

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 12

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

**“Veterans Helping Veterans
Dept. of Virginia 100th Anniversary”**

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

June 1, 2023

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Commander’s Message | 13. Important Dates |
| 2. Calendar Raffle | 14. IRS Form 8822-B |
| 3. Active Membership | 15. Life Membership Payout |
| 4. All State | 16. Membership |
| 5. Audits | 17. National Convention Housing Registration |
| 6. District Meetings | 18. Office Closure |
| 7. Delegate Fees | 19. Posts in Arrears for Financial Obligations |
| 8. Duties of Trustees | 20. Proof of Eligibility |
| 9. E-Mail Account Access | 21. Reporting |
| 10. Flag Day | 22. Scholarship Themes |
| 11. Eligibility to Vote at the State Convention | 23. Vietnam War Commemoration |
| 12. General Orders | |

1. COMMANDER’S MESSAGE:

Greetings. June marks the end of our membership year, and my term as your State Commander. This month also encompasses our annual State Convention and with it, renewed optimism for the future. In this, my final General Orders message, I would like to briefly recap the previous month’s events, and then provide a summary of accomplishments for the year and express my profound gratitude.

Since the time of my last writing, your Department has been very busy. The month of May was Military Appreciation Month and VFW Days of Service. Many of our Posts contributed to the Nationwide “Days of Service” initiative, and in so doing, demonstrated the meaningful difference the VFW makes in communities across our country.

In May, it was announced that we had numerous winners in the Chief’s National Challenge. Several of our recruiters were awarded VFW leather bomber-style jackets for recruiting new Life Members. Congratulations to Troy Wagers, Curtis Bobbitt, Kathleen Goodall, J Michael Frank, Sigrid Roche and Johnny Restivo. We had more winners than any other State, demonstrating that we have some of the best recruiters in the nation.

Our State Riders were very busy last month conducting their Annual 4 Seasons Poker Run in Phoebus: raising \$10,000 to support veterans in need. They also made a Riders visit to Hampton VA Medical Center to visit veterans in hospice. Lastly, they conducted a Rider Rally in Roanoke on May 20th, raising nearly \$7,000 to support veterans via New Freedom Farm.

We learned that we had a Silver Award winner in the National VFW Publications Contest for Best Post/District Publication (large frequency). Congratulations to Post 2894 and Dan Eaker, editor.

At the time of this writing we are preparing to participate in Memorial Day tributes, all across the state. We will celebrate with poppy distribution, recruiting drives and somber dedications to our fallen comrades. Your State Officers are scheduled to speak in Warrenton; the Hampton Victory Arch; Williamsburg; Colonial Heights, and the Virginia War Memorial.

I am very proud of the Department's accomplishments this year. We hired a new lead Service Officer; Laurie Clay and her Team have done an outstanding work for veterans. We revamped our training regimen and delivered the improved training to the members. We strived to improve efficiencies. We were 100 percent inspected; and 100 percent of deficiencies were corrected. We were 100 percent in Community Service Reports, for both the first and second half of the year.

Our membership is currently at 102.7 percent (with five weeks remaining); achieving the Department goal of 100 percent and the National goal of 102 percent. We've added 2,146 members to the VFW rolls; thanks to 443 individuals who have recruited at least one member. We are poised to earn Department All-American honors. Special thanks to Tom Hines as Membership Chair.

As demographics shift we are attuned to the need to occasionally, institute new Posts. This membership year we strategically started two brand new Posts. We wish Post 12217 Holland and Post 12218 Haymarket well, as they embark on their new journey.

This year one of our goals was to improve communication. We diligently worked on generating better communication at all levels. We strengthened formal communications in the General Orders and official correspondence, and we worked to improve communication in informal ways like through emails, periodicals and social media. Our National Council Representative Ken Wiseman worked hard to communicate the issues of the National Council through his weekly COA Reports to the Department. This keeps us all better informed.

We have worked hard to improve the *esprit de corps* of the Department. Through communication, new events, and greater attendance we strived to get the Department back to pre-Covid levels. We celebrated the Department Centennial this year with numerous celebrations all-across the state. We feel strongly that these regional Centennial Celebrations were a success, and were a tribute to our predecessors, as we celebrated our "100 years of service!" Special thanks to Past Chief Hal Roesch, Centennial Chair. Overall, attendance this year was up at meetings, Conventions, Centennials, Homecoming and (judging by RSVPs) at our upcoming Convention.

