

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 5

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

"Steady the Course"

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Website: www.vfwva.org
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November 1, 2020

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

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1. SPECIAL ORDER NO. VA9-20:

During the period of my absence from November 19 – December 1, 2020, State Senior Vice Commander Harold (Butch) Schupska will handle all matters normally requiring my attention.

Handwritten signature of Eric L. Mallett in cursive.

Eric Mallett
State Commander
Department of Virginia, VFW

2. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades, Excellent work on membership we are about 400 plus ahead of where we were this time last year. Keep going towards the goal of December 31, 2020 Department membership 90%. Scrolling though the memstats report a lot of Post are close to the goal keep recruiting and call the unpaids.

I want to congratulate our Post and District that made 100% reported for the first half, although the Department for the 1st time in about 5 years missed all Post being 100% reported, I ask we set goals to make 100% reported the 2nd half.

On the 7th of November we will be institution our newest Post 12200 at Emporia, VA thanks to our State Membership Chair Tom Hines and his team's hard work. They are also working on another new Post that might form by the end of the year or early next year.

I encourage all Post to purchase Boddy Poppies as, this funds our states VA Hospital this upcoming Holidays, HQ has plenty in stock. Although our CIC has removed the Buddy poppy purchase requirement from the All American program it was for a good reason, I'm not removing it from the ALL State program as this would have a negative effect to our support of our VA Hospitals our veterans.

The Post Commanders and District Commanders have the authority to change the deadline dates for Patriot's Pen, VOD and Teacher what cannot change is the due date to State HQ as we still have to judge and meet National deadline.

The Department is setting up recruiter, Quartermaster ZOOM training to meet the All State requirement for attendance if needed the District Commander can teach the class to their Districts and Post and any make up classes for School of Instruction.

The CIC Homecoming is coming up in March, also Maggie Myers Department Auxiliary President, Jennifer Winn Supreme MOCA President and my Homecoming is coming up in February information packets are on the State web site www.vfwva.org and the Mid-winter C of A is coming up also in January.

Wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving be safe, recruit, read the online reports, set goals and achieve them.

We have new District Commanders and District Officers, Post Commanders and Post Officers if you have questions call me or one of my staff members or call State HQ we are here to help you succeed. If any Post would like to have a State Line Officer visit your Post and work one on one Call us. Train your relief to succeed for next year start now. I want to thank all our members for all your support this will be a great year for us all stay on track and help where and when you can. Every member is very important to our Post, Districts, Department and our National organization and all our programs.

GREAT JOB TEAM Virginia.

Eric Mallett
State Commander

3. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 1/23/21 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 176 Newport News 21 Forrest Drive	5 th	Date: 11/21/20 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 10840 Penhook 7081 Snow Creek Rd
2 nd	Date: 11/14/20 Lunch: Noon Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 3160 Norfolk 111 A View Avenue	6 th	Date: 12/5/20 Meeting: Noon Location: Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Ave NW
3 rd	Date: 10/17/20 Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: to follow Meeting Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane	7 th	Date: 1/16/21 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: 12:15 PM Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Way
4 th	Date: 11/21/20 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 7059 Farmville 1616 Graham Road	8 th	Date: 11/21/20 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 7589 Manassas 9304 Centreville Rd

9 th	Date: 1/16/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4667 Marion 861 Goolsby Street	11 th	Date: 1/23/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 2216 212 Frontier Drive
10 th	Date: 12/6/20 Lunch: Noon Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 9274 Falls Church 7118 Shreve Road	12 th	Date: 11/14/20 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 17581 Lee Highway
		13 th	Date: 11/14/20 Meeting: Noon Location: Post 8947 Louisa 201 Mineral Avenue

4. 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.

5. BUDDY POPPY:

Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as "They Gave, Will You?" is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required; do not use "ASAP." Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

The Manual of Procedure provides that Post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the Post general fund.

6. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2021 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 2021 revised edition reflects that in

response to the deadly virus COVID-19, the 121st National Convention was held pro-forma where no amendments to the National Bylaws or Manual of Procedure were made.

7. CITIZEN EDUCATION TEACHER AWRD:

October 31st was the Deadline for teacher nominations to be submitted to the Post. Post judging should be completed by **November 15th** and winners sent to District to arrive by **November 20th**. District judging should be completed by **December 15th** and winners forwarded to the Department chairman by **December 20th**. Department judging will be held on **December 23rd**.

