

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 11

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Dedication and Excellence

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May 1, 2009

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Well it's already May, where has the year gone? Every Post should have had their elections and planned their installations. I sincerely hope that ALL elected officers are prepared to do the work of the VFW and not just wear the hat. This includes increasing membership and reporting the great things that your members do. Districts should be electing their officers this month, again, do not except a position unless you are willing to do the VFW business. It doesn't help the Dept. just to fill a position, if there is not enough members to fill the chairs, we may need to look at changing things.

The second half reporting period ends 30 April; all reports must be in by 11 May. There are several Posts that have not reported, Please get them in!! All community activities books must be at Department HQ not later than close of business 15 May.

I want to let you know what each District needs, in membership, to reach **100%**;
District 1- 70; Dist 2- 127; Dist 3- 157; Dist 4- 215; Dist 5- 151; Dist 6- 132; Dist 7- 43; Dist 8- 213; Dist 9- 83; **Dist 10-zero already 100.88%**; Dist 11- 149; Dist 12-150, and Dist 13-8. We still have time to reach our goal, every District has a couple of State Certified Recruiters. **USE THEM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

To the **56** Posts that have achieved 100% **CONGRATULATIONS!!!** Please keep on recruiting. As of today (20 Apr 2009) we still need 1,691 new/renewal or reinstated members. This can be done, if only we contact those members that have not renewed.

At the State Convention, Thursday June 11th will be awards night. The Dress Code will be casual, in prior years it has been really warm and I want everyone comfortable. If you would like to wear your Blues and Gray feel free. But slacks and collared shirts are fine.

Hal Roesch, II, State Commander

2. STATE CERTIFIED RECRUITERS:

Stephen Meade Post 7589 District 8, and Willie Taylor, Third District Commander, and Greg Woodruff were accidentally left off the State

Certified Recruiters list that was in the April General Orders.

3. WHY DOES VFW SEND SO MUCH MAIL?

Lately, I've been hearing some grumbling about the amount of fundraising mailings our members receive. I'd like to set the record straight. Because I really believe if everyone knew the sound reasoning behind our mailing schedule, it would clear up a lot of misunderstanding.

The fact is, dues paid by VFW members cover only 11% of the costs of VFW programs. So, without the generosity of members who respond to our fundraising mailings, America's veterans would not be able to rely on the VFW for help. It's that simple.

Think, too, about the demands we now face as an organization. Tens of thousands of troops are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan looking to us for help to make it through these tough times. Add this to an aging veterans' population, and the crisis of need becomes even clearer.

I understand that it may seem like you get mail from the VFW very frequently. But that just underscores how much we rely on you—and every VFW member—to help us fulfill our enduring commitment to "Helping Our Heroes." We don't want to turn even a single veteran away—ever.

However, please do know we are listening. And, we of the VFW are committed to doing everything in our power to make your membership valuable, convenient and a constant source of pride.

If you're concerned about the amount of mail you receive, I encourage you to join VFW's Partners in Patriotism program—an automatic giving option that puts you in the driver's seat. You can decide how much you want to contribute each month, quarter or year. Once enrolled in Partners in Patriotism, you will no longer receive fundraising mailings from VFW National Headquarters.

Getting started is easy. Simply call Donor Services at VFW National Headquarters, (816) 756-3390, ext. 6318. Someone will personally walk you through the simple process.

Thank you for your generosity and for never forgetting the men and women of America's military. God Bless America.

Allen "Gunner" Kent, Adjutant General

4. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1ST- Date: 5/9/09	10044 Pamunkey Rd., Mechanicsville
Meeting: 11 AM Meal After	Rep: John Edwards, St. Chief of Staff
Location: Post 7167 73 Washington Ave, Warsaw	
Rep:	
2ND- Date: 5/17/09	4TH- Date: 5/17/09
Lunch: 1:00 PM	Meeting: 2:00 PM
Meeting: 2:00 PM	Location: Post 622 1925 Johnson Rd, Petersburg
Location: Post 4809 5728 Bartee St, Norfolk	Rep: Jimmy Lee Wallace, PDC
Rep: Steve Lasseter, Surgeon	
3RD- Date: 5/9/09	5TH- Date: 5/23/09
Meeting: 10:00 AM	Meeting: Lunch at noon meeting to follow
Location: 3 rd District HQ	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