I would like to thank the staff at Headquarters for their efficient hard work; they are one of the best organizations in the nation at what they do. I would like to thank the State Officers, who have worked hard, and travelled extensively this year. I would like to thank all the State Committee Chairs and members. Their work and their reach have greatly improved the Department and served veterans well. Thanks to the Post and District Officers. You are the heart of this organization.

I would like to thank State Auxiliary President Fred Jennings, and his outstanding State Auxiliary. They have truly had an outstanding year in their own right. I would like to thank the members and Auxiliary of the Department for all the support you have given me and for all your hard work this year. Lastly, thanks to my lady Theresa for not objecting to me being away, nearly every weekend this year. With that, I shall sign off and fade away. But I do look forward to seeing you soon at a VFW event near you.

Geoffrey Lyster
State Commander
Department of Virginia

2. CALENDAR RAFFLE:

This year the calendar raffle becomes my responsibility. I wanted to do something a little different this year. This year I want to thank and welcome home all our Vietnam Veterans. This makes the calendar a little more personal to many comrades and Auxiliary Members to buy one for themselves or as a gift to a Vietnam veteran. I have discussed this idea at a few District meetings I have attended, and everyone really likes the idea. The previous raffles have been successful, but I want to make this the best calendar raffle we have done so far. But I need your

help. What I am looking for is to have your members (that are Vietnam veterans and belong to a Post in Virginia or Auxiliary member of a Vietnam veteran) send me a photo of them while they were in country along with their name, year in country, a brief description or quote for the photo and VFW Post number they belong to. They can send it to my email address (judge@vfwva.org). I look forward to seeing all the photos and I hope for an overwhelming response. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Douglas Hoffman
State Judge Advocate

3. 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.

4. ALL STATE:

Congratulations to the following Districts and Posts who made All-State by May 5, 2023. If your Post is not on the list you still have until June 30th to achieve All State don't stop working on membership.

District 2, Department of Virginia
District 3, Department of Virginia
District 4, Department of Virginia
District 5, Department of Virginia

District 6, Department of Virginia
District 8, Department of Virginia
District 10, Department of Virginia
District 11, Department of Virginia

VFW Post 3219, District 1, Phoebus, VA
VFW Post 960, District 1, Yorktown, VA
VFW Post 392, District 2, Virginia Beach, VA
VFW Post 2894, District 2, Chesapeake, VA
VFW Post 4809, District 2, Norfolk, VA
VFW Post 3160, District 2, Norfolk, VA
VFW Post 8545, District 2, Smithfield, VA
VFW Post 622, District 3, Petersburg, VA
VFW Post 637, District 3, Hopewell, VA
VFW Post 4639, District 3, Williamsburg, VA
VFW Post 9501, District 3, Aylett, VA
VFW Post 9808, District 3, Mechanicsville, VA
VFW Post 10654, District 3, Richmond, VA
VFW Post 10657, District 3, Glen Allen, VA
VFW Post 7059, District 4, Farmville, VA
VFW Post 7166, District 4, South Hill, VA
VFW Post 8163, District 4, Clarksville, VA
VFW Post 9954, District 4, Victoria, VA
VFW Post 647, District 5, Danville, VA
VFW Post 4637, District 5, Martinsville, VA
VFW Post 1033, District 6, Covington, VA
VFW Post 1264, District 6, Roanoke, VA
VFW Post 1841, District 6, Daleville, VA

VFW Post 4522, District 6, Vinton, VA
VFW Post 9877, District 6, Amherst, VA
VFW Post 12179, District 6, Lynchburg, VA
VFW Post 2447, District 7, Edinburg, VA
VFW Post 3103, District 8, Fredericksburg, VA
VFW Post 9835, District 8, Warrenton, VA
VFW Post 12202, District 8, King George, VA
VFW Post 7589, District 8, Manassas, VA
VFW Post 2719, District 9, Wytheville, VA
VFW Post 1184, District 9, Pulaski, VA
VFW Post 1503, District 10, Dale City, VA
VFW Post 609, District 10, Alexandria, VA
VFW Post 1177, District 10, Leesburg, VA
VFW Post 7916, District 10, Woodbridge, VA
VFW Post 3150, District 10, Arlington, VA
VFW Post 8469, District 10, Fairfax, VA
VFW Post 9274, District 10, Falls Church, VA
VFW Post 8241, District 10, McLean, VA
VFW Post 632, District 11, Harrisonburg, VA
VFW Post 1499, District 11, Lexington, VA
VFW Post 7814, District 11, Staunton, VA
VFW Post 10826, District 11, Verona, VA
VFW Post 8169, District 13, Scottsville, VA

The Meritorious Posts are as follows:

VFW Post 2424, District 11, Waynesboro, VA

VFW Post 8046, District 3, Norge, VA

5. 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 and is **NOW PAST DUE**.

6. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 8/19/23 SOI: 9:00 AM Joint Meeting: 11:00 AM Meeting: Noon Location: Post 176 Newport News 21 Forest Drive Rep: State Judge Advocate Mark Maggio	7 th	Date: 8/27/23 SOI: 9:00 AM Lunch: To follow SOI Meeting: To follow Lunch Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Way Rep: State SVC Mitch Rubenstein
2 nd	Date: 8/12/23 SOI: 9:00 AM Meeting: 10:15 AM Location: Post 392 Virginia Beach 2408 Bowland Parkway Rep: State Commander Gary Adams	8 th	Date: 8/5/23 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg 2701 Princess Anne St Rep: State JVC Doug Hoffman
3 rd	Date: 8/12/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane Rep: State SVC Mitch Rubenstein	9 th	Date: 9/9/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 7726 Independence 115 Klondike Road Rep: Charles Bush
4 th	Date: 7/29/23 SOI: 10:00 AM Lunch: After SOI Meeting: After Lunch Location: Post 9954 Victoria 1000 Marshal Avenue Rep: State Inspector Randy Coker	10 th	Date: 8/20/23 SOI: 10:30 AM Lunch: NOON Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 1503 Dale City 14631 Minnieville Road Rep: State JVC Doug Hoffman
5 th	Date: 8/19/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: PSC Geoffrey Lyster	11 th	Date: 8/26/23 SOI: 9:00 AM Meeting: Location: Post 632 Harrisonburg 450 Waterman Drive Rep: State Judge Advocate Mark Maggio
6 th	Date: 8/5/23 Meeting: Noon Location: Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: State Commander Gary Adams	12 th	Date: 7/1/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 17581 Lee Highway Rep: Charles Bush
		13 th	Date: 8/26/23 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 8947 Louisa 201 Mineral Avenue Rep: PSC Geoffrey Lyster

7. DELEGATE FEES:

In accordance with the National By-Laws Section 222 (C), each Post will pay in accordance with Department By-Laws a delegate registration fee for each delegate to which the Post shall be entitled.

Therefore, you must submit your delegates list to the Department in accordance with Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure (B) along with a check in the amount of \$3.00 for every delegate your Post is entitled to as of membership status March 31. All delegate lists and monies were due to State Headquarters by **May 23rd**. Failure to do so will put your Posts in arrears to the Department and Post will have no voting strength at the State Convention.

The Delegate Sheet was the front page of the April General Orders.

8. DUTIES OF TRUSTEES:

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Trustees." Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager and Bingo Chairman. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.

9. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 15th**. 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 **VFW2022!** 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
qmdist1@vfwva.org

10. FLAG DAY:

All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Wednesday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award (Product No. 4385) for those who have daily displayed our National flag.

11. ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE AT STATE CONVENTION:

Per Section 213 of the National Bylaws, Posts that have not submitted a properly completed Post Election Report by June 1 are in arrears and shall be deprived of all representation in District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustments of such deficiencies. Posts that have registered delegates for the Department and National Conventions will not receive credentials until the Post has satisfied their arrearage.

12. 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.

13. IMPORTANT DATES:

June 1 - 4, 2023	State Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$149.00 per night. Group name "Virginia Department VFW & Auxiliary State Convention 2023"; Cut-off Date April 28, 2023.
July 22 - 27, 2023	National Convention, Phoenix, Arizona
November 1 - 4, 2023	Southern Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma
January 12 - 14, 2023	Winter Council Meeting, Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA: phone 757-220-2250. Room Rates are \$89.00 per night. Group name "Veterans of Foreign Wars – Winter Council Meeting Group"; Cut-off Date December 11, 2023.
July 27 - Aug 1, 2024	National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky
August 9 - 14, 2025	National Convention, Columbus, Ohio

14. 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 is effective January 1, 2014.

15. LIFE MEMBERSHIP PAYOUT:

The Life Membership Board of Trustees, with the concurrence of the National Council of Administration, pursuant to Section 111 of the VFW Bylaws, has determined that for the 2023-24 membership year, the Life Membership Fund will pay out \$3.50 for each Plan A, B and C Life Member, \$3.18 for each Plan D Life Member and \$7.12 for each Plan E Life Member to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters. Payment will be made in Sept. 2023 for all Life Members recorded as of Aug. 31, 2023. In addition, \$7.12 will be paid in Jan. 2024 for each Life Member processed from Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2023 (Plan E) to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please contact Marc Garduno, Quartermaster General, MGarduno@vfw.org.

16. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades and Commanders,

It has been a pleasure to serve the State as Membership Chairman this year. I would like to thank the members of the Team for their efforts in achieving and exceeding our Quota this year. We have achieved All American honors as a State for Eight years in a row and Nine of Eleven that I have been involved with Membership. But it is you as members of the Post that deserve all of the credit for making 100% every time that we do. What a great Department we have. You deserve a break, so take the Month of June off and let's get ready to start strong in July.

Again, my heartfelt gratitude to each and every member of this Department.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman

17. NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING REGISTRATION:

124th National Convention housing officially opened February 17, 2023. 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 Phoenix, Arizona – July 22-27, 2023, including a tentative agenda. (See attachment)

We are **71** days until housing cut-off (**June 21**) for the July 22-27, 2023 convention in Phoenix, Arizona. We have had an overwhelming number of early housing reservations for the National Convention. Due to this early booking pattern, many state Department blocks are now **sold-out**. For those sold-out Departments with new reservations, many individuals have been placed on a **wait list** for their assigned hotels.

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 222 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides that 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 National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee. Posts are encouraged to register their Post delegate(s) online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that will be mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing going out later this month. Registration forms for the 124th National Convention may be mailed to: Convention Registration, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

18. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters be closed Thursday June 1 – June 5, 2023, for the State Convention.

Smithfield Service Office will be closed June 1 – 2, 2023 for the State Convention.

State Headquarters will be closed June 16, 2023. State Adjutant/Quartermaster Mann will be available by phone and email.

State Headquarters and the Dale City, Norfolk and Smithfield Service Office will be closed June 19, 2023, in observance of Juneteenth.

Please note the Hopewell Service Office will be permanently closed effective July 1, 2023.

19. 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.

20. PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY:

Post, District, Department Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters are reminded of the requirements of Sections 216, 416 and 516 of the Manual of Procedure with regard to proof of eligibility for all newly-elected and appointed officers. Elected and appointed officers **shall not be installed** or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Failure or refusal to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment shall result in the office being declared vacant.

21. 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.

22. SCHOLARSHIP THEMES:

The 2023-2024 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "How Are You Inspired by America?".

23. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

This month's Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor recipient is Major Drew D. Dix, United States Army.

Dix was born Dec 14, 1944, in West Point NY and raised in Pueblo, CO. Dix enlisted in the United States Army at age 18 in 1962, hoping to join the Special Forces. Initially turned down because of his young age, he spent three years serving with the 82nd Airborne Division before being accepted into the Special Forces at the age of 21. During this time, he served in Operation Power Pack, the United States military intervention in the Dominican Republic. By 1968, Dix had reached the rank of staff sergeant, and was assigned as a military adviser to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) in Chau Phu, South Vietnam, near the Cambodian border. On January 31, 1968, Viet Cong forces attacked Chau Phu in the first days of the Tet Offensive. Throughout that day and the next, Dix led groups of local fighters in rescuing endangered civilians and driving Viet Cong forces out of buildings in the city. His citation reads as follows:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. SSG. Dix distinguished himself by exceptional heroism while serving as a unit adviser. Two heavily armed Viet Cong battalions attacked the Province capital city of Chau Phu resulting in the complete breakdown and fragmentation of the defenses of the city. SSG. Dix, with a patrol of Vietnamese soldiers, was recalled to assist in the defense of Chau Phu. Learning that a nurse was trapped in a house near the center of the city, SSG. Dix organized a relief force, successfully rescued the nurse, and returned her to the safety of the Tactical Operations Center. Being informed of other trapped civilians within the city, SSG. Dix voluntarily led another force to rescue eight civilian employees located in a building which was under heavy mortar and small-arms fire. SSG. Dix then returned to the center of the city. Upon approaching a building, he was subjected to intense automatic rifle and machinegun fire from an

unknown number of Viet Cong. He personally assaulted the building, killing six Viet Cong, and rescuing two Filipinos. The following day SSG. Dix, still on his own volition, assembled a 20-man force and though under intense enemy fire cleared the Viet Cong out of the hotel, theater, and other adjacent buildings within the city. During this portion of the attack, Army Republic of Vietnam soldiers inspired by the heroism and success of SSG. Dix, rallied and commenced firing upon the Viet Cong. SSG. Dix captured 20 prisoners, including a high ranking Viet Cong official. He then attacked enemy troops who had entered the residence of the Deputy Province Chief and was successful in rescuing the official's wife and children. SSG. Dix's personal heroic actions resulted in 14 confirmed Viet Cong killed in action and possibly 25 more, the capture of 20 prisoners, 15 weapons, and the rescue of the 14 United States and free world civilians. The heroism of SSG. Dix was in the highest tradition and reflects great credit upon the U.S. Army.