Post and District Adjutants must report required information through **Dashboard** in order to get credit for participation. This new reporting system is a replacement for the reporting previously done by District and State chairpersons. It is critical that it be accomplished in order for Posts and Districts to get credit for participation in the All-State and All-American programs. District Chairperson should still submit reports to the State Chairman in order to supplement the State **Dashboard** reporting. Reporting forms for the District chairpersons have already been provided to the District Commanders.

Post chairmen must be sure to send the original nomination form, essay and official VFW Post teacher entry form of the winner from each grade's category – along with one-page resume, up to five (5) pages of documentation and good qualify head and shoulders photograph from the winning teachers.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me (540) 955-3311 or (540) 539-5446 or email me bigredtruk@comcast.net.

Chris Birch
Teacher's Recognition Chairman
540-539-5446

8. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 25th**. 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 user name is your email address; put that on the first line (see below for your new address).
4. Your default password will be **VFW2020!** 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 #

adjdist1@vfwva.org
qmdist1@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 (**please note new price**). Contact State Headquarters for more info.

10. IMPORTANT DATES:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| January 8-10, 2021 | Winter Council, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$94.00 per night. Group name "VFW Department of Virginia Winter Council Meeting"; Cut-off Date December 7, 2020. |
| February 5-7, 2021 | State Commander/State President/MOCA Homecoming, Virginia Beach, VA (see enclosed packet) |
| March 25-28, 2021 | National Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch Homecoming, Portsmouth, VA (a revised packet was in October General Orders) |
| June 3-6, 2021 | State Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$125.00 per night. Group name "Virginia VFW"; Cut-off Date May 3, 2021 |
| July 31-August 5, 2021 | National Convention, Baltimore, MD |
| November 18-21, 2021 | Southern Conference, Hilton Head, South Carolina |

11. INCORPORATION:

The attention of the Post Commander is directed to section 708 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the procedure for the Incorporation of Units. It shall be the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure full compliance with both sections and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc., are met in a timely manner.

Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of section 708 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. The template for the Articles of Incorporation can be found on the www.vfwva.org website. If you have any problems or questions please contact State Headquarters. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities.

12. 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 any time the Post Quartermaster changes and/or the Post address changes. This was effective January 1, 2014.

Here is the link to get the form and instructions – <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822b.pdf>
This will also apply to all Auxiliaries that have their own EIN number.

13. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades and Commanders,

We are almost into the Holiday Season and doing very well in Membership. Thanks to everyone for their efforts in keeping Virginia a little ahead of where we were last year at this time. Keep your Post informed about the Commander in Chief's Monthly Challenge and your Post could become a little richer. CONGRATULATIONS to Gretna Post 873 for being the first Post in Virginia to make 100% in Membership this year. I look forward to sending out congratulations to each and EVERY other Post in the State as you cross the 100% finish line. Team Virginia is going to make it happen.

We are scheduled to open our newest Post on November 7th., unfortunately due to Covid 19 restrictions we cannot invite as many as usual to the institution. This will not damp our efforts to recognize our newest Post in Emporia.

The Membership Team is excited about the work the 1st District did last year under the leadership of then Commander Jim Gierlak on starting a new Post in his District. Due to their efforts we should be announcing another new Post in Kilmarnock very soon. I encourage all to recon your areas of operation for new Post opportunities. Virginia has adopted a position on steady growth while maintaining the existing Post. If there is anything the Department or the Membership Team can do to help your Post or District, please do not hesitate to contact us. Remember this is Virginia's first ever Commander-in-Chief year and we owe it to Eric and Chief Hal to have a great year. Again, I would personally like to thank each and every one of you for what you are doing in support of Eric and Hal and our great organization. LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN.

Tom Hines, PDC
Membership Team

14. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters and the Service Officer offices in Hopewell, Norfolk and Dale City will be closed November 11, 2020 in observance of Veterans Day and will close at noon on November 25, 2020 and reopen on November 30, 2020 for Thanksgiving. The State Adjutant/Quartermaster will be available by phone and email for any issues that may arise.

