

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 10

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Dedication and Excellence

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

I would like to thank Post Members from 3160 that went out of their way to insure we had a very successful recruiting class; we had 65 VFW and Ladies Aux members in attendance. After the class on Saturday, we went out to recruit on Sunday and in only 3 hours the results were; 85 new/reinstated members, 3 transfers, 11 moved out of the area and 3 deceased. I believe the Ladies got 7 new members and 3 renewals/reinstated. We were complimented by our National Recruiter, Bill Bloomquist, that we were first Dept to involve the Ladies Aux. Every district now has a State Certified Recruiter that is available to help. PLEASE USE THEM!!!!!!!

As of 3/22/2009 we are 2313 short of reaching our goal of 100% in membership. What does that mean? We need each District to get 88 new/reinstated members in both Apr/May. If you plan a recruiting event you can get there. We have recruiters standing by!!!!!! I Need Your Help!!!

I have heard some rumblings from some Posts that the Aux(s) are a guest of the VFW in their Post. While it is true that the Post must vote to have an Aux(s), it does not mean they are second class citizens. If you have a Ladies or Men's Aux and have a canteen, they are on the same playing field as VFW members. Just remember that Post and Aux(s) meetings have nothing to do with canteens and as long as a Post or Aux member is in good standing they must be allowed to attend their meetings.

Now let me get something off my chest; we will have District elections coming up. Please DO NOT put someone in the position of leadership, because no one else wants it. We have the same Districts that continue to need help over and over again the last couple years; I truly believe that we need to look at merging Posts and/or re-Districting to keep our Department viable.

Hal Roesch, II, State Commander

2. STATE CERTIFIED RECRUITERS:

District	Post No.	Names	District	Post No.	Names
1	824	Thomas E. Randall	5	4637	Robert G. King
1	824	Venner F. Milewski, Jr.	6	4920	Crowell Smith
1	824	Raymond C. Wetherell, II	7	9760	Rodney V. Lloyd
2	392	Doug Keller	7	2447	Roger D. Coffey
			7	2447	Clarence Rush
2	4809	Craig Dudley	8	1177	Reuben V. Martinez
2	4809	Steve Lasseter	8	7589	Rick Raskin
2	8545	Miles Diamond	9	1184	Bennie Hill, Sr.
2	3160	Christopher Winfield	9	6000	Lee Thompson
2	3160	Glen Holman	10	1503	James K. Martin
2	8545	John T. Edwards	10	3150	C. D. "Doc" Crouch
3	3160	Derrick Flanagan	10	7327	Margo Sheridan
3	10654	Alexander H. Brooks	10	9478	Stanley Dixon
3	2239	Dennis Mull	10	9478	Bill Atkinson
4	7166	Herbert W. Goodrich	10	3150	Nelson Betancourt
4	7819	James A. Giessel	11	8644	Earle P. Weekley, Jr
5	1115	William Davis	.		

3. NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER NO. 286:

Upon the recommendation of the Commander, Department of Virginia, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 213 of the National By-Laws, the charter of Page County memorial Post No. 7899, Stanley, Virginia mustered March 2, 1950 is hereby cancelled and the Post declared defunct.

Glen M. Gardner, Jr. Commander-In-Chief

4. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1ST- Date: 5/9/09
Meeting: 11 AM Meal After
Location: Post 7167
73 Washington Ave, Warsaw
Rep:

2ND- Date: 5/17/09
Lunch: 1:00 PM
Meeting: 2:00 PM
Location: Post 4809
5728 Barteet St, Norfolk
Rep: Steve Lasseter, Surgeon

3RD- Date: 5/9/09
Meeting: 10:00 AM
Location: 3rd District HQ
10044 Pamunkey Rd.,
Mechanicsville
Rep: John Edwards, St. Chief of Staff

4TH- Date: 5/17/09
Meeting: 2:00 PM
Location: Post 622
1925 Johnson Rd, Petersburg
Rep: Jimmy Lee Wallace, PDC

5TH- Date: 5/23/09
Meeting: Lunch at noon meeting to follow
Location: Post 7726
115 Klondike Rd., Independence
Rep:

6TH- Date: 5/17/09
Meeting: 2:00 PM
Location: Post 1033
710 Dolly Ann Dr., Covington
Rep: Hal Roesch, II, State Cmdr

7th- Date: 5/3/09
Lunch: 11:30 AM
Meeting: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 9760
425 S. Buckmarsh St, Berryville
Rep: Bill Shifflett, Inspector

