VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

"One Team One Fight"

NUMBER 6
403 Lee Jackson Highway
Staunton, Virginia 24401

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

December 1, 2026
(540) 886-8112
Hours M – F
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

GUIDE TO THE GO:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

1. Commander's Message
2. Active Membership
3. Bonds
4. By-Laws and Manual of Procedure
5. Delinquent
6. District Meetings
7. Duties of Trustees
8. General Orders
9. Email Account Access
10. Half-Staff U.S. Flag on Dec 7
11. IRS Form 8822-B
12. Liability Insurance
13. Post Relief Fund
14. Important Dates
15. Membership
16. Office Closure
17. Parliamentary Authority
18. Public Servant Awards
19. Raffle
20. Reporting
21. Roster Changes
22. Teacher Recognition
23. Virginia Veterans Foundation
24. VVF Community Service Grant
25. VVF Post Improvement and Assistance

1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades,

We are now approaching the Christmas season and six months since I became your Commander for this year. As we spend the time with our loved ones and we are truly thankful for life's blessings. Let us remember those comrades who have passed and those who have lost family members this year. We must always reach out to each other and just say hello and check on each other. I have visited many Posts and Districts and parts of the state this year and I am very impressed and proud of the efforts of our Posts to be relevant in the community and do great things for veterans.

I have walked the halls of Congress with comrades and spoke with our lawmakers' discussing issues that are important to our veterans. As we approach the new year, we must start the new year with the same hard work and dedication that you have shown this year. It has become clearer now than ever, that no one does more for veterans than the VFW. It is not just a slogan it is a reality. So, when you are out recruiting or participating in a public event, remember how important you are to veterans in your community. There are future comrades out there, and they don't know how important the work of the VFW is to protecting what they have earned and easy it is to lose it. You are manning the wall to protect our veteran's community, and I salute you for it. Never underestimate how important you are and how important your work is. When you add the fact that we are a volunteer organization, what you do is magnify its importance and its value. We are once again the few protecting the many.

I want you to enjoy this holiday season with your loved ones. We know more than most about how breathing the fresh air of freedom does not come without cost. Enjoy the fruits of your labor and reflect on how important your mission still is. I wish you the best this month and thank you for making me proud to be your Commander.

Mark P. Maggio
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. BONDS:

All Bonds expire on August 31, 2026. Please see July or August General Orders for the rate schedule for the cost of your bond and return completed forms and payment to State Headquarters. Please note Quartermaster Bond rate **is for** the Post Officers. There is a separate schedule for your canteen employees and others who are not Post Officers but need to be bonded. Remember that people on any/or all accounts of the Post has **MUST BE BONDED.**

EACH PERSON BONDED MUST BE ON A SEPARATE FORM. EXAMPLE DO NOT PUT QM AND COMMANDER ON SAME FORM, THERE MUST BE TWO FORMS COMPLETED BEFORE BONDS CAN BE PROCESSED. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHICH FORM YOU SHOULD BE USING CONTACT STATE HEADQUARTERS.

IF THE POST IS BONDED LOCALLY A COPY MUST BE SENT TO STATE HEADQUARTERS.

4. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2027 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the revised edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2027 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 127th National Convention, which became effective on Aug. 28, 2026.

5. DELINQUENT:

District	Post	Audits	Bonds	District	Post	Fee	Audits
1	824	September not accepted		9	1184		June, September
2	12217	September not accepted		9	7136		September not accepted
3	8046	September		9	9640	20.00	
3	10657	September		10	8241		September not accepted
5	7800	September		11	632		September
6	1841	September		11	9339		June not accepted, September
6	2157	September		12	1994		September not accepted
9	1115	September	Need	12	4301		September not accepted
				12	9830	5.00	

6. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1st
Date: 1/23/27
Meeting: 10:00 am
Location: Post 3219 Phoebus
1222 E Mellen Street, Hampton
Rep: St Judge Advocate Todd Taylor

2nd
Date: 2/13/27
Meeting: 9:00 AM
Location: Post 4809 Norfolk
5728 Bartee Street
Rep: PSC Doug Hoffman

