

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

General Orders No. 9

2017-18 Series

1. Installing officers are directed to see to it that the Post Election Report forms have been completed and submitted to National Headquarters. If a Post Election Report form has not been forwarded to National Headquarters at the time of installation, the installing officer shall complete and forward such report at the time of the installation of Post Officers no later than June 1. We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters. Additionally, Section 413 of the National By-Laws requires that a properly completed District Election Report be submitted to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention.
2. Post, District, Department Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters are reminded of the requirements of Sections 216, 416 and 516 of the Manual of Procedure with regard to proof of eligibility for all newly-elected and appointed officers. Elected and appointed officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Failure or refusal to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment shall result in the office being declared vacant.
3. Department Adjutants will forward a complete roster of the newly elected and appointed Department Officers to include District Commanders to the Adjutant General immediately following their installation at the Department Convention.
4. Attention of Department Quartermasters is directed to Section 518 of the Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Department Quartermaster" paragraph (f) Dues Reserves, which states: "Maintain a dues reserve fund as prescribed in Section 717 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure."
5. Attention is further directed to Section 518 of the Manual of Procedure, "Duty of the Department Quartermaster" paragraph (k) Budget, which states: "Prepare a tentative balanced budget for the financial operations of the ensuing year. The budget once adopted by the Department Council of Administration shall be forwarded to the Adjutant General by November 1."
6. Attention is called to the provisions of Section 703 of the National By-Laws which require that each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these By-Laws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department, District, County Council or Post, as the case may be, to which each officer is accountable. The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit.
7. Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure requires that the Post Commander shall see that the Post Trustees Reports of Audit are properly prepared and submitted each quarter.
8. Attention of incoming Post Officers is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure which outlines the duties of various Post Officers.
9. Attention is directed to the provision of Section 222 (d) of the National By-Laws, "Each Post will pay, in advance, a national convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for

the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the national convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee.” Post Quartermasters are encouraged to register their delegate on-line through the Online Membership System (OMS). Posts failing to comply with this provision will be considered delinquent and in arrears.

10. Attention of Department Commanders-elect is directed to Section 516, paragraph (b), of the National By-Laws which provides that the Department Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Chief of Staff, Inspector, Service Officer and such other officers as may be required by Department By-Laws. The Department Commander shall appoint such other officers, committee chairmen and committees as may be necessary to carry out the responsibilities and functions of the Department and the directives of the Commander-in-Chief.

It is recommended that the appointment of the Public Relations officers be based upon the appointee’s credentials as a media representative with special emphasis upon qualifications and continuity rather than political criteria.

It is also recommended that consideration be given in the preparation and adoption of Department budgets and to the importance and necessity for providing adequate financial support for Department Public Relations activities.

11. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:

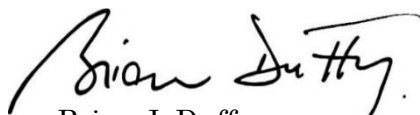
- Post Nos. 1183 and 7211 are consolidated as Post No. 1183, Longview, Texas
- Post Nos. 9202 and 9207 are consolidated as Post No. 9202, Germantown, Wisconsin
- Post Nos. 9283 and 5572 are consolidated as Post No. 9283, Southgate, Michigan
- Post Nos. 6201 and 3435 are consolidated as Post No. 6201, Nelson, Wisconsin
- Post Nos. 34 and 5049 are consolidated as Post No. 34, Newport, Pennsylvania
- Post Nos. 6095 and 1484 are consolidated as Post No. 6095, Latonia, Kentucky

12. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charters for the following Posts:

- Post No. 12170 – Dupont, Washington
- 12171 – San Antonio, Texas

BY COMMAND OF
KEITH E. HARMAN
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:



Brian J. Duffy
Adjutant General

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

BULLETIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 42, NO. 9

APR. 2018

SERVICE NOT SELF

MEMBERSHIP:

We are now 39,582 behind our last year's figures as of March 27, 2018. The time to recruit is now! Find local events and arrange to get a booth. Farmers markets, gun shows, trade shows, spring and summer festivals are all great places to recruit local veterans. Bring along recruiting materials as well as materials on VFW Programs. If you need materials from Membership, call or email us at 1-888-JOIN-VFW or membership@vfw.org. If you're needing help to pay for a booth at a local event, call your Department Quartermaster as they have the funds available to help you get there.

