

Membership

Membership functions can still be carried out using the Online Membership System, and now is a good time to enact calling campaigns to your unpaid and expiring members, as most of them will be home during this time, reminding them of the importance of continuing their VFW membership.

The VFW National Headquarters will be taking measures to reduce risk to our visitors and employees at this time as well, and we thank you in advance for your patience as we adjust to some new temporary operating procedures. The Membership Department will be available during business hours at 1.888.JOIN.VFW, as well as by email at membership@vfw.org. You can contact our Member Service Center at 1.833.VFW.VETS or mvc@vfw.org.

Again, we encourage everyone to stay safe and take care of yourself and our fellow veterans. Especially in this time of crisis, we all have to look out for each other and show that NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

KANSAS CITY SPREE

The Kansas City Spree has been canceled at this time due to the current world situation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Membership Department.

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

For the month of April, Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz has laid down a challenge to all VFW Posts

For April's Commander's Challenge, we are going to focus on contacting our members. Take this month to get in touch with your Post members and do a wellness check, make sure they're okay, and let them know that the VFW is here for them. Also, this is an opportunity to call those whose dues are expiring, have already expired, or are on your unpaid lists and check in with them as well.

Most importantly, we want all our members to know that during this stressful time, the VFW is here for them and that we will all get through this together.

We will be holding a drawing from the top five Posts in each Division, based on the number of renewing and reinstated members for the month of April, to receive a \$1,000 stipend deposited into the Post account.

POST DEVELOPMENT

It was a pleasure meeting you during March's legislative week in Washington, D.C.! I hope each of you are well during this difficult time. Post development efforts continue to be strong with two new Posts established this year. Just as important are the revitalization efforts happening across all Departments! We want to know your revitalization stories – your successes need to be shared! Keep the new Posts coming! Remember – you

have many resources available to you on vfw.org and expertise awaiting your call at the National Membership office in Kansas City.

Let the Membership Department know now what you're working on so we can start tracking that information and provide assistance as needed. For any questions or further information, contact Corey Hunt in the Membership Department via email at coreyhunt@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
Top Three Recruiters (as of 3/26/2020):

Hugh M. Warner – 398
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

Mark A. Short – 327
VFW Post 9400, Dept. of AZ

Carlo S. Davis – 207
VFW Post 9191, Dept. of TX

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to vfw.org, click on JOIN, scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are 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>Posts</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?



COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT CLOSED

The VFW Foundation Community Support Grant is now closed as all funds have been distributed. Qualified Posts and/or Auxiliaries received grants of up to \$1,000 to support local nonprofits or important outreach projects in their communities. The good news is that the grant will re-open Sept. 1, 2020.

VFW FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING

The VFW Foundation Board convened March 1, 2020, in Arlington, Virginia. Issues discussed included corporate relations updates, National Convention sponsorship status, updates on VFW Foundation grants to other nonprofits and VFW Posts/Auxiliaries, and VFW Foundation Board Member recruitment.

Memorial Day “Buddy”[®] Poppy – Later this month, you may receive a package with a Thank You Card and VFW “Buddy”[®] Poppy. Since 1922, the VFW has distributed the “Buddy”[®] Poppy on patriotic holidays to solemnly honor our nation’s fallen heroes. Please return your poppy to the VFW and they will be used to create a special wreath to be displayed in honor of Memorial Day at VFW National Headquarters’ Centennial Plaza. Also, please sign and return the Thank You Card. 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. Your gift to the VFW will help veterans and military families receive financial grants when times are tough, assist veterans in obtaining the benefits they have earned and ensure the rights of veterans of every generation are respected and protected.

Spring Currency Campaign – This month, the VFW will be sending its members a very special package that contains currency. As a dedicated member, and friend to your fellow veterans, you know just how important the need is to support the VFW. Each nickel and dollar bill counts and can help support the VFW’s programs that fight for veteran’s rights, help veterans claim their hard earned benefits and support hardworking military families. Please send the currency back so the VFW can stretch that money to deliver life-changing help to fellow veterans and service members and please include the most generous gift you can. Don’t forget to display the United States flag to show you stand proudly with your fellow veterans!