3rd	Date:	2/20/27
	Meeting:	10:00 AM
	Location:	Post 637 Hopewell 335 South 15th Avenue
	Rep:	St Judge Advocate Todd Taylor
4th	Date:	2/13/2027
	Meeting:	11:00 AM
	Location:	Post 9954 Victoria 1000 Marshal Avenue
	Rep:	St SVC Charles Bush
5th	Date:	2/20/27
	Meeting:	10:00 AM
	Location:	Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road
	Rep:	St Surgeon Paul Smith
6th	Date:	12/5/26
	Meeting:	11:00 AM
	Location:	Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Ave NW
	Rep:	St JVC Randy Coker
7th	Date:	1/23/27
	Meeting:	11:15 AM
	Location:	Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Way
	Rep:	State Cmdr Mark Maggio
8th	Date:	12/5/26
	Meeting:	10:00 AM
	Location:	Post 12208 King George Hopyard Farms Clubhouse 5888 Coakley Dr
	Rep:	St SVC Charles Bush
9th	Date:	1/30/27
	Meeting:	10:00 am
	Location:	Post 1115 Hillsville 701 W Stuart Drive
	Rep:	State SVC Charles Bush
10th	Date:	12/12/26
	Meeting:	10:00 AM
	Location:	Post 1177 Leesburg 401 Old Waterford Rd NW
	Rep:	St Surgeon Paul Smith
11th	Date:	1/9/27
	Meeting:	10:00 AM
	Location:	Post 2216 212 Frontier Dr
	Rep:	St Surgeon Paul Smith
12th	Date:	1/23/27
	Meeting:	11:00 AM
	Location:	Post 8652 Coeburn 4318 Buckingham Rd
	Rep:	St JVC Randy Coker
13th	Date	2/20/27
	Meeting:	11:00 AM
	Location:	Post 1827 Charlottesville 1170 River Road
	Rep:	PSC Doug Hoffman

7. DUTIES OF TRUSTEES:

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 ends December 31, 2026, and is **NOW DUE**. PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE SEVERAL POSTS THAT HAVE NOT SUMBITTED A SEPTEMBER AUDIT OR NEEDS TO SUBMIT A CORRECTED AUDITED.

Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager, Bingo Chairman and VFW Rider Groups. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.

8. 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.

9. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts have been reset so the new Officers can take control of their emails. 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 **VFW2026!** 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.

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

District Commanders your address will be cdrdist1@vfwva.org for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with your district #.

Any questions please contact State Headquarters.

10. HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DEC 7:

Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates Dec. 7 as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags.

11. 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.

12. LIABILITY INSURANCE:

Posts with Post Homes must have liability insurance and list State Headquarters and VFW National Headquarters as additional insurers. State Headquarters does not need a copy of your whole insurance policy, only a copy of the Certificate of Insurance listing State Headquarters and VFW National Headquarters as additional insurers.

The Certificate of Insurance needs to be sent to State Headquarters every year and it can be emailed to statehq@vfwva.org, faxed 1-866-416-0586 or regular mail to VFW State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ed Mann at State Headquarters.

13. POST RELIEF FUND:

Sections 219 and 704 of the Manual of Procedure outline the various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be used. "To foster true patriotism and through historical and educational programs," is part of this section. This allows the Post to use the relief funds for the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year programs and other Americanism programs that are educational. This does not include Post building projects, hall remodeling, Color Guard uniforms or any other expenditures that do not follow these guidelines.

14. IMPORTANT DATES:

January 14 - 17, 2027	Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are $110.00 per night. The links are active until December 13, 2026. Attendee Block: https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4846767 Staff Block: https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4846766 Please remember this is a coat and tie affair please dress appropriately
June 10 - 13, 2027	State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are $119.00 per night. Cutoff Date is May 5, 2027, by 5:00 pm.
July 31 - August 4, 2027	National Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
November 4 - 7, 2027	Southern Conference Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia
January 13 - 16, 2028	Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are $119.00 per night. Cutoff Date is December 11, 2027, by 5:00 pm.
June 22 – 25, 2028	State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are $129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is May 20, 2028, by 5:00 pm.
August 5 - 10, 2028	National Convention, San Antonio, Texas
July 21 – 26, 2029	National Convention, Reno, Nevada
July 20 – 25, 2030	National Convention, New Orleans, LA

15. MEMBERSHIP:

Commanders and Comrades,

You are doing great so far. Members are being recruited and reinstated all across the State. I often get calls from Posts thanking me and the team for recruiting members into their Post. I also am asked what we can do to make them active members. My answer is always followed by this question. What has the Post done to welcome them. I wish there was a hard and true answer, but there isn't. If what you are doing isn't working, try something different. Please remember that younger vets have families, jobs, and a lot going on in their lives. Please be patient, I guess is the best answer.