INSTALLMENT LIFE

Now Post and Department Quartermasters have the option to enroll "NEW" members as installment Life on the Online Membership System. See the Hip Pocket Training for Nov/Dec link. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixuesaN90Ps&index=16&list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi.

Note: Once the member is enrolled, the member will receive a confirmation email. They have to click and approve the installment in order for the installment to be completed.

KANSAS CITY SPREE

The top two Post Commanders and the top two District Commanders in each division who achieve 100% membership by April 1, 2018, along with their spouse or guest, will be awarded:

- Round-trip airfare to Kansas City, Mo., from the airport nearest the awardee's home.
- A fun-filled weekend (May 3-6, 2018) that may include but is not limited to – touring, shopping, and a complete tour of the VFW National Headquarters.

MEMBERSHIP FACEBOOK

Make sure you 'like' and 'share' our VFW National Membership Facebook page. We post updates, links, contest reminders, events, etc. for you. Share the good news of the VFW: <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership/>.

Recruiting Notes: To be eligible for All-American all Post, District and Department levels need to make sure that all new recruit and reinstated members equal to 5% of prior year total.

Encourage annual members to take advantage of the Life member installment plan. Encourage Life installment plan and annual members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.

Starting in March 2018, annual members who are five months prior to their membership expiration date will receive a Wrap Edition of their VFW magazine with a special offer to upgrade to Life membership.

Legacy Life Membership: This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

<u>Levels</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Top Three Recruiters (as of 3/27/2018):

Kenneth L. Kraft - 289
VFW Post 12140, Dept. of OR

Larry M. Gerlt - 213
VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

Glenn E. Hohman - 189
VFW Post 9972, Dept. of AZ

DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:

VFW Post No. 12168 in Greenville, Mississippi
VFW Post No. 12170 in Dupont, Washington
VFW Post No. 12171 in San Antonio, Texas

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES

Digital Membership Cards: Members now have the ability to download their digital version of their membership card. Depending on whether a member has an iPhone or Android, they will be able to download and access their digital membership card from the VFW app.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card on their smart phone.

V-mail: Go online to <http://www.vfw.com> to stay in communication with other Posts as well as with National Headquarters. Check in often for important VFW updates and news from national. The VFW Membership Department will be using this avenue for communication more regularly. If you need

assistance logging in or your password, contact Leticia Cortez in the Membership Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6292.

Hip Pocket Training: Login and go online to <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> to view the latest training videos from the Membership Department. If you have any questions or topics you would like covered, please email them to membership@vfw.org in advance and we will cover them on the next training video. We also post these webinars on our Facebook page! If you're not on Facebook, you can still view the webinars on YouTube here: https://youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi.

Changes to “Find a Post”: When a visitor goes to www.vfw.org in their browser, one of the first links they will see at the top of the page is "Find a Post." Clicking on this link takes the visitor to a page where they can enter a zip code or city and state and then search by distance for VFW Posts in the area. Now, in addition to the Post information, they will see the dues amount for the Posts in their area. This is useful information for veterans looking to connect with a local Post, but it is also useful information for recruiters looking to connect veterans with a Post in their area. Lastly, when you click on “Find a Post,” you will see a link to “Click here for Non-U.S. Posts” which will provide you with a comprehensive list of all the VFW Posts located overseas.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

Full-Year Appropriations, But Needed VA Program Improvements Omitted

Congress passed a bill to fund the federal government until the end of fiscal year 2018 which President Trump signed, avoiding another government shutdown. However, the VFW isn't happy that the \$1.3 trillion omnibus omits three Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program improvements: consolidating and reforming VA's community care programs; expanding family caregiver support to pre-9/11 veterans; and better aligning VA's infrastructure to its main mission of delivering quality care to veterans. The improvements are what the VFW has advocated for in the past, including a [joint letter to the majority and minority leadership of the House and Senate](#). “The VFW is very disappointed, but we will continue to work with House and Senate VA Committee leadership to bring these important issues to fruition,” said VFW National Commander Keith Harman, “because the needs are not going away.”

The legislation will provide relief from sequestration budget caps for service members, veterans, and their families, fund the 2.4 percent pay raise for service members and fully fund America's sacred mission to bring home missing Americans from long-ago battlefields. It will also provide a 9.5 percent increase for VA and fully fund VA's new electronic health care record, authorize VA to provide mental health care for veterans with other than honorable discharges, require VA to improve claims processing for veterans exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, fund improvements to VA's burn pits registry, and other important improvements for veterans.

