

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

CHAIRMAN, CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

102nd Annual State Convention, Portsmouth, Virginia June 13 – 16, 2024

Below are listed the Delegates and alternates duly elected at a regular meeting of Post _____ on the _____ day of _____, 2024.

Name		Title	Name		Title
1			21		
2			22		
3			23		
4			24		
5			25		
6			26		
7			27		
8			28		
9			29		
10			30		
11			31		
12			32		
13			33		
14			34		
15			35		
16			36		
17			37		
18			38		
19			39		
20			40		

Official:

Yours in Comradeship,

Post Adjutant

Post Commander

MAIL TO:

State Adjutant
403 Lee Jackson Hwy
Staunton, VA 24401

Elect one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each 30 members or fraction thereof in Memstats in the Post at the date of election. Delegate strength to be based on State Quartermasters records as of March 31, 2024, with the exception of New Posts organized after that date and prior to opening date of State Convention – June 13, 2024. Each Post must pay \$3.00 for every delegate that they are entitled to. Please send **form and check** to State Headquarters by June 5, 2024.

Please make sure you put Comrades that **ARE ATTENDING** the State Convention first.

Delegate fees **must be paid regardless** of whether anyone is attending the State Convention or not.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 10

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

"No Veteran asks for a thank you"

FAX: 866-416-0586
Website: www.vfwva.org
Email: statehq@vfwva.org

April 1, 2024

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Commander's Message | 13. Installing Officers |
| 2. Active Membership | 14. Life Member Drawing |
| 3. Audits | 15. Life Membership Payout |
| 4. Awards | 16. National Convention |
| 5. Buddy Poppies | 17. Membership |
| 6. Delinquent | 18. Posts in Arrears for Financial Obligations |
| 7. Delegates to District/Department Convention | 19. Roster Changes |
| 8. E-Mail Account Access | 20. State Surgeon |
| 9. General Orders | 21. Youth Scholarship Themes |
| 10. District Meetings | 22. Reporting |
| 11. Important Dates | 23. IRS Form 8822-B |
| 12. Office Closure | |

1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Hello everyone,

Spring has arrived, bringing with it a sense of renewal and optimism. I have a feeling that this last quarter is going to be a fantastic one for Virginia.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with CIC Duane Sarmiento, and I am thrilled to share that he is highly impressed with the progress we have been making. It's always great to receive positive feedback from such an influential figure in our organization.

Let's keep up the momentum and continue striving for success together!

As we near the end of another successful year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for each and every one of you. Your hard work, commitment, and unwavering dedication to our reporting, recruiting efforts, and community service initiatives have truly made a difference.

While we have achieved great milestones this year, I believe there is one area where we can do even better - highlighting the incredible work we do for our veterans on a daily basis. It's essential that we shine a brighter light on these impactful initiatives and share the stories of how we support those who have served our country.

I am incredibly proud of all that we have accomplished together, and I look forward to continuing our mission of making a positive impact in the lives of veterans in the coming year.

Thank you once again for your outstanding contributions and tireless efforts. Here's to an even brighter future ahead!

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your Commander. It is truly an honor to lead such a dedicated and talented group of individuals like yourselves.

Each day, I am inspired by your unwavering commitment, professionalism, and teamwork. Your dedication to our mission does not go unnoticed, and I am proud to stand alongside you as we work towards our common goals.

As we navigate the challenges ahead, let us continue to support and uplift one another. Together, there is no obstacle too great for us to overcome.

The Samuel B. DeVaughan Membership Award is under review.

Thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your unwavering dedication. It is a privilege to serve with each and every one of you.

Respectfully,
Gary Adams
State Commander

2. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

The National Bylaws provide for only one type of membership: active membership. There are no provisions in the National Bylaws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW Bylaws or procedures.

3. AUDITS:

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, one of which ended March 31.

4. AWARDS:

Awards and All-State judging information was in last month's General Orders, along with the Outstanding Community Service Post and George E. McCracken Honor Guard/Color Guard Entry Forms.

5. BUDDY POPPIES:

The new price for the original buddy poppies (red ones) are \$160.00 per 500. The price for the new metal poppies is \$70.00 per 500. As a reminder, poppies must be paid for before they can be shipped.

A Buddy Poppy order form is enclosed.

6. DELINQUENT:

Dist.	Post	Fees	Audits	Bonds	Dist.	Post	Audits
2	2296	6.00		Bond	7	8613	September
3	7167		December		9	4667	Sept, Dec
3	8529		September				
3	10387		December		12	4301	December
4	8446		Sept, Dec				

7. DELEGATES TO DISTRICT/DEPARTMENT CONVENTION:

Section 222 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure provides that delegates and alternates for the District Convention and meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post as of March 31.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention. Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws – Regular Meeting, Districts shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings each year for purposes of transacting business and conducting schools of instruction. Pursuant to Section 417 of the National Manual of Procedure, District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.

8. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 13th**. This will be the primary means of sending correspondence from State Headquarters to Post and District Officers. You will receive all General Orders, special notices and any other documentation that you need via email. This will help cut down on postal expenses and speed up the response time for you receiving the information.

Here are directions for logging into your new account for the first time.

1. Go to Department web site www.vfwva.org.
2. Click on Resources, Microsoft 365.
3. The username is your email address; put that on the first line (see below for your new address).
4. Your default password will be **VFW2023!** once you have accessed the mail program you will be asked to change it; it must contain at least one uppercase letter and one number.

For Post Officers, your address will be cdrpost176@vfwva.org where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

adjpost176@vfwva.org
qmpost176@vfwva.org

For District Officers your address will be cdrdist1@vfwva.org for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with your district # **Please note District Senior Vice Commander's now have an email address**

svrdist1@vfwva.org
adjdist1@vfwva.org
gmdist1@vfwva.org

9. GENERAL ORDERS:

The cut off for the General Orders is the 20th of the month. No EXCEPTIONS. Subscriptions for hard copy General Orders are \$30.00 for the year. Contact State Headquarters for more info.

10. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 5/4/24 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 3219 Phoebus 122 E Mellen Street, Hampton Rep: State Commander Gary Adams	2 nd	Date: 5/11/24 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: VFW Post 4809 5728 Bartee Street Rep: PSC Butch Schupska
-----------------	---	-----------------	---

3 rd	Date: 5/4/24 Meeting: 10:30 AM Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane Rep: State Surgeon Charles Bush	8 th	Date: 4/6/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg 2701 Princess Anne Street Rep: State Inspector Randy Coker
4 th	Date: 4/13/24 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 7166 South Hill 1472 N Mecklenburg Avenue Rep: PSC Geoffrey Lyster	9 th	Date: 5/11/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 1115 Hillsville 701 W Stuart Drive Rep: State Commander Gary Adams
5 th	Date: 5/18/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: State Inspector Randy Coker	10 th	Date: 5/11/24 Meeting: 10:30 AM Location: Post 1503 Dale City 14631 Minnieville Road Rep: State Judge Advocate Mark Maggio
6 th	Date: 4/27/24 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: State Surgeon Charles Bush	11 th	Date: 4/13/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 8644 Bridgewater 118 Dry River Road Rep: State Judge Advocate Mark Maggio
7 th	Date: 5/11/24 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: To follow lunch Location: Post 9660 Broadway 14550 Runion Creek Road Rep: State SVC Mitch Rubenstein	12 th	Date: 7/13/24 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 7360 Grundy 2959 Lovers Gap Rd, Vansant
		13 th	Date: 5/25/24 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 8947 Mineral 201 Mineral Avenue Rep: State Inspector Rany Coker

11. IMPORTANT DATES:

June 12 - 16, 2024	State Convention, Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA: phone 757-220-2250. Room Rates are \$139.00 per night. Cut-off date is Wednesday, May 22, 2024 (state with the VFW State Convention Group)
July 27 - Aug 1, 2024	National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky
August 22 – 25, 2024	Commander-in-Chief Homecoming, Savannah, Georgia
January 9 - 12, 2025	Winter Council Meeting, Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA: phone 757-220-2250. Room Rates are \$92.00 per night.
August 9 - 14, 2025	National Convention, Columbus, Ohio

12. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters will be closed April 19, 2024.

