



Honoring the Dead, Serving the Living and Assisting the Community

NUMBER 7

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

FAX: 866-416-0586

Website: www.vfwva.org

Email: stateheadquarters@va.vfwwebmail.com

January 1, 2012

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades, I hope each of you and your family had great holidays. With the New Year now behind us, we have less than 4 months for reporting our activities. As I have traveled around the State and read the many Posts' newsletters that I received, I find it amazing that much of the work you have done has not been reported to the State. Reporting of this time and funds expended is necessary to give your Post and the VFW proper recognition and assist and getting favorable legislation passed that will benefit veterans.

I want to thank you that are continuing to work membership. A special thanks to the Posts that are now 100%. In addition to the Posts listed last month, Posts 4411, 8545, 7059, 8241, 7814, 8479, and 7638 are now 100%. Now is the time to aggressively work your unpaid as well as obtain new ones. Letters, phone calls, and visits can go a long way and getting and retaining members.

Post Commanders, I would like to remind you of a few important duties of Post Commanders. (1) Assure that all reports are correctly prepared and promptly forwarded. (2) Assure the Post's book have been examined and the Post Trustees Quarterly Report prepared no later than the last day of the month following last day of each quarterly period.

Yours in Comradeship,
Charlie Absher
Department Commander

2. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1ST - Date: 2/4/2012
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 176, Newport News
21 Forest Drive
Rep: Margo Sheridan,
Department Sr. Vice Commander

2ND - Date: 3/10/12
Lunch: Noon
Meeting: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 4411, Franklin
32414 John Beverly Rose Drive
Rep: Tom Gimble,
Department Chief of Staff

3RD - Date:

Meeting: 10 AM lunch to follow
Location: 3rd District Headquarters
 10044 Pamunkey Rd,
 Mechanicsville

Rep:

4TH - Date: 2/4/12
Meeting: 2:00 PM
Location: Post 7819, Crewe
 Crewe Fire/Rescue Bldg US 460
Rep: Charlie Absher,
 Department Commander

5TH - Date: 2/4/2012
Meeting: 12:00 PM
Location: Post 647, Danville
 275 VFW Drive
Rep: Buddy Weekley,
 Department Judge Advocate

6TH - Date: 2/12/12
Meeting: 2:00 PM
Location: Bldg 5 & Chapel
 VA Medical Center, Salem
 Sponsored by Post 4920
Rep: Charlie Absher,
 Department Commander

7th - Date: 3/11/12
Lunch: 11:30 AM
Meeting: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 8613, Shenandoah
 1103 Varina Ave
Rep: Charlie Absher,
 Department Commander

8th - Date: 1/8/12
Meeting: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 7589, Manassas
 9304 Centerville Road
Rep: Buddy Weekley,
 Department Judge Advocate

9th - Date: 1/15/12
Registration: 10:00 AM
Lunch: 12:00 noon
Meeting: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 6000, Narrows
 206 Hare Street
Rep: Margo Sheridan,
 Department Sr. Vice Commander

10th - Date: 2/19/2012
Lunch: 11:30 AM
Meeting: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 8241, McLean
Rep: Chris Birch
 Department Jr. Vice Commander

11th - Date: 1/08/12
Lunch: 11:30 AM
Meeting: 12:30 PM
Location: Post 2216, Staunton
 212 Frontier Drive
Rep: Charlie Absher,
 Department Commander

12th - Date: 2/25/12
Registration: 10:00 AM
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 9830, Damascus
 29489 Mountain City Hwy
Rep: Margo Sheridan,
 Department Sr. Vice Commander

13th - Date: 1/29/12
Meeting: 1:00 PM lunch to follow
Location: Post 10574, Colonial Beach
 107 Hawthorne Ave
Rep: Charlie Absher,
 Department Commander

3. ALL AMERICAN PROGRAM 2011-2012:

Please review and follow the current requirements for this year's program. The deadlines for this year have changed. The deadline for completion of all criteria is June 30, 2012. However, in order to have your awards presented at the National Convention in Reno, all requirements must be met and reported by no later than June 15, 2012.

4. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

Annual members are reminded that their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States expires December 31, 2011, unless their 2012 dues are paid and reported to National Headquarters. Every effort should be made to renew the membership of continuous members and also sign up new and reinstated members prior to January 1, 2012.

