

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
PROGRAM BULLETIN**

APRIL 2019

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2018-2019

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We continue to see several additional Posts hitting the 100% mark. Congratulations to every one of you! However, WE ARE NOT DONE YET. We have a real chance of bringing in our Department at 100% this year, and it would be the first time in a long, long, while.

POST COMMANDERS AND QUARTERMASTERS: If your goal is ðAll Stateö this year, check your x-sheets to make sure you are 100% reported. *Remember that you must also order a **minimum of 1,000 poppies** and be at **100% plus 10 members** to meet the requirements. **The deadline is April 30, 2019** to be able to receive your ðAll Stateö awards at the state convention. However, if you do not accomplish that goal by convention, **the program runs through June 15, 2019**, and you will receive your award later.*

DISTRICT COMMANDERS: Your ðAll Stateö requirement is 100% plus 10 members, with the same dates for awards as the Post Commanders. **YOU CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN IN YOUR DISTRICT!** Now is the time to put in that extra effort needed to get you over the humpö so stay focused and positive. Reach out to the Posts in your respective Districts and ask them for their help. We still see a low number of reinstated members. The names we have available to you could really help your District, but these members must be contacted to achieve any level of success in turning them back into active members.

I have had a few Posts and Districts ask for lists of unpaid and relocated members. The people who are working these lists tell me that they do get some members reinstated. However, we don't have enough people contacting these prior members. **CALL ME IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.**

Its crunch time for the VFW, and we need more help. I have been advised that we have a lot of members renewing in April, so **PLEASE** make certain they get paid.

As always, I appreciate everything you do every day for the VFW. Thank you for your loyalty, your hard work, and all the effort you put forth to help us continue to be the greatest combat veterans' organization in our country.

If you need my help, I am always as close as your phone or your computer. I want to see you succeed, and will do all I can to help you make it happen. However, you must communicate with me and let me know if I can help. Our State Commander reminds us that ðThe Heat is on Again.ö **LET'S GO OUT THERE AND MAKE IT HAPPEN!**

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Charles Ingle, Director

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Don't PUSH the **Reset Button** just yet...

Post Elections steal the spotlight in April. But it is necessary to maintain a focus on wrapping-up **Month 12** of the X-Sheet reporting term. Please get your reports in by April 30th.

In March we saw a 6% increase in the Department number, and added 3 more Districts at 100%. Congratulations to Districts 6, 14, 15, & 19, for achieving the max, in Community Activities!



VFW 2018-2019 Community Activities, Dept. of IL

<u>District</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Posts Reported</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Community Activities Director</u>
3	Samuel Scaife, Jr.	10	63%	Richard E. Bukowski
4	Joseph P. Scanlon	11	73%	Thomas W. Davidson
5	Raymond O. Rigsby	13	65%	Daniel J. Pearson
6	Gary Holmes	17	100%	Rick Frank
7	Robert Sable	11	52%	Donovan L. Eskeson
8	Russell "Pete" Mosher	12	71%	Mark W. Sowers
9	"Scott" Buennemeyer	10	45%	Daryle D. Peters
10	Michelle K. Ramlow	8	50%	Jim Duvendack
11	Joseph S. Swinford	8	53%	Steve Jurgens
12	Christopher R. Retzer	11	58%	John "Jack" Fessler
13	Christopher L. Hatcher	7	58%	Elmer McDuffee
14	Maurice F. Bridges	19	100%	◆John Barrett
15	Clarence E. Caraker	14	100%	Barbara R. Wilson
16	Eugene C. Blackwell, Jr.	7	64%	William A. Browne, Jr.
17	Sean D. Conner	9	64%	◆Dan R. Swaner
18	Robert M. Adame	10	83%	Robert McLeod
19	Robert Zeman	24	100%	George R. Cramer

◆Assistant State Director

Total Posts
284

X-Sheet Data
27-03-19

Department Percentage
71%

Compiled by
Chuck Ingle

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Carl Sorensen, Director

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Have you received and read the latest copy of "VFW Magazine" or have you already tossed it into the recycle bin?

Department Commander Don Boyer couldn't have picked a better motto for his year, "THE HEAT IS ON AGAIN". The VFW is closing in on a very important goal **100 per cent membership PLUS**. Why is the PR guy talking about membership? It's ALL about membership brother and sister warriors; it's at the heart of what we do for veterans, service members, our community and our Nation. Have you ever heard anyone tell you, "IF YOU'RE NOT GROWING YOUR DYING"? If you don't believe it, look around you, "Circuit City, Builders Square, Polaroid, Blockbuster, HH Gregg. They all failed to grow and adapt, and are no more.

Okay, since every one of us have served, closer to home the Marines "Improvise, Adapt, Overcome" should be at the heart of our mission. Publicizing in local newspapers, interviews on local FM Radio stations, schools, churches is not about promoting your Bingo night, fish fry, Queen of Hearts, but educating the community about the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

1. Voice of Democracy
2. Patriot's Pen
3. Teacher of the Year
4. UNMET NEEDS
5. "Help-A-Hero" Scholarships

These are all great programs you should talk about to potential new members and your community but also how about the blood drive you are holding, building a ramp for a WWII vet so he can stay in his home, helping clean up a local park in your town; we have many positives to talk about to bring in new members, items for your post website, Facebook, PRESS RELEASES (Send it to local newspapers and to PRDIRECTOR@VFWIL.ORG). The Department website is about sharing what you are doing, providing information for a potential member as well as obtaining support from your community and community organizations, USE THEM.