Dix was presented the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson during a ceremony at the White House on January 19, 1969. He is one of four Medal of Honor recipients from Pueblo, Colorado. In 1993, the Pueblo City Council adopted the tagline "Home of Heroes" for the city due to the fact that Pueblo can claim more recipients of the Medal per capita than any other city in the United States.

Dix later received a direct commission to first lieutenant and retired as a major after 20 years of service. His last duty assignment was Executive Officer of the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), Fort Wainwright, Alaska, from 1981 to 1982. After leaving the army, Dix worked as a security consultant, ran an air service in Alaska and served as Alaska's deputy commissioner for homeland security. He currently resides in Alaska.

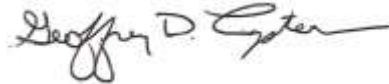
Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Geoffrey D. Lyster
State Commander

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The VFW Department of Virginia is turning 100 this year and we are celebrating across the state with our members. Come join us at one of these seven locations. We will have food, fun, music, and giveaways. So, RSVP Online at one, or all these locations. Just click on any of the links You want to attend, to RSVP. We hope to see you there.

Please make sure you print your ticket(s) for entry into the event!!

June 3, 2023, State Convention Portsmouth https://VFW_VA_100_Portsmouth.eventbrite.com

August 26, 2023, Post 8163, Clarksville https://VFW_VA_100_Clarksville.eventbrite.com

September 16, 2023, Post 1264, Roanoke https://VFW_VA_100_Roanoke.eventbrite.com

September 23, 2023, Post 4667, Marion https://VFW_VA_100_Marion.eventbrite.com



VFW Women Veterans Forum 2023

Auxiliary are Welcome

2 Jun 2023 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Portsmouth VA

Topics:

Updated Review of PACT Act

Why Should I Submit a PACT Act Claim

Legislation Updates Federal and State



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 and Present 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 kenneth.shannon152@gmail.com.

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

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 _____



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Virginia
CDR/President's Reception
& Centennial Celebration**



- **Why:** *To Honor the Department Commander & President and Virginia 100th Anniv.*
- **Date/Time:** Saturday, June 3, 2023; 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM
- **Location:** Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, 425 Water St, Portsmouth, VA
- **Cost:** Free (to all VFW & Auxiliary and their families)
- **Dress:** **“Western Wear”** (*wear your Cowboy hat; western boots, bolo tie & big belt buckle:*
- **Entertainment:** Famous DJ “JR”– and Featured Speakers
- **Contests:** Awards for Best Dancers; Best Western Outfit
- **Giveaways:** Free Limited Edition Dept. of Virginia Centennial Coin to all attendees.
- **Raffles:** Super 50/50 Drawing; Baskets of Cheer Raffles
- **Menu: Famous “Cowboy Barbecue” Buffet!**
 - **Salad Shakers:** *“Like out on the Trail” Includes: Mixed green salads, tomatoes, croutons, goat cheese, spiced pecans, cranberries, roasted peach vinaigrette; assorted dressings*
 - **Entrees:**
 - Texas Barbecue Pork Ribs
 - All-Day Smoked Beef Brisket with Kentucky Bourbon BBQ Sauce
 - **Side Dishes:** *Southern sweet potato casserole; grilled vegetables; garlic red bliss potatoes*
 - **Dessert:** *Assorted Chesapeake mini-dessert shooters, strawberry lemonade cheesecake, ‘Campfire Smores’, assorted southern style mini-bundt cakes, crème brule*



❖ **RSVP to the link by May 27, 2023:**

https://VFW_VA_100_Portsmouth.eventbrite.com

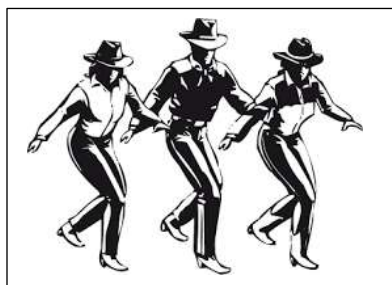
*Hampton Roads Area
Centennial Celebration
All local VFW/Aux Welcome!*



Commander's Reception & Centennial Celebration

*An All-American Salute to Veterans
The Biggest Veteran Event of the Year!!*

Hospitality Rooms
open prior to the
event-And After!