8th- Date: 5/17/09
Meeting: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 7589
9304 Centerville Rd. Manassas
Rep: Rex Faris, SVC

9th - Date: 5/3/09
Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting to follow
Location: Post 9696
131 Lovelane St., Bluefield
Rep: Hal Roesch, II, State Cmdr

10th - Date: 5/3/09
Meeting: 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM Brunch first
Location: Post 1503
14631 Minnieville Rd., Dale City
Rep: Jim Martin, State JVC

11th - Date: 5/3/09
Lunch: 11:30 AM
Meeting: 12:30 PM
Location: Post 632
450 Waterman Dr., Harrisonburg
Rep: Rex Faris, SVC

12th - Date: 5/9/09
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 9600
11120 Main St., Pound
Rep: Rex Faris, SVC

13th - Date: 5/31/09
Meeting: 1:00 pm
Location: Post 7638
10271 Gordon Ave, Gordonsville
Rep: Jimmy Lee Wallace, PDC

5. ALL-STATE JUDGING:

MEMBERSHIP PLAQUES will be presented at the State Convention to the Post with the largest membership increase in each category. The judging will be based on Membership as of May 15, 2009.

Category A - Posts with Membership of 10 thru 100
Category B - Posts with Membership of 101 thru 300
Category C - Posts with Membership of 301 thru 500
Category D - Posts with Membership of 501 thru 1000
Category E - Posts with Membership of 1001 or more

The minimum Post Membership increase Goal for the 2009 Membership – Awards Program is 20 members.

POST QUOTAS will be the Post Membership listed at National Headquarters on June 30, 2008.

The quota will **NOT** be reduced because of members who die, move out of the area in which the Post is located, or transfer to another Post.

POST AWARDS

A LIFE MEMBERSHIP INCREASE PLAQUE and \$100.00 will be awarded to one Post in each District. The Post with the greatest 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 2009 Membership Quota by May 15, 2009.

Victory Streamer for reaching the previous years' membership by May 15, 2009.

100% plus Post Commander and Quartermaster pins to Posts exceeding 100% by May 15, 2009.

Post Commander and Post Quartermaster Ball Cap to Posts who are 100% in membership by May 15, 2009.

2008-2009 ALL STATE TEAM

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 November 30, 2008.

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 purchase minimum of 10 poppies per member

Voice of Democracy Program (must submit a student to the District level for District judging)

Patriot's Pen Program (must submit a student to the District level for District judging)

Teacher of the Year Program (must submit at least one Teacher to the Department for State judging)

National Military Services (must make a donation to National Military Services)

Have a Post service officer appointed.

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

Americanism Report

Community Activities Report

Safety Report

Youth Activities Report

Post must submit a Community Service Record Book for judging.

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 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009 will receive a State Citation.

2008-2009 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 November 30, 2008.
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.
6. National Military Services (must make a donation to National Military Services)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

All individual recruiting awards will be awarded by using the National Recruiter Reports dated May 1, 2009.

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.

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.

THE SAMUEL B. DeVAUGHAN MEMBERSHIP AWARD is awarded to the member who recruits the most new and/or reinstated members of the 2008-2009 Membership Year and will receive the following:

Round trip airfare to the 110th National Convention in Phoenix, AZ.

One National Convention banquet ticket.

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

Department citation.

Distinctive cap and name badge

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 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.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD BOOK should be kept from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009 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 200.
- Category B - Posts with Membership of 201 thru 400.
- Category C - Posts with Membership of 401 thru 600.
- Category D - Posts with Membership over 600.

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.

BUDDY POPPY CITATIONS will be presented to the District Commander whose District purchased the most Buddy Poppies and to the District Commander whose District had 100% participation in the Buddy Poppy Program. These awards will be presented at the State Convention.

The Post in each District who purchased the most Buddy Poppies will be given a citation.

LOYALTY DAY CITATIONS will be given to District's and Post's participating in Loyalty Day Programs.

All judging material must be at State Headquarters by 5:00 P.M. (1700 Hours) on May 15, 2009.

(NO EXCEPTIONS!)

6. AMERICANISM REPORT:

Only one month to go to complete those projects by April 30th! And, then two weeks to get the report in by May 15th. This is also a good time to complete your planning for Loyalty Day, May 1st, one of the more important days on the VFW calendar! And, to complete your Americanism Book for Richard A Guager Americanism Award competition during the judging weekend.