Meeting: 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM Brunch first
Location: Post 1503
 14631 Minnieville Rd., Dale City
Rep: Jim Martin, State JVC

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

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

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

12th- Date: 5/9/09
Registration: 10:00 AM
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: 8652
 Coeburn High School,
 314 School House Hill
 Dr, Coeburn
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

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

10th- Date: 5/3/09

5. 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 11th. 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. Gauger 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 April 20, 2009

DIST. 1	8629								
DIST. 2	100%								
DIST. 3	2583	11124							
DIST. 4	2163								
DIST. 5	873								
DIST. 6	2157	4522	4920	8184					
DIST. 7	100%								
DIST. 8	2524								
DIST. 9	100%								
DIST. 10	100%								
DIST. 11	452	8479							
DIST. 12	6975	10310							
DIST. 13	1827	10295							

J. Gary Wagner, Chairman

6. 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 2009 and is now **Due**.

Posts listed below have **NOT** submitted an Audit Report for the period ending March 31, 2009

DIST. 1	176	960	5500	6002	8629	9358								
DIST. 2	993	3160	4411	4809										
DIST. 3	1426	2583	6364	8046	8356	9224	9808	10387	10654	10657	11124			
DIST. 4	637	2163	7166	8163	8446	9954	10570							
DIST. 5	647	873	1115	2820	7568	7726	8243	8467						
DIST. 6	776	1033	1444	1841	2157	4165	4299	4318	5311	5895	7854	8184	9877	
DIST. 7	621	1860	2447	6044	9292									
DIST. 8	1177	2524	3103	7728	8208									
DIST. 9	7136	7360	9640	9696	9864									
DIST. 10	7327	7916	8469											
DIST. 11	452	632	1499	2424	4204	7814	8644	9339						
DIST. 12	3782	5715	6975	8979	9600	10298								
DIST. 13	1827	2044	2613	8947	10295	10546	10574							

7. **BLOGMASTER REPORT:**

Have Lap Top – Will Travel

This is a reminder to Department Officers, District/Post Commanders, Adjutants, and Quartermaster; your VFW webmail passwords will be reset immediately after the Department Convention in Richmond. Please let Incoming Officers know of the password change. This includes those Officers that are remaining in their previous year's position. I will have a laptop and will be at the Department Convention to assist you.

Jerry Peterson, BlogMaster

8. **BUDDY POPPIES:**

The distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Section 711 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of Buddy Poppies in their respective areas.

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

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

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

For more details on how your Post can participate, please contact Kim DeShano, Buddy Poppy Chairman at 800-888-3521.

9. **CLOSINGS:**

State Headquarters will be closed May 25, 2009 for Memorial Day.

10. **COMMANDER'S CLUB:**

The Commander's Club will hold its annual luncheon meeting at the Department Convention in June. The Commander's Club offers a low-key networking opportunity to share thoughts on leadership and community service

among the Department. We also provide honoraria for Voice of Democracy and other contest winners. Membership is open to all current and past Post, District, and Department Commanders and Cootie Seam Squirrels.

Eligible comrades (including Commanders-elect) who are not yet members may sign-up for the luncheon no later than June 1, 2009 provided they concurrently apply for membership. Please see Commanders Club Luncheon form attached to these General Orders.

M. C. "Connie" Agresti, Commanders Club President

11. 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 April 20, 2009

DIST. 1	100%							
DIST. 2	100%							
DIST. 3	2583	11124						
DIST. 4	2163	10570						
DIST. 5	873							
DIST. 6	2157	4522	4920	8184				
DIST. 7	100%							
DIST. 8	2524	7728						
DIST. 9	100%							
DIST. 10	100%							
DIST. 11	452	1499	8479					
DIST. 12	6975	10310						
DIST. 13	1827	2613	10295					

Lynn Harris, Chairman

12. DELL ALL-IN-ONE MODEL 948 PRINTER, COPIER, AND FAX MACHINE:

Through Gifts-In-Kind the Department received 200 Dell Model 948 All-In-One printers. The Department would like to give one printer to each Post who would like one. They must be for the VFW and not personal use. These are usable as a **printer, fax, and or printer**, some are new and some are refurbished, all come with ink, USB cable and manual. They do **NOT** require a computer to work as a copier or fax machine. (Fax machines requires a phone line hooked up to it). 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

13. FLAGS:

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG. The U.S. Flag should be half-staffed on Peace Officers Memorial Day on the 15th of May, unless it is Armed Forces Day; and Memorial Day, the last Monday in May (federal holiday - half-staff until noon).

