWS OF DAN
5	10840	33	0	0	14	47	58	81.03	PENHOOK
District	Totals	1261	19	5	554	1839	2539	72.43	Ninth
6	776	81	4	0	18	103	122	84.43	RADFORD
6	1033	135	5	1	51	192	229	83.84	COVINGTON
6	1264	264	2	1	59	326	372	87.63	ROANOKE
6	1444	44	0	2	6	52	68	76.47	ROANOKE
6	1841	54	0	0	37	91	139	65.47	TROUTVILLE
6	2157	111	1	2	57	171	217	78.8	BEDFORD
6	4165	35	0	0	18	53	67	79.1	ALTAVISTA
6	4299	25	0	1	11	37	57	64.91	CLIFTON FORGE
6	4318	43	3	0	18	64	69	92.75	SALEM
6	4491	66	2	1	14	83	100	83	NEW CASTLE
6	4522	153	0	0	21	174	216	80.56	VINTON
6	4920	17	0	0	6	23	28	82.14	ELLISTON
6	5311	87	0	0	23	110	148	74.32	CHRISTIANSBURG
6	5895	18	0	0	1	19	24	79.17	BUCHANAN
6	7854	75	4	0	19	98	132	74.24	FLOYD
6	8184	55	0	0	7	62	72	86.11	LYNCHBURG
6	9877	18	2	1	12	33	45	73.33	AMHERST
District	Totals	1281	23	9	378	1691	2105	80.33	Fourth

District	Post	Life	New	Reinstate	Continuous	Current	Prior	%	City
7	621	125	0	0	46	171	216	79.17	LURAY
7	1860	202	4	0	46	252	322	78.26	FRONT ROYAL
7	2123	287	2	2	70	361	416	86.78	WINCHESTER
7	2447	206	6	1	58	271	364	74.45	EDINBURG
7	6044	16	0	0	2	18	28	64.29	WINCHESTER
7	7899	20	0	0	9	29	49	59.18	STANLEY
7	8613	128	1	0	41	170	210	80.95	SHENANDOAH
7	9292	114	5	1	39	159	195	81.54	ELKTON
7	9660	62	1	1	39	103	125	82.4	BROADWAY
7	9760	125	5	1	136	267	326	81.9	BERRYVILLE
7	9872	55	0	0	0	55	59	93.22	HINTON
District	Totals	1340	24	6	486	1856	2310	80.35	Third
8	1177	46	22	3	6	77	94	81.91	LEESBURG
8	1811	175	1	0	0	176	189	93.12	MANASSAS PARK
8	2524	185	1	2	35	223	268	83.21	CULPEPER
8	3103	208	26	1	57	292	350	83.43	FREDERICKSBURG
8	7589	160	34	3	48	245	291	84.19	MANASSAS
8	7728	28	1	0	8	37	48	77.08	REMINGTON
8	8208	33	0	0	13	46	294	15.65	STANARDSVILLE
8	9835	40	0	0	7	47	56	83.93	WARRENTON
District	Totals	875	85	9	174	1143	1590	71.89	Twelfth
9	1184	121	1	1	41	164	258	63.57	PULASKI
9	2719	30	1	0	17	48	60	80	WYTHEVILLE
9	4667	511	3	2	145	661	856	77.22	MARION
9	6000	154	15	1	56	226	288	78.47	NARROWS
9	7136	122	9	1	40	172	274	62.77	TAZEWELL
9	7328	29	1	0	27	57	78	73.08	SALTVILLE
9	7360	48	0	0	39	87	133	65.41	GRUNDY
9	7969	20	1	0	15	36	44	81.82	BLAND
9	9640	115	10	0	30	155	210	73.81	RICHLANDS
9	9696	135	3	1	40	179	252	71.03	BLUEFIELD
9	9864	56	0	0	9	65	90	72.22	LEBANON
District	Totals	1341	44	6	459	1850	2543	72.75	Eighth