5. CLOSINGS:

State Headquarters will be closed January 2, 2012 for New Year's and January 16, 2012 for Dr. Martin Luther King Day.

6. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES:

New representatives join Department of Veterans Services Fairfax and Staunton offices

RICHMOND—Helen Pickard and Martino Seisa have joined the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) as Veterans Claims Agents in the agency's Fairfax office, effective December 12, 2011. The Fairfax office is located at 11198 Lee Highway, Suite D-4, Fairfax. The phone number is 703-359-1210.

Sharon Hammonds joined the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) as a Veterans Claims Agent in the agency's Staunton office, effective November 10, 2011. The office is located in the Greenbrier Office Complex, Building 1, Suite 17B, 1600 North Coalter Street, Staunton. The phone number is 540-332-7840.

The new agents will work one-on-one with veterans and their families helping them obtain benefits and entitlements at the local, state, and federal levels. DVS representatives help veterans apply for medical services, disability benefits for conditions resulting from or aggravated by military service, and disability benefits due to secondary medical conditions resulting from military service. As an example, Diabetes Mellitus, type II, is presumptive by law to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange. DVS representatives can assist veterans exposed to Agent Orange who have developed diabetes with preparing and submitting disability claims.

DVS representatives also assist with other types of claims, such as veterans compensation and pension claims, dependency and indemnity compensation for widows/widowers and children of disabled veterans, widows' pensions, dependents' education, veteran home loans, and death benefit claims. In short, Picard and Martino will serve as advocates for veterans, helping them with their paperwork, tracking claims, and representing veterans if they need to appeal a claim.

Helen Pickard served four years in the U. S. Air Force. She has held positions as police dispatcher, local veteran's employment representative, and information and referral specialist in state and local agencies in California and Virginia. Most recently she served as a military and veterans representative II in California. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in business economics.

Martino Seisa served in the U. S. Navy from 1981 until 2006. His most recent position was with Hopper Information Services Center where he was employed as a command senior enlisted leader.

Sharon Hammonds served in the U.S. Air Force for five years. Most recently she worked as a records manager at Christopher Newport University. She holds an Associate's degree in personnel administration.

Statewide, DVS operates 22 benefit services offices where representatives assist veterans and their family members with filing claims for veteran's benefits. DVS operates the Virginia Veterans Care Center, a 240-bed long-term care center in Roanoke, and the 160-bed Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond. The agency coordinates the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, and also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements. And, DVS operates three veterans' cemeteries: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

For more information about DVS, visit <http://www.VirginiaforVeterans.com>.

7. 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.

8. IMPORTANT DATES:

January 20-22, 2012 Council of Administration, Williamsburg, VA Room Rate: \$68.00. The deadline for reservations was December 28, 2011. Call 800-227-6963.

June 7-10, 2012 State Convention, Williamsburg, VA Room Rate: \$85.00. The deadline for reservations is May 16, 2012, to insure group rates. Call 800-227-6963.

9. IRS:

Organizations exempt from income tax under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code are generally required to file Form 990 by the 15th day of the fifth month following the close of their accounting fiscal year. For the 2010 Tax Year (tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010), if the organization's annual gross receipts are normally more than \$50,000, the organization must file Form 990 or 990-EZ. Small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less are required to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard. There is no penalty assessment for late filling the e-Postcard, but an organization that fails to file required information returns for three consecutive years will automatically lose its tax-exempt status. The revocation of the organization's tax exempt status will not take place until the filing due date of the third year.

Gross receipts are considered to be normally less than \$50,000 if the organization:

1. Has been in existence for 1 year or less and received, or donors have pledged to give, \$75,000 or less during its first taxable year;
2. Has been in existence between 1 and 3 years and averaged \$60,000 or less in gross receipts during each of its first two tax years; and
3. Is at least 3 years old and averaged \$50,000 or less in gross receipts for the immediately preceding 3 tax years (including the year for which the calculations are being made).

If annual gross receipts are normally more than \$50,000, the organization must file Form 990 or 990-EZ. For the 2010 Tax Year, if an organization has gross receipts less than \$200,000 and total assets less than \$500,000, it may file form 990-EZ. However, if either gross receipts or total assets are above those limits, Form 990 must be filed.