FLAG DAY, JUNE 14. All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Saturday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. See the VFW Programs Chairmen's Guide, "It's About Service" for Fun Facts about the U.S. Flag. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizens Award for those who have daily displayed our National flag. Product No. 4385, VFW Emblem and Supply Department.

14. FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL ELIGIBILITY FOR WWII VETERANS:

U.S. veterans who helped in the liberation of France during WWII might be eligible to receive the French Legion of Honor Medal, previously issued only to WWI Vets. The French Government has asked the Secretary of VA for assistance in identifying qualified U.S. veterans for medal consideration, to be reviewed and approved by the Legion

of Honor Committee in Paris, France. French consulates in the U.S. will distribute approximately 100 medals each year. Members of the Army Air Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard who participated in one of the four major campaigns in the liberation of France (Normandy, Southern France, Northern France, and the Ardennes) are eligible.

Those applying must have written documentation (normally a copy of military separation order, DD-214, and other official orders, which verify military history during combat).

Any previous military awards such as the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, etc., would indicate meritorious actions during combat operations.

Copies of these documents should be forwarded with the request for consideration for the French Legion of Honor to the Defense Attache, Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Road, NW, Washington, DC 20007. For more information, call 202-944-6502 or FAX 202-944-6538.

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 REPORT:

Congratulations to Districts 2, 7, 9 and 10 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 fifth 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 April 20, 2009

Dist. 1	7167						
Dist. 2	100%						
Dist. 3	2583	11124					
Dist. 4	2163	8617	8759	8902			
Dist. 5	873	7568					
Dist. 6	2157	4522	4920	8184			
Dist. 7	100%						
Dist. 8	2524						
Dist. 9	100%						
Dist. 10	100%						
Dist. 11	452						
Dist. 12	10310						
Dist. 13	1827	2613	10295				

Steve Lasseter, Chairman

17. 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
- Nov 5-8, 2009 VFW Southern Conference, Corpus Christi, TX, Bayfront Rooms, \$99.00
- Jan 15-18, 2010 Council of Administration, Williamsburg, VA Room Rate: \$67.00

Aug 21-26, 2010

National VFW Convention, Indianapolis, IN

18. INSTALLING OFFICERS:

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 217 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed.

The installing officer shall ascertain that a Post Election Report has been mailed to National Headquarters prior to the installation. If a Post Election Report has not been forwarded to National Headquarters, the installing officer shall complete and forward such report at the time he installs the Post officers. Attention is directed to see that the proper amount of dues the Post charges is reported to National Headquarters.

Special Note: All Post Election Reports are to be forwarded directly to National Headquarters who will be responsible for forwarding to the Department.

19. LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

1. HELP NEEDED FOR ADVANCE FUNDING. Two Committees are considering implementation of advance funding for the Veterans Administration healthcare program (Senate 423 and House Resolution 1016). This means Congress will prepare and appropriate the VA's healthcare budget a full year in advance. President Obama has indicated that he supports this initiative. Advance funding is part of the VFW legislative package for this year. VFW National Commander Glen Gardner urges all 2.2 million members to contact their Senators and Representatives to vote for these measures.
2. RESOLUTIONS WANTED. Policy of the VFW is established by resolutions adopted by the delegates attending Department and National Conventions. Most such resolutions originate at the Post level and are passed through the District and Department before being acted upon at the National Convention. A resolution contains two separate parts: (1) a statement of the problem to be solved and (2) the proposed solution to the problems. The problem is outlined in the "WHEREAS" clauses, and the proposed solution is given in the "RESOLVED" section. Any resolutions to be considered at the State Convention in June must be submitted to the State Quartermaster not later than May 15, 2009. A notation on the bottom of the resolution should show the previous action taken...approved by Post and/or District. Anyone in need of assistance or further information may contact JB Young at e-mail jrbubba3@juno.com or telephone (703) 329-1357.
3. NATIONAL BY-LAW CHANGES. Proposed amendments to the National by-laws are not submitted via resolutions. Such proposal must be definite and specific as to the material to be deleted or added, containing the exact wording of the proposed change. Recommendation from Post and/or District level must be presented to the State Convention for approval in order to be considered at the National Convention. Anyone interested in submission of a By-Law, Manual of Procedures & Ritual, or Congressional Charter amendment need to contact JB Young at e-mail jrbubba3@juno.com or telephone (703) 329-1357 for guidance.

