



***DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
PROGRAM BULLETIN***

AUGUST 2020

NATIONAL HOME

Michael J. McGrath, Director

(630) 357-2680

E-mail: mackcav1@sbcglobal.net

PLEASE NOTE **

As Illinois Day has been cancelled, any monies earmarked for the National Home can be sent to Illinois VFW Headquarters. Note - also we will have a "Silver March" at the August Council meeting at the Sycamore VFW Post. Attendees may bring donations to the meeting as per Commander Emmer.

**** General Operating Fund ****

We would ask that you consider donating to the National Home General Operating Fund as this will help pay the ongoing bills.

**** Thank You ****

Our thanks to Commander Emmer and to all our comrades for your thoughtful generosity as we celebrate "A Century and Beyond" for the Illinois VFW. No one does more for Veterans!

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Robert E. McLeod, Director

708.363.7462

E-mail: rock76@yahoo.com

Comrades. Well it back to school time, in some areas. Yes, these are challenging times. Now depending on where you are at in the state is going to depend on what challenges that you have ahead of you on getting the word out to the students about Voice of Democracy and the theme for the year "Is this the country the founders envisioned?" we could ask ourselves the same question. There are various ways of getting the word out to the students in your community and I have talked about them before. Now is the time to act on these. Let's remember that we are combat veterans, we have learned to adapted to things that come in front of us and we overcome those things. We can do this and show the communities that we live in what we are made out of.

Let's use what we can use and what is available to us to get the message out to the students. Radio, local TV, posters, social media or even the old fashion way of talking face to face with people that you meet. I look forward to seeing your district winners come December this year. The best of luck to you and your communities.

AMERICANISM PROGRAM

John Barrett, Director

618.444.2906

happy2baliv@yahoo.com

Last month I highlighted the three areas to keep in mind regarding the Americanism Program, - the flag, participation in ceremonies and teacher recognition.

Many Posts have already completed the requirement for your X-sheets in this program. Don't stop reporting just because you've got your "X" in this box. Remember to report your activities in these three areas each and every time over the course of the year. Cash awards of \$30 will be paid to the top three membership category Posts/Districts with the highest number of hours, money and members participating.

The Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award is the cornerstone of the Americanism Program. Although National HQS has mailed brochures directly to schools, it is imperative that our Posts contact the schools directly. Schools may be currently closed, however principals or other administrators are available for contact and assistance. Please adhere to the deadlines and strict reporting requirements or your submission will be delayed, returned or possibly rejected. The first deadline is October 31, 2020 for Teacher Nominations to Posts. Completion of Post Judging deadline is November 15, 2020.

As previously noted, further detailed information and forms can be found on our VFW websites and in our Department Commander's Leadership Manual.

Thank you.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Charles Ingle, Director

815.979.7152

E-mail: chuck@roscoevfw.com

Post Grants

Designed to help VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries provide the vital support local communities, America's heroes and their families all deserve, the VFW Foundation offers funding assistance through two grant programs.

VFW Foundation Community Support Grant

Available to any VFW Post or Auxiliary, a VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant will provide up to \$1,000 for performing important and needed qualifying outreach projects in your community! With an easy and streamlined application process, Posts and Auxiliaries can expect to receive a decision within thirty (30) days of the application submission.

VFW Foundation Grant

Grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$15,000, will be awarded for activities that directly benefit veterans, active duty military personnel and their families. Requests displaying innovation in service delivery, unique program design that addresses an under-served need and the likelihood of sustainability after the grant period ends will be given special consideration.

Covid Pandemic update

The VFW Foundation Board will meet in the middle of August. Application forms are revised annually. The normal start of the Grant cycle is expected to be delayed. During September, continue to monitor this link for the most current information on the new term:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/post-grants>

We are also advised that the Home Depot closed their program for the year due to the pandemic. If they decide to resume it, it will likely be in February when it typically opens.

Community Support Grants 2019-20

27 Illinois Posts & Auxiliaries each received \$1000 in the previous Grant cycle. Perhaps your Post has an idea for the 2020-21 cycle!