13. INSTALLING OFFICERS:

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed.

Post Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

14. LIFE MEMBER DRAWING:

Congratulations to Lord Botetourt Post 1841, Daleville as the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. Lord Botetourt Post 1841 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 95% of their membership reported to State Headquarters by February 29, 2024, deadline.

15. LIFE MEMBERSHIP PAYOUT:

As indicated by a signed document from the Life Membership Board of Trustees, the following will be the 2024-2025 Life Member payout. The National Council of Administration concurred with the payout amounts at its March 3, 2024, meeting.

- Plan ABC - A total payout of \$10.50 for each life member (\$3.50 to each Post, Department and National).
- Plan D - A total payout of \$11.46 for each life member (\$3.82 to each Post, Department and National).
- Plan E - A total payout of \$22.62 for each life member (\$7.54 to each Post, Department and National).

Note: At-Large Members are corresponding Plan pay out amount divided by two. For example, Plan ABC At-Large Payout is \$5.25 ($\$10.50 / 2$).

As indicated in the By-Laws, payment will be made in September 2024 for all Life Members recorded as of August 31, 2024. In addition, a payment will be made in January 2025 for all Life Members processed during the period September 1 through December 31, 2024.

Best regards,
Marc Garduno
Quartermaster General

16. NATIONAL CONVENTION:

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING – 125th National Convention housing opened, Monday, March 18, 2024. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at vfw.org/convention. The convention website will also have general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related information for Louisville, Kentucky – July 27-Aug. 1, 2024, and a tentative agenda.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION – Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials, and one identified registered delegate for the VFW National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the

Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. ATTN: Convention 4 Registration, Quartermasters are strongly encouraged to register delegates utilizing the on-line membership system (OMS).

17. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades and Commanders,

As we roll on toward our State Goal of 102%, I would like to thank all of you for your effort and dedication so far. The State needs all Posts to step up their effort to accomplish this. Working as a team we can make it happen. There are many opportunities with the Spring season upon us and the weather is getting agreeable so let's all recruit new members, reinstate former members and make this Department Great Again.

As always, the State Team is here to assist you and your Post reach its goal of 102%. Call me at 434-774-7729 or Ed at State Headquarters and let's get the job finished.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman

18. POSTS IN ARREARS FOR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National Bylaws concerning any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council and District meetings; County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

19. ROSTER CHANGES:

12th District SVC
Luther A. Willis
12128 Matlock Drive
Coeburn, VA 24230
276-395-3063
svrdist12@vfwva.org

12th District JVC
Leanord B. Bowen
519 Dry Creek Road
Duffield, VA 24244
276-546-1014

VFW Post 632 Cmdr
Aaron B. Katz
302 17th Street
Grottoes, VA 24441
540-249-8488

VFW Post 2123 Cmdr
Richard A. Petro
121 Fawcetts Run Lane
Winchester, VA 22602

VFW Post 2123 SVC
Claudia Ann Bell
976 Rest Church Road
Clear Brook, VA 22624

VFW Post 9274 QM
Patrick Mckercher
6515 Carriage Drive
Alexander, VA 22310
804-513-2373
qmpost9274@vfwva.org

20. STATE SURGEON:

Hello, Comrades and Auxiliary members. We wish you and your family a Springy April. Let's enjoy the outdoors and be active but be aware of the causes and effects of **Seasonal Allergies**.

What are Seasonal Allergies? April Awareness

Seasonal allergies, called hay fever or allergic rhinitis, result from an allergic reaction to the growth cycle of plants and mold. As they grow, plants and mold release pollen and spores into the air. Which can cause inflammation, irritation, and other symptoms. Some symptoms may be just sneezing a couple of times a year. But for others, seasonal allergies can cause congestion, a runny, itchy nose, watery eyes, headaches, and more for weeks or months.

Types of Allergies:

- Seasonal Allergies
- Allergic Rhinitis (hay fever)
- Allergic Asthma
- Allergic Rhinosinusitis
- Allergic Conjunctivitis, Ocular Allergies

What are the most common seasonal allergens, and when do they occur?

- Tree pollen—March/April
- Grass pollen—June/July
- Ragweed—Fall
- Mold—Fall

Not all environmental allergies are seasonal. So-called "perennial allergies" can affect you all year long. They include allergies to cat hair and dust mites.

Let's talk about Spring Allergies.

Depending on where you live, spring allergy season can start as early as March and last through early summer. The release of tree pollens and outdoor mold spores are two of the most common spring allergy triggers. Spring allergy symptoms include the following: sneezing, runny, itchy, or stuffy nose, headache, itchy and watery eyes, and dry cough.

This is a great time to get your allergy checkup, renew your medication, and prepare to combat the effects of allergic attacks. Talk to your doctor about a treatment plan and medications that can greatly improve your quality of life.

Reference(s):

- <https://www.healthpartners.com/blog/seasonal-allergy-symptoms-and-causes/>
- <https://www.yalemedicine.org/conditions/seasonal-allergies>
- <https://aafa.org/allergies/allergy-symptoms/#:~:text=An%20allergy%20occurs%20when%20the,to%20cause%20an%20allergic%20reaction.>

Yours in Comradeship and Peace. Thank you,
Comrade Charles Bush
VFW VA State Surgeon

21. YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP THEMES:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is now accepting entries for its 78th annual 2024-2025 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions. This year's themes ask America's high school students "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?" while middle school students will have the opportunity to contemplate, "My Voice in America's Democracy?"

22. REPORTING:

Comrades to view whether your Post has submitted an Audit Report, Americanism, Community Service, Safety, Youth or Hospital report you should visit the Department website (www.vfwva.org). The website is updated daily. If you have any questions, please call State Headquarters. There will be no form for Homeless when reporting for assistance to a homeless veteran please put it on a Community Activity report under aid to others.

23. IRS FORM 8822-B:

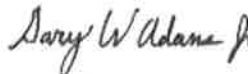
IRS Form 8822-B, it is now a requirement by the IRS that all Posts submit this form. This form must be submitted anytime the Post Quartermaster changes and/or the Post address changes. This has been effective January 1, 2014.

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Gary W Adams, Jr.
State Commander

VFW Employer of the Year Award Nomination

The Purpose of Award: To confer recognition on one employer for outstanding records in the hiring and retention of veterans.

Deadline: The deadline for submission of nominations of employers of veterans is no later than April 15. Nominations received after that date will not be eligible for consideration for the national award.

Procedure: Nominations from Departments must be sent to National headquarters via this form only. Nominations that arrive without supporting information will not be eligible for the national awards.