Country Line Dancing

Dept. of Virginia
Veterans of
Foreign Wars
1923-2023

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.

101ST ANNUAL CONVENTION
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
RENAISSANCE PORTSMOUTH-NORFOLK WATERFRONT HOTEL
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA
JUNE 1– 4, 2023

Eugene Chavis
Convention Chairman

Kathy Goodall
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 1, 2023**

11:00 AM	NOON	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING	PORTSMOUTH IV
10:00 AM	4:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	PORTSMOUTH FOYER
12:30 PM	2:00 PM	VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION MEETING	PORTSMOUTH IV
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICES	PORTSMOUTH V-VIII
6:00 PM	9:00 PM	JOINT PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	PORTSMOUTH V-VIII

**Friday,
June 2, 2023**

8:00 AM	5:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	PORTSMOUTH FOYER
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	OPENING SESSION	PORTSMOUTH V-VIII
11:30 AM	2:00 PM	COMMANDERS CLUB LUNCHEON	PORTSMOUTH I-III
2:30 PM	5:00 PM	BUSINESS SESSION (NOMINATION OF STATE OFFICERS)	PORTSMOUTH IV
7:00 PM	9:00 PM	WOMEN VETERANS FORUM	

**Saturday,
June 3, 2023**

7:30 AM	9:00 AM	PAST STATE COMMANDERS/PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST	HOLLEY BALLROOM I-III
8:30 AM	10:30 AM	REGISTRATION, VFW	PORTSMOUTH FOYER
9:30 AM	11:00 AM	BUSINESS SESSION	PORTSMOUTH IV
11:00 AM	1:00 PM	ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	PORTSMOUTH IV
1:00 PM	3:00 PM	MOC SCRATCH	PORTSMOUTH I-II
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW RIDERS MEETING	AMPHITHEATER
5:30 PM	9:00 PM	COMMANDERS RECEPTION & CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION	GRAND BALLROOM

**Sunday,
June 4, 2023**

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	JOINT DEVOTIONAL SERVICE	PORTSMOUTH I-II
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	NEW DISTRICT COMMANDERS SCHOOL	AMPHITHEATER
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DISTRICT COMMANDER'S SCHOOL	AMPHITHEATER

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

State – Room 715

Limited Edition

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia

Centennial Anniversary KA-BAR Knife

Celebrating 100 years
Only 100 made
\$100 each



To get yours contact State Headquarters.

(540) 886-8112

Shipping Charges may apply.

The Military Order of the Cootie is recognized as a subordinate and auxiliary order to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It shall be **considered as the "Honor Degree" of the parent organization and shall be** governed by and under the control of the National Convention, the National Council of Administration, and the Commander-in-Chief.

Our service program is described as a directive to "Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White." Each year the Cooties volunteer thousands of hours of time worth over ten million dollars to Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) hospitals and domiciliaries throughout the United States. This work, in addition to the hours of service donated as active members of the VFW, set the members of the MOC apart as Foreign Service and Combat Veterans who are fully engaged in their communities.

Eligibility is determined through being active members for at least 6-months in a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and through completion of satisfactory service on a Post committee or satisfactory performance of Post duties or participating actively as a leader of post functions.

If you are interested in learning more about what it takes to become a Cootie reach out to grandcdr@vfwva.org.

"Neb"

Ben Guinan

Commander, 2022-2023
Grand of Virginia
Military Order of the Cootie



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



**PHOENIX WEB VERSION
PRE-REGISTRATION BROCHURE
July 22-27,2023**

Note: This information will be updated periodically.

WELCOME TO PHOENIX

It's time to go beyond. Follow trails that reveal mighty mountaintops. Wander among iconic landscapes beneath picture-perfect skies. Let the Sonoran Desert be your guide to limitless adventure. Downtown Phoenix is where you'll find sports arenas, live music, rooftop lounges, museums, theaters, art galleries and more than 200 restaurants. Historic neighborhoods like Roosevelt Row and Grand Avenue share an urban footprint with modern marvels like CityScape and the Phoenix Convention Center.