J. B. Young, Chairman

20. 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). |

21. 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](#) 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

22. 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

23. 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

24. MILITARY WOMENS ADVOCACY:

The Veterans Administration (www.va.gov) has recently redoubled its efforts to address the health concerns of the growing population of women veterans. In addition to establishing the Center for Women Veterans (www1.va.gov/womenvet) and securing the Congressional charter for the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, the Veterans Administration has dedicated resources to help women veterans seeking health care. The VA's Veterans Health Administration formed the Women Veterans Health Care Strategic Health Care Group (www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth) to ensure that timely, equitable, high-quality, comprehensive health care services are provided in a sensitive and safe environment at VA health care facilities nationwide. Each VA medical facility should be staffed with at least one full time Women Veteran Program Manager who assists and coordinates primary and specialty health care services for women veterans, and serves as the local champion for women veterans and their health care needs.

If you cannot locate the Women Veteran Program Manager at your local VA health facility, please contact the facility administrator, and notify me so that I can report the service lapse to the Veterans Administration national leadership.

Margo Sheridan, Chairman

25. NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM:

This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time to outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards. For more information, see the 2009 – 2010 VFW "It's About Service" Programs Chairmen's Guide or contact the VFW Programs department at 816-968-1148 for a nomination form.

26. NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN:

"The VFW Riders of the Department of Virginia basically from the Hampton Roads area are currently planning a bike ride to the National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan over the 4th of July weekend along with other Posts over the nation Riders from Virginia are holding fundraisers to raise money for the National Home they would like our Virginia Posts to do the same and forward the Money collected to the Virginia State Headquarters until July when they will pair up with other VFW organizations and take the money (Hand Carried) and present it to the

National Home for Children. Anyone needing or desiring more information can contact me at WJLVFW1@AOL.COM or phone 703-354-0568 and I will get you an answer. Go Team!"

W. J. Leonard, Chairman

27. NATIONAL MEETINGS:

The following changes to the meeting schedule have been approved by the National line officers for the organization. After the 2009 National Convention the following meetings and conferences will no longer be held.

March - Mid-Winter Conference in different parts of the country

September - Fall Legislative Committee Meeting

April - Department Senior Vice Commanders/Adjutants & Quartermasters Conference

The following meetings and conferences will take place:

October - National Council of Administration Meeting, always first weekend in October.

October, 2009 - Department Junior Vice Commanders Conference

Department Junior Vice Commanders will meet every year in October until 2012, when this meeting will be moved to the third week in August. All newly elected Department Quartermasters and newly appointed Department Adjutants will also be invited to attend the Department Junior Vice Commanders Conference.

All newly elected Department Quartermasters and newly appointed Department Adjutants that did not attend the 2009 Department Senior Vice Commanders/Adjutants and Quartermasters Conference will be invited to attend the 2009 Department Junior Vice Commanders Conference.

A survey is being sent to all Department Adjutants and Quartermasters, to get their input on how often they believe they should attend a conference for briefings and updates. After the survey is returned to this office, a determination will be made as to how often the Department Adjutants and Quartermasters will attend the Department Junior Vice Commanders Conference.

March, 2010 - Legislative Meeting in Washington, DC, will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. The meeting will always be scheduled the first weekend of March with the following attending:

Legislative Committee
Department Commanders
Department Senior Vice Commanders
Chairman and Vice Chairmen
National Council of Administration
Past Commanders-in-Chief

National Officers and Foundation staff arrive Friday
Sgt-at-Arms, Past Commanders-in-Chief, National Council of Administration members, and all other invitees should plan their arrival for Saturday and departure for Wednesday.

Voice of Democracy students will move back to the Holiday Inn in 2010.

Legislative Meeting in Washington Agenda:

Saturday morning – Foundation Board Meeting

Saturday afternoon – National Officers Assignment Meeting

Sunday morning meetings – Budget and Finance, PAC, NVS Advisory Committee, Legislative Committee plus any other meetings deemed necessary by the Commander-in-Chief.