VFW FOUNDATION:

VFW's #ThankBK APPRECIATION DAY

The VFW National Commander is asking all VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to recognize our great friends at Burger King (BK) by mobilizing membership to visit your local BK restaurant and say “thank you” by participating in the **VFW's #ThankBK Appreciation Day** on Armed Forces Day – Saturday, May 19, 2018.

Since 2007, Burger King franchisees and their customers have contributed over \$5 million to the Unmet Needs program, which has provided assistance to nearly 6,400 veterans and military families, who have experienced unexpected financial difficulties. For additional information about the Unmet Needs program, go to the VFW website at <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants>.

You can demonstrate your appreciation by purchasing a meal at your local Burger King on **Armed Forces Day**. Proudly wear your VFW cap and let BK management know that the VFW is there to support Burger King, as they have supported the nation's oldest and largest combat veterans organization through the VFW's Unmet Needs program.

Bring your family members, friends and fellow VFW members to dine at Burger King on this VFW #ThankBK Appreciation Day - Saturday, May 19. Encourage others to visit their local BK restaurant and give "appreciation" to BK team members for their patriotic support.

For questions about this event, please contact Ben Vargas, VFW Foundation Assistant Manager, Special Projects, at (816) 968-2720 or email at bvargas@vfw.org.

VFW POST/AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT UPDATE

Funding for the VFW Foundation "Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant" is nearly depleted for the FY2017 grant cycle. The Foundation is still accepting grant applications for local community service projects; however, funding for VFW Post improvements is no longer available.

Grants are distributed to Posts and Auxiliaries to assist with projects supporting local nonprofits, performing important community outreach or enhancements to Post buildings for this purpose. Eligible Posts and Auxiliaries received up to \$1,000 each for their projects.

If you have questions about Foundation grants, contact Jason Couch, VFW Foundation Grants Coordinator, at (816) 968-1174 or email at jcouch@vfw.org.

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Donate your car, truck, motorcycle, RV, or boat while supporting the VFW! Donating your vehicle is easy. Simply call 844-839-4438 (7 days a week—any questions answered) or complete the simple online form at www.vfw.careasy.org.

Then schedule a convenient free pick-up time (most vehicles can be picked up within 24-72 hours).

You will receive an initial car donation receipt upon pick-up that can be used for tax purposes and if your vehicle sells for more than \$500, you will be mailed an additional more comprehensive "IRS Form 1098-C" receipt.

The VFW benefits 80% from the proceeds (after expenses) of any vehicle donation. That is money to support great VFW programs that directly aid veterans, military personnel and their families!

THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT

A reminder to all VFW Posts that the 2018 Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant is available to receive applications. Eligible Posts may receive up to \$5,000 to fix up their buildings; however, of course, there is no guarantee of funding. To begin the process, go to the following internet link: <http://homedepotfoundation.org/page/applying-for-a-grant>.

To help you complete the application, the VFW Foundation has prepared a step-by-step how-to-apply guide. Any deviation from this guide will most likely result in not being able to submit the application.

To receive this how-to-apply guide, send an email to: foundation@vfw.org
Type the following in the email subject heading: Home Depot Guide Request

After submission of the application, you should receive an email response from HD Foundation, usually within six weeks, letting you know if you received the grant.

Should you have any further questions or need to discuss special concerns, please contact Jason Couch, VFW Foundation Grants Coordinator, at (816) 968-1174 or email at jcouch@vfw.org. GOOD LUCK!

HENRY VFW TRIBUTE EDITION RIFLES

A reminder that Henry Repeating Arms continues to offer the Henry VFW Tribute Edition rifles directly from their factory at very special pricing to VFW Posts and members.

These rifles are a great way for your Post to boost fundraising efforts, increase profits, recognize member volunteer efforts or milestones, and for members to build a personal collection.

There are two models, both Made In The USA; the VFW Post Tribute Edition and the VFW Tribute Edition. Both models are collector's items and unique to the Posts and/or members ordering these one-of-a-kind rifles.

To order your Henry VFW Tribute Edition rifle contact Sandra with Henry Rifles at 866-200-2354 or sandra@henryusa.com or visit henryusa.com and type VFW in the search box.