216 reports have been received from 129 posts. 40 posts have sent multiple reports.

Posts listed below have **NOT** submitted a report for the Second Half as of March 20, 2009

DIST. 1	7167	8629							
DIST. 2	100%								
DIST. 3	2583	11124							
DIST. 4	2163	8048	8228						

DIST. 5	873	7568	7800	10840					
DIST. 6	2157	4318	4299	4920	7854	8184			
DIST. 7	100%								
DIST. 8	1811	2524							
DIST. 9	100%								
DIST. 10	609	5412							
DIST. 11	452	1499	2424	8479	9339				
DIST. 12	6975	10310							
DIST. 13	1827	8436	10295						

J. Gary Wagner, Chairman

7. AUDIT REPORT:

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 2008 and is now **Due**. This is the last report of Dec 08 Audit Reports

Posts listed below have **NOT** submitted an Audit Report for the period ending December 31, 2008

DIST. 1	100%								
DIST. 2	100%								
DIST. 3	2583								
DIST. 4	637								
DIST. 5	7568								
DIST. 6	776	4299	9877						
DIST. 7	100%								
DIST. 8	8208								
DIST. 9	100%								
DIST. 10	5412								
DIST. 11	100%								
DIST. 12	100%								
DIST. 13	100%								

8. 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.

9. CLOSINGS:

State Headquarters will be April 10, 2009 for Good Friday.

10. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Congratulations to Districts 7 and 9 for 100% reporting for the 2nd Half. Several of the Districts are getting close to being 100%. But there are some Districts still struggling with getting their reports turned in for the 2nd Half. You still have time to get your reports in on time.

Posts listed below **HAVE NOT** submitted a second half report as of March 20, 2009

DIST. 1	7167								
DIST. 2	100%								
DIST. 3	2583	11124							
DIST. 4	2163	8228	10570						
DIST. 5	873	7568	7800						
DIST. 6	2157	4522	4920	7854	8184				

DIST. 7	100%							
DIST. 8	2524							
DIST. 9	100%							
DIST. 10	609	5412						
DIST. 11	452	1499	8479	9339				
DIST. 12	6975	10310						
DIST. 13	1827	2613	8436	10295				

Lynn Harris, Chairman

11. DELL PRINTERS:

Through Gifts-In-Kind the Department received 200 Dell printers. The Department would like to give one printer to each Post who would like one. The must be for the VFW and not personal use. We have various models, some are new and some are refurbished, all come with ink, USB cable and manual. They will be distributed on a first come basis and must be picked up from State Headquarters. We will **NOT** ship them due to the cost of shipping. They are ready for pick-up **NOW**.

Kim DeShano
State ADJ/QM

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. HOSPITAL REPORT:

Congratulations to Districts 2, 7, and 9 for all being 100% reported. Some of the Districts are still struggling with getting their reports turned in. Posts that have submitted reports for the second half of the reporting period have been taken off of the Matrix. There has been a great improvement over the last month. We are already into the fourth month of the Second-half cycle. We need a lot more reports to get to 100%.

Posts listed below **HAVE NOT** submitted a second half report as of March 20, 2009

Dist. 1	2296	7167							
Dist. 2	100%								
Dist. 3	2583	11124							
Dist. 4	2163	8048	8228	8617	8759	8902			
Dist. 5	873	7568	7800						
Dist. 6	2157	4318	4522	4920	7854	8184			
Dist. 7	100%								
Dist. 8	2524								
Dist. 9	100%								
Dist. 10	609								
Dist. 11	452	9339							
Dist. 12	10310								
Dist. 13	1827	2613	7638	8436	10295				

Steve Lasseter, Chairman

15. IMPORTANT DATES:

May 15, 2009 Deadline for All-State Judging, **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Must be received by 5:00 PM.

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

16. LIFE MEMBERSHIP DRAWING:

Congratulations! Bluefield Memorial Post 9696 is the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. Post 9696 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 100 percent of their membership goal reported to State Headquarters by March 2, 2009.

17. LIFE MEMBER PAYOUT:

The Board of Trustees of the Life Membership Fund agreed to the following dues payout for Life Members on February 19, 2009. The National Council of Administration concurred to those payouts at its February 21, 2009 meeting.