Retention is another problem that is worrying a lot of you. My thought is that it's too early in the year to worry about that. Keep working on recruiting and getting your annuals to renew and I think that problem will disappear later in the year. I hope all of you have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. If you want or need assistance with recruiting events, please contact any member of the Team or State Headquarters for help.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman

16. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters will be close at noon on December 23, 2026, and reopen on January 4, 2027, in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day.

State Adjutant/Quartermaster Mann and State Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster Hoffman will be available by phone and email. State Adjutant/Quartermaster Mann 804-304-7726 or adj@vfwva.org and Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster Hoffman 757-679-2367 or dhoffman@vfwva.org.

17. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:

Procedure and Ritual establish that *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12th Edition* shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. This edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* is readily available at local bookstores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

18. PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:

Posts are asked to submit five nominees (one for each career area) to State Headquarters no later than January 8, 2027.

- Law Enforcement Award
- Firefighter Award
- Emergency Medical Technician Award
- 911 Dispatcher Award
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (E.O.D.T.) Award

VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form was developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairpersons with an entry form to hand out to the local Fire Department, Police Department, etc. to assist interested individuals in nominating one of their own. Once a winner in each category has been chosen, the Post will forward the winning entries on to the next level of judging.

Simply visit vfw.org, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Public Servant Program**.

NOTE: Remember, the First Responder Medal is available through the VFW Store. To review this item, please click on the following link: vfwstore.org/products/32134.

19. RAFFLE:

The 2027 Raffle tickets should have been distributed to all Posts by now. Money and ticket stubs need to be turned into State Headquarters (403 Lee Jackson Hwy, Staunton, VA 24401) do not hold them. Remember drawings for these tickets will start January 1, 2027.

20. 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.

21. ROSTER CHANGES:

Post 4809 QM
Ron Riffle
3309 Indian River Road
Chesapeake, VA 23325
757-309-0409
rlrifflejr@gmail.com

22. TEACHER RECOGNITION:

District judging should be completed within the next two weeks and your TOY/Awards Chairpersons should email or snail mail your District winners to the Committee Co-Chairman Ben Guinan to be received before December 14th. Email them to the Committee Co-Chairman Ben Guinan at BGuinan@VFWVA.org or mail them to him at Post 1503, Attn: Ben Guinan, 14631 Minnieville Road, Dale City, VA 22193. We will present the awards to the winning educators at the Winter Conference in Harrisonburg in January. If anyone wishes to serve as a judge, please pass that information to him as well.

23. VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION:

The Virginia Veterans Foundation is pleased to announce you may know make your donations online. Go to the Department of Virginia's website – www.vfwva.org, then click on About and then click on Virginia Veterans Foundation. Scroll to middle of the page and click on here to donate and follow the directions. Please make sure when donating online you put Post your Post number so you can get credit (click add note/comment).

24. VVF COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT:

The Virginia Veterans, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, has opened the window to apply for a grant to perform community service. There will ten (10) grants worth up to $500 each for the 2026-2027 year. Should any money remain after the ten grants are paid out, those not selected in the first round of grants will be considered a second time. The requirements and application are in the attachments. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the application is **due no later than December 4, 2026.** Posts **AND** Auxiliaries can apply for this grant, but only one grant will be given to an individual Post or their Auxiliary, regardless of who applies. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

25. VVF POST HOME IMPROVEMENT AND ASSISTANCE GRANT:

The Virginia Veterans, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, as opened the window to apply for a grant to perform improvements on your Post home. There will be ten (10) grants worth up to $1,000 each for the 2026-2027 year. All requirements and the application are in the attachments. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the **application is due no later than December 4, 2026.** Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

Official:

Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:

Mark Maggio
State Commander





REGISTRATION DEADLINE DECEMBER 22ND

WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 14 – 17, 2027
Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center ~ Harrisonburg, Virginia ~
540-564-0200
$110.00 Per night

(*Hotel* Group ***Rate Deadline is December 13th***)

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET
$55.00

ALL TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED. THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE WINTER COUNCIL MEETING.