A Simple Way to Make a Big Difference – Making a gift in your will is the easiest way to support the VFW and your fellow veterans after your lifetime. Did you know that it only takes a few sentences in your will to complete? We invite you to learn more about this type of legacy gift and the lasting impact you can leave your family and the VFW. Free information is available by visiting vfw.org/plannedgiving or contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org.

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, and a Year End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. 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 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 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

Current national safety and health guidelines have created a great opportunity for VFW members to utilize digital and online resources to keep in touch from the safety of their own home.

While in-person gatherings are strongly discouraged, digital communication tools like social media, video conferencing, communication apps like FaceTime, Skype and Facebook Messenger can help you connect with and check in on friends, members and people in your local community.

If your Post or Department doesn't have a social media presence, now is a great time to start!

Veterans & Military Support Programs

As we plan for the 2020 National Convention in Reno, we want to remind all Veterans & Military Support Chairmen to get their money in for the 2019-20 lapel pins picked up in Orlando. 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.

There will be a new design for the Veterans & Military Support (VMS) lapel pin for 2020-21! Chairmen will be able to request their pins to pick up in Reno but if you have not turned in your donation for the 2019-20 lapel pins, you will need to pay upfront for the 2020-21 pins. Request forms will be provided sometime in April.

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.

Applying for a VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship for the 2020 Fall Semester - Please get the word out to your local service members and veterans who are going to school in the fall to apply for this wonderful scholarship program. Go to 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.

VFW 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 vfwstore.org/products/GP238.

VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2019-2020 PROGRAM YEAR. Congratulations to the following teachers who were selected National winners for 2019-2020:

Elementary School level – Megan Joy Rodgers, Brookfield Elementary School, Brookfield, OH, selected by VFW Post 7538 and Auxiliary, Struthers, OH.

Middle School level – Michael Russell, Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School, Bridgewater, NJ, selected by VFW Post 370, New Brunswick, NJ.

High School level – Matthew J. Bundy, Mountain Home High School, Mountain Home, ID, selected by VFW Post 5423, Mountain Home, ID.

National awards will be presented in July to each teacher during the VFW National Convention in Reno, NV. Each of the winners will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Convention and \$1,000 cash award for professional development expenses (winners will receive a 1099-MISC); \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and his or her school. Each Department's recipients and their schools will receive a National Commendation citation, which will be sent to the Department Headquarters for presentation.

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

Applications are available at 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: 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 2020–21 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Harold J. "Hal" Roesch, II. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "What is Patriotism to Me?"

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES. The new 2020-21 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms will be available soon on the VFW website.

Simply visit 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, 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: vfw.org/VOD/

Patriot's Pen: vfw.org/PatriotsPen/

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy for Voice of Democracy and 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 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 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 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL NEWS:

Is Your Post Named for a Veteran of the Great War (World War I)? If so, we want to hear from you! The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission is collecting information on VFW Posts named after WWI veterans. If your Post is honored by the memory of a local doughboy, marine, sailor, or nurse who served and sacrificed their lives, we want to know more. Please send your information and material on the history of your Post to: David Hamon, Veterans and Military Affairs Director, U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, at david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org or you may call him at 540.379.8584. The Commission is collecting historical and archive information on the Great War to observe and commemorate those 4.7 million who served in that conflict. America never forgets its veterans. Help them build a national memorial in Washington, D.C. To learn more, go to: ww1cc.org/memorial.

Help Build America's World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C. The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission recently announced the creation of the AEF (Allied Expeditionary Forces) Memorial Corps. The program is a special designation for Posts, patriotic organizations, local chapters of civic organizations, among others, to be recognized as an official "AEF Memorial Corps Post" for making a donation to build the national WWI memorial in Washington, D.C. Your Post will be certified with a special Centennial Certificate commemorating your contribution in "going over the top" to get the memorial built. For more information, please write Mr. David Hamon: david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org or call him at 540.379.8584. To view the progress of the memorial, go to: ww1cc.org/memorial. Your VFW Post will forever be enshrined in history as having pushed to get the memorial built. America never forgets her veterans!