15. 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.

16. POST PANDEMIC RELIEF GRANTS:

To all VFW State Departments Commanders, Senior Vice Commanders, Junior Vice Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters,

The VFW Foundation is shifting its grant making focus for the 2021 fiscal year to provide urgently needed financial relief to VFW Posts affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant (PPRG) is an opportunity for VFW Posts that own or lease their buildings to receive up to \$2,500 in support toward expenses such as mortgage/rent, utility bills and property taxes. Posts will need to meet certain requirements to be eligible to receive funding from this program.

PPRG applications will be accepted beginning 10/1/2020. However, Posts may access and begin completing the application prior to October 1 by visiting www.vfw.org/grants and clicking on "Apply Now".

For more information please visit: www.vfw.org/grants. You may also contact Jason Couch, Grants & External Relations Coordinator, at jcouch@vfw.org.

17. 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.

18. SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY THEMES:

The 2020–2021 themes have been chosen by National Commander-in-Chief Harold J. “Hal” Roesch, II. The Voice of Democracy theme will be **“Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?”** and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be **“What is Patriotism to Me?”**

19. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 100:

Membership Inactive Robert W. Humphrey VFW Post No. 8169

Pursuant to the voluntary resignation of their membership upon the ascertainment of their desire to no longer be affiliated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the name of Robert W. Humphrey, Life Membership No. 5221598, be removed from the rolls of Scottsville Post No. 8169, Scottsville, Virginia and their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States vacated per member’s request.

By order of
Harold "Hal" Roesch, II
Commander-in-Chief

20. POST HOME IMPROVEMENT GRANT:

The Virginia Veterans Foundation, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, has opened the window to apply for a grant to perform improvements on your Post home. The grant, funded by Powerhouse Gaming, will provide six (6) grants worth up to \$500 for the 2020-2021 year. Should any money remain after the six (6) 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, 2020 and June 30, 2021, the application is due no later than November 30, 2020. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters. (Entry Form can be found in August General Orders)

21. COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT:

The Virginia Veterans Foundation, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, has opened the window to apply for a grant to perform community service. The grant, funded by Powerhouse Gaming, will provide twelve (12) grants worth up to \$250 for the 2020-2021 year. Should any money remain after the twelve (12) 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, 2020 and June 30, 2021, the application is due no later than November 30, 2020. 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. (Entry Form can be found in August General Orders)

22. WINTER COUNCIL:

You will find the information for your online reservation link below. If you have questions or need help with the link, please do not hesitate to ask. We look forward to a successful event.

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1594668070557&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

23. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

Comrades – As of this writing, there are now 22 Posts in the Department that are Commemorative Partners. That’s an increase of three Posts. I may have missed a few so if your Post isn’t on this list, please let me know (cdrpost9835@vfwva.org):

State HQ	Distr 11 HQ	392	609	637	1115	1177	1503	1860	2239	2582	2894	3150
4301	7167 7589	7916	8469	8947	9640	9808	9835	10295	10387			

Please also let me know if your Post later becomes a Commemorative Partner.

I participated in a recruiting event at the Nation’s Gun Show held at the Dulles Expo Center at Chantilly Virginia earlier this month and presented six Vietnam veterans with their pins. Committee member Gary Myers has been visiting various Districts as he travels with his wife Maggie (Department Auxiliary President) and has taken small bunches of the pins with him to distribute at the District meetings. So far, he has done so for Districts 5 (four pins); 12 (five pins); 6 (six pins) and 9 (seven pins). Additionally Posts 609 & 9954 have gotten pins from me and the offer mentioned in previous reports still stands.

The following historical events involving American participation in the Vietnam War took place in November: On **November 11, 1961**, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and Secretary of State Dean Rusk advised President Kennedy that Ambassador General Maxwell Taylor’s recommendation of sending 8,000 U.S. troops to Vietnam is too small of a contingent to affect the “deteriorating situation” but large enough to draw the United States into a more complicated situation. They issue a memorandum to the president recommending that the United States fully commit itself to preventing the fall of South Vietnam to communism, recognizing that additional U.S. and SEATO forces might be necessary to achieve this objective.