Link to purchase tickets: https://givebutter.com/vfwvawc27

Dinner Menu

Marinated Pork Loin with Apple Cider Reduction

Served with:

Market Fresh Greens

Steamed Broccoli with Lemon Butter Mashed Candied Sweet Potatoes

Freshly Bake Bread and Butter

Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Whipped Cream

Coffee Regular and Decaffeinated Iced Tea Iced Water

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY DECEMBER 22, 2026 ***(NO EXCEPTIONS)***
Check, Discover, American Express, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name)_____ Phone: _____

Please fill out completely for each person you are registering including Post number or Auxiliary number:

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Please charge my card: $_____ Name on Card: _____

Please Circle One: Discover American Express MasterCard Visa SIGNATURE: _____

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV Code _____ Billing Zip Code _____

Mail form to: State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401
You may also e-mail this form to: statehq@vfwva.org or fax it to 1-866-416-0586 if paying by Credit Card only

Pre-paid tickets will not be mailed to you; they will be available for pick up at registration.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND
VFW AUXILIARY

Winter Council of Administration Meeting
January 14 – 17, 2027
Hotel Madison Shenandoah Conference Center
Harrisonburg Virginia
540-564-0200

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2027

1:00 PM	3:00 PM	Virginia Veterans Foundation Board Meeting	Madison Boardroom

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2027

10:00 AM	5:00 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Conf Center Foyer
10:00 AM	1:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Audit (Treasurer and Audit Team)	Madison Boardroom
11:00 AM	11:30 AM	Joint Memorial Service	Shenandoah A
12:30 PM	2:30 PM	Women's Veterans Forum	Allegheny A,B &C
2:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting	Shenandoah A
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Charitable Gaming Laws & Regs	Allegheny A,B &C
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	MOC Meeting and Degree Work	Shenandoah B
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Cornhole Tournament	Shenandoah B

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2027

7:30 AM	8:30 PM	PSP Breakfast	Dolley Madison
8:00 AM	12:00 PM	Post Benefits Advisor Training	Allegheny A,B &C
8:00 AM	2:30 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Conf. Center Foyer
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Commanders Club Meeting	Shenandoah B
9:00 AM	12:30 PM	VFW Auxiliary Business/Program Presentation	Shenandoah A
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	VFW Council of Administration Meeting	Shenandoah B
12:30 PM	1:00 PM	VFW Riders Meeting	Allegheny A,B &C
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Public Affairs and social Media	Shenandoah B
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	MOCA Meeting	Shenandoah A
1:30 PM	2:30 PM	Membership & Recruiting Workshop	Allegheny A,B&C
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Microsoft 365 Training	Allegheny A,B &C
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Youth-Educator Banquet	Shenandoah A & B

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2027

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Farewell Prayer Breakfast	Shenandoah A

TEACHER OF THE YEAR, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET TICKETS: $55.00

Department Hospitality Room – Shenandoah C

(Tentative schedule subject to change)

REGISTER NOW ON THE CORNHOLE APP - FREE IN THE APP STORE - PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

GROVER GAMING

VFW
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

HEADSPACE CORNHOLE

$20 Registration Fee

- Double Elimination Blind Draw
- Open Local Points

Prizes:

- 1st Place - $500 Cash & Trophy
- 2nd Place - $350
- 3rd Place - $150

Date & Time

- January 15th, 2027
- Doors Open @ 6:00pm
- Bags Fly @ 7:00pm

Location

- Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center
- 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Also Offered:
$10 Air Mail Knockout (6:45pm)
50/50
Door Prizes & Raffles

MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE V.F.W. HONOR DEGREE

AUGUSTA COUNTY EST. 2021 CORNHOLE

No Outside Food or Beverage

To Benefit - Military Order of the Cootie - Pup Tents 14 & 17

These are dedicated members who perform duties involving the aid to hospitalized veterans and those who are sick or injured, providing blood, visitation, clothing and entertainment at VA medical centers and other non-VA facilities.