- Only those nominations that include adequate documentation on the nominee's employment practices concerning veterans will be considered for the National VFW Employer of the Year Awards. The nominator should provide a copy of the company's written policy on employment of veterans if available, a description of how the employer supports veterans' activities in the community, and any other reasons why the nominee should be selected to be the Employer of the year Award winner. **Governmental agencies are not eligible for award.**

Award: The National Winner will receive a plaque to be presented by the National Commander at the Annual National convention and will receive a trip to travel to the convention city to accept the award.

Deadline to State Headquarters is April 15th.

VFW JROTC Cadet of the Year Award

VFW award for special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership for Junior ROTC Cadets. This award seeks to recognize a remarkable cadet who will become a leader in their community and serve their country.

Deadline to State Headquarters is April 15th.

Criteria:

Possession of individual characteristics contributing to leadership including:

- A. Positive attitude toward the JROTC program
- B. Outstanding military bearing and conduct both in and out of uniform
- C. Personal attributes (self-confidence, initiative, flexibility, judgement).
- D. Patriotism (commander or member of color guard, drill team with or without arms, flag protocol instruction team, and actively promote Americanism). Shows devotion to school, community, America. An individual(s) who practices service through repeated acts of support.
- E. Courtesy (dependability, punctuality, human relations, respect, cooperation).
- F. Growth potential (capable of assuming high leadership responsibilities in JROTC Unit with additional training and experience).
- G. Demonstrated leadership potential, military bearing, and scholastic achievement.
 - Attainment of a grade of "B" in JROTC with an overall average of "C" in all subjects for the previous semester. Must not have a failing grade in any subject for that period of time.
 - Must be active in at least one other student co-curricular activity or club: i.e. music, athletics, student government, junior achievement, etc.
 - Must not have been a previous recipient of the award

Eligibility:

Any 10th, 11th, or 12th grade student that is currently enrolled as a JROTC Cadet actively engaged in the JROTC program, and one who meets the criteria for the award.

VFW Member of the Year Award Nomination

Purpose: The award is to recognize a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who has exemplified in their actions and accomplishments, the true spirit of our Organization in serving the needs of their Post, and Community, and who has dedicated themselves in a professional manner to addressing the Pillars of our Organization. Department leaders are encouraged to submit to VFW Programs office a narrative write up on a comrade from their Department that is leading from the front and supporting one or more of the purposes of our Congressional Charter.

Eligibility: This award is intended to recognize a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who has been a member a minimum of one full membership year and has received a nomination for their activities during the award Year according to the Award guidelines. Departments are encouraged to submit their winners from their own contest if they have a current member of year process. **Award candidates holding any of the following elected or appointed office during the award year, are not eligible. (Specifically- Commander, QM, Adjutant, Service Officer or Chaplain)** In addition, Past State Commanders and Past National Council members are ineligible from nomination.

Type of Recognition: The award will consist of a National Cap with title of Member of the Year & citation presented at National Convention by the Commander-in-Chief. The award winner will additionally receive full room and travel for the duration of the National Convention for the award presentation. Each Department winner will receive a citation from the Commander-in-Chief.

Criteria: This award recognizes exceptional performance as a member of the VFW. Examples of service that would be considered in judging the nominee include the following:

- Nominee presents themselves in a professional and helpful manner within the Organization and within the Community.
- Nominee shows an active interest in their Department by attending meetings and showing a willingness to consider leadership roles.
- Nominee participates in activities and events within the Department to help raise awareness of the Organization in the Community.

- Nominee has shown a willingness to work together with other VFW, Auxiliary, and Riders Members in a spirit of cooperation to accomplish the same goals.
- Nominee volunteers for and participates in activities and events that address the needs of target groups and individuals in the Community.
- Nominee has demonstrated actions which contribute to improving the quality of life for those we are intended to serve, whether they are children or adults, and whether they are homeless, hospitalized, handicapped, in need of a job or education.
- Nominee encourages members of the Community to support VFW programs and continually encourages others to become members.
- Nominee must have been submitted for #StillServing campaign recognition at <https://todaysvfw.org/>

Process: Any VFW member in good standing may be nominated as a Member of The Year candidate using the Member of The Year Nomination Form, by the Department Commander. **Award candidates holding any of the following elected or appointed office during the award year, are not eligible. (Specifically the following officers - Commander, Adjutant, Service Officer or Chaplain)** . In addition, Past State Commanders and Past National Council members are ineligible from nomination. Nominations are Due **April 15th to State Headquarters.**

PLEASE NOTE

All State Post
Commanders and All
State Post
Quartermasters **Must**
attend AND sign in to
all highlighted
Meetings on the
Convention Agenda to
receive the \$300.00
stipend.

102ND ANNUAL CONVENTION
 DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
 FORT MAGRUDER HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
 WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA
 JUNE 13 - 16, 2024

Kathy Goodall
 Convention Chairman

Sandra Terry
 Convention Vice Chairman

Tentative Subject to Change

All State Post Commanders and All State Post Quartermasters **Must attend AND sign in** to all highlighted Meetings on the Convention Agenda to receive the \$300.00 stipend.

Thursday,

June 13, 2024

11:00 AM	NOON	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING	AMPHATHEATER
10:00 AM	4:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	WILLIAMSBURG ROOM
12:30 PM	2:00 PM	VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION MEETING	NEWMARK
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICES	RICHMOND
6:00 PM	9:00 PM	JOINT PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	RICHMOND

Friday,

June 14, 2024

7:30 AM	8:30 AM	PAST STATE COMMANDERS/PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST	ROUND ROOM
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	WILLIAMSBURG ROOM
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	OPENING SESSION	RICHMOND
12:30 PM	3:30 PM	BUSINESS SESSION (NOMINATION OF STATE OFFICERS)	PETERSBURG
4:00 PM	5:30 PM	WOMEN VETERANS FORUM	AMPHATHEATER
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	VENDOR APPRECIATION	NEWMARKET
7:30 PM	9:30 PM	MOC DEGREE WORK	AMPHATHEATER

Saturday,

June 15, 2024

8:30 AM	10:30 AM	REGISTRATION, VFW	WILLIAMSBURG ROOM
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	BUSINESS SESSION	PETERSBURG
11:30 AM	1:00 PM	COMMANDERS CLUB LUNCH	
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	PETERSBURG
3:15 PM	4:30 PM	MOC SCRATCH	AMPHATHEATER
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	VFW RIDERS MEETING	PETERSBURG
6:30 PM	9:00 PM	COMMANDERS RECEPTION	RICHMOND

Sunday,

June 16, 2024


9:00 AM	9:30 AM	JOINT DEVOTIONAL SERVICE	PETERSBURG
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	NEW COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION SCHOOL	AMPHATHEATER
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DISTRICT COMMANDER'S SCHOOL	AMPHATHEATER

Registration \$3.00 (All VFW members are required to register in advance as delegates from their Post)

SATURDAY RECEPTION/DANCE WILL BE FREE TO ALL ATTENDING THE STATE CONVENTION

HOSPITALITY ROOMS

Department – Williamsburg Room
 Tenth District – Third Floor



**CHIMNEY ROCK VFW POST 9660
COMMANDERS CUP
MAY 8, 2024**

LAKE VIEW GOLF COURSE

**4 PLAYER TEAMS
SHOTGUN START 9AM**

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE POST HOME
AND SUPPORT LOCAL VETERANS**

Registration Deadline: April 24, 2024

**Team of 4: \$500
includes Green fees, cart rental,
goodie bag and lunch.**

**CONTACT
POST COMMANDER, WAYNE SAYLOR
540-435-7617
OR
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT, KAY KIBLER
540-820-2331**



MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU



SGT Nicholas C. Mason Memorial
VFW Post 12202 and
King George Parks and Recreation
present



**3rd Annual Post Celebration and
King George Family Day**

MAY 4, 2024

1pm-7pm

AT SEALSTON SPORTS COMPLEX
11050 Fletchers Chapel Road
King George, VA

Special
appearance from
the 501st Legion



Food Trucks,
Local Beer and Wine Vendors
Crafts, Live Music
Kids Games and More!

