HOMELESS VETERANS

Paul J. Bezazian, Director
Phone: 773.637.2469
Email: pbezazian@sbcglobal.net

Cooler weather is upon us and we will soon be going through our warmer clothing for stuff to wear. If you have anything that doesn't fit or is lightly worn, please pass it on to a veteran who could use it. With this pandemic putting people out of work or reducing their work hours, people may not be able to afford a new jacket, hat, gloves or scarf. There are a lot of people, including our veterans, who need some form of assistance. Coats, sweaters, sweatshirts and thermals—any size, can be reused by somebody. If you don’t know anyone who could use them, contact your local VA hospital, veterans center, or your Post or district homeless veterans director. People need these things, and the need will only grow as the weather gets colder.

You can also donate to the National Home, Veterans and Military Support, and the Commanders Special Project.

In the next month or two we will be doing a couple of stand-downs. In Chicago we will be going out into the streets, and in Rockford, we will be doing an abbreviated version of our normal “hand up” event.

Please support the programs I mentioned, including the upcoming food drive. These veterans are our people, they deserve every bit of help we can muster up! If you are going out in the streets to help our veterans, please use the necessary safety precautions.
YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

David Darte, Director
Phone: 217.273.2218 (cell)
E-mail: ddarte@yahoo.com

I hope all are taking advantage of this beautiful fall weather and any opportunities to involve our organization with the youth of the communities in which we live. By now most Posts have contacted the Middle Schools about their participation in the Patriot’s Pen Contest. If not, it is definitely not too late to do so. Teachers have plenty of time to complete the program by the November 1st deadline.

Both VOD and PP entries to District and Department are requested on a zip drive or disc drive. All required information, including Pictures, should be on the drive. I believe that this change will make the process more efficient and expeditious.

NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM

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

** 100 YEARS OF VETERANS SERVICE **

Did you know? At the nursery and early education center on campus, children up to 6 years of age can receive dedicated care in a secure environment. Residents can utilize this facility at no cost while working or attending school. You can find detailed information on this and more on the NHC website.

-Easy X’s-

Donations from life memberships: $50
Commemorative Bricks: $100

Both go directly into the general operations fund, which helps maintain on campus programs and services. What a great way to thank your hard working post and district volunteers and get an “x” for your x-sheet.

Please note the National Home Help Line (800) 313-4200 is available to help.
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM

Robert E. McLedd, Director
Phone: 708.363.7462
E-mail: rock76@yahoo.com

Post chairman – once you have the entries into your posts, please go over each entry to ensure that very thing is there. The speech, the written speech, entry form (filled out correctly), questionnaire, and two good head and shoulders digital photos of the students. All of this can be put on put on a thumb drive, zip drive. It is the device that is a UBS, that can contain information.

When you have all of the entries in and have and have check very things, get all of your judges together in the same place at the same time, use the same equipment when playing the speeches. The judges score sheets can be found on the national web site, print out very how many you need for your judges.

Post adjutants – please go on the national dashboard to report by the end of the day on the 31 oct this year. Report before you hand out the candy to the kids.

Wish all the student’s good luck in the contest and looking forward to seeing and hearing their speeches. If there are any questions, please contact me at 708-363-7462

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

J.D. “Butch” Spindler, Director
P.O. Box 577
Robinson, IL 62454
Phone: 618.544.8562 (Home)
618.544.8141 (Office)
618.562.8722 (Cell)
E-mail: spindler@springnet1.com

Fall is here, and we only have a couple of months until the cold weather sets in. Now is the time to make those contacts before the holidays are here and the snow starts to fly! As I have previously mentioned, I have sent all of last year’s unpaid to each District Commander for distribution to the Posts in their District. Hopefully, you have received the names and have begun to contact them. The Life Membership totals are out, and this should give you a good idea where each Post and District stands. An estimate I have always used when it comes to membership is that 6% is a good goal for us to use in our recruiting. This takes into consideration that due to move outs, non-renewals, and death, we need to recruit, retain, and reinstate that many members to get our Posts and Districts to 100% in membership each year. Our state sits at a little over 82% as I write this, so we have work to do!!
If we have Posts or Districts willing to contact prior unpaid members, we have this information (going back as far as nine years). Please let me know, and I can forward these lists to you. We literally have hundreds of names of unpaid members that could be worked. The farther back we go on these lists increases the possibility of unreliable information; however, this is all about making contacts. The more contacts we make, the higher the odds are for success. If you choose to request these lists, I need to know the zip codes of the areas you want to work, and how many miles you want to work within that zip code (for example, 5-10-25 miles, etc.) Finally, you need to tell me how many years you want to go back (from 1-9 years). If you email me this information, I will email the lists to you.

Finally, the weekend of October 2-4, Commander Emmer has a statewide dues roundup scheduled. District Commanders, please make sure that all the Posts in your respective Districts are aware of the dates and times we are scheduled to meet.

Post Commanders, please try to have a representative from your Post in attendance. Your State Officers are taking their weekend and time way from families to come out and meet with you. PLEASE TRY TO BE IN ATTENDANCE and make this a productive weekend for all involved. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you!