Reach out to Headspace Cornhole on Facebook with any Questions

Women Veterans Forum Winter 2027
Mental Health & Wellness for Women Veterans

THIS EVENT WELCOMES WOMEN VETERANS FOR BOTH VFW MEMBERS AND VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERS!

Supporting Mental Health & Advocating for Women Who Served

Women veterans have served our nation with courage, dedication, and resilience. Yet many face unique challenges navigating healthcare, transitioning from military service, and maintaining their mental and emotional well-being.

This **90-minute forum featuring three guest speakers** will provide education, encouragement, practical wellness strategies, and information about legislative initiatives supporting women veterans. Attendees will have an opportunity to connect, learn, and discover resources in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Featured Presentations

Mental Health, Faith & Spiritual Resilience

Explore how faith, spirituality, and personal beliefs can provide comfort, hope, and resilience when managing anxiety, depression, PTSD, grief, and emotional challenges. This discussion will emphasize community support, spiritual well-being, and the importance of seeking professional care when needed.

A speaker from **James Madison University's Psychology Department** will speak about mental health concerns affecting women veterans, including anxiety, depression, PTSD, sleep difficulties, emotional exhaustion, grief, and chronic stress.

Advocating for Women Veterans: Legislation & Policy

Learn about **VFW-supported legislative initiatives** addressing the needs of women veterans. This presentation will highlight current legislative priorities, explain where relevant bills stand in Congress, and discuss how these initiatives could improve healthcare, benefits, and support services. Attendees will also learn how they can participate in veteran advocacy.

A Special Gift for Attendees! **New, donated books will be given away FREE to the first women veteran attendees, while supplies last!** Arrive early to receive a complimentary book of either faith-based or non-religious self help book to enjoy and take home.

Event Details
Date: January 15th, 2027
Time: 90 Minutes, please review the Winter Conference Schedule for an updated time.
Location: Please review the Winter Conference Schedule for an updated location.
Hosted By: Tarah Jeffery, email me at qmpost12218@vfwva.org

Faith-based perspectives will be presented respectfully, recognizing that each veteran's path to wellness is personal.

You Served Our Nation. Your Health, Your Voice, and Your Well-Being Matter.



For more information
Contact Your District Commander
Or
Department Surgeon at
surgeon@vfwva.org



Douglas Hoffman - Candidate for State Quartermaster

Douglas Hoffman proudly served as the **State Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia for the years 2025-2026,** bringing decades of dedicated military and veteran-service leadership to the role.

Doug honorably served **20 years in the United States Navy**, achieving the rank of **Chief Petty Officer**. His distinguished naval career included service aboard **four submarines**, tender duty in **Guam**, and an instructional tour shaping the next generation of sailors in **Charleston**. His time in uniform strengthened his commitment to service, teamwork, and mission excellence—values that continue to guide his leadership today.

His qualifying campaigns for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars include the **Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal** and the **Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal**. He is also a proud **Gold Legacy Life Member** of **VFW Post 2216 Staunton, Virginia**, where he remains actively involved in supporting veterans, families, and the local community.

Doug's leadership within the VFW has been extensive and impactful. His achievements and positions include:

- **All-American State Commander** and **Tiple Crown** recipient.
- **Two-time All-State and All-American Post Commander**, Ocean View Post 3160
- **All-State and All-American District Commander**
- **Treasurer**, VFW Riders of Virginia
- **Member**, Military Order of the Cooties
- **Past Seam Squirrel**, Pup Tent 1

Beyond his professional and organizational accomplishments, Doug's greatest joy is his family. He has been happily married to his wife **Tracy** for 20 years. Together, they share **four grown children** and are blessed with **one granddaughter**. His family, combined with his naval service and VFW experience, reinforces his belief in the importance of unity, strength, and community.

As **State Quartermaster**, he would bring proven statewide **leadership, financial accountability**, and a strong commitment to transparency and compliance. His experience working with Posts, Districts, and state leadership would allow him to provide **clear guidance, strengthen financial practices** across the Department, and **support mission-focused decision-making** that directly benefits Virginia's veterans and their families.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

PATRICK LANE

CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT SURGEON

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA • 2027–2028

A COMMITMENT TO CARE. A LIFETIME OF SERVICE.

