



*DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
PROGRAM BULLETIN*

SEPTEMBER 2019

NATIONAL HOME
Michael J. McGrath, Director
630.357.2680
E-mail: mackcav1@sbcglobal.net

ILLINOIS DAY
SEPTEMBER 28, 2019
THE NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

"WHATEVER IT TAKES"

Our upcoming visit to the National home is set for Saturday, September 28, 2019 with activities beginning at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time). Tentative schedule:

10 am - coffee and registration at the Community Center.

10:30 am - kids activities and games.

10:30 am - campus tours and visits to Illinois Homes 1 and 2, museum, guest lodge, chapel, nursery and Tribute Park.

Noon ... lunch ... nominal cost.

1:00 pm - program, raffle and Silver March

AND OUR GET TOGETHER FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

As in the past, we will have a "get together" on Friday evening, September 27 at the Charlotte V.F.W. Post, 695 Lansing Road in Charlotte, MI48813. (phone) 517-543-1719 . For those comrades arriving on Friday September 27, the festivities will start at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. (Eastern Time Zone) as Michigan is an hour ahead.

NEARBY MOTELS

There are nearby motels available and you will need to make your own accommodations.

Comfort Inn Charlotte
1302 Packard Hwy, Charlotte MI 48813
(517) 543 - 7307

America Best Value Inn
828 E. Shepherd St., Charlotte MI. 48813
(517) 543 - 8288

*Holiday Inn Express *
500 Meijer St. Charlotte, MI.48813
(517) 541 - 5000
** no discounts available at this hotel**

Please note, as in previous years, we would appreciate a head count for Friday and Saturday for food purposes.

Comrades, this is absolutely a great trip - don't miss out. Don't delay, make your reservations today ! And don't hesitate to reach out if you've any questions.

AMERICANISM PROGRAM

Tom Davidson, Director
Home: 847.352.5316
Cell: 847.347.8884
E-mail: pastcomm7@yahoo.com

Comrades:

The deadline for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award is October 31, 2019 for entries to be into the Posts, November 15, 2019, for completion for post judging, and December 15, 2019 for completion of the District judging. All the forms and instructions are on The Department Web site under Americanism pages 24 to 30. (Note: No entries will be considered for Department Judging if all the criteria is not included with the nomination.)

There has been a change made by National this year. The Post must submit a Teacher for ALL THREE CATEGORIES TO THE DISTRICT FOR JUDGING TO QUALIFY FOR ALL AMERICAN HONORS. If you can't get a Teacher for all three categories you may still qualify by making a donation of \$75.00 to National for each category that you don't have a teacher for. If you have no Teacher you may make a donation of \$75.00 for each of the three categories. The donations must be made directly to National by October 31, 2019. The form can be found at VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donations. If you have any problems or questions you can call me.

VFW Foundation opens the new window!



(The application period for the 2019-20 fiscal year will start Sept. 2nd.)
 I'm sure you've heard me remark that this is the most convenient \$1000, you'd find anywhere. You say, "know" so easy a Caveman can do it. For the Community Support Grant, the Foundation says that: "With an easy and streamlined application process, Posts and Auxiliaries can expect to receive a decision within thirty (30) days of the application submission. Last term, I submitted an application, on behalf of 2955-6. I then proceeded to wait for 30 days. To my delight, the Grant was approved by return email, in a mere **Three Minutes!** Believe it. You really owe it to your Post and to a potential Community beneficiary, to look into one. Here's where and how: <https://www.vfw.org/grants> Go for it!

Your Community Activities Tally

With 25% of Posts reporting at the end of August, we need another 65% by the end of the calendar year; averaging just over 16% a month. This will put us at the interim Department goal of **90%** by New Year's Eve. The work is probably done. Just get the report into Department, for X-Sheet credit. Please see *Chuck's Chart* below.

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	2	13%	
4	Joseph P. Scanlon	4	27%	Thomas W. Davidson
5	Christine A. Pawley	6	30%	Daniel J. Pearson
6	Mark A. Miller	1	6%	Gary D. Holmes
7	Robert Sable	5	24%	Robert Sable
8	Russell "Pete" Mosher	3	18%	Mark W. Sowers
9		6	27%	John L. Finnegan
10	Bobby J. Edwards	6	38%	Bobby J. Edwards
11	Joseph S. Swinford	5	33%	
12	Timothy B. O'Donnell	5	26%	John "Jack" Fessler
13	Christopher L. Hatcher	3	25%	Elmer L. McDuffee
14	Kenneth E. Williams	7	37%	◆John E. Barrett

15	Gary J. Fravel	0	0%	Barbara R. Wilson
16	Bruce Borowicz	3	27%	William A. Browne, Jr.
17	Sean D. Conner	1	7%	◆Dan R. Swaner
18	Paul Barclay	5	42%	Robert E. McLeod
19	George Miller	8	33%	George R. Cramer

◆Assistant State Director

Total Posts
284

X-Sheet Data
26-08-19

Department Percentage
25%

Compiled by
Chuck Ingle

HOSPITAL V.A.V.S
Harold R Olsen Jr., Director
Cell: 815.910.7171
E-mail olsenoly@yahoo.com

Let's see we if we can be 100% reported this year. We all should spend some time with our veterans that are confined in our homes and hospitals. All you have to do is ask if anyone in the post has gone and seen someone from the post that is in the hospital and report it, you don't necessarily have to go to a veterans home or hospital.