On **November 1, 1964**, Viet Cong troops attack Bien Hoa Air Base in South Vietnam with mortars. In 30 minutes, they kill four and wound 72 people, destroy or damage as many as 30 aircraft, and demonstrate that base operations in South Vietnam are vulnerable to direct enemy attacks. The incident is the first of at least 475 attacks on primary air bases in South Vietnam over the course of the war.

November 9, 1965 - American commanders inform senior officers of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) that intelligence suggests significant numbers of North Vietnamese Army troops are crossing the Cambodian border into South Vietnam’s rugged and remote Central Highlands. U.S. troops have thus far been unable to locate and engage large bodies of North Vietnamese soldiers, and senior officers hope to use this new information to finally do so. Intelligence also indicates that the North Vietnamese have a hidden base of operations that is west of Plei Me, near the Ia Drang River Valley. In the following days, elements of the 1st Cavalry receive orders to conduct air assaults into the area to destroy any North Vietnamese forces they can find.

Beginning **November 14, 1965** Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), commanded by Colonel Harold “Hal” Moore, make the first major airmobile assault in the history of warfare, flying into the Ia Drang Valley. Their mission is to locate and destroy any Communist troops they find. The cavalrymen touch down at Landing Zone X-Ray, at the foot of the Chu Pong massif, in late morning. Unknown to the Americans, X-Ray is located directly next to a base area for several North Vietnamese Army regiments, which open fire on the cavalrymen soon after they begin to land. Over most of three days, soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry engage a significantly larger force of North Vietnamese, which effectively surrounds those in the landing zone and, on multiple occasions, nearly overruns their position. The 7th Cavalry’s perimeter is precarious, but they are kept supplied by a group of helicopter pilots who repeatedly brave a barrage of enemy fire

to fly their UH-1 Iroquois “Hueys” into the landing zone, bringing ammunition, equipment, and provisions as well as evacuating casualties. Well-placed and timely American artillery and air support also help prevent X-Ray from being overrun. Casualties on both sides are high, though much higher for the North Vietnamese troops, who ultimately withdraw from the area on November 16.

During **November 1967**, the anti-infiltration program later codenamed IGLOO WHITE begins. It is a joint Department of Defense-Air Force covert operation. The program uses electronic sensors and computer analysis to detect and identify enemy troops and convoys moving down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Its sensor system works in concert with the anti-infiltration obstacle system in South Vietnam known as the “McNamara Line.” Most of the program’s air-dropped sensors are designed to detect sound and vibrations. They are placed along enemy infiltration routes, primarily on the Ho Chi Minh Trail itself. Loitering aircraft receive sensor data and transmit it to the Infiltration Surveillance Center at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand. Surveillance center personnel use advanced IBM computers to process and analyze the data. They then request air strikes on targets as required.

November 1, 1968 marks the beginning of the aerial interdiction campaign known as Operation COMMANDO HUNT begins. The operation’s objective is to stem the flow of enemy troops, vehicles, and supplies that continue to move down the Ho Chi Minh Trail through Laos and into South Vietnam. U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Marine aviators conduct both day and night strikes against the trail with the help of data from electronic anti-infiltration ground sensors. COMMANDO HUNT sorties increase in tempo during the dry season between November and April, when traffic on the trail is heaviest. The campaign ends by April 1972 after having only limited success.

On the same day, in the northern Mekong Delta, Viet Cong swimmers attach mines to the USS *Westchester County* (LST 1167) which was supporting Riverine operations along the My Tho River. The resulting explosions kill 26 servicemen.

November 15, 1969, following President Nixon’s “Silent Majority” speech on November 3rd and other administration statements, antiwar activists are again motivated to come together behind another “Moratorium” day. The second Moratorium rally in Washington D.C. receives greater than anticipated turnout. Approximately 750,000 people participate in a demonstration on the National Mall. Demonstrations elsewhere include a gathering of as many as 250,000 people in San Francisco, California. As in October, the protests remain peaceful. Washington rally organizers plan and run events in cooperation with police. The “Moratorium” demonstrations of 1969 represent a high point of the organized anti-Vietnam War movement. Lacking funding and united leadership in the wake of Nixon’s appeal to the nation for support, the national antiwar movement becomes less unified in ensuing years.