For purposes of filing requirements, gross receipts include: total contributions; gifts and grants; program service revenue; membership dues and assessments; gross investment income (including interest, dividends, gross rents, and other investment income); gross income from the sale of assets other than inventory; gross income from special fundraising events; gross sales net of return allowances; and any other revenue.

IRS regulations require that all tax-exempt organizations make both their Application for Exemption and 990's for the last three years available for public inspection at their principal office and provide copies in response to written requests, subject to the payment of reasonable fees. There are substantial penalties for violation of these regulations.

10. LEGACY LIFE MEMBER CONTEST:

Department Commanders who increase their Legacy Life members in their Department by May 31, 2012, will receive a \$300 cash award. ***A minimum of on new legacy life member per one thousand members in your Department is needed to qualify.

District Commanders that increase the legacy life members in their District by May 31, 2012, will receive a \$200 cash award. ***A minimum of one new legacy life member per number of Posts within your District is needed to qualify.

Post Commanders who sign up new legacy life members by May 31, 2012, will be placed in a drawing and six winners will be selected. ***You will receive on ballot for a new Bronze member, two ballots for new Silver members, three ballots for new Gold members and one ballot for level upgrades. The six winning Commanders will receive round-trip airfare to the National Convention in Reno, Nevada for the Commander and their spouse, \$500 expense stipend, and special seating at the Joint Opening ceremonies on Monday.

11. LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

Please pass the word on our Life Legacy Program available to all Life Members. This program offers three levels of membership each offering its own packages of prestigious benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life Member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law. What Legacy will you leave?

Enrollment Cost: **Annual Payouts**
(Natl., Dept. & Post):

Gold - \$1200	\$18.00
Silver - \$800	\$12.00
Bronze - \$400	\$6.00

12. LEGISLATIVE DAY ON THE HILL:

We will conduct our annual visit to the Virginia General Assembly on 19 January 2011 before the Winter Conference. Participants will meet at Post 9808, Mechanicsville at 7:30 AM. We will review legislative issues and make Team Assignments for visits with our Delegates and Senators. We will depart for the General Assembly Building on the Capitol Square at 8:30 AM. Post 9808 will provide bus transportation for those who desire it. As many comrades as possible are encouraged to attend. Suggested dress: Blue and Greys or suit and tie with VFW caps.

Dan Boyer
Legislative Chairman

13. MEMBERSHIP:

The new year is now upon us and when the meeting is called to order the Officer of the Day should double check those membership cards. Annual membership expires on the 31st of December and those who have not renewed are not members in good standing. We continue to lag behind in the renewal of our annual members. We are presently standing at less than 85% in membership in the Department as I write this message and less than half of our Comrades with annual memberships have renewed their membership for this year.

In order to assist your Post in getting our annual members to renew I have provided all Post Commanders with a copy of a "sample" letter that can be sent to these members to emphasize the importance of renewing their membership. If you haven't seen these letters it's probably because they haven't checked their VFW Webmail account. I have also provided them with a "sample" letter that can be used to encourage previously unpaid members to come back on board and reinstate their membership. These letters are provided as a guide so that you don't have to write one from scratch if you don't want to. You can download them and then modify them to meet the needs of your Post. If you want to save money on postage and you have the member's e-mail address send the message that way. It is past time to reach out to these folks and get them to renew. A personal letter or message from the Post Commander sure can't hurt that effort. Better yet is a phone call or personal visit to those members. Whatever course of action you decide to take, please do it NOW!

C. D. "Doc" Crouch
Membership Committee

14. RECRUITER CREDITS:

It is the Quartermaster's responsibility to ensure that all recruiter information is properly recorded. New/Reinstated memberships entered online, or submitted through National Headquarters, without recruiter information will not be changed afterward.

15. RECRUITING:

The new year is now upon us and we are entering the last half of our administrative year. We are presently less than 5% in new and reinstated members and that means we're not on track for a good recruiting year. We are also lagging behind again in the renewal of our annual members. As I noted last month the weather is going to play an important role in getting volunteers to go out and recruit but it's a task that must to be done. If your Post is going to succeed you are going to have to go out get those new members in order to grow your membership. More members mean more potential volunteers to assist in carrying out our programs and other Post efforts. We should be trying to get 10 percent new and reinstated members for each and every Post. That can't be done just sitting around over a cup of coffee waiting for spring.