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 (Nov. 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 16, 2020 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 25, 2020 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 18, 2020 (third Friday in Sept.); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to 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.

VFW Member Benefits

When you think about your hearing, do you also think about diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, obesity, oral health issues, smoking, prescription drugs, social isolation, dementia, depression, injury-

causing falls and accidents? You should, because all of these health-related issues are connected, in one way or another, to your hearing.

Some health conditions or health-related decisions increase your risk of hearing loss, while others may be caused, at least in part, by hearing loss, especially when left untreated.

Whether you want to find out if your hearing is being impaired by a health condition, or you want to avoid serious, costly health conditions by getting treated for hearing loss, Amplifon Hearing Health Care is here for you!

[Start by taking this simple quiz](#) to learn how hearing loss could be impacting you, or your loved one's life.

"Buddy"[®] Poppy

"BUDDY"[®] POPPY CAMPAIGN. 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 vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

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 non-profit 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 816.756.3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

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 or 75th 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. These are ordered through the Department and processed the same as the red poppies. Annotate on the order to National that it is for anniversary poppies and specify which one.

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. 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: 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.

Quartermaster General

CBIZ Cottonwood, a professional actuarial firm, recently completed an evaluation of the Life Membership Fund. Based on this evaluation, the Life Membership Board of Trustees, with the concurrence of the National Council of Administration, pursuant to Section 111 of the VFW Bylaws, has determined that for the 2021 membership year, the Life Membership Fund will pay out **\$3.50** for each **Plan A, B and C** life member, **\$3.84** for each **Plan D** life member and **\$7.94** for each **Plan E** life member to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters. Payment will be made in Sept. 2020 for all life members recorded as of Aug. 31, 2020.

In addition, **\$7.94 will be paid in Jan. 2021** for each life member processed from Sept. through Dec. 2020 (Plan E) to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please call Debra Anderson at National Headquarters.

National Veterans Service

The April 30 deadline to submit nominations for the Past Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Representative of the Year Award is now here!!!

At the recent meeting of the National Veterans Service Advisory Committee meeting, the committee voted to rename the VFW Accredited Representative of the Year award in honor of the late Past Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki, who helped establish the award.

Service officers from the Departments of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New Mexico, and Texas have received this prestigious award in years past. These service officers stood out from our worldwide cadre for not only meeting the challenge daily, but exceeding it through exemplary commitment, technical knowledge, and customer service.

Don't let the opportunity slip away for your service officer to become a part of this elite group!

We encourage each Department Commander to nominate a candidate. A nomination shows that Department leadership is aware of the significant contributions service officers make in your community every day.

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. In addition, the award recipient will receive \$599 in recognition of their accomplishments and to offset travel expenses, if they are not already attending as a Committee member.

For more information on the award criteria, please contact National Veterans Service at vfw@vfw.org.

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.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

Student Veteran Housing Bill Passes

On March 21, 2020, the president signed into law the VFW-supported [S. 3503](#), a bill to make sure student veterans impacted by the COVID-19-related closures would not see a decrease in their monthly housing stipends. Due to most classes around the country converting to online instruction for the remainder of the semester, VA determined those students should receive the "online only" housing rate, which is significantly less money each month. Veteran advocates and Congress swiftly stepped in to make sure students using distance learning due to the outbreak would not be affected. The VFW thanks all the representatives and senators who made sure student veterans and their families are taken care of during this difficult time.

Share Your Story

S. 3393 or H.R. 5995, the [Major Richard Star Act](#), would enable Chapter 61 veterans, who have been medically discharged due to combat-related injuries, to rightfully receive Department of Defense (DOD) retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation without offset. As of FY18, there are 42,163 who are affected by this offset. An [Action Corps Action Alert](#) was launched last week. We urge everyone to assist in getting this important bill past the finish line by taking action at: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns>. For veterans who are affected by this offset, [please share your story](#) by writing a short essay detailing your years of service, DOD/VA disability percentages, and how the offset has impacted your standard of living. The VFW will use these stories to build support for the passage of the *Major Richard Star Act*. If you are interested in participating, please send your story to vfwac@vfw.org.