November 21, 1970 - U.S. Air Force Special Operations and Army Special Forces personnel raid Son Tay Prison, about 23 miles north of Hanoi. Their mission is to rescue up to 55 American POWs believed to be held there. Transport helicopters fly 56 U.S. commandos from Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base to the prison. After successfully infiltrating the facility, the raiders discover that all prisoners have been moved to another camp. No U.S. personnel are killed during the raid. All rescuers return safely. Officials in Hanoi subsequently order all POWs to be moved to more central locations.

On **November 12, 1971**, President Nixon announces that 45,000 additional U.S. troops will leave Vietnam by the end of January 1972. This leaves fewer than 140,000 American troops in South Vietnam.

Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration
Committee Chairman

24. VETERANS DAY ON NOVEMBER 11:

Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman’s Manual. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please go to: vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches. Click here for Veterans Day merchandise vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday.

25. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:

The Voice of Democracy program, instituted in 1947, has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars premier scholarship program. Annually, nearly 57,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Written and recorded audio essays are submitted by each applicant and address an annual patriotic theme. The 2020 theme is, "Is this the country the Founders Envisioned?" The contest is open to students in grades 9-12. More specific information, including rules, forms, and brochures are available at <http://www.vfw.org>.

Because of Covid 19 school closures we must be more creative this year when recruiting applicants for the Voice of Democracy contest. Please consider using social media, and electronic communication with school administrators and teachers, as well as traditional methods.

2020-2021 Voice of Democracy Reporting Deadlines

15 November 2020 Completion of Post judging
05 December 2020 Completion of District judging
19 December 2020 Department VOD Selection Board
10 January 2021 Completion of Department Judging
15 January 2021 District Participation Reports due for Department Chairman
15 January 2021 Department winners due for National

Awards will be presented to the top three Department winners at the Department Winter Council meeting on Saturday, 9 January 2021 in Portsmouth, Virginia. Please send complete application packets to the Department VOD Chairman to include the completed Official Student Entry form with all appropriate signatures, a typed transcript, an audio CD or flash drive and a photograph of the District winner. Make sure your flash drive or CD is properly recorded and playable before sending it. Incomplete application packets will disqualify your candidate from District and Department judging. District Chairmen are expected to complete and send out the District Participation Report in a timely manner. It should be received by the Department VOD Chairman, which is required for his Department Report NLT Friday, 15 January 2021.

The District first place winning submissions should be mailed to the Department VOD Chairman Louis Filippone at 15608 Jillians Forest Way, Centreville, Virginia 20120.

You are strongly encouraged to send your application packets by UPS, Fed Ex, or USPS return receipt. You are also advised to keep a duplicate copy of the complete application packet on hand. The Department VOD Chairman must receive your submissions NLT Friday, 18 December 2020. The Department VOD Selection Board will be held on Saturday, 19 December 2020, location to be announced. At least one representative from each District should be present.

Voice of Democracy Department Awards

The top three finalists will be invited to the Winter Council Luncheon in Portsmouth, Virginia on Saturday, 09 January 2021. All three finalists will receive their awards and present their essays at the awards banquet. The first-place winner will receive a minimum of \$2,000.00 from the Department along with \$500.00 from the Commander's Club and an additional check from the Auxiliary. The second-place winner will receive a minimum of \$1,000.00, and the third-place winner will receive a minimum of \$500.00. Additional donations are expected this year. The Post that sponsors the Department's first place winner will be awarded the Clarence E. Kelley Memorial Voice of Democracy Trophy at the Department Convention in June 2021, Date to be determined. Should you require any assistance or additional information regarding the 2020-20201 Voice of Democracy program, or its administration please contact me directly.

Please be advised all dates and venues are subject to change as a result of Covid 19 restrictions.

Louis Filippone
Voice of Democracy Program Chairman

26. VOTE:

Early voting started September 18, 2020 for Virginia. Please encourage everyone to vote YES on ballot initiative #2 to give property tax exemptions on one vehicle for veterans who are 100% Permanent and Total Disabled according to VA.

It is a multi-year process to get it adopted but the process stops if this initiative does not pass. The VFW endorsed this as part of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations.

