

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

MAY 2019

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2018-2019

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DISTRICT COMMANDERS, POST COMMANDERS AND QUARTERMASTERS: If you are trying to qualify for ðAll State,ö be sure to double check your x-sheets to make sure they are 100% completed and that you have ordered a minimum of 1,000 poppies. **DON'T SLIP UP AND MISS ANY OF THIS, AS IT COULD CAUSE YOU TO MISS YOUR "ALL STATE" QUALIFICATIONS!** District Commanders, believe it or not, we still have Posts who either don't get the General Orders or don't read them. Be sure to check every Post that is at 100% in your respective Districts to be certain THEY know the qualifications and where they stand.

If you haven't yet met the membership requirements for ðAll State,ö **you still have until June 15, 2019 to achieve that goal.** So, if you're just a few members short, don't give up! Keep pushingö you still have time to make it. Don't forget the membership requirement for District and Post Quartermasters is 100% plus 10 additional members. So many of you are close, and just a little extra effort on your part can make a big difference. Remember, one of the main differences between those who achieve success in life and those who do not is that **successful people are willing to do the things that they need to do achieve success; and unsuccessful people are unwilling to do what it takes.** YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN!

Currently, we are on the verge of making big things happen, both in our Department and on a National level, by ultimately achieving 100%. This is the first time in a quarter century that we have had the opportunity to make this happen. We need **everyone to pitch in and help** to make this a reality! ***CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?***

If you need a little extra help or motivation to finish the year strong, please call me and let me know how I can help. I'm here for youö just tell me what you need, and I'll do my best to make it happen.

I want to personally thank every VFW member that is helping us this year. Membership is one of the most difficult jobs we must do, year after year. However, many of you are proving that it CAN be done, and we appreciate your efforts. Stay positive, keep working, and don't quit! I predict there will be many white hats presented to our ðAll Stateö qualifiers at our state convention. ***Are you going to be one of them?***

Blessings to you and all your families. Have a great spring!

AMERICANISM PROGRAM

Tom Davidson, Director

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May 1st starts the new reporting year for the ðXö Sheet. There are at least 3 things that your Post can do in May to get reported for Americanism. May 1st is Loyalty Day, May 18th is Armed Forces Day, and May 27th is Memorial Day. All Posts should do some kind of activity on at least one of these days. You can also claim 1 hour a day for flying the flag at your post. These are easy things to do so if you do one report it and get credit for doing it. If you have trouble reporting just call either myself or Department. The help is there if you need it. I hope that you all have a Great Memorial Day weekend and don't forget to remember all of Departed Comrades.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Robert E. McLeod, Director

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Chairman - well we think that spring is here and time to be out in the communities. I know that there are some chairmen already working the program. Some questions have come up already on some of the paper work that needs to be turned in by the students.

1. The pictures. The department is requiring 2 glossy head and shoulder pictures of the students. Those pictures are for when the winning students(s) advance to the next level, for publicity purposes. This is very important at the district and department levels. You ó the post chairman, need to ensure that this is done. The last thing we need to do is run around collecting the items that should have already been submitted at the upper levels and could possible disqualified the student.
2. The SSN's are a big issue for some parents. I do understand that the parents don't really want their student's SSN out there. The reason that it is needed is for money that gets awarded to the students, (over a certain amount). Now here is a way to make the parents at ease with the requirement. The parents or the student can put the SSN inside of a sealed envelope and attached it to the entry form, or they can just put the information on the entry form (which is viable on the national site).
3. Ok, for those posts out there that is going to wait till the last minute before working the program, **THE GOOD WEATHER IS HERE, GET OUT AND WORK THE PROGRAMS WHEN YOU ARE OUT AND ABOUT DURING THE DAY.** You can use social media to get the word out. We can do better than last year. Get going.

NATIONAL HOME

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THANK YOU

Comrades, as our 2018 - 2019 program year comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone for their support. I'd like to especially thank our department staff for their great dedication and enthusiasm! In addition, I've really enjoyed meeting and working with so many excellent people

throughout the state of Illinois and will look forward to working with you again in the coming year.

Our thanks also to the District Commanders and District program directors. Your hard work is greatly appreciated! As the National Home receives "no government funding" your generosity is so very important!

The National Home helpline number is 800-313-4200. The helpline continues to be a great resource for Veterans and families right in their own community!

Illinois Day 2019 is September 28, 2019 - save the date. Hope to see you all there.

SAFETY PROGRAM

Robert Mattson

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At the end of this month we should be completed with our Safety Program for the year. All of our reporting should be sent into Department to complete our final reports.

The year has gone by very fast and what I have seen over the past few months is that the Districts and posts are living up to my expectations and completing all that is required by them. There are a few who are lagging behind so now is the time to get your X sheets completed.

