

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

NOVEMBER 2018

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2018-2019

J.D. Butchö Spindler

P.O. Box 577

Robinson, IL 62454

Telephone: Home: (618) 544-8562

Office: (618) 544-8141

Cell: (618) 562-8722

E-mail: spindler@springnet1.com

Post Commanders, Adjutants, and Quartermasters: It is extremely important that you maintain contact with your annual paying members to keep them as members of your Post. Be sure to check your Membership reports for any unpaid members, and contact them either personally or by phone, if they remain unpaid. It's a lot easier to KEEP a member than to lose them and have to recruit a new member to replace them.

This time of the year, a simple act, such as sending your members a Christmas card thanking them for their membership in your Post, might reap rewards and stabilize your membership base. Whatever you do, it is important to stay in contact with your members. It can help build a favorable relationship with them.

On November 10th, we will have a recruiting booth at **the Bloomington Flying Aces Military Appreciation Day**. The doors open at 6:00 p.m., and the game starts at 7:07. There might be tailgating in the late afternoon. We invite everyone to come out and enjoy the game...and why not bring a potential member with you?

Post Quartermasters: You need to check your red lined members on your membership roster. If they are red lined, their mail may be undeliverable. Those members may have moved or be deceased. Either way, you should make the effort to follow up on them. It is also possible that these addresses may be good; and if that is the case, you need to notify National Headquarters that the address is good, and that it should not be red lined.

As of this writing, the **4th District** is leading the Department in Membership, having achieved over 92%. **Congratulations go out to District Commander Joe Scanlon and his team!** As a Department, our membership is running slightly less than it was at this time last year. However, we are in range for having a great year, and it's nothing we can't make up if we put the effort into it.

We all need to stay busy and keep contacting potential new members. Remember, consistently staying busy will ultimately produce results. Keep making the contacts, and things will happen!

I am here to help, so let me know what you need, and I will do my best to make it happen. Thank you all for everything you do for the VFW. I appreciate it, and I know our officers do as well. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, and I hope to see you soon!

HOSPITAL/VAVS REPORT

Harold Olsen, Director

(815) 819-7171

E-Mail: olsenoly@yahoo.com

Hope everyone is doing well. Don't forget our comrades for the upcoming holidays. I know the 7th District already has their Christmas Parties planned:

- Illiana VA is December 15th in the Social Activities Room, 2pm.
- Manteno Veterans Home is December 16th in Veterans Hall, 2pm.

Hope to see some of you there. The big Veterans Day Parade in Utica is November 4th.

Don't forget to report!!!

AMERICANISM PROGRAM

Tom Davidson, Director

Home: 847-352-5316

Cell: 847-347-8884

E-mail: pastcomm7@yahoo.com

Veterans Day is coming up fast. By this time you should have your ceremonies planned and ready to go. If you don't here a few things that you can do that are very easy. Go to a local school and talk to the students or go to a local nursing home; there are usually a lot Veterans there and they are many times forgotten. Visit them and thank them for their Service. Believe me you will make their day. These are only couple of the things that you do and they don't take much planning.

.The Teacher of the Year Nominations should be into the Posts by now and the judging done and forwarded to the District Chairman by 11-15-18. District judging should be done by 12-15-18 and forwarded to Department for judging. You can send to Department or to me directly. PLEASE make sure that you make a copy of everything that you send because things do get lost in the mail especially around Christmas. The Department Judging will be held in early January (The exact date is not been set yet but it will be early January) so send me your nominations as early as possible so everyone gets judged. If you wish to send it to me direct my address is:

Tom Davidson
1492 Chaffee Ct.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

If you send to Department remember they then have to forward to me so give yourself enough time.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Charles Ingle, Director

(815) 979-7152

E-mail: chuck@roscoevfw.com

“What is this thing called an X-Sheet... and what does it have to do with ME?”

Arguably the best question that any VFW Leader will ever ask – and all of us have!

It may take time to get a complete answer. But once you do, you’ll know a lot more about everything that VFW Posts do Day-In & Year-Out, to enhance the future of needy Veterans and the other Citizens of our Great Country.

But we need to realize that as Post Leadership evolves, sometimes the *way* that it evolves can overlook certain facets of the VFW that supposedly “go without saying”. To further illustrate: I believe that, at a significant percentage of Posts, the term “X-Sheet” is no more than a *buzzword* rarely uttered, if at all, around the Quartermasters desk. A Post could operate quite effectively, serving its community, and conducting their General Meetings, without using the word “X-Sheet”. The Commander and Quartermaster may not feel the need to mention it. They merely comply with its annual and quarterly reporting requirements, quietly and without fanfare, within the confines of the office walls. And when these Officers are eventually succeeded, X-Sheet reporting can be unwittingly discontinued.

This practice could continue to be the norm for years. Members are always being asked to participate in the same programs every year, but have no understanding of a reporting mechanism that requires periodic entries; a system which enables the Post to receive credit and even awards for jobs well done. Thankfully, there are also a large number of Posts that are the opposite; and the rest are somewhere in between.

Admittedly, many Posts have been frustrated with the new VFWIL website. Mike DeRoss stands ready to assist any Member experiencing difficulty. Anyone may call him directly at 217-529-6688. Also, certain District Commanders are expected to host regional classes of instruction, before the term expires.