I am Patrick Lane, a proud United States Army Veteran, VFW Gold Legacy Life Member, and dedicated servant to our veterans and their families.

I served in the U.S. Army Field Artillery from 1986 to 1991 and earned my VFW eligibility through service in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

My life's work—both in uniform and in our organization—has been about one mission: taking care of those who have taken care of us.

LEADERSHIP ROOTED IN SERVICE

Patrick has served the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the Post, District, Department, and National levels.
His service includes:

- ★ All-American Post Commander
- ★ All-American District Commander
- ★ Captain of the Department of Virginia Honor Guard (2025–Present)
- ★ State Inspector (2026–2027)
- ★ National Aide-de-Camp during the 2020–2021 and 2024–2025 VFW years

I am a Gold Legacy Life Member of VFW Post 8947 in District 13 and remain committed to upholding the highest traditions of our organization.

SERVICE. INTEGRITY. COMPASSION.
That's my promise to you.



★ VFW HIGHLIGHTS ★

- ★ All-American Post Commander
- ★ All-American District Commander
- ★ Captain, Department of Virginia Honor Guard (2025–Present)
- ★ State Inspector (2026–2027)
- ★ National Aide-de-Camp (2020–2021 & 2024–2025)
- ★ Gold Legacy Life Member
  VFW Post 8947, District 13

> *"It is an honor to serve those who have served. Together, we can continue to strengthen our organization and ensure that every veteran and their family receives the care and support they have earned."*

LEADERSHIP • ACCOUNTABILITY • SERVICE

Patrick Lane
Candidate for Department Surgeon
Veterans of Foreign Wars – Department of Virginia

RESPECTFULLY ASKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND YOUR VOTE.

THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

VFW Community Service Grant

The purpose of the VFW Community Service Grant is to assist VFW Posts and Auxiliaries in Virginia who need assistance with funding community service projects. Posts who have received a grant within the last three years are not eligible for the grant. There will be ten(10) grants worth up to $500 each for the 2026-2027 year. All requirements must be met, or the grant must be returned, in part or in whole, depending on the circumstances. **Grant application is due no later than December 4, 2026.**

The requirements of the grant are as follows:

1) The project must be initiated, completed and receipts submitted in the period of July 1, 2026, through June 1, 2027.
2) The VFW Post or Auxiliary in question must have a current non-profit status on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Post must provide the IRS paperwork proving this.
3) The Post or Auxiliary must be in good standing with the VFW National Headquarters and the Department of Virginia.
4) If the project is hosted at a building, it must be a non-smoking building regardless of the owner's rules for the use of the building.
5) The grant is not to be used for work on a VFW Post home or the property owned by any membership-based organization.
6) Receipts for the project must be provided and payment of the grant will not occur until this is done with all payments coming after project completion.
7) Should the project costs total less than $500 once completed, the balance of the grant will not be paid. Additional projects may not be added to an approved grant. Alterations to an approved grant require approval by the Virginia Veterans Foundation before the grant can be claimed.
8) The VFW Post or Auxiliary receiving the grant must agree to allow the VFW Department of Virginia and Virginia Veterans Foundation the opportunity to promote the project on social media, in official communications, and in other forms of marketing.
9) The grant will only cover materials and the Post is responsible for providing labor. This can be done through paying for labor or by doing the work themselves.
10) All decisions on grants are final and will be made by the Board of Directors for the Virginia Veterans Foundation.
11) Funding from this grant program may be combined with other grants but the total of the funding received cannot exceed actual costs and the amount received from this grant may be reduced accordingly.
12) Only one grant per year will be provided to an individual Post or Auxiliary, regardless of who applies for the grant.

THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

VFW Community Service Grant

Official Grant Application

(All questions must be answered in full)

Name and number of the Post/Auxiliary: _____

Mailing address: _____

Physical address of the event: _____

Commander/President name, phone number, and email address: _____

_____

Quartermaster/Treasurer name, phone number, and email address: _____

_____

Description of the project to be completed: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Estimated cost of the project: _____

How will labor be provided: _____

By signing below, you acknowledge the requirements of the grant program. Furthermore, you acknowledge that you have provided all needed documents and that the decision on this grant application rests solely with the Virginia Veterans Foundation. Finally, you agree to provide all needed receipts for the project and to cooperate with the Virginia Veterans Foundation and the VFW Department of Virginia in promoting the project and grant.