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Virginia
403 Lee Jackson Highway
Staunton Virginia 24401

Buddy Poppy Order Form

Post Number _____

Ship To Address _____

Date Ordered _____

Date of Sale _____

Name on Card _____

Credit Card Number _____

Exp Date _____

Zip Code _____

Card Type (Circle One) Visa Master Card Discover American Express

Make checks payable to: Department of Virginia, VFW with buddy poppies on the memo line.

State Headquarters now has Buddy Poppies (old or new) in stock. The new price for the original buddy poppies (red ones) \$160.00 per 500. The price for the new metal poppies is \$70.00 per 500. As a reminder, poppies must be paid for before they can be shipped.

POSTS MUST ORDER FIVE POPPYS PER MEMBER MUST BE ORDERED IN ORDER TO MEET ALL STATE/ALL AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS.

Quantity of Boxes (500 Per Box) _____ Total Number of Poppies _____

Total amount paid _____

***Example: If a post has more than 100 members but less than 200, then 1000 poppies must be ordered to meet the five poppy per member requirement, due to the fact they only come in boxes of 500.

Name _____ Commander or Quartermaster

Signature _____

Commanders Club Luncheon

ATTENTION: All Past and Present Commanders

You are invited to attend the Annual Commanders Club Luncheon to be held on **SATURDAY**, June 15, 2024 at the Fort Magruder Hotel (6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA, 23185) from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. We have changed the day to Saturday and hope to get more attendees. We will have a limit of 70 so register early.

COST: Check \$35.00 Online \$39.19

MENU: Tossed Salad, Pulled Chicken and Beef Brisket, Roasted Potatoes and Onion, Sliced Rolls with Butter, Coffee and Iced tea, and Apple Pie

REGISTRATION CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Department of Virginia Commanders Club
MAIL CHECK TO: Ken Shannon
Commanders Club Treasurer
152 Old Carriage Way
Williamsburg VA 23188

ONLINE AT EVENTBRITE WITH A SERVICE FEE:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/department-of-virginia-commanders-club-lunch-tickets-840793314437?aff=oddtcreator>

DEADLINE: May17, 2024 *PRE-REGISTRATION FOR MEAL IS REQUIRED.
NO MEALS WILL BE AVAILABLE UNLESS PRE-REGISTERED.*

Tickets available through Eventbrite or pick up your ticket at REGISTRATION

REMEMBER: You can become a LIFE MEMBER for \$35.00; All dues can be sent to Ken Shannon at the address above or pay through the Eventbrite link \$39.19

PLEASE SEND THE FORM BELOW ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO ASSURE ACCURACY.

Post No. _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Name of each person attending luncheon (please print clearly)

NAME _____ DATE JOINED _____

Life Member Dues for _____

For Life Members please include Name, Post or PT, Address, Email, and Phone Number

Department of Virginia Commanders Club

Commanders and Seam Squirrels join the Department of Virginia Commanders Club

We promote the interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in accordance with the By-Laws of the Department of Virginia and in addition to fostering esprit de corps provide additional scholarships for youth (VOD/PP/SOY).

All Past, Present, and Elected Post, District, Department, and National Commanders, Seam Squirrels, Grand Commanders, and Supreme Commanders are eligible.

If you are a current member of the Department of Virginia Commanders Club please assist me by sending your Roster information to treasurerclub@vfwva.org.

Life Member Dues are \$35.00

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Department of Virginia Commanders Club

MAIL CHECK TO: Ken Shannon
Commanders Club Treasurer
152 Old Carriage Way
Williamsburg VA 23188

OR PAY ONLINE AT EVENTBRITE WITH A SERVICE FEE:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/department-of-virginia-commanders-club-lunch-tickets-840793314437?aff=oddtcreator>

PLEASE SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK

NAME _____

Post or Pup Tent _____

Dates as Commander or Seam Squirrel _____

Address _____

Personal Email _____

Phone Number _____

Grand Pup Tent of Virginia

Military Order of the Cootie of the United States

Invites you to join our illustrious Order

The Military Order of the Cootie is the "HONOR DEGREE" of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and serves our Veterans through Hospital Visits and helping Veterans. We would like you to help us provide more support to our Veterans in need throughout the State.



Currently this Cootie Year our Grand of Virginia has performed over 800 visits of 6,000 hours with a value of \$230,000 in service to our Veterans in the VA Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Veterans in need, and our VFW Members.



To join us please fill out the Membership Application attached and have your Post certify your VFW Certificate of Eligibility. The Eligibility can be accomplished in three ways by serving six months as a Post Officer, Post Committee, or Post Duties.

Forward you completed application to our Grand Adjutant at grandadj@vfwva.org and we will coordinate with a Pup Tent for your acceptance into our Order. We plan on conducting a Grand Scratch on Friday June 14 at the State Convention in Williamsburg for the conference of degrees.



For any questions please contact Ken Shannon, Grand SVC at PupTent18@vfwva.org





MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



New Cootie Reinstated Cootie

Date: _____ Cootie No. _____ Recruited By: _____
Recruiter VFW Member #: _____

Pup Tent Name, Number and Location

Applicant's Name (Print): _____

Address: _____, _____, _____, _____
Street Address City State Zip

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DOB: _____ VFW Member #: _____ Hat Size: _____

VFW Post Name and Number

Located in: _____, _____, _____
City State Zip

<p>I certify that I am an active member of the VFW of the U.S. and am desirous of becoming a member of the MOC – "The Honor Degree of the VFW".</p> <p>_____ Applicant's Signature</p>	<p>Recommended and Verified (PRINTED) by: _____ Cootie No: _____ _____ Cootie No: _____</p> <p>Accepted into Pup Tent on Date: _____ 1st Degree accepted Date: _____ 2nd Degree accepted Date: _____ 3rd Degree received and title of Cootie bestowed on this Date: _____</p>
--	--

VFW CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

_____, _____ Located in _____
Post Name Post No. City, State and Zip

This is to certify that Comrade _____
Name of Applicant

Has been a member of the VFW for the preceding six (6) months, and that he has fulfilled one of the following qualifications as indicated:

(1) Held the following Office in the Post: _____

OR

(2) Served on the following Post Committee: _____

OR

(3) Satisfactorily performed Post duties: _____

Certified to by a majority of the members present at a meeting of this Post held on (Date): _____

Attest:

Post Adjutant (PRINT)

Post Commander (PRINT)

Post Adjutant (Signature)

Post Commander (Signature)

All previous application forms are void and will no longer be accepted after 31 December 2022

Cancer Awareness Month (the top five common cancers in men and women).