The average veteran impacted by this has just one or two vehicles and lives with a spouse or family member who works. This would be a significant relief to those veterans and their families. In fact, this tax break may help more than the similar tax break for veterans with a home as many veterans rent or live with family vice owning a home and this vehicle tax break still applies to them.

I would be happy to field any questions.

Thanks!

Ken Wiseman
All-American Past State Commander
All-American Past State Adjutant/Quartermaster

27. ZOOM MEETING LINK:

Each Membership Monday training topic is developed with the Post-level leadership in mind. Each of these sessions are intended to be live with ability for audience interaction. The media platform we will be using is the Zoom platform so these training sessions can be recorded and viewed throughout the year.

Please see the schedule below. We would like your help in communicating this schedule to your Posts. All Membership Monday Webinars are planned to be held at **2:00 – 3:00 PM, CST** on the dates provided below.

A Membership Monday OMS Alert Notification has been updated with the latest Zoom Meeting link.

If you would like to suggest a Membership Monday training topic, please email us at, membership@vfw.org.

Please let me know what questions you may have.

Membership Monday Webinar Training Series Tentative Schedule:

- November 2, 2020: Mentorship training
- December 14, 2020: Retention Pocket Guide for the Post

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://vfw.zoom.us/j/8708367256>

Meeting ID: 870 836 7256

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,8708367256# US (Houston)

+12532158782,,8708367256# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 870 836 7256
Find your local number: <https://vfw.zoom.us/j/aejqTGAUGy>

28. STATE CONVENTION:

You will find the information for your online reservation link below. If you have questions or need help with the link, please do not hesitate to ask. We look forward to a successful event.

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1602798939355&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Eric Mallett
State Commander

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 4th

WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 8 – 10, 2021
Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel ~ Portsmouth, Virginia ~ 757-673-3000 ~
\$94.00 Per night

(Hotel Group Rate Deadline is December 7th)

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET
\$45.00

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

Tidewater Buffet

Mixed Greens with assorted dressings / Tangy Cucumber Salad / House Made Coleslaw
Shrimp and Roasted Garlic Cavatappi Pasta / Southern Style Fried Chicken
Green Beans and Bacon / Wild Rice / Whipped Red Bliss Potatoes
Rolls
Assorted Cakes and Pies
Regular & Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea and Water

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **JANUARY 4, 2021** (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: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

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

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

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Code on back _____

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.

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND
VFW AUXILIARY

Winter Council of Administration Meeting
January 8 - January 10, 2021
Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel
Portsmouth, Virginia
757-673-3000

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021

Noon	5:00 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Washington Board Room
4:30 PM	6:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Line Officers Meeting	Admiral Room
6:15 PM	7:00 PM	District Presidents' Meeting	Portsmouth V
7:00 PM	9:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting	Portsmouth V
8:00 PM	1:00 AM	VFW Riders Dance	Portsmouth I-III

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021

8:00 AM	2:30 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Washington Board Room
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Commanders Club Meeting	Portsmouth VI-VIII
8:00 AM	8:45 AM	VFW Auxiliary Floor Practice	Portsmouth V
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	VFW Council of Administration Meeting	Portsmouth VI-VIII
9:00 AM	2:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting	Portsmouth V
9:00 AM	4:00 PM	Service Officer Training	Amphitheater
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	VFW Riders Meeting	Madison
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	Women Veterans Workshop	Portsmouth VI-VIII
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Membership & Recruiting Workshop	Portsmouth VI-VIII
2:00 PM	2:30 PM	VFW Auxiliary Program Chairmen	Portsmouth V
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	MOCA Meeting	Madison
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	MOC Meeting	Lee Room
4:00 PM	6:00 PM	VOD & PP BANQUET	Holley Ballroom

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Joint Devotional Service	Madison
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TEACHER OF THE YEAR, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET TICKETS: \$45.00
FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE VFW RIDERS

Department Hospitality Room – Commodore Room
Tenth District Hospitality Room – Hospitality Suite 415

(Tentative schedule subject to change)