CONVENTION LOCATION

Convention activities will take place at the Phoenix Convention Center located at 100 North Third Street, (downtown) Phoenix, 85004.

LOCATION

Phoenix is a place where it's easy to migrate between high culture and low, resort escapes and local hangouts, outdoor adventure, and poolside lounging. Start planning your trip at VisitPhoenix.com or [order a travel guide here](#).

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

Sky Harbor, dubbed America's Friendliest Airport, is the main airport for the Greater Phoenix area. Sky Harbor serves more than 120 domestic and international destinations. With 1,200 daily flights—about 500 of them nonstop—Sky Harbor is one of the most convenient airports in the United States. Sky Harbor is only 4 miles from Phoenix Convention Center and can be accessed via rideshare, taxi, or [public transportation like Light Rail](#).

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Convenient transportation to and from the airport comes by way of PHX Sky Train. This driverless people mover transports Valley Metro Rail passengers to the airport from the 44th Street/Washington Street station. There passenger can take Valley Metro Rail to downtown Phoenix. The 28-mile line links Phoenix to the neighboring communities of Tempe and Mesa, and includes stops at attractions such as Phoenix Art Museum, Heard Museum, Chase Field, Footprint Center and Tempe's Mill Avenue.

PARKING

Check with your assigned hotel for parking availability and costs. Parking information, costs etc., for the convention center can be accessed via this link <https://www.phoenixconventioncenter.com/parking>

REGISTRATION PACKET PICK-UP

See mobile APP for times and locations of registration/packet pick-up. Registration for both VFW for Auxiliary, Hall 5-6.

Note: *Want to miss the crowds/lines and pick-up your name badge & packets early? Try Remote Registration. Both the VFW and Auxiliary will have remote registration for those who are **PRE-REGISTERED ATTENDEES ONLY**. You will be able to do that at the VFW Headquarter hotel, **Hyatt Regency Phoenix** and the Auxiliary Headquarter hotel, **Renaissance**.*

PACKET PICK-UP

VFW - if you are not pre-registered, you will need to go to Hall 5-6 at the convention center on Saturday, July 22 starting at 8a to register and pick-up your convention packet.

VFW & Auxiliary 'remote' **pre-registration**: Friday, July 21, 9a-5p
Renaissance - Locations/times: **Lobby**

VFW & Auxiliary 'remote' **pre-registration**. Friday, July 21, 9a-5p
Hyatt Regency Phoenix- Locations/times: **Lobby**

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 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 Phoenix are located in the downtown area and within walking distance from the convention center. Therefore, a **limited shuttle service** will be provided. The following is a **tentative** schedule of days the shuttle will operate. Specific times will be found in the convention mobile app. If you require special transportation (handicap/scooter/wheelchair), contact the shuttle provider at the number provided in the mobile APP event schedule. A final shuttle schedule will be included on the Mobile APP and will be updated on the VFW convention web page prior to the convention dates.

Saturday, July 22, 2023

7a-8p

Sunday, July 23, 2023

7a-5p

Monday, July 24, 2023

7a-6p

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

7a-9p

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

7a-5p

Thursday, July 27, 2023

7a-6:30p

(refer to convention mobile app for complete schedule including pick-up and drop-off points)

HOTEL INFORMATION

Housing opens **2/17/23** and closes **6/21/23**. Go to www.vfw.org at the convention website. The official convention hotels for the 124th National convention are listed on the convention web site.

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.

PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER

Note the Phoenix Convention Center is a 'Cash-less' facility. You will need to pay for any concessions with a credit or debit card. There are 'reverse ATMs' located throughout the convention center. You may put in cash and receive a VISA Card to use at no-charge. Upon leaving Phoenix, any remaining \$\$ on your card can be used anywhere VISA is accepted. Locations for the Reverse ATMS will be published ahead of the convention.

HYDRATION WHILE IN PHOENIX

Please note there are 'water bottle' filling stations located around the center. We encourage you to bring your own water bottles. If you choose not to do that, there will be other options for hydration at the convention center.

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 Phoenix Convention Center -Thursday, July 7/20-Thursday, July 27
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.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Check with VISIT Phoenix for locations of local churches, synagogues, etc. for services. VFW will conduct a Catholic Mass on Saturday, July 22 and Sunday morning, July 23 at the convention center. Protestant service will be held on Saturday 7/22 at 6p in the Convention Center. *Check Mobile APP for locations.*

QUIET ROOM

A QUIET ROOM for reflection will be open 24 hours at the Phoenix Convention 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 124th 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 PHOENIX

Phoenix Deals & Discounts

The deals are instantly delivered to your phone via text message or email, and you can use them right then and there – just show your coupon. So go eat, drink and play in Phoenix, and let our city surprise you.