To bring awareness to the severe disease called **Cancer**. After heart disease, **Cancer** is the second most common cause of death in the United States.

What is cancer? **Cancer** is a disease that occurs when changes in a group of normal cells within the body lead to uncontrolled, abnormal growth, forming a lump called a tumor; this is true of all cancers except leukemia (cancer of the blood). If left untreated, tumors can grow and spread into the surrounding normal tissue or to other parts of the body via the bloodstream and lymphatic systems. They can affect the digestive, nervous, and circulatory systems or release hormones that may affect body function. Cancer tumors can be divided into **three groups**: benign, malignant, or precancerous. More is known about cancer than ever before!

According to the National Cancer Institute, men have a one in two chance of being diagnosed with cancer during their lifetimes; for women, the chance is one in three. Learn more about ways you could reduce your chance of developing cancer. At least 1/3 of cancers are preventable. Not every risk factor is changeable, but there are many ways to lower your risk. Below are a few.

The five most common cancers among men include: (more information is listed in reference)

1. Prostate cancer
2. Lung cancer
3. Colorectal cancer
4. Bladder cancer
5. Melanoma: a form of skin cancer

How to reduce your risk

- Get screened as recommended by your doctor
- Know your family history
- Choose a healthy lifestyle, stay hydrated, and eat a balanced diet.
- Maintain a healthy weight and avoid the sun's strongest rays
- Lower your exposure to radon. (with an inexpensive test from the VDH)

The five most common cancers in women: (more information is listed in reference below)

1. Breast cancer
2. Cervical cancer
3. Ovarian cancer
4. Endometrial cancer
5. Lung cancer

Ways to prevent these cancers include:

- Regular screening and mammograms to detect breast cancer early
- Regular Pap tests to detect and HPV vaccination to prevent cervical cancer early
- Virginia's Every Woman's Life program offers free breast and cervical screenings.
- Oral contraceptives to reduce the risk of ovarian cancer
- Maintain healthy weight and exercise regularly to reduce the risk of endometrial cancer
- Quitting smoking to reduce the risk of lung cancer

Tips for making healthy lifestyle changes

- Set SMART goals (Specific. Measurable. Achievable. Realistic. Time-bound) and write them down. Check your progress regularly.
- Share your goals with a buddy who'll hold you accountable. Set up a weekly time to call or text to update them on your progress. Setting deadlines will help keep you on track.
- Make small, gradual changes to increase your chances of success. An easy way to get started is a short walk or exercising to an online video for five to 10 minutes a day.
- Change your mindset. Instead of focusing on what you shouldn't eat, drink, or do, think of yourself as someone who wants to be healthy and live a full life.
- Try "habit stacking." Identify a current habit you already do each day and stack your new behavior on top. For example, when you sit down to dinner, always put veggies on your plate first. Or, whenever you see a set of stairs, take them instead of using the elevator.
- Use a mobile health app or free food and exercise trackers or a fee-based lifestyle approach. A mobile app may provide the feedback and encouragement you need to make healthy, sustainable lifestyle changes.

Disclaimer:

Talk with your physician or healthcare provider if you have questions about a personal health problem, condition, or treatment. They are familiar with you and can address your circumstances.

Reference (s):

1. Leading cause of Death <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/leading-causes-of-death.htm>
2. Curable cancers? <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/322700>
3. The 20 Most Ignored Cancer Symptoms in Women and Men (msn.com)
4. Common cancers in women and how to prevent them
<https://en.tempo.co/read/1689021/common-cancers-in-women-and-how-to-prevent-them>
5. Top 5 common cancers in women
<https://www.medclique.org/cancer/most-common-cancers-women/>
6. Learn more-World Cancer Day <https://www.worldcancerday.org/what-cancer>
7. World Cancer Day <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/blog/2024/01/31/world-cancer-day/>
8. Commonly ignored signs of cancer in both men and women.
<https://www.prevention.com/health/g42690515/18267732/>
9. Prostate <https://www.cancercenter.com/community/blog/2022/02/men-and-cancer-risk#Q1>
10. Lung <https://www.cancercenter.com/community/blog/2022/02/men-and-cancer-risk#Q2>
11. Colorectal <https://www.cancercenter.com/community/blog/2022/02/men-and-cancer-risk#Q3>
12. Bladder <https://www.cancercenter.com/community/blog/2022/02/men-and-cancer-risk#Q4>
13. Melanoma <https://www.cancercenter.com/cancer-types/melanoma>

Yours in Comradeship and Peace. Thank you,

R/S, Comrade Charles Bush, VFW VA State Surgeon.



The Virginia Veterans Memorials, Inc. (VVM) was established in 2020 as a 501.C3 Non-Profit organization for the purpose of recognizing and preserving the memories and incidents of Virginia citizens who served in the United States Armed Forces with the development of public memorial(s) to honor the service and sacrifices of current and future generations. The memorials are to be located in Huntington Park, Newport News, VA, adjacent to the Virginia Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Our initial project is the building of the Virginia Iraq Veterans Memorial which we are currently raising funds to build. We will follow with an Afghanistan Veterans Memorial.

With the current gaming laws in Virginia, the VVM is a worthy organization to donate your gaming proceeds too. Several Posts, both VFW and American Legion have donated to the VVM with their gaming donations already.

Please visit our website listed below for more information as well as photos of what the memorial will look like. If you have questions, please email info@virginiaveteransmemorial.org and we will get back to you. Our volunteers are made up of all walks of life, young and old. Veterans from every branch of service, from numerous Veteran Service Organization as well as the Gold Star Mothers. If you would like to get involved, please let us know. We currently meet at American Legion Post 25 in Newport News, Va, the first Monday of each month at 6:30PM. This meeting is held on Zoom as well for those out of the area. We currently have not received any government funding and are solely relying on donations. If you know of any person, organization or company who would like to help us fund this memorial, please let us know.

<https://virginiaveteransmemorials.org/>



FOR SALE!

The Department of Virginia Auxiliary has a QuickBooks program (never been used) for sale for \$500.

interested in buying or questions contact our Department Treasurer Cathy Graham cg12dc12@outlook.com



LOUISVILLE WEB VERSION PRE-REGISTRATION BROCHURE JULY 27-AUGUST 1, 2024

Note: This information will be updated periodically.

WELCOME TO LOUISVILLE

Welcome to Bourbon City. Yes, Bourbon is a spirit that comes in a glass, but it's also the spirit that defines Louisville's culture, arts & parks, and creative energy. It's the kind of spirit that helped create Louisville itself. It's the spirit of hospitality you feel when you visit Louisville - the home of Muhammad Ali, the Kentucky Derby and the Louisville Slugger.

While you are here, follow the [Urban Bourbon Trail®](#) and discover the city's finest Bourbon cocktail and culinary experiences. Explore Louisville's rich history and architecture along Whiskey Row and Museum Row in downtown Louisville. Enjoy "one of the nations' best local food scenes" as recognized by USA Today. With more restaurants per capita than any other city in the nation, it will not be difficult to find the perfect spot to experience the rich, diverse, Southern culinary heritage unique to Louisville.

CONVENTION LOCATION

Convention activities will take place at the Kentucky International Convention Center located at 221 South 4th Street in Louisville, Kentucky 40202.

LOCATION

Louisville is the place for bourbon and bluegrass music. It is located on the banks of the scenic Ohio River between St. Louis and Cincinnati. Louisville's central location puts it within a day's drive of half of the nation's population. Visit gotolouisville.com to plan your trip to enjoy an entirely different type of Southern experience.