Plan ABC	\$2.84 to each Post, Department and National (for a total payout of \$8.52 for every life member).
Plan D	\$3.67 to each Post, Department and National (for a total payout of \$ 11.01 for every life member).
Plan E	\$9.00 to each Post, Department and National (for a total payout of \$27.00 for every life member).

18. LITTLE-KNOWN BENEFIT AIDS VETERANS OF WARS THOSE WHO SERVE DURING CONFLICT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO \$19,000 A YEAR

Published: February 8, 2009

A little-known veterans' benefit for long-term care expenses is available to wartime veterans and their spouses. But the benefit is being overlooked by thousands of families, industry observers say.

The Special Pension for Veterans' **Aid and Attendance** pays up to \$1,644 a month, \$19,736 annually, toward assisted living, nursing homes or in-home care **for veterans 65 and older who served at least 90 days and one day during wartime — stateside or overseas.** Veterans and their spouses can receive up to \$23,396 annually and spouses of deceased veterans, \$12,681.

Yet, an estimated \$22 billion a year goes unclaimed, said Don Soard, a volunteer with Operation Veteran Aid in Oklahoma City. In 2007, only 134,000 seniors nationwide received the benefit, which was established in 1952.

"Literally hundreds of thousands don't even know about it," Soard said. "Due to incomplete information, many disqualify themselves on income or assets or find the paperwork too burdensome."

Streamlined process

Soard helps families complete the necessary forms, so that approval comes in four to six months. The process is streamlined for vets who are blind or have memory issues and widows with medical needs, he said. Most applicants qualify and payments are retroactive, Soard said. The few who are denied on excessive liquid assets can seek financial advice to qualify, he said.

Soard started his volunteer mission two years ago, following the deaths of two family members who served in WWII.

"If they'd known about this benefit, they'd have a much better quality of life in later years," he said. "Without it, many vets are forced to go on Medicaid."

Oklahoma is one of nine states where the welfare program doesn't cover assisted living costs. Assisted living often can be an alternative to a nursing home when 24-hour skilled care is not an absolute need, said Willie Ferguson, executive director of Legend at Rivendell in Oklahoma City .

"But if someone just has Social Security and a small pension, it's not enough to live here," Ferguson said. According to a 2008 MetLife survey, assisted living in Oklahoma averages \$2,346 a month, while nursing homes cost \$153 a day for a private room.

Of 73 Legend residents, nine receive the veterans' special pension, including Tom Bowen, 77, of Moore. "Until I toured this operation, I had no idea the benefit was available," said Bowen, a retired engineer technician from the [Federal Aviation Administration](http://www.federalaviationadministration.gov) who served stateside during the Korean Conflict.

Bowen recently moved into the Legend facility following several mini strokes and a diagnosis of short-term memory loss.

"It's been pretty hard trying to handle expenses on my own and being able to replace savings," said Marie Bowen, his wife of 57 years. Finding a nearby facility and learning about the special veterans' pension has been a godsend, she said.

<http://www.veteranaid.org/index.php>

PAULA BURKES

19. MEMBERSHIP:

We are fast approaching the end of the administrative year and one of main areas of concern remains - retention of members. We need to reach out to those annual members who have not renewed and get them back on board. At the present time our annual members are failing to renew for this year at a rate that is alarmingly high.

If we do not have membership we cannot carry out our community programs; we cannot carry out our hospital programs; we lose our ability to reach out and influence our youth in a positive manner; we lose our ability to influence legislation that affects veterans and their families. It is PAST time to start contacting these folks by making phone calls; better yet, dropping by and say "hello". Let's find out why they haven't been to the Post lately. We need to keep these Comrades on board – we have to make them feel that they are a valued part of our organization and not just a number.

We are ahead in recruiting new and reinstated members and we won't stop recruiting, but it does no 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.

C. D. "Doc" Crouch, Co-chairman

20. MEMBERSHIP KITS – 2009/2010:

2009/2010 Membership Kits will include membership applications, benefit brochures, and a disk containing manuals and forms. A hard copy of the Quartermaster Manual will not be provided in the Post Quartermaster Membership Kit.

Rosters will be mailed separately from the kit and will go out with the June Monthly Maintenance Journal (MMJ). Rosters will be generated at the close of business on June 30, 2009. If no election report has been received, then the MMJ and roster will be forwarded to the Department.