Don't forget about their wish lists. They can use things all year long not just Christmas. They can always use toilet items, diabetic socks or new underwear.

Now would be a good time to contact the activity director and set up something for an outing. They always say it is nice to get away for a little while.

Whatever you do don't forget to report!!!

SAFETY PROGRAM
Robert Mattson, Director
847.371.0209
E-mail: rmattson7248@gmail.com

District Safety Chairmen and Post Safety Officers!

We are starting a new school year at this time and it is very important that you commence your safety programs in your Posts and Districts. I know that we have 6 categories in our Safety Program but at this time of the year with our students heading back to school it is imperative that we concentrate on Highway Safety, Pedestrian Safety and Recreational Safety.

I would like to see some of our Posts go into the schools to speak with the students and faculty about all three of these categories. You could also add Drug awareness to this list. It

is never too late to start to educate our young citizens to the dangers that could be out there for them.

It is our responsibility to educate them. The parents also need to be educated on safe driving especially when there is a school bus present. These are only recommendations from myself and the other Department Safety Directors in our great Country.

Please, let us have a VERY SAFE SCHOOL YEAR!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

David Darte, Director

Cell: 217.273.2218

E-mail: ddarte@yahoo.com

Comrades,

Schools are back in session and teachers have had some time to deal with the hectic schedule that comes with kicking of a new year in their classrooms. As a result, this is a great time to make your presentation for both the Patriot's Pen and the Voice of Democracy programs. For those who encounter a school that is not willing to devote classroom time to these programs, a second best would be to ask if they would display PP/VOD posters on bulletin boards for students to read and hopefully enter on their own. These posters are available at the VFW store. The PP poster order # is 04433. The VOD poster is order # 04431. Both posters are only .50 cents each.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Robert E. McLeod, Director

708.363.7462

E-mail: rock76@yahoo.com

The clock is running. Is the word out? Do students and parents know about the Voice of Democracy? Is this department going to reach the goal of 2500 students? Time will answer these questions and I hope that we will have a great answer.

School is back. Are you (the member) reaching out to the students?

There are various ways to reach the students and you can do it each day. Contact your community in any way that you can: the paper, radio, social media, or the old fashion way- talk to the students. For more ideals check the Youth Activities bulletins.

Now for more legal issues. The subject of SSN has come up. For the posts: the SSN's are not required (unless the post award a student \$600 or more). District chairman: once you have announced your district winner, then the SSN is required. I do understand that parents have concerns about giving out their students SSN's. So here is what we will do. The SSN can be placed in seal envelopes and forward to department headquarters. The reason for the SSN is due to IRS requirements. Over a certain dollar amount a 1099 is sent out to the person that the money was awarded too. Once everything is completed at department headquarters the SSN will be destroyed.

The other question that is out there, what about Patriot's Pen. For the top three students that will be coming down to Springfield in February. Department will need their SSN as well. Go with the same guideline as line out above.

If you have any questions please call me.

STUDENT VETERANS LIAISON

John A. Metzger

618.927.3266

jmetzger7@frontier.com

Comrades;

Since the August Council of Administration in Bloomington, I hope that you all have been thinking about the student veterans that are returning to college classes. They are undoubtedly excited about preparing for their future careers. Education is the key for them. And the VFW stands ready to help them.

I am asking your District Commanders to appoint a member willing to serve as my contact for your district. This person will relay information about student veterans to the district. Please let your District Commander know if you are willing to take this responsibility. It will not be that difficult.

Also every college and university in Illinois has a student veteran liaison whose job it is to help veterans at that institution. I would also ask that the local VFW district person attempt to contact those college representatives and let them know that the VFW is there for our student veterans.

Thank you for your help

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

John E. Barrett

618.444.2906

E-mail: happy2baliv@yahoo.com

Adjutants at all levels are reminded to ensure all Ceremonial Rifle Deeds of Gift, Storage Certification, Notarized Annual Utilization Certification and Tri-Annual Inventories are current and accurate in accordance with National VFW Policy and Instructions for Conditional Donation of Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition and Military Equipment and U.S. Army AR 700-131, Chapter 6, Loan, Lease and Donation of Army Material."