VFW Store

When you wear logoed apparel, you help promote the VFW by showing pride in the organization that helps so many. Shop online now at vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/vfwlogo?page=1&size=100.



Roll Call of Departed Comrades

BOYER, DONALD S. "DON," All American Commander, Department of Illinois, 2018-2019 and a Life member of Harry E. Anderson Post No. 9545, New Lenox, Illinois, March 14, 2020.

SMITH, RONALD F., Commander, Department of Maine, 2014-2015 and a Life member of Bangor Memorial Post No. 1761, Bangor, Maine, March 21, 2020.

1. Attention is brought to Commander-in-Chief Executive Order No. 1 dated March 17, 2020, which states,

“Pursuant to the authority under Section 618(a)(4), effective immediately and until rescinded, we ask that Posts, Districts and Departments, if possible and within the requirements of mandated State Declarations, make the attempt to elect officers. For such Posts, Districts or Departments that are not able to elect officers as a result of COVID-19, all current officers shall continue to function within their capabilities until new officers are elected. It is further stipulated that no Post, District or Department be sanctioned as result of the inability to properly function, as mandated by state or local government declarations, as a direct cause of COVID-19.”
2. 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 Bylaws requires that a properly completed District Election Report be submitted to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Attention is directed to Section 518 of the Manual of Procedure, “Duty of the Department Quartermaster” paragraph (j) 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 Nov. 1.”
6. Attention is called to the provisions of Section 703 of the National Bylaws which require that each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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 Bylaws, "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 Bylaws which provides that the Department Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Inspector, Service Officer and such other officers as may be required by Department Bylaws. The Department Commander may 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. CBIZ Cottonwood, a professional actuarial firm, recently completed an evaluation of the Life Membership Fund. Based on this evaluation, the Life Membership Board of Trustees, with the concurrence of the National Council of Administration, pursuant to Section 111 of the VFW Bylaws, has determined that for the 2021 membership year, the Life Membership Fund will pay out **\$3.50** for each **Plan A, B and C** life member, **\$3.84** for each **Plan D** life member and **\$7.94** for each **Plan E** life member to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters. Payment will be made in Sept. 2020 for all life members recorded as of Aug. 31, 2020.

In addition, **\$7.94 will be paid in Jan. 2021** for each life member processed from Sept. through Dec. 2020 (Plan E) to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please call Debra Anderson at National Headquarters.

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

Post Nos. 9535 and 1978 are consolidated as Post No. 9535, Augusta, Kentucky

Post Nos. 2729 and 6863 are consolidated as Post No. 2729, Chicago, Illinois

BY COMMAND OF
WILLIAM "DOC" SCHMITZ
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Jones', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Jones
Adjutant General



PLANNING CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF VFW MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rev. April 2020

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2020

May 4 - 8	Accredited Service Officer Proficiency Training Valley Forge Casino Resort, King of Prussia, PA
May 4 - 8	Accredited Service Officer Basic, Part 2 Training Valley Forge Casino Resort, King of Prussia, PA
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
August 27 - 30	Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming Portsmouth, VA
September 13 - 17	Accredited Service Officer Advanced Skill Level Training Annapolis, MD
September 13 - 18	Accredited Service Officer Basic, Part 1 Initial Training Annapolis, MD
September 14 - 17	Fall Legislative Committee Meeting Washington, DC
October 8 - 11	Junior Vice Commanders/Quartermasters Training Kansas City, MO
October 16 - 18	Big Ten Conference Columbus, OH
October 29 - November 1	Southern Conference Asheville, NC
October 30 - November 1	Eastern Conference Ocean City, MD
November 5 - 8	Western Conference Cheyenne, WY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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September 12 - 15 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting
Washington, DC

2023

July 22 - 27 National Convention
Phoenix, AZ

August 25 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
Kansas City, MO

August 26 - 27 National Council of Administration Meeting
Kansas City, MO

September 11 - 14 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting
Washington, DC

2024

July 27 – August 1 National Convention
Louisville, KY

September 6 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
Kansas City, MO

September 7 - 8 National Council of Administration Meeting
Kansas City, MO

September 9 - 12 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting
Washington, DC