



*DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
PROGRAM BULLETIN*

JANUARY 2021

NATIONAL HOME

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

As we begin the new year we want to express our thanks for your great support. The VFW national Home continues its mission of helping veterans and families as it has since 1925 with no government funding and the Department of Illinois continues to show that no one has done more for veterans for over 100 years-- a great tradition that we can all be proud of!

Program Participation-- We thank Districts 7, 13 and 14 for being 100% reported on the X sheets. For your convenience, donation forms are available online through the National Homes website. These are great ways to help the National Home and reward your dedicated Post and District volunteers. Two popular donation items are National Home commemorative Bricks (\$100) and National Home Life Memberships (\$50)

Commemorative Bricks

Link : <https://www.vfwnationalhome.org/bricks>

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Link : <https://www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership>

The National Home's Helpline (800)313-4200 is a free service that offers information, creates connections and can give hope to struggling military and veterans families. It can also serve as the first step to living at the National Home for up to four years. Could this help someone you know?

Thank you and Blessings to all in the coming year. Please do reach out if you have questions or need help.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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Well, another year comes to a close, and what a remarkable year it was! Dealing with all the roadblocks that COVID-19 put in our way is a tribute to the resolve and perseverance of our members.

Department judging in the Patriot's Pen will be complete by January 1st. I want to thank all comrades who participated in this program at all levels! District Chairpersons did an amazing job getting their entries in by the stated deadlines. That was a huge help in this tumultuous time. It enabled Department Officers and Directors to identify the location of students so as to help develop an Awards Program for February. Those plans are underway and will be revealed soon. Wishing each and every member a Happy New Year!

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

John E. Barrett

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As of December 30, 2020 a total of 135 Posts and Districts have reported activities in the Americanism Program on your x-sheets. Please continue to report and be sure to include total hours, money spent and the number of members participating in each activity.

A final reminder, - January 31, 2021 is the deadline for Teacher Award submissions to Department from our Districts. Department judging will then be conducted with the criteria of citizenship, innovation, resources and passion equally weighted.

To reiterate, there is no longer any National judging or National cash awards. Citations will be sent from National for each of our Department's three category winners and their schools. Our Department will award \$100 to each of the three winning teachers.

Thank you.

MARKETING PROGRAM

Barb Wilson

Marketing Director

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Happy 2021 to all our VFW Members. Here's hoping the New Year brings you much joy.

Illinois VFW Publications Contest

Editors of Post and District Newsletters are urged to enter one issue of their publication in the Illinois VFW Publications Contest. The rules are simple – the newsletter must be published between Jan. 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020. When sending in entries I will need the name and

contact information of the Editor, including mailing address, telephone number and email address, and the number of times the newsletter was published in 2020. If you printed and mailed 2 issues and electronically published 2 issues – that means you published four issues in 2020. National’s Publication Contest has combined the Post and District newsletter category, so all entries will be judged in two categories – published 1-4 times per year and published 5 or more times per year. An independent panel of judges will determine the top three winners in each publication category for the state competition. However, we will follow the contest guidelines that National Headquarters has outlined. You can email your entry to bwilson@vfwil.org or mail your entry to me at 802 N. 3rd St., Riverton, IL 62561 or Illinois VFW Headquarters, PO Box 13206, Springfield, IL 62791-3206. Please mark your entry as Publications Contest. The entry deadline is Feb. 28, 2021.

News Media Professional of the Year

Does your Post or District work closely with news media outlets in your community? Does one person stand out doing an outstanding job in providing coverage to your Post or District activities? If so, consider entering him or her in the Illinois VFW News Media Professional of the Year. There is no official entry form, just outline their media coverage in your nomination letter. Provide as much information as possible, including newspaper clippings, or links to newspaper articles or television/radio clips. An independent panel will judge entries and determine the award recipient. Please send your entries to State Headquarters Office, PO Box 13206, Springfield, IL 62791-3206. Mark the entry as News Media Award entry. The entry deadline is April 30, 2021.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

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Greetings, and Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas, and I’m glad to say goodbye to 2020. I realize many Posts are out there struggling with shutdowns and dwindling revenue, due to the Corona virus. Even though it is tough, we are veterans and we’ve all previously been through difficult times, so please try to stay positive and hang in there—things will eventually get better!

The best advice I can give you at this time is to try your best to keep your membership intact. Stay in contact with your members! Your most vulnerable members are those who pay annually. Pay close attention to those who are coming up for their annual renewal, and make sure they don’t fall through the cracks.

Keep dialing those phones, making health and wellness calls. If you have a past due member, call them and see how they are doing. Explain and remind them that they are extremely important to your Post. Help them understand where they fit in when it comes to the overall

mission of the VFW. Our veterans are counting on ALL of us to continue a strong and vivacious VFW that we will pass on to upcoming generations of VFW members.

Always keep talking about life membership, because every member you contact or recruit as a life member is one less member you will be fighting to keep the next year!

Most of our members could work the 12-payment plan into their budget; and surprisingly, many still choose to pay it all at once. For those of you that are working toward “All State” this year, remember that the membership requirement is **100% + 3 additional members for Posts**, and 100% reported on your x-sheet. District Commanders, your requirement is 100% plus 10 additional members for your District.

Once more, I will remind you that I can provide names of prior unmembers going back as far as 9 years. Just give me a zip code you want to work and tell me how many miles you want to go out. Don’t wait until the last minute when you are trying to make your membership for “All State” and then run out of time. This has been a challenging year so far, but I know you are up to the job and you will finish the year strong!

I will close by thanking you all for what you do for your respective Posts, Districts, Department and the VFW in general. I hope to see many of you in the future when things return to normal. Stay strong, positive, and keep working. Call me with any questions or comments you may have, and I’ll do my best to get the answers or information you need.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

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VFW 2020-2021 Community Activities, Dept. of IL

<u>District</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Posts Reported</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Community Activities Director</u>
3	Michael A. DeRoss	4	31%	Israel Becerra
4	Stephen MacInnes	5	36%	
5	Christine A. Pawley	7	37%	
6	Mark A. Miller	5	29%	Charles Ingle
7	Barton F. Gutteridge	3	14%	Robert Sable
8	Russell “Pete” Mosher	5	29%	Mark W. Sowers
9	Christopher E. Rush	5	26%	
10	Friedrich "Jim" Carroll	4	25%	Joseph H. Bartley
11	Rick L. Hobbs	13	93%	
12	Timothy B. O'Donnell	5	28%	

13	Ryan A. Higginbotham	6	50%	
14	Steven P. Eller	16	94%	Edward Martinez
15	Gary J. Fravel	2	15%	Barbara R. Wilson
16	Keith Krull	5	45%	
17	Sean D. Conner	8	57%	Dan R. Swaner
18	Paul Barclay	8	67%	Robert E. McLeod
19	Brett E. Nila	23	96%	George R. Cramer

◆Assistant State Director

Total Posts
271

X-Sheet Data
31-12-20

Department Percentage
46%

Compiled by
Chuck Ingle