SHOP AMAZONSMILE AND DONATE TO VFW FOUNDATION

VFW members and supporters are encouraged to support VFW programs and services by shopping through AmazonSmile. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Foundation. Purchase items that are eligible for donations as indicated on the products pages.

Copy and share the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/43-1758998> with your fellow VFW members and supporters and begin shopping to help support the programs and services of the VFW through the VFW Foundation. Bookmark the AmazonSmile link and support the VFW Foundation every time you shop on Amazon.com.

If you have any questions about AmazonSmile, please contact Ben Vargas, VFW Foundation Assistant Manager, Special Projects, at (816) 968-2720 or email bvargas@vfw.org. Happy shopping!

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:

1. As we plan for the 2018 National Convention in Kansas City, we want to remind all Veterans & Military Support Chairmen to get their money in for the 2017-18 lapel pins picked up in New Orleans. Please contact the Veterans & Military Support office at 816-968-1102 if you have any questions on how much your Department needs to send in.
2. There will be a new design for the Veterans & Military Support lapel pin for 2018-19! Chairmen will be able to request their pins to pick up in Kansas City but if you have not turned in your donation for the 2017-18 lapel pins, you will need to pay upfront for the 2018-19 pins. Request forms will be provided sometime in April.
3. **Veterans & Military Support Recognition Program** - Donations *must* be received in the office before **April 30**. The Veterans & Military Support Recognition Certificates will be sent to the Departments for presentation at the Department Conventions.
4. **Applying for a VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship for the 2018 Fall Semester** - Please get the word out to your local service members and veterans that are going to school in

the fall to apply for this wonderful scholarship program. Go to www.vfw.org/scholarship/ for details and eligibility requirements. Deadline is **April 30**.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102.

“BUDDY”® POPPY:

By the time you read this, VFW and Auxiliary members will have spread out across the landscape distributing the familiar red poppy. Although we emphasize “Buddy”® Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, “Buddy”® Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, “Buddy”® Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW “Buddy”® Poppies.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use “ASAP.” Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

NATIONAL “BUDDY”® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST. The time frame for registering and setting up the Department winning “Buddy”® Poppy displays for the national judging at convention will be the same as last year. Department winning entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 21, until noon, Monday, July 23, 2018. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced later on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary “Buddy”® Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out.

The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that nonprofit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

Contact information: BuddyPoppy@vfw.org or (816) 968-1155 for any questions or concerns.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS “WORLD WAR I POPPY PROGRAM.” The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entering that war. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission will tell the story of those American veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

Click on the following link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: ww1cc.org/poppy

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War I: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4l49mZso.

The red poppy is an internationally recognized symbol of veteran remembrance. Its use began in World War I and was captured in the war poem "In Flanders Fields," by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE:

APRIL 30 DEADLINE for Accredited Representative of the Year Award Nominations

Don't miss out!!! Nominations may be sent to the Director, VFW National Veterans Service, either by mail (200 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002, ATTN: Service Officer Award), faxed to 202-547-3196 (ATTN: Service Officer Award), or scanned and emailed to taldana@vfw.org.

Over the past two years, NVS has recognized service officers from the Departments of New Hampshire and Rhode Island respectively. These service officers stood out from our nationwide cadre for not only meeting the challenge daily, but exceeding it through exemplary commitment, technical knowledge, and customer service.

The Accredited Representative of the Year Award recognizes the contributions our professionally trained, accredited advocates make to the lives of veterans and their families every day. We encourage every Department to put forth a candidate. A nomination shows that Department leadership is aware of the significant contributions your program makes in your community every day.

ELIGIBILITY:

Eligible nominees include:

- Department Service Officers
- Assistant Department Service Officers
- Claims Consultants/Representative/Analysts/Reviewer
- Veterans Service Officers/Representatives

Individuals NOT eligible for this award are:

- VFW National Staff
- VFW Contractors
- VFW accredited representatives whose primary employer is other than the VFW or a State veterans agency

SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. Nominees for the annual award must have demonstrated exceptional efforts in assisting veterans and their families during the 12 months preceding the April 30 deadline.