Thank you for what you do for our veterans each and every day, and for all you do for the VFW. Stay the course and stay positive and motivated.
October 2020 Dues Roundup Itinerary

Friday, October 02, 2020

Districts 7, 11, 12, 13, 15, & 17

10:00 a.m.  Depart Department Headquarters, Springfield

1 hour 20 min. travel time (65 miles)

11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.  Districts 11 & 12
Moultrie County Post 6410
1146 State Hwy. 32
Sullivan, IL 61951

1 hour 45 min. travel time (103 miles)

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  Districts 13 & 15
Mt. Vernon Memorial Post 9233
100 Aviation Dr.
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

1 hour 45 min. travel time (106 miles)

4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  District 17
Paul McVey Post 1592
1821 20th St.
Charleston, IL 61920

1 hour travel time (56 miles)

7:00 p.m. - ?  District 7
Champaign County Post 5520
609 Edgebrook Dr.
Champaign, IL 61820

Lodging
Fairfield Inn & Suites
1807 Moreland Blvd.
Champaign, IL 61822
Saturday, October 03, 2020

Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 16, 18, & 19

8:00 a.m.  Depart Fairfield Inn & Suites, Champaign

1 hour 40 min. travel time (91 miles)

9:40 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.  District 18
Malcolm J. Mayo Post 5422
557 W. Baltimore St.
Wilmington, IL 60481

50 min. travel time (46 miles)

11:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  Districts 3, 4, & 16
Alsip Memorial Post 450
11800 S. Cicero Ave.
Alsip, IL 60803

1 hour 45 min. travel time (68 miles)

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Districts 4 & 5
Fox River Post 4600
3002 W. IL Route 120
McHenry, IL 60051

55 min. travel time (38 miles)

3:50 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  Lee Mathias Memorial Service
Addison Post 7446
446 W. Lake St.
Addison, IL 60101

30 min. travel time (14 miles)

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  Districts 4 & 19
Leon Richardt Post 6791
431 N. Neltnor Blvd.
West Chicago, IL 60185 (Steak Fry Dinner)
1 hour 15 min. travel time (47 miles)

7:00 p.m. - ?

**District 6**
Floyd J. Tilton Post 3878
318 4th Ave.
Rochelle, IL 61068

Lodging:
Holiday Inn Express
1240 N. Dement Rd.
Rochelle, IL 61068

**Sunday, October 04, 2020**

**Districts 8, 9, 12, 14, & 10**

8:00 a.m.
Depart Holiday Inn Express, Rochelle

1 hour 50 min. travel time (106 miles)

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **District 9**
Lawrence J. Cross Post 2602
1505 E. Lake Ave.
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

50 min. travel time (47 miles)

11:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **District 8**
Knox County Post 2257
1001 Michigan Ave.
Galesburg, IL 61401

2 hour 30 min. travel time (165 miles)

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Districts 12 & 14**
Litchfield Post 3912
215 W. Ryder.
Litchfield, IL 62056

50 min. travel time (46 miles)
5:10 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. **District 10**
LaFore Lock Post 755
2211 Old Jacksonville Rd.
Springfield, IL 62704

10 min. travel time (3.8 miles)

6:25 p.m. Arrive at Department Headquarters, Springfield

End of Roundup

*If your District is unable to be at the stop set up for you, please feel free to meet the Team at any of the locations more convenient for you and your members. All dues and applications will be processed at Department Headquarters in Springfield.*
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM
Charles Ingle, Director
Phone: 815.979.7152
E-mail: chuck@roscoe.vfw.com

Grants update:
The routine Grants from the VFW Foundation are temporarily discontinued, so that the Foundation can place its focus on the newly created “Post Pandemic Relief Grant”. The PPRG is restricted to VFW Posts that own or lease their own building. It is a one-time grant of up to $2,500 designed to help VFW Posts that find they are unable to cover specific expenses for mortgage payments, rent (if leasing a building), utilities (gas, electric, water, etc.), insurance or property tax, due to hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please examine the 5-page application at www.vfw.org/grants. The Foundation just began accepting them on October 1st. The Home Depot Grants were discontinued in the first-quarter. If they decide to resume, we’ll know by February 2021.

Post participation and the X-Sheet
Commanders & Directors: Please continue to encourage reporting, for all VFW programs! Watch for improved user friendliness for X-Sheet entering, according to Department Commander Emmer. District 11 is closing in on 100%.
## VFW 2020-2021 Community Activities, Dept. of IL

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**Total Posts**

| 272 |

**X-Sheet Data**

| 28-09-20 |

**Department Percentage**

| 33% |

*Assistant State Director*

**Compiled by**

Chuck Ingle
MARKETING PROGRAM
Barbara Wilson, Director
Phone: 618.559.3331
Email: bwilson@vfwil.org

As our year progresses, we have made some changes in our marketing program. The most significant is how our Convention and Purple Heart Raffle tickets are sent to our membership. Following an email from National Headquarters, and a conversation with the Berlin Journal News, we have opted to send out the tickets inserted in the December issue of the Illinois VFW News. Not only are the tickets out earlier, but the Illinois VFW will realize a significant savings in the overall costs of drawings.

