

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

AUGUST 2018

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

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It is school time again: who is ready to get the word out about VOD? Who is ready to talk to students, parents, grandparents, teachers, or other school officials? The time is now!!

District Commanders need to get with their chairmen and see what they are doing to ensure that the post chairmen fully understand the VOD program and that every post participates in the VOD program, not just throw money at it.

Post chairmen, you should be getting the entry forms out to the schools and any other students that are eligible within your communities. Also you should be lining up your judges and finding a location for the judging. If there are any questions, contact me. WE CAN DO BETTER.

AMERICANISM PROGRAM

Tom Davidson, Director

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Comrades, a new school year is about to begin and now is a good time to start planning Americanism Programs that we might want to do in our local schools. Schools are a great place to do Americanism. Examples of some things that be done are Flag Education, how to dispose of a worn flag in the correct manner, how to display the Flag properly, just to name a few.

By this time most Posts have run an Americanism Program but have not reported them. Please get them reported. If you need help reporting just call me. As a reminder the Teacher of The Year Program will be coming up before you know it so now is a good time to start thinking about running your program.

MARKETING PROGRAM

Barb Wilson

Marketing Director

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The **2019 Illinois VFW Raffle Calendar**, approved at the February 2018 Council Meeting is on sale through the Illinois VFW State Headquarters Office. Calendars are \$20 each and must be paid for in advance. The drawing will begin with the Illinois Lottery Midday Pick Four drawing on January 1, 2019 and continue daily through December 31, 2019. The Midday Pick 4 will

determine each day's winning calendar.

For calendars purchased and noted as "for resale" at time of purchase - we will leave the perforated stub intact. It will be the responsibility of the end-purchaser to fill out and return the stub to State Headquarters. "For resale" calendars will be recorded as sold to the person who made the initial purchase until such time as the stub is returned. If the stub is not returned, any prize monies generated from "for resale" calendars will be sent to the person, Post or District who made the initial purchase. District 14 Commander Maurice Bridges scanned and emailed the calendar stub to me & I printed it out and recorded it in my book. The copies of the stub were then put with the other stubs. If calendars are not marked as for resale, and unless requested otherwise, we will take the liberty of removing the stub, affixing an address label of the person who made the purchase, and mail the calendar with a copy of the filled out stub to the purchaser. Sales will be recorded in our book so we can track the sales and winning calendar numbers.

This is a great way to support our Veterans Service programs while having an opportunity to win 365 times in 2019. The raffle calendar will take the place of the 2019 Mid-Winter Sweepstakes Raffle in February. Complete rules can be found on our website.

For Posts and/or Districts needing calendars to sell, we can (upon request of the Post/District) send calendars on consignment (no money in advance needed). I will note which calendars are out to the Posts and Districts. As calendars sell, please send the money and completed stub to Headquarters Office. The calendars can be paid with a credit or debit card online and the stub scanned and emailed to me.

Lifsource, the blood donor folks in the Chicagoland area contacted us regarding their Donor Rewards Program & where members earn points each time they successfully donate. These points can be redeemed through their online store, or donated to the Illinois VFW to help fund our Veterans Service Office. That donor program is underway and the first donation check should be sent to Headquarters Office in October. If you belong to Lifsource's Donor Rewards Program, I hope you consider donating a portion of your points to the Illinois VFW.

2018 Fall Program Book & The 2018 Fall Program book theme will focus on our Post Namesakes. What better way to showcase the good works of our Posts in our communities than by highlighting how our Posts names came to be. The Fall Program Book Ad order form is in the General Orders and can also be found in our Marketing Program. Posts are invited and encouraged to share the history of their Post's Namesake (whether it's named after your community or individual(s) from your community) and to support our Veterans Service Programs by submitting an ad in our Program Book. Let's make this a Program Book every Post will want to cherish. The deadline to participate in the Fall Program book is September 30. These books will be given to the District Commanders for distribution at the November 3-4 "Mini Council" meeting in Peoria.

Veterans Service Supporter Program & Districts, Posts, Auxiliaries and individuals can show their support for our Veterans Service programs through our **Red, White and Blue** Veterans Service Supporter program. We have established three levels of Sponsorships & Red for those making donations of at least \$1,000; White for those making \$500 donations and Blue for those making donations of \$250. Supporters will receive a beautiful plaque denoting their level of support and signs will be displayed at our Mid-Winter Conference and State Convention.

I also want to give a final update on the **Illinois VFW Then and Now** book project through PCI. As of July 27, 2018 1,815 books have been sold. That's an \$18,150 donation for the Illinois VFW. 24,782 members responded. That's a 51 percent response rate. Thank you to all who took the time to respond.

The final piece of proofing will be the actual member section of the book. I should have it in August. Typically I have a couple of weeks then to proof it. We are on track for an October mailing of the book. For those who have purchased the add on products, ball cap, t-shirt, sweat shirt ó those items are in production and should be mailed shortly.