2. A brief summary (no more than 2 pages) is to be submitted which explains the who, what, when, where, and how the nominee's efforts are considered exemplary. Suggested items for consideration (but not limited to):

- # of individuals with VFW POAs assisted
- Community outreach conducted
- Excellent customer service provided (examples required)
- Use of VetraSpec or another electronic claims processing system (specify system)
- Submission of TIMELY monthly reports (if located in a VA regional office)
- # of VFW members recruited

AWARDS:

Each Department Commander may nominate one eligible individual for this award. The individual who is ultimately chosen as the recipient of the award will be furnished round-trip travel (for the winner and one guest) and two night's hotel accommodations to attend the VFW National Convention where the award will be presented. A stipend in the amount of \$599.00 will also be given to the recipient to cover out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the trip.

Please note that the selection committee will review our Team Support database to view the number of incidents (both positive and negative, if any) reported to NVS. Additionally, the results of test scores at proficiency training, results of any site visits, and other criteria MAY be used in making the final decision.

Annual Joint Review (AJR) Reminder for VAVS

The Annual Joint Review (AJR) is conducted to assess the organization's participation in the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program during the preceding year and to develop goals for the next year. It summarizes VFW volunteer activity at specific VA locations and is an essential tool that provides an opportunity for VFW VAVS Representatives and VA Medical Facilities Voluntary Service Program Chiefs/Managers to develop plans to ensure active participation by the VFW in programs related to the welfare of Veteran patients. The annual reporting/review period for all VFW teams is April. Assigned certified VFW VAVS Representatives along with the VA Voluntary Service Program leader must schedule a time during the review month to complete (prepare and sign) the AJR summary. VFW Department Leadership is being asked to encourage their VAVS Representatives to turn in their AJRs to Laverne Lambright, National Veteran Services at llambright@vfw.org no later than April 15. Questions can be directed to James Moss at jmoss@vfw.org. Your participation and cooperation in the review is greatly appreciated.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Did Your Special Edition VFW Birthday Cards Arrive? – In March, you may have received a packet of Special Edition VFW Birthday Cards and other gifts in recognition of your commitment to the VFW and veterans of *all generations*. Enclosed with your gifts was a special Independence Day Thank You Card for a veteran or service member. If you haven't had a chance, please sign and return it right away. We will deliver your signed Independence Day Thank You card to one of America's current service members or hospitalized veterans in time for Independence Day, this July 4th. It means so much to them to know their fellow veterans remember and care.

The VFW wants to be sure that when the newest veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – and veterans from all past wars and conflicts – turn to us for assistance, we have life-changing programs available for them. Please send a donation in honor of your fellow veterans who now face a long road to recovery from injuries sustained in battle. Your gift will mean these programs stay available and strong right in *your Department*.

Memorial Day “Buddy”® Poppy – You may soon receive a package with a Thank You Card and a VFW “Buddy”® Poppy. Please return your poppy to the VFW and they will be used to create a special wreath to be displayed in a very special tribute at VFW National Headquarters’ Centennial Plaza in honor of Memorial Day. Also, please sign and return the Thank You Card and your message of support will be delivered to a service member or veteran who could use a kind word. It will mean a lot to them coming from a fellow veteran like you. Along with the “Buddy”® Poppy and your signed card, please return the most generous gift you can manage in honor of Memorial Day.

Matching Gift Opportunity to Support the VFW’s Programs – The VFW has been presented with a great opportunity by generous friends of the VFW who have offered to triple your gift until June 7, 2018, up to \$50,000! Many veterans and returning service members are turning to the VFW for assistance in finding and training for jobs when they return from long deployments, as well as financial assistance grants for rent, food, medicine ... and so much more. Thanks to dedicated members like you, we have been able to provide the life-changing assistance our veterans need. The VFW is on the front line in the fight for education, jobs, health care and justice FOR VETERANS! This is a great opportunity to help support veterans of all ages, right in your Department. Be as generous as you can and send your gift in by June 7, 2018, to make sure it is tripled!

Helping the VFW for Generations to Come – One of the easiest ways to continue providing support for your brothers and sisters-in-arms, as well as their families, is to name the VFW in your will or trust. It only takes a few words and you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime. Just a small percentage of your assets could go a long way in helping the VFW continue its mission into the future.

Free estate planning information is always available by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119, email plannedgiving@vfw.org or visit www.vfw.org/plannedgiving.

Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1-833-VFW-GIVE (1-833-839-4483) or email us at partners@vfw.org with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW’s online community, please visit www.vfw.org and look for the gold banner that says “Find Out What’s Happening” to sign up. As a member of the VFW’s Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation’s veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit www.vfw.org/vfwatwork and click on “**Read VFW success stories**” to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans’ rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

Department Resources – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. You need only go to heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools. The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

VFW COMMUNICATIONS:

Looking for an easy and FREE way to show others what the VFW does and why our mission is so vital? Visit the **VFW Training & Support** section of VFW.org and gain access to VFW-created PSAs. With TV and radio spots ranging from general VFW and program awareness, to donation campaigns and appeals for membership, finding something to fit your needs is easy!

Access to the page is gained by logging into the website and selecting the “**VFW Training & Support**” link under Member Resources on the My VFW page.

Also, be sure to check out the VFW’s new 30 second video production “[Your Mission Continues.](#)” available for [download here.](#)

PROGRAMS:

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to [http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238.](http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238)

50TH ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other non-governmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet one or more of the following objectives.

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

For VFW Posts interested in becoming an official Commemorative Partner, they must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding.

Applications are available at www.VietnamWar50th.com on the Commemorative Partner Program. The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them to: whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil. For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at [http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam.](http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam)

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 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairmen's Manual or contact Tammy at 816-756-3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

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.

Please remember that Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are VFW programs supported by the VFW Auxiliary. It is inappropriate for the VFW Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email lrolf@vfw.org or call (816) 968-1116.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2018–19 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Vincent "B.J." Lawrence. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "Why My Vote Matters" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "Why I Honor the American Flag".

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES. The new 2018-19 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms will be available on the VFW website on approximately April 1, 2018.

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/Login.aspx>, log in to My VFW, then click on **VFW Training & Support** under the **Member Resources** heading, then click on Community Service & Youth Programs and Activities, then click on **Chairman Manuals** under the **Additional Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials.

Additionally, as of April 1, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen by visiting the below links:
Voice of Democracy: <http://www.vfw.org/VOD/>
Patriot's Pen: <http://www.vfw.org/PatriotsPen/>

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy> for Voice of Democracy and <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen> for Patriot's Pen.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG. The U.S. Flag should be at half-staff on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May (federal holiday - half-staff until noon). Flags available at VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags>.

VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM. This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairman and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the 2017–18 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

WORLD WAR I COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP. In observance of the upcoming centennial of World War I, a total of 100 matching grants of up to \$2,000 a piece will be awarded for the restoration of 100 World War I Memorials across the United States. The first 50 of these were announced on September 27, 2017, and the second 50 will come from ROUND #2 of the matching grant challenge.

Any municipal government, individual, or organization may apply. Likewise, any individual, organization or company can become a sponsor of this effort, as the more we can raise toward this program, the greater the amount of the matching grant to the winning memorials.

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/about-the-program.html>

The VFW role is to help publicize the program and get local Posts (and Auxiliaries) involved.

A sample project is at: <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/resources.html#project-profiles>. (See the Ocean Springs video.)

A fun starting point is to first find memorials around the country. Information on this is at <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/memorial-hunters-club-about.html>. Scouting groups and 4-H Clubs can also get involved.

There is a process for submitting a grant application, which helps to guide the local organization in assessing the project and getting all the right approvals (local governments, historical societies, etc.) before beginning any work. In their blog, they got a question from a VFW Post about the grant writing process which is meant to help guide the applicant -

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/100-cities-100-memorials-blog.html>.

To participate and submit a grant request, go directly to -

<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/2016-07-06-00-52-42.html>.

- As you know, 2018 marks the centennial of World War 1. There is a lot our members can do to help educate the public, commemorate the war, and honor those who served. The WW1 Centennial Commission has created a landing page on their website for veterans to simplify navigation to key areas. You'll find it at www.wwlcc.org/veterans. Here are a few suggestions:

-- Subscribe to the **Dispatch** newsletter to keep up to date. Listen to the Centennial News **Podcasts**. Podcast #61 features VFW Post 968 in Raymond, WA, talking about their 100 Cities/100 Memorial project.

-- Take advantage of the vast store of **education materials**, and use any meeting opportunity in your community to discuss the war and kindle interest in all matters related to the "War that Changed the World."

-- **Purchase a commemorative US Mint WW1 coin** (\$10 from the sale of each coin funds the memorial).