Commander/President: _____ QM/Treasurer: _____

THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

VFW Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant

The purpose of the VFW Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant is to assist VFW Posts in Virginia who need assistance with funding projects to improve, expand, or repair their Post home as well as assisting those Posts in financial need. Posts who have received a Grant within the last three years are not eligible for a Grant. There will be ten (10) grants worth up to $1000 each for the 2026-2027 year. All requirements must be met, or the Post will be required to return the grant, in part or in whole, depending on the circumstances. **Grant application is due no later than December 4, 2026.**

The requirements of the grant are as follows:

1) If funding a project, it must be initiated and completed in the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Post must submit a thorough justification for the grant.
2) If asking for emergency assistance, the Post must explain the reason for the emergency and provide a plan for how the Post will raise money in the future and prepare for future problems.
3) The VFW Post in question must have a current non-profit status on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and must provide the IRS paperwork proving this.
4) The Post must be in good standing with the VFW National and Department Headquarters.
5) If funding a project, the Post must own or lease the Post and must provide a copy of the documents showing either ownership or a current lease. For Posts who lease the property, there must be at least 2 years remaining on the lease to receive a grant.
6) The Post must not allow smoking in their Post building but may use the grant to repair damage after voting to ban smoking. A ban on smoking is defined as no smoking allowed inside the building of the Post home. It may be allowed outside of the building.
7) Receipts for the project or bills covered by the assistance requested must be provided and payment of the grant will not occur until this is done with all payments coming after project completion or for bills already paid.
8) Should the project costs or assistance requested total less than $1,000.00 once complete, the balance of the grant will not be paid.
9) The VFW Post receiving the grant must agree to allow the VFW Department of Virginia and Virginia Veterans Foundation the opportunity to promote the funded project on social media, in official communications, and in other forms of marketing.
10) The grant will only cover materials and the Post is responsible for providing labor. This can be done through paying for labor or by doing the work themselves.
11) All decisions on grants are final and will be made by the Board of Directors for the Virginia Veterans Foundation.
12) Funding from this grant program may be combined with other grants but the total of the funding received cannot exceed actual costs and the amount received from this grant may be reduced accordingly.

THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

VFW Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant

Official Grant Application

(All questions must be answered in full)

Name and number of the Post: _____

Post mailing address: _____

Physical address of the Post: _____

Post Commander name, phone number, and email address: _____

_____

Post Quartermaster name, phone number, and email address: _____

_____

Estimated cost of the project or assistance requested: _____

How will labor be provided: _____

On a separate page, give either a description of the project to be completed or justification for assistance requested. For emergency assistance, also include in your description a plan for how the Post will raise money in the future and prepare for future problems.

By signing below, you acknowledge the requirements of the grant program. Furthermore, you acknowledge that you have provided all needed documents and that the decision on this grant application rests solely with the Virginia Veterans Foundation. Finally, you agree to provide all needed receipts for the project and to cooperate with the Virginia Veterans Foundation and the VFW Department of Virginia in promoting the project and grant.

Post Commander: _____ Post Quartermaster: _____



2027 VFW SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

November 4-7, 2027 • Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia

The 2027 Southern Conference is being hosted by the Department of Virginia

We are looking for Committee Chairs and volunteers to plan and run the conference.

The committees are:

Registration
Welcome
Transportation
Swag/Give Aways
Sponsors and vendors
Banquet
Local events/Excursions
Hospitality Room (committee Chair already volunteered)
Golf Tournament (Committee Chair already volunteered)

Please send me or Kathy an email at: SOCON27@VFWVA.ORG
To sign up as a committee chair
or volunteer to work on a committee.

This is open to VFW and the Auxiliary. One Team

Paul Smith
Department Surgeon
2027 Southern Conference
Event Chairman

Kathy Voss
Department President
2027 Southern Conference
Event Co-Chairman