Here’s how it will work. The Berlin Journal News, the company which prints our newspaper and raffle tickets, will retool the tickets, which will provide 5 Convention Raffle Tickets on a sheet. This year, they will not be in color, but rather in black ink on a color paper. In addition, the Purple Heart tickets will be printed on the bottom of the letter, in color, with a perforation so they can be torn off and mailed to State Headquarters. The most noticeable change is the elimination of the smaller return envelope. Instead we will include a #10 business size envelope so participants may return the tickets should they choose to enter.

Each December newspaper will include the following – 2 each sheets of Convention Raffle Tickets, an introduction letter with two Purple Heart tickets at the bottom, and a return envelope for those participating in the raffle.

This will necessitate changing the deadline for the December issue of the Illinois VFW News. Typically each deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication. The deadline for the December 2020 issue of the Illinois VFW News will be Oct. 25. This will allow time to gather the items for the newspaper, and do the layout and design of the newspaper in preparation of printing on an earlier date than was originally scheduled.

Red, White and Blue Veterans Service Supporter Program

Districts, Posts, Auxiliaries and individuals can show their support for our Veterans Service programs through our Red, White and Blue Veterans Service Supporter program.

We have established three levels of Sponsorships – Red for those making donations of at least $1,000; White for those making $500 donations and Blue for those making donations of $250. Supporters will receive a plaque denoting their level of support, and special recognition at our Mid-Winter Conference and State Convention.

Supporters donating to all three levels will receive a special plaque noting their support at all levels.

Any questions can be addressed to the Illinois VFW Headquarters at (217) 529-6688.
Americanism Program
John Barrett, Director
Phone: 618.444.2906
Email: happy2baliv@yahoo.com

1. As of September 30th, a total of 96 Posts and Districts have reported activities in the Americanism Program on your X-sheets.

2. The Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Chairman's Manual was revised by National on July 14, 2020. These changes were made to bring the Teacher Award program in line with the Public Servant Award program. Our Department Leadership Manual was distributed prior to that date and includes now outdated forms and instructions. Although our Department will be unable to update our online Leadership Manual, we ARE in the process of adding the newly revised forms and instructions to our Department homepage. All Posts and Districts are encouraged to utilize the National website resources for current forms and instructions.

3. When National rewrote the instruction sheet for the Teacher Award they stated that Posts may send their winning entries in each of the three categories directly to their Departments for final judging. This does not preclude District judging in our Department. All Post entries in Illinois must first go to District for judging.

4. These new instructions allow Departments the opportunity to not only adjust their guidelines and procedures, but also their deadlines as they deem necessary. Thus, our Department’s deadline for Teacher Award submissions from our Districts has been changed to January 31, 2021. Districts are encouraged to continue to be flexible with their own deadlines prior to this new date to better facilitate maximum participation by our Posts.

5. There is no longer any National judging or National cash awards. Citations will be sent from National for each of our Department’s three winners (and their schools) for each category. Our Department will continue to award $100 to each of the three winning teachers.

6. It should be noted that teachers may now self-nominate as long as they meet the requirements. (Relatives, or anyone else, may nominate someone as long as the nominee is not a past National Award winner.) As of today, homeschool teachers are not yet approved for nomination due to certification concerns.

7. Teacher of the Year submissions are no longer a requirement for All-State or All-American honors.

8. Our teachers need us now more than ever. Let’s do our part by recognizing those teachers who truly care about America. Those who teach citizenship education topics regularly. Those who promote our American history, traditions and institutions.

Thank you.
DIRECTIVES FOR VFW POSTS AND VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERS

The Department of Illinois VFW and VFW Auxiliary are holding a joint fund-raising event in the form of a food drive. The event will begin immediately and end November 20th. Our goal is to collect over 2000 lbs. of non-perishable food items and monetary donations to purchase the food items.

All drop off locations will be responsible for keeping track of and reporting amount (weight or monies) collected.

Monetary donations will be mailed to Linda Lorenz, Department of IL VFW Auxiliary Treasurer 140 W. Ann St., Somonauk, IL 60552.

A. ALL POSTS OR MEETING LOCATIONS WILL BE DROP OFF POINTS
B. ALL POSTS AND AUXILIARIES ARE TO PARTICIPATE
C. PLEASE UTILIZE YOUR COMMUNITIES TO POST THE FLYERS AND GET THEM INVOLVED IN THE DONATION PROCESS
D. All donations will be distributed to VAC’s, VA Facilities, or local Food Pantries that are located in your respective areas across the State.
E. Commanders and Presidents will decide the recipients and let Commander Laurie Emmer and President Linda Armstrong how the donations are distributed.
F. Monetary donations received will split between the 2 VA Facilities that do not accept physical items so they can purchase what is needed in their area.
FOOD DRIVE

“MAKING LIFE BEARABLE FOR OUR VETERANS”

SPONSORED BY

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND ITS AUXILIARY

VETERAN SERVICES FOOD DRIVE

Please help us make our homeless and less fortunate veteran’s lives’ more bearable by donating non-perishable food goods. Our goal is 2000 lbs. of food by November 20th

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

DROP OFF AT ANY VFW POST