



*DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
PROGRAM BULLETIN*

OCTOBER 2019

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

David Darte, Director

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Comrades,

Hopefully, you have presented your case to local schools for why our youth need to have programs where they are encouraged to think about the freedoms that they have inherited from former generations and begin to formulate their role in preserving and advancing those freedoms as they assume the role of the future leaders of our nation. After all, that is the goal of the VOD and PP contests. It is not too late if you haven't made the connection yet. In my experience, you don't bombard teachers with these programs in the first week or two of school reconvening because they are a bit overwhelmed. By the same token, they can pull it all together in the final week or two of the dead line, Oct. 31, 2019, if they are so inclined. In other words, don't give up and thanks for all you do for VFW and our youth!!

HOSPITAL V.A.V.S

Harold R Olsen Jr., Director

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We had our 2nd Advisory Counsel meetings at the Veterans Homes. I hope all our counsel members were in attendance. The LaSalle Home still has a lot of vacancies for nursing and a few other positions. They said the wait time there was 3-6 months to become a resident. They are at 184 residents - about 1/3 are WWII, 1/3 Korea and the rest are peace time and Vietnam vets. They also reported that they just got a new transport van that was donated by the local veterans organizations.

This is a great time of year to get them out for outings. The activities director can help plan one if you are interested in hosting one. They love to get out for a little while.

If you do, don't forget to report it !!!

AMERICANISM PROGRAM

Tom Davidson, Director

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Comrades,

Remember that the deadline for The Smart/Maher Teacher of the Year Entries for the posts is coming up Oct 31, 2019. All entries must be into the post by this date. If you do not have an entry for all 3 categories you may make a donation Directly to National of \$75.00 for each Category by Oct. 31, 2019. YOU MUST DONATE DIRECTLY TO NATIONAL. THE DONATION FORM CAN BE FOUND AT:

VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation You must donate or submit a teacher to be considered for All American Commander.

At this time we are 5 months into our reporting year. The Department is only 40% reported with some Districts only have 1 Post reported. With at least 3 major events that have taken place since May 1, 2019 this is not a very good reporting rate. I urge all District Chairmen to contact the Posts in their District and get them to report. Most Posts have done the work but don't take the time to report it. If the Post Chairman has trouble reporting go to them and help them out or have them call me or Department Headquarters for help.

Veterans Day is coming up on Nov. 11, 2019. This is a great time to do an event and get reported. If your post does an event call the local newspaper and try to get them to cover your event.

If anyone wishes to contact me my just call me: Home 1-847-352-5316/
Cell 1-847-347-8884

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Robert E. McLeod, Director

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Post chairman, the end of October is just around the corner. Please ensure that you have judges lined up and the judging sheets ready to go for your post judging. Also make sure that all the judges are same place and the same time, use the same machine when you let the judges hear those students essays.

Once you have completed the judging, have everything together for your winners to be forward to the district level. Remember that the post can send one winner for every 15 entries that are submitted to the post to the district level.

Finally, don't forget to submit your post report to the district chairman. Thank you for your hard work and time

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

Walter Sanders, Jr., Director

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There is a shortage of blood in the state of Illinois. Now is the time to get a blood drive going at your post or district to get those blood banks back up to where they should be. Members can give blood on their own; just let them know that you are donating blood for the VFW. Please keep in mind that there is always a need for blood

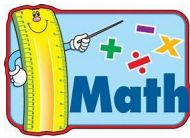
If you or your post have any questions on getting a blood drive going at your post or district level, please contact me for help. LET'S GO DONATE SOME BLOOD TODAY.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Charles Ingle, Director

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Third Quarter 2019 concludes with **35%** of Illinois Posts having reported for X-Sheet credits, in Community Activities. 10% being added in just the past month. During the four prior months, our monthly average was 6¼%.

We'll need to continue this rise in momentum, in order to meet the Department goal of **90%** reported, by December 31st. Working together, we can accomplish this goal. Although history has shown that it can't happen without the combined efforts of District Commanders & Community Activity Directors, *and* Post Commanders & reporting officers.

How do we get there from here? We need to be certain that our Posts fully understand the importance of making VFW Program Reports. And that, we provide them with the necessary guidance to get thoroughly acquainted with the reporting process. If we can sustain a monthly reporting average of 18⅓%, in the final quarter, we've hit goal!

Today's 35% is a significant benchmark, as long as we continue to build the pace.

Thanks for your Hard Work. Now here's Chuck's Chart:

VFW 2019-2020 Community Activities, Dept. of IL

<u>District</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Posts Reported</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Community Activities Director</u>
3	Christopher C. Garza	3	20%	not yet appointed
4	Joseph P. Scanlon	4	27%	Thomas W. Davidson
5	Christine A. Pawley	7	37%	Daniel J. Pearson
6	Mark A. Miller	2	12%	Gary D. Holmes
7	Robert Sable	5	24%	Robert Sable
8	Russell "Pete" Mosher	4	24%	Mark W. Sowers
9	Elton H. Murphy	10	45%	John L. Finnegan
10	Bobby J. Edwards	7	44%	Bobby J. Edwards
11	Joseph S. Swinford	10	67%	not yet appointed
12	Timothy B. O'Donnell	6	32%	John "Jack" Fessler
13	Christopher L. Hatcher	5	42%	Elmer L. McDuffee
14	Kenneth E. Williams	9	47%	◆John E. Barrett
15	Gary J. Fravel	1	8%	Barbara R. Wilson
16	Bruce Borowicz	4	36%	William A. Browne, Jr.
17	Sean D. Conner	3	21%	◆Dan R. Swaner
18	Paul Barclay	8	67%	Robert E. McLeod
19	George Miller	10	42%	George R. Cramer