Sunday afternoon meeting – National Council of Administration

Sunday evening – Parade of Winners – Winners to be announced, no VOD luncheon or VOD dinner, checks will be presented at students' schools

Monday

7:30a.m. – 11:00a.m. Joint Opening – Media award, teacher's awards and any C-in-C medals will be presented

11:00a.m. – Noon Lunch

Noon – 2:00 p.m. Commander-in-Chief meets with Department Commanders to discuss current membership year, membership trip, convention and misc.

Noon – 6:00p.m. Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief meets with Department Senior Vice Commanders, Adjutant General, Quartermaster General and DC staff to update Senior Vice Commanders on their upcoming year

Monday afternoon - Legislative Committee –goes to hill

Tuesday morning – Commander-in-Chief Testimony – all representatives attending the conference will attend the Commander-in-Chief Testimony - Department Commanders will take Department Senior Vice Commanders to the hill to be introduced to State Representatives and discuss issues

Tuesday evening – Congressional Reception - Congressional Award presented

Wednesday - depart

The 2011 Conference will be held at a yet to be named hotel in Crystal City.

28. 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.

29. POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE:

Please Register and Vote!

This is from "The Veterans' Voice", a publication of the VFW Political Action Committee:

"More than 90% of the candidates endorsed by the VFW-PAC were elected to office. These are allies willing to fight for the issues that matters to veterans, service members and their families. When veterans unite, America listens".

Please understand that the VFW-PAC endorsement does not review any other issue the candidate supports other than veterans issues.

It is imperative that the Department Officers from the State Commander on down emphasizes the importance of Comrades participating in the political process to insure the rights of our Veterans are championed.

Our collective **VOICE** makes a difference.

Jerry Peterson, Chairman

30. **POW/MIA:**

April 02, 2009

Airman Missing From Vietnam War is Identified

The remains of a U.S. airman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. He is **Lt. Col. Earl P. Hopper Jr.**, U.S. Air Force, of Phoenix, Ariz. He is to be buried on April 3 at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix.

April 03, 2009

Soldiers Missing In Action From The Korean War Are Identified

The remains of four U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors. They are **Cpl. Samuel C. Harris Jr.**, of Rogersville, Tenn; **Cpl. Lloyd D. Stidham**, of Beattyville, Ky.; **Cpl. Robert G. Schoening**, of Blaine, Wash; and **one serviceman whose name is being withheld** pending a briefing to his family. All men were U.S. Army. Harris will be buried April 10 in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., Stidham will be buried April 13 in Nicholasville, Ky., and Schoening will be buried June 19 in Arlington. Representatives from the Army's Mortuary Office met with these service members' next-of-kin to explain the recovery and identification process and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the secretary of the Army. These soldiers were assigned to Company C, 65th Combat Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division.

April 16, 2009

Soldier Missing In Action From 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 **Pfc. David Woodruff**, U.S. Army, of Poplar Bluff, Mo. He will be buried on April 22 in St. Louis, Mo. Representatives from the Army's Mortuary Office met with Woodruff's next-of-kin to explain the recovery and identification process on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

Joe Martin
POW/MIA Chairman

31. **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.

32. **ROSTER CHANGES:**

PDC: Marshall Guy, PDC
Marshall9013@yahoo.com

7814:

Melissa Patrick, CMDR
10 Bagby St
Staunton, VA 24401
(540)886-6731

33. SAFETY REPORT:

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

DIST. 1	100%								
DIST. 2	100%								
DIST. 3	2583	11124							
DIST. 4	2163	8048							
DIST. 5	873								
DIST. 6	2157	4165	4522	4920	8184				
DIST. 7	100%								
DIST. 8	2524								
DIST. 9	100%								
DIST. 10	5412								
DIST. 11	452	7701							
DIST. 12	6975	10310							
DIST. 13	1827	8717	10295						

Carl A Penning, III, Chairman

34. SCOUTING REPORT:

The Scouting team met Saturday, April 18, 2009 at Third District and reviewed 9 applications from 9 districts and selected Ian Turner Gibson as the Scout of the year for Virginia. Ian is sponsored by Post 392 from Virginia Beach and the 2nd District. Ian is a really outstanding Scout who hopes to become an orthopedic surgeon. We have extended invitation to him and family to participate in our 11 June award ceremony. Ian's Father is a VFW member of the Post 392.