If you have any questions, please send an email to Denise Edelman at dedelman@vfw.org

21. MILITARY WOMEN'S ADVOCACY:

On March 18, VFW Commander-in-Chief Glenn Gardner testified before a joint House-Senate Veterans Affairs committee session. In that testimony, he emphasized the importance of addressing the unique health issues and concerns of female veterans as one of his top priorities. The committee members concurred with his assessment; we can therefore expect to hear much more on this issue in the coming months from both the House and Senate committees and from the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense.

The VA's Women Veterans Health Care project will soon launch a major outreach program to educate female veterans on their health care opportunities with the VA. The program is focusing on general health matters, mental

health support including Military Sexual Trauma counseling, and specialized medical care for women. Unfortunately, the VA has not yet fully staffed the Women Veteran Program Manager positions at its 140 service locations across the nation; further complicating the provision of timely and complete health care for female veterans.

Other news: The Omnibus 2009 appropriation passed by Congress and signed by the President in March contains a unique provision that bars the Small Business Administration from restricting contract set-asides for female-owned small businesses. Women-owned businesses are seriously underrepresented in the federal contracting sector, so this legislation should help small woman-owned businesses to take advantage of the stimulus bill that is pumping billions of contract dollars into our economy. Interested parties should contact the Small Business Administration to learn how the SBA can assist in securing Federal contracts.

Margo Sheridan, Chairman

22. 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.

23. POW/MIA REPORT:

January 23, 2009

Missing WWII Soldiers are Identified

The remains of two 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 **Pfc. Julian H. Rogers**, of Bloomington, Ind, and **Pvt. Henry E. Marquez**, of Kansas City, Kan. Both men were U.S. Army.

February 17, 2009

Soldier Missing in Action From the Korean War is Identified

The remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. He is **Sgt. Stanley E. Baylor**, U.S. Army, of Webster, N.Y.

March 10, 2009

Navy Changes Speicher Status To 'Missing-In-Action'

Calling **Navy Capt. Michael "Scott" Speicher** "an American hero," Navy Secretary Donald C. Winter today announced his decision to change the status of the first Operation Desert Storm casualty from "missing/captured" to "missing in action."

Winter made the determination after a thorough review of information about the case, including a Defense Intelligence Agency assessment and comments from the Speicher family, defense officials said. His determination overruled recommendations of a Navy status review board, which Winter said in a message explaining his decision were based on faulty logic and false premises.

Speicher was an F/A-18 Hornet pilot stationed aboard the carrier USS Saratoga when his aircraft was shot down by enemy fire over western Iraq on Jan. 17, 1991. His mission was part of the first manned strike of the air war over Iraq.

The Defense Department declared Speicher "killed-in-action/body-not-recovered" in May 1991. However, conflicting reports and intelligence information led then-Navy Secretary Richard Danzig to change his status to "missing in action" on Jan. 11, 2001.

That status was changed again in late 2002 to "missing-captured" based on sighting reports in Iraq that have since been discredited.

The intelligence community concluded in October that Speicher is deceased, although his remains were never found. Based on that assessment, Winter convened a status review board to consider changing his status to MIA.

March 16, 2009

Soldier Missing From Korean War Is Identified

The remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. He is **Sgt. 1st Class Patrick J. Arthur**, U.S. Army, of Broken Bow, Neb.

March 20, 2009

U.S. and Indian Officials Discuss WWII Recovery Missions

Officials of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) met today with representatives of the Indian government in New Delhi to lay the groundwork for future U.S.-Indian humanitarian operations in Arunachal Pradesh State.

During the meeting, the officials discussed a tentative timeline for future investigations and recoveries of aircraft crash sites associated with missing U.S. servicemen from World War II. In addition, they discussed cooperation in the areas of team security, medical support, logistical requirements and transportation.

There are more than 1,300 individuals missing from loss incidents - primarily aircraft crashes - in the region known as "the Hump" or the "China-Burma-India" theatre of operations in WWII. While it is impossible to say with certainty in which country a specific plane was lost, JPAC analysts estimate more than 400 Americans are unaccounted-for in this region.

Joe Martin Chairman

24. 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.