I will have a final count of all the reporting in a few weeks so that we can determine the posts that have done the best in our program.

Good luck to all of you, and please get your reports in. I would like to honor all of our posts at Convention. I will see you call there!

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Carl Sorensen, Director

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Spring and summer offer many opportunities for your post to get out and be active in your community. NO, not just the Memorial Day Parade, July 4th, but how about planning an event for

May 10th Military Spouse Appreciate Day

May 12th Mother's Day

May 18th, Who knows the significance of May 18th? (See below for answer)

May 27th Memorial Day

June 6th, D-Day Remembrance Day

June 14th Flag Day

July 4th Independence Day

Something to remember, don't do until the Paperwork is done! Once you finish your event, project, make sure you have the information to put it on your X Sheet (Soon to be Activities List) Finally, plan ahead, have someone take photos with no less than 3 frames/exposures for each photo you take, write up a press release, get it on your post website, send it to local

newspapers, send it to me (PUT YOUR CONTACT INFO ON IT) I can have it put on Department website, and send it to VFW Magazine, öCheckpointö for you.

Your post has several opportunities to take advantage of these recognition days, and while some are not huge public relations opportunities, just recognizing the spouse of a deployed, active duty, reserve, National Guard with a simple card and perhaps a gift card to let them know they are appreciated for THEIR sacrifice. Put it on your website, if possible, take some photos of your presentation, of the spouse and service member as well as a VFW Member.

Armed Forces Day May 18th is a good day to stop in your local Army/Navy/Air Force/Marines Recruiting office and find out about what they are planning. Work with them. It may even produce a new member or three. Encourage them to transfer their membership when they PCS out, unless they are from your community.

We all know about Memorial Day I hope, but this is an excellent opportunity to find a couple new members. There was a saying in the advertising realm back in the -50s that actually fits this scenario, öRun it up the flag pole and see who salutesö I hope you realize that it has been deemed appropriate for a veteran to salute/present arms during the National Anthem, when the US Flag passes by in a parade. BE ON THE LOOKOUT, they just told you they are a veteran, BINGO! Talk to them.

As the days turn into a öprecious few (Until the end of the VFW year) make every day count, öTHE HEAT IS ON AGAINö

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Charles Ingle, Director

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Posts & Districts have now begun submitting their participation Reports of VFW Programs, for the ensuing term.

District Community Activities Directors: Please assist your Commander, by actively pursuing the following objective. Start now, by getting new Community Activity Reports from **those unreported Posts** of the previous term. And do it by the end of JULY!

That's 4 months. 71 Posts struggle with the process. They need your help.

I'll supply any *needed info*, just email me.

Thanks to ALL, for making your Post part of this report:

- Four Districts are completely reported.
- Four other Districts exceeded 75%.
- Department finished at 75%.

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.	11	69%	Richard E. Bukowski
4	Joseph P. Scanlon	12	80%	Thomas W. Davidson
5	Raymond O. Rigsby	14	70%	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	11	50%	Daryle D. Peters
10	Michelle K. Ramlow	8	50%	Jim Duvendack
11	Joseph S. Swinford	9	60%	Steve Jurgens
12	Christopher R. Retzer	13	68%	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.	9	82%	William A. Browne, Jr.
17	Sean D. Conner	11	79%	◆Dan R. Swaner
18	Robert M. Adame	11	92%	Robert McLeod
19	Robert Zeman	24	100%	George R. Cramer

Last report 18-19

Total Posts
284

X-Sheet Data
29-04-19

Department Percentage
75%

◆Assistant State Director

Compiled by
Chuck Ingle



District Leaders: National HQ informs us that far too many Posts are confused when it comes to reporting Hours and Dollars to Department. Please ensure that your Posts have a complete understanding, as clarified by our National Community Service Department, in the guidelines below.



HOURS: When the Post reports to the Department, they should list the hours of community service performed by the Post, affiliated Cootie Scratch, Auxiliary, and Rider Groups for that reporting period. **Only volunteer service hours benefiting the community are to be reported.** Volunteer hours committed to projects and activities benefiting the Post and its affiliated units listed above cannot be reported.

MONEY: The money that should be reported are the **dollars donated or expended by the members** in the performance of the community service hours reported, plus \$.14 per mile for each mile driven by the volunteers.

DO NOT REPORT: The value of the hours worked is a calculation made at the national level only. Posts and Departments should never report any figures derived from the value of hours worked.

IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE REPORTING: It is of the utmost importance that VFW Posts report their volunteer hours and especially their donations accurately. A Post that inflates the amounts of money they donate, intentionally or otherwise, may place their not-for-profit status in jeopardy.