In late October, I began a tightly focused exercise, contacting one Officer, at every Illinois Post that has not reported any Community Activities in the first 6 months of the current term. The successes from these efforts will have a wide-reaching benefit for **every** Program with an X-Sheet column. And should be apparent to all appointed Department Program Directors during the next 6 months. Time will tell.

Please offer your suggestions and user-feedback to vwil@vwil.org. Current Department **Community Activities Reporting** is at **39%**.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Robert E. McLeod, Director

(708) 363-7462

E-mail: rock76@yahoo.com

Post chairman ó I thank you for the hard work that your post and auxiliary has done with the program this year.
THANK YOU!

To the District Chairman ó now it is your turn for district judging. A few reminders on the judging ó ensure you select good and well-rounded judges, have score sheets ready for them, review all entries to ensure that everything is order in the case that student is the district winner. Listen to the entries to ensure that they work with the audio equipment you have and check the timing. Have all the judges present at the same time; make the judges have a place that is quiet and comfortable. When the judging is completed, thank the judges for their time and ask them for any feedback to improve the program at your level. I look forward to your district winners. Good luck

NATIONAL HOME

Michael J. McGrath, Director

(630) 357-2680

E-mail: mackcav1@sbcglobal.net

The VFW National Home for Children

Comrades, as Veterans Day approaches we are reminded of how important it is to help our fellow Veterans and those serving on active duty protecting our freedom during these difficult times.

Helpline

One way we can do this is through the National Home's helpline .. 800 313 4200 ... this is a free service that offers information, creates connections and can give help and hope to struggling Military and Veteran families. It can also serve as the first step to living in the National Home community for up to four years. Could this help someone you know?

Thank you and best to all on Veterans Day.

SAFETY PROGRAM

Robert Mattson

(847) 371-0209

E-mail: rmattson7248@gmail.com

As we get into November we must start to think about the holidays that are coming up. This month brings us Thanksgiving and a lot of travel involved with getting to our relatives for the Thanksgiving dinner. We have all of that traffic to contend with, which leads us to Highway Safety. Please stress the chances of highway accidents increases with the amount of traffic. Please stress to your comrades the importance of driving safely and defensively.

My District 4 is having its annual Safety Seminar on October 27th. By the time you get a chance to read this we will have already had it. In my last report I did cover the topics that we will be discussing. I bring up this subject with the hope that 1 or 2 of our other Districts will consider doing the same.

With December around the corner I know that a lot of you will be going out to do your Christmas and Hanukkahs shopping. Please be careful out there doing your shopping. When installing your decorations with the lighting make sure that all wiring is ok and not frayed so that you will not have a fire.

Please be safe during the Holidays so that I can see all of you at the next C of A meeting in February.

Please have a wonderful Thanksgiving and please keep our Deployed Military Members in your prayers.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Carl Sorensen, Director

847-721-0281

E-mail: prdirector@vfwil.org

The past month has provided the Department of Illinois positive exposure.

Will your post have entries for Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year, Scout of the Year? These are programs you are doing or should be doing every year for "X" Sheet credit. I don't have to mention the saying, "It's not finished until you finish the paperwork." If you don't know how to construct a Press Release, email me. Yes, you can call a newspaper and ask them to send a reporter to cover your Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy presentations, however, many news outlets around the state and the Nation are concentrating on the elections and will be for several weeks! That's why you should take photos of your winners, with your Commander and Project Chair presenting checks and certificates or plaques and a concise press release announcing the winning entries.

Not sure about the photos? The person behind the camera calls the shots, literally. First, you set-up the photo. Simple instructions such as gently moving someone closer, having them turn at a slight angle to the left or right toward the center of your photo, asking the presenter to hold the check in front of the recipient. The goal is to have both the presenter and recipient hold the certificate and shake hands.

Also, when you put four, five or six people (or even two) you don't take ONE EXPOSURE AND HOPE FOR THE BEST! DO NOT count down, or let subjects know when you are going to snap the shutter (and flash). Today's electronic flash units, also referred to as "Speedlights" have a duration of 1/10,000th of a second. Take one exposure for each subject in your photo and a couple extra, to be sure, no one has flinched, closed their eyes, sneezed, or any of the things that can spoil the photo.

If you need help, email me, I'll help you draft it, and you can submit it to your local newspapers, and forward a copy up to District, if your entry is sent to Springfield, the press release can be easily edited and sent out.

The address book for media outlets for VFW Posts across the state is growing. This is something that can be a benefit to the Posts and Districts across the State since a press release can be directed to newspapers in the vicinity for posts and districts. News Editors like something that can be edited for space and content and sent to lay-out for printing. The Department of Illinois will be featured in the next issue of "Checkpoint" so be on the lookout.

What will your Post do to help the image of the Veterans of Foreign Wars? I am available to help you, email, or call me with questions, I don't know ALL the answers, but I can help find the answer for you.

VETERANS AND MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Clarke G. Christiansen, Director

(708) 205-4848

E-mail: Clarke@chicagomx.com

Just a reminder from your friendly Department Veterans and Military Support Programs Chairman. The holiday season is upon us and there are many military units out there that would love to hear from you, especially if we can do something to help. MAP grants are available and the Department of Illinois encourages you to get involved! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need help.