WHAT TO WEAR

A general guideline for attire for the convention is business casual for meetings. For VFW members, it is always appropriate to have your cap on hand for meetings. Jackets are not required unless you are, All American Commanders) and may be on stage to receive your award as photographs are taken during those functions.

AIRPORT

Fly Like a Butterfly in and out of Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport (SDF), the main airport for the Greater Louisville/Southern Indiana region. It is only 7.6 miles from the Kentucky International Convention Center (approximately 10 minutes from downtown). Whether you are arriving or departing, there are plenty of options for getting to and from the airport, including: rideshare, zTrip, public bus transportation. To review transportation options, visit [Getting To and From the Airport](#). While you are at the airport, check out the award-winning restaurant located in the Main Terminal, Book and Bourbon Southern Kitchen, which boasts 85 world-class bourbons and popular southern menu items.

GETTING AROUND LOUISVILLE

No car, no problem. The downtown area is very walkable. Taxi service is available, with [zTrip](#) being the primary operator. Louisville also offers alternative ridesharing companies, such as Uber and Lyft, as well as scooter rentals. [Getting Around Louisville](#)

PARKING

Check with your assigned hotel for parking availability and costs. Parking information for the Kentucky International Convention Center, along with helpful maps, can be accessed via this link <https://kyconvention.com/attend/maps-parking/>.

REGISTRATION PACKET PICK-UP

See mobile APP for times and locations of registration/packet pick-up. Registration for both VFW and for Auxiliary,

Want to miss the crowds/lines and pick-up your badge and packets early? Try remote registration. Both the VFW and the Auxiliary will have **remote registration** set-up at the Kentucky International convention center. VFW only accepts credit cards on this day.

VFW & Auxiliary Remote "Pre-Registration":
Friday, July 26, 10a-6p
South Pre-Function (Main concourse)

PACKET PICK-UP

VFW - if you are not pre-registered, you will need to go to registration at the convention center on Saturday, July 27 starting at 8a to register and pick-up your convention packet.

MOBILE APP

We will NOT be publishing a convention schedule of events in hard-copy. All events and convention information will be contained in the Mobile APP. Go to www.vfw.org/convention for instructions on how to download the mobile APP which will be available closer to the dates of the convention. The mobile APP provides immediate updates on any changes that may occur during the convention.

SHUTTLES

The hotels in Louisville are in the downtown area and **within walking distance from the convention center**. The Hyatt and the Marriott are **both connected to the convention center**. The Galt House is approximately 1.5 blocks from the convention center. There is an indoor walk-way from the Galt House that ends directly across the street from the Kentucky International Convention Center.

Therefore, the decision has been made that there will **NOT** be shuttle service provided for the 2024 Louisville convention.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Housing opens **3/18/24** and closes **6/10/24**. Go to www.vfw.org/convention. The official convention hotels for the 125th National convention will be listed on the convention web site. A list of convention department housing assignments will be located at that website.

HOTEL PARKING

Check with your assigned hotel regarding parking availability and costs. Parking charges are set by the individual hotels and are not representative of fees charged by the VFW/Auxiliary.

LUGGAGE STORAGE

If you wish to store your luggage at the hotel before you check in, or after checking out before departure, please make arrangements with guest services.

GRATUITIES

You are responsible for all gratuities during your stay. Tipping is personal, as a guideline, we recommend gratuities of \$1 per day for your housekeeper and \$1 per bag for taxicab drivers and hotel bell-staff.

PHONE MESSAGES

Messages may be left with the hotel operator, who will make sure you get them as soon as you return to your hotel. In case of emergency, call the VFW National Headquarters 816-756-3390.

SAFETY TIPS (See hotel information located in room)

SPECIAL SERVICES

First Aid Room Location Kentucky International Convention Center, Main Concourse on the Market Street side of the building near Oak & Brew - Thursday, 7/25-Thursday, 8/1
Emergency--Emergency after hour's numbers provided before convention or call 911.

Scooter rental –Scooter rental information is listed on the convention web page.

If you have not been vaccinated for COVID-19, we encourage you to wear a mask while in attendance of the convention.

RV Park Information - https://www.yelp.com/search?cflt=rvparks&find_loc=Louisville%2C+ky

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Check with Louisville Tourism for locations of local churches, synagogues, etc. for services. *Check Mobile APP for locations.*

QUIET ROOM

A QUIET ROOM for reflection will be open 24 hours at the Kentucky International Convention Center – *Check Mobile APP for location.*

MOTHERS ROOM

A mothers room will be located on-site at the convention center - *Check Mobile APP for location.*

AGENDA

See tentative web agenda at www.vfw.org 125th VFW National Convention information. A final agenda will be provided within the mobile APP and can be found by downloading the VFW Mobile APP approximately 2 weeks before the convention. Please note a Schedule of Events will **NOT** be printed. If you are unable to download the *Mobile App*. Please pickup a printed copy of the agenda at registration.

VISITOR INFORMATION LOUISVILLE

Save: Inside Track Pass, Louisville's Savings Passport

Take advantage of special offers and discounts from some of the city's most popular sites including retail shops, restaurants, and attractions with the mobile exclusive passport, Inside Track Pass. To get your pass, visit <https://www.gotolouisville.com/meeting-planners/destination-services/plan/inside-track-pass/>. Your passport will be instantly delivered to your phone via text and e-mail and ready to use immediately. When visiting a participating business, simply present the Inside Track Pass on your phone to the staff member to redeem special discounts.

Explore: Downtown's Three Main Districts (Whiskey Row, Museum Row & South Fourth Street)

<https://www.gotolouisville.com/neighborhoods/downtown/>

Experience: Louisville's Unique Neighborhoods

<https://www.gotolouisville.com/neighborhoods/>

North, south, east or west – Louisville offers a wealth of attractions and fantastic historic architecture in every direction. Much like the boroughs of New York City, Louisville's neighborhoods each have their own distinct personalities.

Shop

<https://www.gotolouisville.com/things-to-do/shopping/>

Dine

https://www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=best+restaurants&find_loc=Louisville%2C+KY

Dine near KICC

<https://www.gotolouisville.com/restaurants-near-kicc/>

Visit Museums & Galleries

<https://www.gotolouisville.com/things-to-do/entertainment-nightlife/museums-galleries/>

Bringing the family? Here are [family-friendly activities](#) sure to be a hit with all ages:

Kentucky Kingdom: <https://www.gotolouisville.com/directory/kentucky-kingdom-and-hurricane-bay/>

Kentucky Science Center: <https://kysciencecenter.org/>

Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory:

Louisville Zoo: <https://louisvillezoo.org/>

Mega Cavern: <https://www.gotolouisville.com/directory/louisville-mega-cavern-mega-zips-all-underground-ziplines-adventure-tour/>

Muhammad Ali Center: <https://www.gotolouisville.com/directory/muhammad-ali-center/>

Main Event <https://www.mainevent.com>

Purchase Attractions Tickets

<https://reservations.gotolouisville.com/attraction/list/6849/m3117>

Purchase Attraction Ticket Bundles

<https://reservations.gotolouisville.com/package/category/6849/3/m3676?customNavLink=1>

VISITOR CENTER

Visit the Louisville Visitor Center at 301 South 4th Street in downtown Louisville. Open Mondays – Saturdays: 10 am – 5 pm, and Sundays: 12 pm – 5 pm. Visitors can also call the Visitor Information Call Center at 1-888-568-4784, Monday – Friday: 9 am – 5 pm (EST) or e-mail info@gotolouisville.com for city information.