If you need assistance please don't hesitate to contact me. There are a number of Certified State Recruiters around the state that can help you. They are willing to do so if we know in advance where and when your Post is setting up a recruiting drive. All members should also carry a VFW Membership Application with them wherever they go. You never know when you will run into an eligible veteran who is not a member. Don't just give them the application and expect to get them to follow through with it. Get it filled out along with the proper payment and then bring them to the next meeting. There are a lot of potential members out there and all we have to do is ask them to join NOW! If you have any questions or need help please contact me at cgdc1@juno.com or (703) 319-0845.

C. D. "Doc" Crouch
Membership

16. REPORTING:

Comrades to view whether your Post has submitted an Audit Report, Americanism, Community Service, Safety, Youth or Hospital report you will have to visit the Department website (www.vfwva.org).

We update the website weekly usually on Friday. We hope this will eliminate the confusion of whether or not your Post has been credited with submitting a report. Due to the delay of printing and mailing the monthly General Orders, sometimes, the information is over 3 weeks old in the General Orders. If you have any questions please call State Headquarters.

There will be no form for Homeless when reporting for assistance to a homeless veteran please put it on a Community Activity report under aid to others.

17. ROSTER CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES:

1st Lt Honor Guard
Herb DeGroft
15411 Mill Swamp Road
Smithfield, VA 23430

General Membership Meeting Date Change for VFW
Post 7327 January Meeting will be on Tuesday 17th.

Commander District 13
Correct Address
William Hooks, Jr.
253 Darl Circle
Colonial Beach, VA 22443

Jr. Vice Commander VFW Post 392
John Brooks
1374 Skyhawk Cir Apt 204
Virginia Beach, VA 23454
757-425-2714

Commander VFW Post 776
New Address
Gary Harris
402 9th Street
Radford, VA 24141

New Officers VFW Post 1994
Commander
George Coalson
18356 Surrey Lane
Abingdon, VA 24210

Sr. Vice Commander
Timothy Mowery
16184 Baytree Road
Bristol, VA 24202

Jr. Vice Commander
William H. Sexton
18407 Repass Street
Abingdon, VA 24210
276-628-6851

Quartermaster VFW Post 3219
New Address
Joe Longstreet
530 Price Street
Hampton, VA 23663

Commander VFW Post 5500
New Address
Antoine Toti III
442 Morrison Ave
Newport News, VA 23601
757-596-1393

Quartermaster VFW Post 7701
Thornton W. Purvis
1746 High Peck Lane
Shipman, VA 22971
434-263-5656

18. SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING:

There will be Service Officer training in Williamsburg on Saturday, January 21st from 9 am to 4 pm.

19. SPECIAL ORDERS:

His eligibility to membership having been questioned under the provisions of Section 108 of the National By-Laws and the veteran having failed to submit proof of campaign medal service which would qualify for membership, it is hereby ordered that the name of Raleigh E. Fitzgerald, Life Membership No. 1485054, be removed from the rolls of Crimora-

Dooms, Post No. 452, Crimora, Virginia, and his membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States terminated by reason of ineligibility.

By order of
Richard L. DeNoyer
Commander-in-Chief

20. STATE CONVENTION:

The State Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Fort Magruder in Williamsburg, VA on June 7-10, 2012.

21. TEACHER OF THE YEAR WINNERS:

Elementary School: Rachel B Johnson, LaCrosse Elementary, LaCrosse. Sponsored by Post 7166
Middle School: Dennita Miskimen, Manchester Middle School, Richmond. Sponsored by Post 2239
High School: Michelle Webb, Heritage High School, Newport News. Sponsored by Post 5500

22. TELEVISION RAFFLE:

Support VFW programs and purchase your TV raffle tickets \$1.00 each or 11 tickets for \$10.00. The drawing will be held during the Winter Council Banquet in Williamsburg on January 21, 2012 at 9 pm. Contact your Post or District Commander for tickets. All tickets sold should be received at Department Headquarters by January 17th or brought to Winter Council.