◆Assistant State Director

Total Posts
281

X-Sheet Data
26-09-19

Department Percentage
35%

Compiled by
Chuck Ingle

SAFETY PROGRAM

Robert Mattson, Director

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District and Post Safety chairman. We are going into the month of October and again it is going to be Halloween Time. I brought this up last year at this time also. Our young children are going to be out there trick and treating. They need that adult supervision to keep them safe. They are going to be going house to house and

darting across the streets without looking. We need to be vigilant and watch them closely. You need to stress this at your post and district meeting with your membership.

It is also time to think about a District or Post Safety Seminar. I know that I keep preaching about this, but it is very informative and can be a good deal of fun. We in the 4th District have ours set up for the 26th of October. We will again have it at the Streamwood Police Department training room. All of our post are invited, but those posts in other District are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend please call Steve Wilson, the 4th District Quarter Master. His contact info is in the Department Roster.

Let us also start to get a good start on the X sheet. The year seems to go by very quickly, so it is good to start on the X sheet now. I hope you all have a wonderful October and a safe Halloween!

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Carl Sorensen, Director

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Plan Now for All American!

Right now, you should have been talking to your local schools, Elementary, Middle and High School for Teacher of the Year. Middle School (6-8) High School (9-12) (Don't Forget Home Schooled students!) How about Scout of the Year, (Eagle for Boy Scouts, Gold Award for Girl Scouts)

Have you considered any program for POW Remembrance Day? How about Veterans Day?

These are all programs that accomplish several things:

1. Visibility in your Community
2. Create interest and enthusiasm with membership
3. Write an article for your local News paper
4. SUBMIT items for inclusion on the Department website, your Post Website, the VFW Illinois Newspaper.
5. Take advantage of the next few months and tell the world, (at least Illinois and the Nation) What you are doing for Veterans; service members and their families.)
6. Draft a letter, okay email and tell me what you did:

Example:

Post 1245 Anytown, Illinois had a Veterans Day Program for 47 Veterans from area nursing homes. Commander Smith as well as 18 Post Members provided a light lunch and saluted the veterans for their service and had gift bags of personal care

items.”

If you can do something that simple, take some photos (WITH CAPTIONS: names from left to right). USE HORIZONTAL FORMAT they work better on website take multiple shots and attach them to your email. You don't have to write a book, but a well written one-and-a-half-page single spaced story with photos can provide you some good publicity for your post in your local paper. If you are planning a large project, call me ahead of time, I can make suggestions and give you guidance over the phone, but don't wait two weeks after your event or program, DO IT NOW. A day or two is okay, especially writing, organizing, getting correct spellings and titles of guests and dignitaries, but it will be worth it.

The goal this year is 3000 Entries Department wide at the Post level. Will someone sponsored by YOUR POST come home with a \$30,000 Scholarship? Or a \$16,000. I have had the honor of speaking with a few of our Department Champions the last couple of years, they are amazed with the Voice of Democracy Program, but its up to YOU to make it happen.

I have been contacted by several Posts over the past few months and have helped put an article together that a newspaper could print and also, if you check out the Department website, there are a couple videos. Go on line to www.vfw.org and poke around, there is information on-line how to draft a press release, if you don't know or afraid you don't know what to say call me!

Illinois was 100 % PLUS last year, we got this engine fired up and moving, let's have some fun!

NATIONAL HOME
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ILLINOIS DAY AT THE NATIONAL HOME.

Thank you all for a great turnout at our annual visit to the National Home this year!

The new museum looks great. It was very well enjoyed as was our "first ever visit" to the National Home (Rosehill) Cemetery located near the home in Eaton Rapids.

Cemetery information: In 1959 the City of Eaton Rapids deeded an entire section (Section J) of the Rosehill Cemetery to the National Home. Please note that our section of the cemetery has a total of 144 plots and 22 have been utilized to date. Burial plots are made available without cost, to current or former resident children or resident parents or resident grandparents of the National Home in our section

(Section J) of the cemetery and requests are made through the executive director and the executive committee of the board of trustees and are approved on the merits of each case.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY ... SATURDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 28

We are proud to report to you that our Illinois VFW Department had the privilege of conducting our first memorial and "wreath laying "ceremony at the cemetery to honor those residents or family members who've passed away and are buried there.

Our thanks go out to sr. Vice Commander Laurie Emmer who gave us the idea! And we are very grateful to our Commander Brad Gould and all of our state officers as well as all our comrades who participated and who "made this happen."

Many thanks to all and "May God Bless Our National Home."

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

John E. Barrett

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Inspector Preparation:

The better one prepares themselves and the Post, the better the results.

1. Review past Inspection Reports.
2. Gather information, i.e. officers and membership, social media, community service reports, etc.
3. Provide advance notice to the Post of the date and time of the inspection. Also provide the Post with an explanation of your process and your expectations for the availability and preparedness of required documents.
4. Your toolbox should also include our General Orders, By-Laws, reference materials and information on all sources for additional training.