DOWNTOWN AMBASSADORS

Downtown's roving hospitality team is on duty seven days a week starting at 7 am each day. Look for the folks wearing orange shirts when you have a question or need assistance. Some ambassadors are on-foot, some are on bikes. They are very knowledgeable, helpful, & friendly and will be able to provide information about downtown and about Louisville.

Revised: 2/12/2024

TENTATIVE AGENDA

VFW 125th National Convention Louisville, KY Kentucky Convention Center July 27-August 1, 2024

*All meetings are held in the convention center unless otherwise noted.
Times for various functions are subject to change.
Meeting rooms will be posted closer to conference dates and are subject to change*

Friday, July 26, 2024

10:00 a.m. –6:00 p.m. **Remote registration – VFW/Auxiliary – Convention Center -South Pre-Function – Main Concourse**

Saturday, July 27, 2024

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	VFW/Registration/Exhibits
8:30 a.m.	National Veterans Service Advisory Committee
10:00 a.m.	Budget and Finance Committee
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Uniting to Combat Hunger – TBD
1:30 p.m.	National Council of Administration Meeting
4:00 p.m.	Eastern Conference Caucus
4:00 p.m.	Southern Conference Caucus
4:00 p.m.	Big Ten Conference Caucus
4:00 p.m.	Western Conference Caucus

Sunday, July 28, 2024

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:30 a.m.	Annual Memorial Service
10:00 a.m.	Membership Seminar
10:00 a.m.	VFW Programs, VMS Committee
10:00 a.m.	VFW Riders National Advisory Committee
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Cornhole
11:00 a.m.	Update on VFW Legislative Priority Goals
11:00 a.m.	VFW Post Service Officer Training
12:30 p.m.	First Time Attendees Welcome Orientation
1:00 p.m.	VFW Programs Town Hall

Committee Meetings:

2:00 p.m. National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual -
2:00 p.m. Finance and Internal Organization (200 series)
2:00 p.m. General Resolutions (300 Series)
2:00 p.m. National Security and Foreign Affairs (400 series)
Sub Committee – POW/MIA
2:00 p.m. National Veterans Service Resolutions (600 series)
Sub-committee – Health
Sub-committee – Benefits
Sub-committee – Economic Opportunity/Other

4:00 p.m. Membership Seminar – Post Development
4:30 p.m. Department Adjutant Quartermasters Association Meeting

Monday, July 29, 2024

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m. Joint Opening Session
(Business session will resume after lunch break)
3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Cornhole Finals
4:30 p.m. Department Adjutant Quartermasters Reception *(by invitation)*

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

8:00 a.m.-12N. VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-12N. VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m. VFW Business Session
1:00 p.m. 2024-2025 Department Commanders Luncheon – (by invitation) –
1:00 p.m. 2024-2025 Senior Vice Commanders, Senior Vice Presidents Luncheon (by invite only)
1:00 p.m. 2024-2025 Junior Vice Commanders, Junior Vice President's Luncheon (by invite only)
1:00 p.m. Parliamentary Procedure Discussion
1:00 p.m. Update on Federal Benefits and Services for Veterans
1:00 p.m. Grant Seeking & Fundraising Ideas for VFW Posts
1:00 p.m. Chaplains Workshop
5:15 p.m. Parade Line-up
6:00 p.m. Patriotic Celebration

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

8:00 a.m.

Business Session /Nomination of Officers

1:00 p.m.

All American Commanders Luncheon (ticketed event)

1:00 p.m.

VFW National Home Workshop

Thursday, August 1, 2024

8:00 a.m.

Business Session: Election/Installation of National Officers
National Council of Administration Meeting

(Following business session)

3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Commander-in-Chief's and National
President's Reception (ticketed event) – Kentucky
Convention Center

Updated: 2/20/24

Save the Date
August 22-25, 2024
Savannah, Georgia

Al Lipphardt
VFW National Commander Homecoming

Where:

- **Hyatt Regency Savannah**
2 W. Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

Group Code – G-VFWG
Room rate \$263 per night



Hotel Reservation Link – Available Now

[VFWDG - Commander-in-Chief Homecoming \(hyatt.com\)](https://www.hyatt.com/en/US/hotels/savannah/vfwdg-commander-in-chief-homecoming)



Activities:

Hands-on Cooking Class
Painting with a Twist
Riverboat Cruise
Golf
Shopping

“Believe In What You Do – Do What You Believe In”

8:45



24-USAWarriors-Info (1).pdf

PDF - 2 MB



MONDAY



AUGUST 26, 2024

USA WARRIORS ICE HOCKEY GOLF OUTING



Chantilly National Golf & Country Club

SCHEDULE

8:00 AM
REGISTRATION
OPENS

BREAKFAST

10:00 AM
SHOTGUN
START

3:00 PM
AWARDS
LUNCHEON

PRICING

\$200 PER PLAYER

Includes golf, cart, breakfast, contests,
beverage cart, awards luncheon, open bar,
prizes and awards

\$100 AWARDS LUNCHEON ONLY

Includes awards luncheon
and open bar

SKIP THE LINE, PAY ONLINE

50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS

1 for \$20

MULLICAN PACKAGE

1 for \$20

Register at

[COLFINVITE.NET/USAWARRIORS](https://colfinvite.net/usawarriors)

QUESTIONS? Reach out to usawarriors@golfinvite.com

AA

outlook.office.com





USA WARRIORS ICE HOCKEY GOLF OUTING

SPONSORSHIPS

The four (4) levels listed below (Platinum, Gold, Silver & Bronze) include signage at a hole, company logo on event website & banner.

Platinum – \$5,000

- Two (2) golf foursomes
- Most prominent logo position
- Special mention at opening & closing remarks

2 Available

Gold – \$3,000

- Two (2) golf foursomes
- Most prominent logo position

5 Available

Silver – \$1,750

- One (1) golf foursome

5 Available

Bronze – \$750

20 Available

Beverage Cart Sponsor – \$2,500

- Signage on beverage cart
- Special mention at closing remarks

2 Available

Open Bar Sponsor – \$2,500

- Signage at open bar
- Special mention at closing remarks

3 Available

Contest Sponsor – \$1,000

- Signage at contest hole

4 Available

Hole-in-One Sponsor – \$1,000

- Signage at contest hole

4 Available

Choose Your Hole (Add-On) – \$500

List your top 3 golf hole choices! Priority will be given to higher level sponsorships.

**May only be purchased with a Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze sponsorship*

Register at

COLFINVITE.NET/USAWARRIORS

QUESTIONS? Reach out to usawarriors@golfinvite.com





SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
**VFW POST 3103
 STAR SPANGLED VETERANS
 GOLF TOURNAMENT**

LEE'S HILL GOLF CLUB
 10200 OLD DOMINION PARKWAY
 FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22408

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
 FREDERICKSBURG AREA
 VETERANS.



INDIVIDUAL PLAYER

\$125

FOURSOME

\$500



Many more sponsorship opportunities available!
 For more information go to
<https://www.vfw3103.org/> or use the QR Code
 Please contact Jeremy Jones at
joneszjp@gmail.com



SCAN ME!!!