- **1st prize-Toshiba 55 inch LCD/Flat Screen TV**
- **2nd prize- Toshiba 46 inch LCD/Flat Screen TV**
- **3rd prize- Toshiba 40 inch LCD/Flat Screen TV**

23. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNERS:

The Department judging for the Voice of Democracy was held on Saturday, December 17, 2011 and listed below are the results:

1st Place	Post 1211, 2nd District	Megan C. Vazgues
2 nd Place	Post 824, 1st District	Matthew T. Hain
3rd Place	Post 609, 10th District	Matthew Krause

Thanks to everyone for your participation in the program.

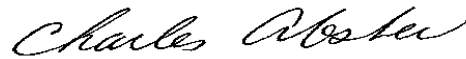
Buddy Weekley
VOD Chairman

Official:



Kim A. DeShano
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Charles Absher
State Commander

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND
LADIES AUXILIARY

Winter Council of Administration Meeting
January 20 - January 22, 2012
Crowne Plaza Williamsburg at Fort Magruder
Williamsburg, Virginia
1-800-227-6963

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012

3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Information Table Open	Petersburg Hall Foyer
5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Ladies Auxiliary Line Officers Meeting	Dept. President's Room
6:30 PM	7:00 PM	District Presidents' Meeting w/Program Chairman	General Hill's/McClellan's
7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Ladies Auxiliary Council Meeting	General Hill's/McClellan's
9:00 PM	1:00 AM	Military Order of the Cootie Dance	General Emory's

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2012

8:00 AM	3:00 PM	Information Table Open	Petersburg Hall Foyer
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	Commanders Club Meeting	Petersburg Hall
8:15 AM	8:45 AM	Ladies Auxiliary Floor Practice	General Hill's/McClellan's
9:00 AM	9:30 AM	National Military Services Workshop	Petersburg Hall
9:00 AM	2:00 PM	Ladies Auxiliary Conference Meeting	General Hill's/McClellan's
9:00 AM	4:00 PM	Service Officer Training	Jefferson Davis Amphitheater
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Proper Procedure for Conducting A Post Meeting	Petersburg Hall
10:00 AM	NOON	MOC Council of Administration Meeting	Lees
10:30 AM	11:30 PM	Membership & Recruiting Workshop	Petersburg Hall
11:30 AM	1:00 PM	Cash Lunch furnished by Hotel	
1:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW Council of Administration Meeting	Petersburg Hall
2:30 PM	3:00 PM	Ladies Auxiliary Program Chairmen	Dept. President's Room
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	MOCA Council of Administration Meeting	Lees
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Reception	General Emory's
6:30 PM	9:00 PM	Banquet-Guest Speaker – Tommy Tradewell	Richmond Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Joint Devotional Service	Longstreet
9:30 AM	NOON	Ladies Auxiliary Conference, if needed	Richmond Hall
9:30 AM	NOON	VFW Council of Admin. Meeting, if needed	Petersburg Hall

BANQUET TICKETS: \$45.00

Includes Reception and Banquet. THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE.

FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE.

Department Hospitality Room 267, Tenth District Hospitality Room 467 and
Third District Hospitality Room 367

(Tentative schedule subject to change)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 7th

WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 20-22, 2012

Crown Plaza Williamsburg at Fort Magruder ~ Williamsburg, Virginia ~ 800-227-6963 ~
68.00 Per night

(Group Rate Deadline is December 28th)

PRE REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET
\$45.00 INCLUDES RECEPTION AND DINNER BANQUET

**ALL TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED. THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS
SOLD AT THE WINTER COUNCIL MEETING.**

There will be no Dance Saturday night.

Dinner Menu

Your choice of:

Braised Beef Short Ribs

~or~

Braised Chicken with Herbed Cream Sauce

Both Served with:

Chef's Choice of Fresh Vegetable and Starch
Salad with Assorted Dressings Warm Rolls and Butter Dessert
Freshly Brewed Coffee/Decaffeinated Coffee/Herbal Teas/Iced Tea

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **JANUARY 13, 2012 (NO EXCEPTIONS)**
Check, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name) _____ Phone: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SIGNATURE: _____

Mail form to: State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401

You may also e-mail this form to: stateheadquarters@va.vfwwebmail.com or fax it to: 1-866-416-0586 if paying by Credit Card only

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