Stan Hunter, Chairman

35. VOD/PATRIOT'S PEN:

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME! April is the perfect month to begin contacting schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships. The new Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy student entry forms are available at www.vfw.org or www.vfwdepartmentresources.org.

36. VOD, PATRIOT'S PEN & TEACHER OF THE YEAR CREDIT:

If your Post participated in Patriot's Pen, VOD, and Teacher of the Year programs please check the reports spreadsheet on the web at <http://www.vfwva.org/Reports/districtreport.htm> and verify that your Post was given credit. If you have not been given credit contact your District Chairman or District Commander before the judging deadline. Do not wait until judging to say that you participated as it will be too late.

37. 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

38. YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

There is still time to **Make** a Youth report for this Half. Call me for Ideas. (434)760-1940

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

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

Dist. 1	176	960							
Dist. 2	100%								
Dist. 3	2583	6364	8529	9808	10387	10657	11124		
Dist. 4	2163	7819	8048	8228	8759	8617	9855		
Dist. 5	873	4637	8243	10840					
Dist. 6	484	776	1444	2157	4165	4299	4522	4920	8184
Dist. 7	100%								
Dist. 8	1811	2524	3103	7589					
Dist. 9	100%								
Dist. 10	5412	8241							
Dist. 11	452	632	4204	7701	7814	8279	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



STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

State Convention will be held June 11 – 14, 2009 at the

Sheraton Richmond West Hotel –
6624 West Broad Street -
Richmond - 804-285-2000

The banquet/dance will be held on June 13th.

You will **NOT** be able to purchase banquet/dance tickets the weekend of the Convention. Dance tickets may be pre-purchased or they will be available at the registration table.

You **MUST** PRE-REGISTER FOR THE BANQUET/DANCE (NO REFUNDS)

Banquet/Dance Tickets: \$40.00
Dance Tickets Only: \$ 5.00

Your choice of:

Sliced Peppercorn Encrusted Sirloin

Alaskan Salmon with Lemon Caper Butter

Both Served with:

Garden Salad
Warm Rolls and Butter
Southwestern Potato Cakes
Green Beans Almandine
Strawberry Shortcake

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

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY June 5, 2009 No Exceptions No Refunds after June 5th
Check, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name) _____ Phone: _____

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

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ **Food Choice:** (circle) Sirloin or Salmon **Dance Only** (circle)
Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ **Food Choice:** (circle) Sirloin or Salmon **Dance Only** (circle)
Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ **Food Choice:** (circle) Sirloin or Salmon **Dance Only** (circle)
Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ **Food Choice:** (circle) Sirloin or Salmon **Dance Only** (circle)
Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ **Food Choice:** (circle) Sirloin or Salmon **Dance Only** (circle)
Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ **Food Choice:** (circle) Sirloin or Salmon **Dance Only** (circle)
Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ **Food Choice:** (circle) Sirloin or Salmon **Dance Only** (circle)

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

Please Circle One: MasterCard or Visa or Discover

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

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

You may e-mail this form to: stateheadquarters@va.vfwwebmail.com or fax to: 1-866-416-0586

87th ANNUAL CONVENTION
 DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
 SHERATON RICHMOND WEST – RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
 JUNE 11-14, 2009

Eugene Chavis
 Convention Chairman

Joseph T. Horan
 Convention Vice Chairman

**Thursday,
 June 11, 2009**

1:00 PM	5:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	BALLROOM FOYER
9:30 AM	1:00 PM	REGISTRATION, MOC	BALLROOM FOYER
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING	CHESAPEAKE
11:00 AM	NOON	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATOR MEETING	CHESAPEAKE
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICES	BALLROOM B/C/D
6:00 PM	10:30 PM	JOINT PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	BALLROOM B/C/D

**Friday,
 June 12, 2009**

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

**Saturday,
 June 13, 2009**

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

**Sunday,
 June 14, 2009**

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

Registration \$3.00 (All persons are required to register)
 FRIDAY DANCE: \$10.00 per person

SATURDAY BANQUET/DANCE TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED- THEY CAN NOT BE PURCHASED AT THE CONVENTION - THIS YEAR YOU MAY PURCHASE A TICKET TO THE SATURDAY DANCE FOR \$5.00 & TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE CONVENTION

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

HOSPITALITY ROOMS

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