**Honoring our Vietnam Veterans
Covington, VA**

**2/29/2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information:
Delea Bowerfind
540-463-1848
thewallthathealscovington@gmail.com

***THE WALL THAT HEALS IS COMING TO THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS
FROM OCTOBER 3rd – 6th, 2024***

*Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica Wall and Mobile Education Center
spreads healing legacy of The Wall and educates about the impact of the Vietnam War*

COVINGTON, VIRGINIA – *The Wall That Heals*, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center, is coming to the Alleghany Highlands from October 3rd – October 6th at the Jackson River Sports Complex in Covington and will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public. *The Wall That Heals* honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

“On behalf of the City of Covington, VFW Post1033, ConnectionsPlus Healthcare + Hospice and the Alleghany Highlands as a whole, it is truly an honor to be a host community for *The Wall That Heals Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica & Mobile Education Center*. We have a deep history in our community of folks who have served & continue to serve and it carries great significance for our region to be the only destination in Virginia selected to host this engaging & educational program honoring Vietnam veterans” said Covington City Manager, Allen Dressler.

“The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is pleased to bring *The Wall That Heals* mobile exhibit to Covington to allow local veterans and their family members a chance to experience The Wall,” said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF. “Hosting *The Wall That Heals* provides an opportunity to honor and remember all those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War and educate visitors on the continuing impact of the Vietnam War on America.”

The Wall That Heals is transported from community to community in a 53-foot trailer. When parked, the trailer opens with exhibits built into its sides, allowing it to serve as a mobile Education Center telling the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall and the divisive era in American history.

The three-quarter scale Wall replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors will experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C. Visitors are able to do name rubbings of individual service member's names on The Wall.

The mobile Education Center exhibit includes: digital photo displays of "Hometown Heroes" - service members whose names are on The Wall that list their home of record within the area of a visit; digital photo displays of Vietnam veterans from the local area honored through VVMF's *In Memory* program which honors veterans who returned home from Vietnam and later died; video displays that teach about the history and impact of The Wall; educational exhibits told through items representative of those left at The Wall in D.C.; a replica of the *In Memory* plaque; a map of Vietnam and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War. The exhibits tell the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall and the era surrounding the conflict, and are designed to put American experiences in Vietnam in a historical and cultural context.

The 2024 national *The Wall That Heals* tour is generously sponsored by USAA. Through a partnership with the Truckload Carriers Association (TCA), the trucking industry, and Blue Beacon, the exhibit is able to travel across the country.

For more information on local sponsorship opportunities that will directly impact *The Wall That Heals Covington* and how to support this project, please reach out to Cindy Wright, Sponsorship Chair, at 540-958-3436 or by email at thewallthathealscovington@gmail.com. General information about the project and volunteer opportunities can also be found by visiting thewallthathealscovington.com.

Since its debut in 1996, the exhibit has been on display in more than 700 U.S. communities in addition to an April 1999 tour of the Four Provinces of Ireland and a visit to Canada in 2005. *The Wall That Heals* is a program of VVMF, the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1982. *The Wall That Heals* is the only traveling exhibit affiliated with The Wall in Washington, D.C. and includes the largest Wall replica that travels the country. Two VVMF staff members lead volunteers on site, educate visitors and students, and ensure the reflective atmosphere of The Wall. More information can be found at: www.thewallthatheals.org.

About VVMF

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington, D.C. in 1982. VVMF continues to lead the way in paying tribute to our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families. VVMF's mission is to honor and preserve the legacy of service in America and educate all generations about the impact of the Vietnam War and era through programs, ceremonies and education materials. To learn more about VVMF, visit www.vvmf.org or call 202-393-0090.

#



Charles H. Bush, Jr.

Candidate for the High Office of VFW Virginia Department Judge Advocate 2024-25

- I want to bring learning, recognition, and credibility to the Department Judge Advocate position. (To find ways to support the commanders)
- My goals are to continue to improve on the business side and support membership by finding ways to improve **membership retention**.
- Continue to enhance our family culture, working together as a team and family to support veterans, set an example, and positively impact our communities.
- My eligibility includes Active Duty service in the Marine Corps from 1981 to 2011 for over 30 years, two combat tours, Desert Storm (1990) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003), and attaining the high rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant (MGySgt) /E-9.
- My qualifications include joining the VFW organization as a Life Member in 1997 and currently serving as the State Surgeon 2023-2024
 - State Inspector 2021-2023
 - All-State and All-American District 8 Commander 2019-2021
 - Post 3103 Commander 2010-2011
 - Served on the District 8 Staff for over seven years as Inspector, JVC, SVC

R/S, in Comradeship, Charles Bush, (540) 907-5292 (cell) / cbush@vfwva.org (email)



Randy Coker USMC (ret)
Dale City VFW Post 1503



CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT SURGEON 2024-2025

Comrades, my name is Randy Coker, and I am running for Department Surgeon for 2024-25. I am a Legacy Life member of the VFW. Since joining the VFW in 1999 I have served in a variety of leadership positions in the Post, District and Department levels. With each one of the previous positions, I accumulated increasingly more experience in the “business” of the VFW. This experience has given me the confidence to continue to serve my fellow comrades within this great organization in the Department of Virginia as the Surgeon and a continued “voice for Veterans” within the Department of Virginia.

My goals are, first and foremost the continued effort of supporting the Comrades of this organization as a voice for veterans. As an outspoken, forward thinking, results oriented comrade, I strive for nothing less than being recognized as the best. The Department of Virginia VFW has always been in the top tier of the Nation’s VFWs, and my goal is to continue to be the best by a continued great partnership with our outstanding Auxiliary.

I served in Desert Storm and Restore Hope in Somalia, I am a retired Marine Corps Master Sergeant (no more eating crayons for me) I take great pride in my 22 years of service to our country, and I truly believe that those years were only the stepping stone for me to be able to continue to serve veterans, past, present and future, in a different role. I look forward to hopefully serving the Veterans of this great organization as your next Department Surgeon. Thank you for your support and consideration.

QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE

Desert Storm & Restore Hope Veteran
Legacy Life member
All American Post & District Commander
Military Order of the Cootie
Past Commanders Club President
Current Department Honor Guard
Current District 10 Hospitality Room Chair
Current Department Newspaper Chaiman
Current Post Adjutant, Post 1503
Current Department Inspector

****** DEDICATION / SERVICE & COMMITMENT ******

Yours in comradeship
Randy Coker

Vote for Experience!

Elect Ken Wiseman

National Judge Advocate General

2026-2027

Ready on Day 1!

Ken became a Paralegal after graduating from The George Washington University. More importantly, Ken has years of experience at all levels of the VFW that has taught him much about our great organization. Ken will be ready to go to work from the moment he is installed.



Years of Experience!

Ken earned All-American honors as a State Commander, State Adjutant/Quartermaster, Post Commander, and Post Quartermaster. He has been a Century Recruiter four times. Ken has led major updates to our bylaws and has experience handling Article 9 cases relating to disciplinary actions. Ken previously served as a VFW employee working on the National Legislative Service staff and he was an accredited Service Officer for the VFW.

Ken is currently the National Council Member and District 10 Commander in Virginia.

Committed to Service!

Having a Judge Advocate General with Ken's experience means having someone with experience in many of the issues our organization faces. Ken will work to help the VFW grow and he is committed to proving that "No One Does More for Veterans" than the VFW.