How about "Veteran in the Classroom"? Does your Post belong to Chamber of Commerce? Exchange Club? Here in Illinois each county has a Veterans Assistance Commission office. They may welcome using your Post Home as a venue to welcome veterans needing help filing a claim. Talk to them, there should be a couple adjudicators that are VFW eligible and also see about posting a "JOIN US" poster.

We are part of a team, Team VFW, Team Commander Lawrence, Team Boyer. Be a part of the 100% Team VFW Illinois. Are you holding a Viet Nam Veterans Day event March 29th? Take photos, of veterans with community leaders, students, your post commander with your local Village President, Mayor, presenting a Proclamation recognizing the service of Viet Nam vets. Make sure your photos are close-up, (use a wide angle such as 18mm -24mm) but the important thing is to fill the frame. A photo of a room with ten people in a large room is not news worthy, but a close up of your mayor with your Post Commander handing him a Poppy is something you

may be able to get published. Take multiple exposures. It's more efficient and gives you options. Contact me if you need help setting up a Press release, or talk to your local newspaper, but **WRITE IT YOURSELF**. It makes it easier for a newspaper editor. if you provide the basic points, Who, What, Where, When, Why and How. Thank you for your service.

AMERICANISM PROGRAM

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Comrades:

The time for getting your Americanism Reports reported for 2018 - 2019 ends on April 30th. There still 84 Posts in the Department that have reported nothing. District Commanders, please get with your Americanism Chairperson and try to get these posts reported. Most of them have mostly done something that they can be reported and just have not reported it. If the posts in your District are having trouble reporting help them or have them call Department and ask for help. If we work on it we can get done.

Loyalty Day is coming up May 1, 2019. If your Post or District is holding an event make sure to report it and you can get your first X for next year. If anyone needs help just call me and I will do all I can to help you.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Robert E. McLeod, Director

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Spring is here or at least by the calendar. This means that people want to get out of the house and do things within the community, your community. So while you are out and about and you see a student, or even better a student with mom and dad, introduce yourself and tell them about the VOD program. Here is an idea for you, since we all have smart phones now a days (we know that the kids do). Show them where to go on the national web page for more information and the rules about the program, even better the entry form is right there for them to fill out.

We need to make a better effort on the program. When your post has events in your community, there is your opportunity to promote the program along with other programs that the Veterans of Foreign Wars has to offer. Enjoy the warmer weather. Get out and let the people know about us.

NATIONAL HOME

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NOTE: PROGRAM DEADLINE APRIL 30!

Comrades, we are reminded that our program deadline of April 30 is fast approaching and we thank all of the Posts who have already participated as the donations are greatly appreciated and very helpful.

Today as in the past there are thousands of military children with active duty parents many of whom are currently deployed. Because the National Home receives no government funding our donations make a big difference for families and children who otherwise would have nothing to fall back on. Contributions to the "general fund," are very helpful comrades!

Congratulations 100%

Congratulations to District 19 Commander Bob Zeman and Quartermaster George Cramer for again reaching 100% participation. Thank you for your great support* 😊 *

And "hmmmm," though our donations are very good overall, some posts and districts have not reported correctly or not reported at all! 😞! So let's have a "strong finish"!! for our Commander Don Boyer and for our Department!!

Please do reach out if you've got questions. Your district National Home Directors and I are glad to help you!!

SAFETY PROGRAM

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We are now in the final months of our Safety Program before we head to Springfield for our Department Convention. We need to concentrate on getting our reporting done in each of our 6 Safety programs.

District Commanders, please contact your post Commanders and let them know that time is getting short in order to get their reporting into Department. You only need to report on one of the six programs in order to get an X on the X sheet, but reporting on all six is the goal. It is up to you, post commanders, to get this work done. If you are in line for a White hat, you need to get this done.

Our Department is looking very good right now as far as membership, but we need you all to make sure that your X sheets are completed. I know that you can all do it. I would truly like to see more the one or two submit someone for the Recognition Safety Program. Please give that one a shot! Good luck and I will be looking forward to all the posts reporting on the X sheet.

ASSISTANT YOUTH ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR/SCOUTING

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SCOUTING

Thanks to the Post who sponsored the scouts for the VFW Scout of the Year Scholarship. We have 8 applicants competing for the scholarship this year. Below are some stats from this year's applications:

VFW District	Scouting Council	Scouting District	VFW Post
3	Pathways to Adventure	Founders	8322
5	Northeast Illinois	Aptakisic	8741
5	Northeast Illinois	Northstar	4308
5	Greater Chicago & Northwest Indiana	Girl Scout	4308
11	Greater St Louis	Railsplitter	99
13	Greater St Louis	Black/Gold	9153
16	Pathways to Adventure	Nisnabec	311
18	Girl Scout of Northern IL	Girl Scout	5719
19	Three Fires	Potawatomi (2 entries)	2810; 5815
	Three Fires	Indian Prairie	3873
	Girl Scout of Northern IL	Girl Scout	7452

Our Scouting evaluation team will be scoring the packages on 20 April 2019.

Again, thanks for all your support for the VFW Scout of the Year Program and the Scouting Program.

HOSPITAL/VAVS REPORT

Harold Olsen, Director

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We still have a few Posts that haven't reported for our Hospital Program yet; let's see if we can do a little better than last year comrades.

We had our Advisory committee meetings this month and I attended the one at the LaSalle Home. They have 26 job openings. They are working on acquiring a new transport van for the home. There are 185 residents currently and not too many on the waiting list.

We were informed that the new home in Chicago should be open and operating by the end of the year.

Don't forget about our veterans that are confined at home; I'm sure they would welcome a little company, too, and don't forget to report it!