District	Post	Life	New	Reinstate	Continuous	Current	Prior	%	City
10	609	94	6	0	15	115	121	95.04	ALEXANDRIA
10	1503	1394	122	11	134	1661	1937	85.75	DALE CITY
10	3150	403	5	0	23	431	500	86.2	ARLINGTON
10	5412	63	0	0	15	78	94	82.98	BURKE
10	7327	427	22	1	54	504	704	71.59	SPRINGFIELD
10	7916	373	8	0	57	438	536	81.72	WOODBIDGE
10	8241	183	10	0	23	216	313	69.01	MC LEAN
10	8469	199	4	1	26	230	282	81.56	FAIRFAX
10	9274	210	2	0	14	226	263	85.93	FALLS CHURCH
10	9478	68	2	0	9	79	132	59.85	STERLING
District	Totals	3414	181	13	370	3978	4882	81.48	First
11	452	22	0	0	9	31	41	75.61	CRIMORA
11	632	307	3	3	73	386	474	81.43	HARRISONBURG
11	1499	80	0	0	20	100	131	76.34	LEXINGTON
11	2216	197	8	0	87	292	452	64.6	STAUNTON
11	2424	25	0	0	10	35	44	79.55	WAYNESBORO
11	3060	39	0	0	0	39	42	92.86	DEERFIELD
11	3136	27	0	0	17	44	56	78.57	MOUNT SOLON
11	4204	28	3	1	15	47	59	79.66	HOT SPRINGS
11	4805	50	1	0	1	52	55	94.55	BUENA VISTA
11	7701	39	0	0	18	57	72	79.17	LOVINGSTON
11	7814	21	0	0	0	21	23	91.3	STAUNTON
11	8279	18	0	0	10	28	37	75.68	STEELES TAVERN
11	8479	5	0	0	4	9	15	60	LYNDHURST
11	8644	123	1	0	47	171	209	81.82	BRIDGEWATER
11	9339	52	1	0	22	75	92	81.52	STUARTS DRAFT
11	9480	33	0	0	7	40	50	80	CRAIGSVILLE
11	10826	46	1	0	26	73	121	60.33	VERONA
District	Totals	1112	18	4	366	1500	1973	76.03	Fifth

District	Post	Life	New	Reinstate	Continuous	Current	Prior	%	City
12	1994	79	5	0	37	121	173	69.94	ABINGDON
12	3782	39	0	0	8	47	75	62.67	HAYSI
12	4301	64	1	0	16	81	110	73.64	NORTON
12	5715	152	0	0	13	165	264	62.5	BIG STONE GAP
12	6975	377	3	1	145	526	708	74.29	BRISTOL
12	8652	58	1	1	19	79	106	74.53	COEBURN
12	8979	88	3	0	29	120	160	75	CLINTWOOD
12	9600	64	0	0	51	115	151	76.16	POUND
12	9830	49	0	0	24	73	94	77.66	DAMASCUS
12	10298	43	0	0	12	55	72	76.39	PENNINGTON GAP
12	10310	42	1	1	4	48	68	70.59	EWING
District	Totals	1055	14	3	358	1430	1981	72.19	Tenth
13	1827	147	3	1	44	195	269	72.49	CHARLOTTESVILLE
13	2044	34	0	0	5	39	56	69.64	EARLYSVILLE
13	2217	31	0	0	16	47	67	70.15	ORANGE
13	2613	5	0	0	1	6	24	25	COLUMBIA
13	7638	54	3	1	11	69	99	69.7	GORDONSVILLE
13	8169	29	0	0	14	43	59	72.88	SCOTTSVILLE
13	8436	15	0	0	10	25	43	58.14	YANCEY MILLS
13	8717	36	1	1	6	44	62	70.97	KING GEORGE
13	8947	93	1	1	16	111	137	81.02	LOUISA
13	10295	57	1	1	9	68	85	80	BOWLING GREEN
13	10546	79	0	0	2	81	107	75.7	SPOTSYLVANIA
13	10574	80	22	0	28	130	184	70.65	COLONIAL BEACH
District	Totals	660	31	5	162	858	1192	71.98	Eleventh
MAL	15048	2356	85	19	783	3243	4570	70.96	STAUNTON
State	Totals	21684	759	116	5187	27746	36571	75.87	