25. ROSTER CHANGES:

Department of Veterans Affairs, Hampton

VAVS Representative:

Robert P. Fairchild
P.O. Box 3082
Hampton, VA 23663
Post 3219
757-723-6502

Deputy VAVS Representative:

Leonard F. Horsfall
8108 Simons Dr

Norfolk, VA 23505

Post 4809
757-434-5498

Deputy VAVS Representative:

Charles G. Bohlinger
2007 Pageland Dr
Yorktown, VA 23093
Post 824
757-867-8522

Scouting Chairman:

Curtis (Stan) Hunter
7544 Millpond Ct
Warrenton, VA 20187

6364: Richard E. Nash, SVC
1823 B Bandera Dr.
Richmond, VA 23228

6364: Steve D. Whitson, CMDR
9506 Coalville Dr. Apt G
Richmond, VA 23294

7638: **Corrected Last Name**
Dennis T. Destrempes, QM
4578 Burnley Station Rd
Barboursville, VA 22923

26. SAFETY REPORT:

Posts who have **NOT** submitted a report as of March 20, 2009:

DIST. 1	7167													
DIST. 2	100%													
DIST. 3	1426	2583	11124											
DIST. 4	2163	7166	8048	8228	8759									
DIST. 5	873	7568	7800											
DIST. 6	2157	4165	4522	4920	7854	8184								
DIST. 7	100%													
DIST. 8	2524													
DIST. 9	100%													
DIST. 10	609	5412	7327											
DIST. 11	452	1499	2424	7701	8479	9339								
DIST. 12	6975	10310												
DIST. 13	1827	8436	10295											

Carl A Penning, III, Chairman

27. TRUSTEES:

Trustees shall not be eligible to serve on committees or as officers whose books, records and accounts are audited by the Trustees. Among the duties of the three (3) elected Post Trustees, they shall:

- a. At least monthly, review the Monthly Report of Receipts and Expenditures of the Post Quartermaster.
- b. Not later than the end of the month following the last day of each quarterly period, at the direction of the Post Commander, properly audit the books and records of the Post Quartermaster, Post Adjutant and any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of the Post and submit a Post Trustees Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector.
- c. The Report shall be in accordance with and upon such form as may be prescribed by the Adjutant General. The audit shall be signed by the Post Commander and Trustees, who shall, by their signatures, certify to the accuracy of the information contained therein.
- d. Perform such other duties as may be incident to the office or may from time to time be required by the laws and usages of the organization or lawful orders from proper authority.

Kim DeShano, ADJ/QM

28. VFW MILITARY FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP:

Now in its fourth year, this scholarship program has been expanded to members of the military, National Guard and Reserves, and anyone discharged within 36 months preceding the annual deadline of December 31. Fifty \$1,500 scholarships are awarded annually. Brochures that include the entry form are available at www.vfwdepartmentresources.org, or by contacting the VFW Programs office at 816-968-1116. The scholarship may be used for the spouse and/or children of the veteran.

Kim DeShano, ADJ/QM

29. VFW SPONSORED PROGRAMS PUT MONEY IN YOUR POCKET:

The VFW offers over 35 different products and programs to our members and their families.

The revenue generated through the sales of these products is shared with Departments based on the participation by members and posts. Your support of these programs is appreciated and vital to the financial health of the VFW and various veterans programs.

Please make the VFW your first stop when shopping for Post Liability, Medicare Supplement, Medicare Part D Prescription Plans, Pet, Cancer, Life, Long-Term Care and Vehicle Insurance. We also offer Annuities, Home Reliance Plans, Computers and the VFW Member Honor Roll.

If you have any questions or suggestions for new products, please send an email to Denise Edelman at dedelman@vfw.org or call 1-800-821-2606, Option 3.

Kim DeShano, ADJ/QM

30. 2009 – 2010 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES:

The 2009–2010 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Thomas Tradewell, Sr. The Voice of Democracy theme will be “**Does America Still Have Heroes?**” and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be “**When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?**” This information will be posted on the VFW website.

Don Hall, Chairman

31. YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

No report was received from the Chairman. We have used the records from Headquarters.

Congratulations to Districts 2, 7 and 9 for 100% reporting.

Posts who have **NOT** submitted a report as of March 20, 2009:

Dist. 1	2296	7196							
Dist. 2	100%								
Dist. 3	2583	11124							
Dist. 4	2163	8048	8228						
Dist. 5	873	7568	7800	8243					
Dist. 6	2157	4165	4522	4920	7854	8184			
Dist. 7	100%								
Dist. 8	2524								
Dist. 9	100%								
Dist. 10	609	5412	7327						
Dist. 11	452	8479	9339						
Dist. 12	6975	10310							
Dist. 13	1827	8436	10295						

John Miska, Chairman

Official:



Kim A. DeShano
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Harold Roesch, II
State Commander