-- Make sure your ancestors or family members who served are listed on the **World War I Roll of Honor** and donate in their names toward building the WWI National Memorial with a "digital" remembrance wreath. The Roll of Honor features individual profiles for many of the more than 4 million American service members who responded to the call of "Over There" in support of the war-weary Allies and helped achieve victory. All donations go directly toward funding the memorial.

-- Raise money for the Memorial by supporting the **WW1 Poppy Program**.

-- **Learn more** about the memorial and see all the resources available at www.wvlcc.org.

For any follow-up questions, please contact Lynn Rolf, Programs Director, at lrolf@vfw.org or (816) 968-1116.

FLAG DAY, JUNE 14. All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Thursday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award (Product No. 4385) for those who have daily displayed our National flag.

POW/MIA FLAG – OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2018 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 28, 2018 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, September 21, 2018 (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP237>.

IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot's Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

Dental Insurance

When was the last time you were at the dentist? Going to the dentist regularly is essential for maintaining good oral health. Routine visits to the dentist, and proper care in between visits, can help prevent tooth decay, bad breath and gum disease. The better you care for your teeth now, the longer they will last in the future.

Dental insurance is one of the most affordable investments you can make in your overall health. Most plans completely cover preventive exams, cleanings and some x-rays and offer discounted rates for additional services.

With the right plan for your budget, you can stay healthy and avoid costly dental problems in the future.

For additional information about dental insurance, click [here](#).

VFW STORE:

Make some MONEY at your Department Convention! Simply order T-shirts in quantity with your Department logo or Convention logo and sell them at your Department Convention to make a profit. Prices for T-shirts start as low as \$5.25 per shirt and include screen printing. To find out more or to get a no-obligation quote, call Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org.

Find new apparel, accessories and more at the VFW Store. Shop online at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems> for all the Store's new items.



ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

ROSENTHAL, SANFORD "SANDY," All American Commander, Department of Utah, 1989-1990, Commander, Department of Utah, 1995-96 and a Life Member of Ben G. Russo Post 3586, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 2, 2018.

PLANNING CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF VFW MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rev. April 2018



2018

April 5 - 8	Senior Vice Commanders/Adjutants Training Kansas City, MO
May 6 - 9	NVS Service Officer Proficiency/Phase I, Part 2 Training King of Prussia, PA
July 21 - 25	National Convention Kansas City, MO
August 12 - 17	NVS Service Officer Basic/Phase I, Part 1 Skill Level Training Annapolis, MD
August 24	National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Kansas City, MO
August 25 - 26	National Council of Administration Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 10 - 13	Fall Legislative Committee Meeting Washington, DC
September 20 - 23	Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming Albuquerque, NM
October 11 - 14	Junior Vice Commanders/Quartermasters Training Kansas City, MO
October 15 - 19	NVS Service Officer Advanced Skill Level Training Annapolis, MD
October 18 - 21	Southern Conference Louisville, KY
October 19 - 21	Big Ten Conference St. Louis, MO
November 1 - 4	Western Conference Vancouver, WA
November 16 - 18	Eastern Conference Framingham, MA

2019

March 2 - 6	Voice of Democracy Washington, DC
March 3 - 7	Legislative Conference Washington, DC
April 4 - 7	Senior Vice Commanders/Adjutants Training Kansas City, MO
July 20 - 24	National Convention Orlando, Florida
August 23	National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Kansas City, MO

August 24 - 25	National Council of Administration Meeting Kansas City, MO
August 29 - September 1	Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming Albany, NY
September 9 - 12	Fall Legislative Committee Meeting Washington, DC
October 10 - 13	Junior Vice Commanders/Quartermasters Training Kansas City, MO
October 25 - 27	Eastern Conference Rocky Hill, CT
October 31 - November 3	Western Conference Anchorage, AK

2020

February 29 – March 4	Voice of Democracy Washington, DC
March 1 - 5	Legislative Conference Washington, DC
April 2 - 5	Senior Vice Commanders/Adjutants Training Kansas City, MO
July 18 - 23	National Convention Reno, Nevada
August 21	National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Kansas City, MO
August 22 - 23	National Council of Administration Meeting Kansas City, MO
November 5 - 8	Western Conference Cheyenne, WY

2021

February 27 – March 3	Voice of Democracy Washington, DC
February 28 – March 4	Legislative Conference Washington, DC
July 31 - August 5	National Convention Baltimore, MD

2022

July 16 - 21	National Convention Kansas City, MO
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