MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2018-2019
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DISTRICT COMMANDERS, POST COMMANDERS AND QUARTERMASTERS: If
you are trying to qualify for "All State," 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 "All State, 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 pushing!
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 you 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 "All State" 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
Home: 847-352-5316
Cell: 847-347-8884
E-mail: pastcomm7@yahoo.com

May 1st starts the new reporting year for the ñXô 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 donô forget to remember all of Departed Comrades.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
Robert E. McLeod, Director
(708) 363-7462
E-mail: rock76@yahoo.com

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, 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 SSNs are a big issue for some parents. I do understand that the parents donô really want their studentôs 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
Michael J. McGrath, Director
(630) 357-2680
E-mail: mackcav1@sbcglobal.net

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
(847) 371-0209
E-mail: rmattson7248@gmail.com

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
847-721-0281
E-mail: prdirector@vfwil.org

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, ìIt’s not done until the Paperwork is doneî Once you finish your event, project, make sure you have the information to put it on your ìActivities Listî 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, Checkpoint 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, "Run it up the flag pole and see who salutes" 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 precious few (Until the end of the VFW year) make every day count, THE HEAT IS ON AGAIN

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM
Charles Ingle, Director
(815) 979-7152
E-mail: chuck@roscoevfw.com

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

District Community Activities Director(s): 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%.
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<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Commander</th>
<th>Posts Reported</th>
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<th>Community Activities Director</th>
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**Last report 18-19**

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<td>284</td>
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<td>Chuck Ingle</td>
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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.