Experience the best of downtown Phoenix by seeing these highlights!

Things to Do in Downtown: <https://www.visitphoenix.com/stories/post/things-downtown-phoenix/>

Roosevelt Row: <https://www.visitphoenix.com/greater-phoenix/phoenix/downtown-phoenix/roosevelt-row/>

Cityscape: <https://www.visitphoenix.com/greater-phoenix/phoenix/downtown-phoenix/cityscape-area/>

Attractions Closest to Downtown

Phoenix Art Museum <http://www.phxart.org>

Heard Museum <http://www.heard.org>

Arizona Science Center <http://www.azscience.org>

Desert Botanical Gardens <https://dbg.org/>

Explore Greater Phoenix during your stay:

Shopping (Biltmore Fashion Park & Scottsdale Fashion Square closest to Downtown):

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

Local Boutiques <https://www.visitphoenix.com/stories/post/where-to-shop-for-local-phoenix-goods/>

Dining <https://www.visitphoenix.com/things-to-do/restaurants/>

Museums <https://www.visitphoenix.com/things-to-do/arts-culture/museums/>

Sightseeing: <https://www.visitphoenix.com/things-to-do/tours/>

Bringing your family? Here are family-friendly activities sure to be a hit with all ages:

Purchase an [attraction pass here](#)

Children's Museum Downtown <http://www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org>

Arizona Science Center Downtown <http://www.azscience.org>

Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament <https://www.medievaltimes.com/scottsdale>

Mavrix <https://www.mavrix.com>

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

Arizona Boardwalk (Aquarium, Butterfly Wonderland, etc) <https://www.azboardwalk.com/>

VISITOR CENTER

Please visit the Visit Phoenix visitor center on the sixth floor of the One Arizona Center building in the Arizona Center 400 E. Van Buren St., Ste. 600, Phoenix. We are open Monday thru Friday 10 AM to 4 PM.

Visitors can also you the [online chat here](#) or email visitors@visitphoenix.com.

DOWNTOWN AMBASSADORS



Downtown's roving hospitality team is on duty seven days a week, 365 days a year to help you — whether that means walking you to your hotel or simply offering directions. Ambassadors are on-foot or bike in areas of high pedestrian activity. Look for the folks wearing orange shirts with “ASK ME” on the back or call 602-495-1500. Complimentary services provided include:

- Walking Escorts
- Car Battery Jumps
- Umbrella Escorts
- Restaurant Recommendations
- Personalized Tours
- Entertainment Info

TENTATIVE AGENDA

VFW 124th National Convention Phoenix, AZ Phoenix Convention Center July 22-27, 2023

*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 21, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Remote registration – VFW/Auxiliary – Hyatt
Regency/Renaissance
Note: *If registered, you can pick-up your badge at either
hotel, if not, you will need to come to registration on
Saturday at the convention center.*

Saturday, July 22, 2023

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
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
6:00 p.m. Catholic Mass
6:00 p.m. Protestant Service

Sunday, July 23, 2023

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. VFW Registration/Exhibits
7:00 a.m. Catholic Mass
8:30 a.m. Annual Memorial Service
10:00 a.m. Membership Seminar
10:00 a.m. VFW Programs, VMS Committee, Town Hall Meeting -
10:00 a.m. VFW Riders National Advisory Committee
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 24, 2023

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)
1:00 p.m. VFW Outstanding Community Service Luncheon
4:30 p.m. Department Adjutant Quartermasters Reception *(by invitation)*

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m. VFW Business Session
1:00 p.m. Department Commanders Luncheon – (by invitation) –
1:00 p.m. 2023-2024 Senior Vice Commanders, Senior Vice
Presidents Luncheon (by invite only)
1:00 p.m. 2023-2024 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
2:00 p.m. Parliamentary Procedure Discussion
1:00 p.m. Chaplains Workshop
5:15 p.m. Parade Line-up
6:00 p.m. Patriotic Rally & Entertainment

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits
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
3:30 p.m.	New Council of Administration Member Training

Thursday, July 27, 2023

8:00 a.m.	Business Session: Election/Installation of National Officers National Council of Administration Meeting <i>(Following business session)</i>
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.	Commander-in-Chief's and National President's Reception (ticketed event) – Sheraton Hotel Phoenix

Updated: 2/1/23