HOSPITAL REPORT (VAVS)

Harold Olsen

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Hospital Chairmen and VAVS Reps....let's get plans together to have some outings for our confined comrades in our homes and hospitals.

We took some of the Veterans from LaSalle Veterans Home to the South Shore Boat Club in Peru for a cookout. They said it is great to get out and some didn't want to get on the first bus going back. We had three friends playing music and singing for them. They brought 8 or 9 of them in the bus in three different trips then a couple more to get them back. It was a gorgeous day for it, too. Thanks to all that helped! Thanks for all you do!!

SAFETY PROGRAM

Robert Mattson

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Safety Report and Recommendations for Post Safety Meetings

Greetings from your Department Safety Director!

It is that time of year to start thinking about completing your safety programs and reporting on the X sheet. As you know there are six (6) categories for you to report on. I know that you are required to report in only one category to receive an X, but reporting in all six is the challenge.

District #4 will again be presenting a Safety Program for the year. Our Safety Director for the District will be notifying our posts very soon as to the date and subject of our seminar. This should be a standard program for each District Safety Director. The seminar can be done at a scheduled District Meeting, this way all posts who attend will be able to furnish and X on their X sheets.

I know that District 4 has the only Safety Seminar set up in our Department but I am hoping that a few more Districts will pick up the mantel. Safety is an important factor in our lives, especially for your children. Please try a Seminar to see the good response that you will get!

Thank you for your time!

NATIONAL HOME

Michael J. McGrath, Director

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Illinois Day - Saturday, September 22, 2018

Illinois Day at the VFW National Home for Children is scheduled for Saturday, September 22 and as in the past, there will also be a get together on Friday, September 21 at the local VFW Post in Charlotte Michigan. We will look forward to cold beverages and good cheer from 5 until 8 pm with dinner at 6 pm (Eastern Time). Charlotte VFW Post 2406 is called the "Maple City Post". The address is 695 Lansing Road, Charlotte, MI. The phone number is 517-543-1719.

Activities for Illinois Day begin at 9 am with registration and tours of both our beautiful campus and our Illinois Homes I and II. There will also be activities in the Community Center for all to enjoy. Lunch is at noon and the program at 1pm with the silver march to follow.

Also, please do make your own accommodations at nearby hotels:

Comfort Inn, Charlotte ... 517 543 7307
1302 Packard Hwy, Charlotte, MI 48813

America's Best Value Inn ... 517 543 8288
828 E. Shepherd St, Charlotte MI 48813

Holiday Inn, Charlotte ... 517 541 5000
500 Meijer St, Charlotte MI 48813

Don't miss out! Our 2018 trip promises to be special and memorable !!!

Please do reach out If you have any questions, please call or email We are glad to help.

ASSISTANT YOUTH ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR/SCOUTING

Ronald Milton

(618) 604-0423

E-mail: usafret1@charter.net

SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM



Schools will be returning from summer breaks and the scouting units are winding down their summer programs. With that many scouts will be focusing on completing their requirements for their next rank. This is also a good opportunity for our VFW Scouting chairs to recontact their scouting Councils/Districts/Units and start promoting the VFW Scouting Scholarship.

Remember, March 1 isn't that far off. Also, Today's Youth is Tomorrow's Leaders. Finally, if our VFW Districts would let me know who their Scouting Chairs are by contacting me, Ron Milton, Assistant Youth Director-Scouting at usafret1@att.net

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Tom Denman, Director

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Greetings Comrades,

Now that the new year has started we should already be in the Communities giving back somehow and letting everyone know what we do and what we are doing. School is right around the corner and I know there are lots of organizations helping out distributing backpacks with school supplies in them for kids in your neighborhood school district in need of help. Or maybe we can help with a shoe program to help kids get new shoes. This is a great way to show we care and want to make a difference. There are other things & different events going on throughout all of our towns this summer. Try to sign up for your craft shows or town fairs. Not only is it a great way to let potential members know you're out and active, the towns also see what you're doing. Have your VFW fact sheets ready and print outs of the Voice Of Democracy & Patriots Pen paperwork to hand out. We always meet new people who don't know what the program is all about.

It's also a great time to do fundraisers, food & clothing drives. Our Post has a couple fundraisers going on. One of them is Take a Vet Fishing and all proceeds are being donated to our Homeless Veterans Program. Another one we're doing is going to raise funds for backpacks filled with school supplies for needy kids in our surrounding communities that may need help.

Planning on applying for the Post Community Service Grant this year? New applications will be accepted in September of this year. If you have already applied and received one you can still apply again. For the 2017-2018-year Illinois received \$48,500 for this grant. The application is simple to fill out, but if you have any questions please feel free to call me at 1-224-360-3365 and I will be glad to help you. If what you apply for doesn't fit the VFW criteria they will let you know that and help you try to find another thing to do. If you need help reaching out to set up events in your town I can help with that also. Let's make this year a great success.

Have a great and successful month.