Homecoming

Supreme MOC Auxiliary

President Jennifer Winn

&

VFW Department of Virginia

President Maggie Myers

Commander Eric Mallett

February 5 – 6, 2021



Holiday Inn & Suites North Beach

Ocean Front

3900 Atlantic Ave. Virginia Beach, VA. 23451

Hotel Information

THE DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS JANUARY 8, 2021

USE NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR ALL FLIGHTS

Booking link name: VFW Department of Virginia/ Supreme MOCA
CALL TO MAKE THE RESERVATION: Direct 757.419.3672 | Reservations 866.456.3446
(Tell them you are attending the “VFW Department of Virginia/ Supreme MOCA Homecoming” to get our rate)

[VFW Department of Virginia / Supreme MOCA](#)

Rooms are \$89.00 standard, \$109.00 Suite, plus tax, per night. Free Parking. The rooms include complimentary Wi-Fi, indoor heated pool, exercise room, Movie Theater. The rate is good for three days before and three days after the event for those who want to come early or stay longer.

Homecoming Registration Form

(Deadline January 8, 2021)

Registration Fee: \$45.00 Per Person

Dress Attire is Business Casual

Registration

Includes:

Welcome packet

Friday & Saturday Hospitality room (**open bar**)

Saturday Banquet Buffet Dinner

Entertainment

&

2 Hospitality Rooms Open

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

**ALL DOCUMENTS WITH "FORMS" IN THE TITLE SHOULD BE MAILED OR
EMAILED:**

VFW Department of Virginia

ATTN: Supreme MOCA/Department Homecoming

403 Lee-Jackson HWY Staunton, VA 24401

adj@vfwva.org

Call for payments: 540-886-8112

Deadline for registration is January 8, 2021

Cancelations will be considered as a donation to the fund. No refunds

Airport Transportation Form

USE NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR ALL FLIGHTS

Name(s): _____

State/Department: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Number of passengers: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Airline: _____ Arrival time: _____

Departure Date: _____ Airline: _____ Departure time: _____

Transportation will be available using this form for the period of February 4 - 7, 2021. We are unable to handle departures after Monday.

DUE TO THE EXPECTED NUMBER OF FLIGHTS, THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO ENSURE TRANSPORTATION.

Homecoming Payment Form

(NOT INCLUDING FEES AND COSTS AT THE EVENT WHICH YOU PAY SEPERATLY)

Name of those attending: _____ State _____

Homecoming Registration Fee: Number of people _____ x \$45.00 per person = _____

Friday Night, February 5th

Captain Georges Seafood Buffet (Check them out at WWW.CAPTAINGEORGES.COM)

(Includes Buffet, soft drink, tip and tax)

Name: _____ Number of people _____ x \$42.00 Per person = _____

Deadline for registration is January 8, 2021

Cancelations will be considered as a donation to the fund. No refunds

Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center: for group rate a minimum of 15 people

	Adult (12 & up)	Child (age 3 – 11)
Aquarium only	\$18.00 X _____	\$12.00 X _____
Movie only	\$5.00 X _____	\$5.00 X _____
Dolphin Watch Boat Trip only	\$18.00 X _____	\$13.00 X _____
Ocean Collections Boat Trip only	\$18.00 X _____	\$13.00 X _____
Whale Watching Boat Trip only	\$23.00 X _____	\$18.00 X _____

Name: _____

Number of people _____ Total _____

Pick a day

Friday 10am - _____ OR Saturday 9am - _____

VFW Post Visit;

Time will be Posted at Hotel

Thursday____, Friday____, Saturday____ or ALL_____

VFW General MacArthur Post 392; Number of people _____

VFW Post 4809; Number of people _____

Homecoming Agenda

Friday February 5th

Registration open 9am – 4pm

Hospitality room Vista Del Mar 6th floor (12 noon – TBD)

Captain Georges Seafood Buffet 5pm

Saturday February 6th

Registration open 9am – 3pm

6th floor Vista Del Mar Hospitality room open 7am – 5pm reopens after Banquet

1st floor Square Whale Hospitality room opens (12 noon – 5pm reopens after Banquet)

Saturday Banquet 6pm

Sunday February 7th

6th floor Hospitality Vista Del Mar Vista Del Mar room open 6am – TBD

Thank you for attending our Joint Homecoming

Local Attractions

Beach and Board walk shops

USS Wisconsin and Nautilus Museum

MacArthur Memorial Museum

NAS Oceana Flam of Hope

Shopping at Norfolk Premium Outlets