Post 5815 Lombard Food Pantry Donation 1000.00
Post 6410 Sullivan Youth Recreation Program - Purchase Games, etc., 1000.00
Aux 6410 Sullivan Youth Recreation Program - Purchase Games, etc., 1000.00
Post 3455 Anna Food Baskets for Needy Community Members 1000.00
Post 2055 Centralia Donations of Equipment to Fire Department/Food Bank 1000.00
Aux 3455 Anna Christmas Gifts for Needy Community Members 1000.00
Post 9153 Waltonville Ramp Construction 1000.00
Aux 9153 Waltonville Ramp Construction 1000.00
Post 10396 Carol Stream Vet Center Donation 1000.00
Post 6632 Red Bud Little League Football and Cheerleading 1000.00
Post 11456 Arthur Boy Scout Donation 1000.00
Post 10009 Tuscola First Responder Picnic 1000.00
Post 3480 Lebanon Meals for Homeless Veterans 1000.00
Post 4549 Robinson Veteran Christmas Program 1000.00
Post 3523 Carlyle Community Flower Garden Project 1000.00
Aux 2055 Centralia Donation of Blankets to Girl Scouts 1000.00
Post 8322 Chicago Various Community Projects 1000.00
Post 805 O'Fallon First Responder Banquet/Holiday Meal 1000.00
Post 2705 Moweaqua School Supplies Donation 1000.00
Aux 311 Richton Park Community Christmas Party 1000.00
Post 7710 Belleville Senior Home Nonprofit Donation 1000.00
Aux 6632 Red Bud Girl Scout Ball Park Donation 1000.00
Post 2698 Sparta DARE Donation 1000.00
Aux 2698 Sparta Various Donations 1000.00
Post 8821 Chicago Play Tickets for VA Patients 1000.00
Post 4183 Belleville Transitioning Veteran Org Donation 1000.00
Post 4549 Robinson 1000.00

VFW 2020-2021 Community Activities, Dept. of IL
District Commander
Posts
Reported District
Community Activities
Director

3 Christopher C. Garza 0% Christopher C. Garza
4 Joseph P. Scanlon 2 13% Thomas W. Davidson
5 Christine A. Pawley 2 11% Daniel J. Pearson
6 Mark A. Miller 0% Gary D. Holmes
7 Robert Sable 1 5% Robert Sable
8 Russell "Pete" Mosher 0% Mark W. Sowers
9 Elton H. Murphy 2 10% John L. Finnegan
10 Bobby J. Edwards 1 6% Bobby J. Edwards
11 Joseph S. Swinford 0%
12 Timothy B. O'Donnell 1 5% John "Jack" Fessler
13 Christopher L. Hatcher 1 8% Elmer L. McDuffee
14 Kenneth E. Williams 6 32% ♦John E. Barrett
15 Gary J. Fravel 0% Barbara R. Wilson
16 Bruce Borowicz 2 18% William A. Browne, Jr.
17 Sean D. Conner 3 21% ♦Dan R. Swaner

18 Paul Barclay 4 33% Robert E. McLeod
19 George Miller 11 46% George R. Cramer ♦Assistant State Director

Total Posts - 278
X-Sheet Data 7/28/2020
Department Percentage - 13%
Compiled by Chuck Ingle

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2020-2021

J.D. "Butch" Spindler, Director

618. 544.8562

E-mail: spindler@springnet1.com

Last month I encouraged all of our Posts to contact their members with a health and wellness call, just to see how they are doing. Most importantly, we need to contact our annual paying members first, because they are most vulnerable of not renewing each year. If you attempt to stay in contact with these members on a regular basis, it should help stabilize their renewals.

We are experiencing unprecedented times. and it is unlikely we will be able to set up recruiting events where there are large numbers of people, as we have done in the past. I suggest more personal recruiting. Look for residences flying American or military flags; vehicles with military plates or stickers; or individuals with military tattoos or wearing ball caps. Take the initiative to introduce yourself and start a conversation. If these individuals are not eligible for the VFW, don't forget to ask them if they have friends, neighbors, or family members who are veterans. It all starts with a name and a contact on a favorable basis.

It takes time and effort to run a successful recruiting campaign, but constant effort eventually pays off. Stay positive, and do not try to do it all by yourself. Don't forget to contact our Assistant Membership Directors in your area if you need help or you have an upcoming event or meeting.

Finally, our Membership Program can be found on Pages 10-20 of the Commander's Leadership Manual on the Department website. If you have not done so already, I suggest you familiarize yourself with it. If you cannot locate the website, contact your District Commander and I am sure they will be able to help you.

Thanks for all you do for our veterans and the VFW as we celebrate "*100 Years of Service.*"