

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 38, NO. 10

MAY 2014

SERVING THE DESERVING AMERICA'S VETERANS

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING:

CONVENTION HOUSING: 115th National Convention housing opened February 17, 2014. Housing reservation information is located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at www.vfw.org. You may also call the VFW Housing Bureau directly (#888-850-7720 - M-F, 7a-6p MST) (International #801-505-5267) to make reservations. Please note the **housing cut-off is June 13, 2014**. Please **do not wait** to make your room reservations as room blocks are filling up fast! There are no guarantees rooms will be available if you wait until the cut-off date. The convention website also has registration forms and links to other general convention related information for St. Louis, July 19-23, 2014.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:

Post Election Reports must be submitted no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS), which is located behind the member's "LOGIN" at www.vfw.org.

Department Roster reports must be filled out by the Department Adjutant and submitted to the office of the Adjutant General not later than the day following the close of your Department Convention. Do not delay in submitting your information.

MEMBERSHIP:

ALL-AMERICAN

The membership year end is fast approaching, so please review the Commander-in-Chief Membership program.

- In order to be All American, you must make All-State.

100% COMMANDER DRAWING

Every Post and District Commander who achieves 100% on or before **June 15, 2014**, will be placed in a drawing to attend the 115th National Convention in St. Louis, MO. **25 POST COMMANDERS** and **SIX DISTRICT COMMANDERS** will be drawn:

- Round-trip airfare to the 115th National Convention, St. Louis, MO
- A \$599 stipend, less any other national stipends, to help defray expenses

*may only receive one National paid compensation package
 **non-transferable

100% POST, DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT

- A distinctive streamer will be awarded to every Post, District and State/Department that achieves 100% in membership prior to **June 30, 2014**
- Posts of over 50 members will receive a \$25 VFW store gift certificate

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACQUISITION

For the Post with over 50 members and District that records the greatest numerical gain of new and/or upgraded legacy life members by **June 30, 2014**, will be awarded:

- \$250 VFW store gift certificate

*one winner per division
 **minimum three per Post
 ***minimum one per Post in a District

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:

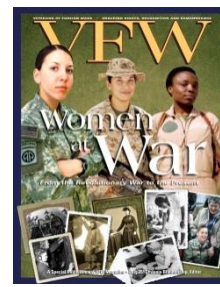
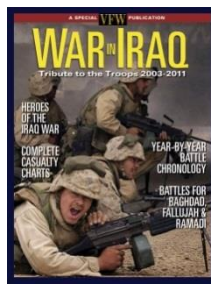
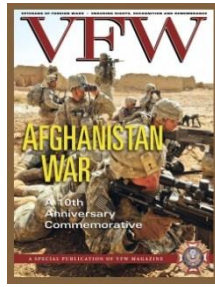
Membership applications have been updated. Members now have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs:

- VFW Autopay—renews your annual membership automatically!
- Life Installment Plan—automatic monthly payments option—with this option, there is no longer the need to complete a payment authorization form.

Once enrolled in either program, automatic payments are processed using the credit card information provided on the application. These are simply added options on the membership application. The traditional methods of signing up for both annual and life membership are still options as well.

***Also, please note it asks for Dates of Service. Dates of overseas service are not required.**

- **Subscription Dues Training:** The subscription dues training location is located at www.vfw.org, click on “Log In,” when the page loads, go to the “View Training Materials” link in red. The subscription dues presentation is under the link “Subscription Dues.” Please visit: <https://www.vfw.org/oms/TrainingMaterials.aspx>.
- VFW special edition magazines are great recruiting aids! Contact Carla in the Membership Department to place your order today at cdarnell@vfw.org or 816-756-3390 Ext. 208. For a limited time, the magazines are free as long as you pay for the shipping.



- **Recruiting Notes:** Encourage Annual Members to take advantage of the Life Member Installment plan. Encourage life installment plan and annual members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.
- **Shotgun Mailing Lists:** We can obtain lists that will assist you in increasing your membership. Please call Matt Nute in the Membership Department at 1-888-JOIN-VFW (1-888-564-6839) for assistance.
- **National Membership Program:** The 2013-2014 National Membership program is listed in the Leadership Reference Material guide. This can be viewed online via the OMS system, log onto www.vfw.org, go to My VFW, and go to General Member Tools and Resources.
- **Legacy Life Membership:** This prestigious program is available to all Life Members. **Now available in memoriam for past life members.** Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life Member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

| <i>Enrollment Cost:</i> | <i>Annual Payouts:</i> | <i>Post:</i> | <i>Department:</i> | <i>National:</i> |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Levels: | Gold- \$1200 | \$18.00 | \$18.00 | \$18.00 |
| | Silver- \$800 | \$12.00 | \$12.00 | \$12.00 |
| | Bronze-\$400 | \$6.00 | \$6.00 | \$6.00 |

What will your Legacy be?

Posts with over 25 Legacy Life Members

VFW Post 3107, Department of Montana

VFW Post 2485, Department of Pacific Areas

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

TOP TEN RECRUITERS (as of 4/25/2014):

Dennis F. Flynn (CNR)
 VFW Post 2866, Dept. of MO
Total Recruited: 480

Stephen A. Ward
 VFW Post 27, Dept. of EU
Total Recruited: 323

Thomas R.L. Glover (CNR)
VFW Post 2451, Dept. of TX
Total Recruited: 258

George F. Foy, Jr.
VFW Post 5917, Dept. of IL
Total Recruited: 258

Gasper Delise
VFW Post 9985, Dept. of PAC
Total Recruited: 233

Paul E. Kallembach (CNR)
VFW Post 2287, Dept. of IL
Total Recruited: 208

John A. Lenhardt
VFW Post 6504, Dept. of IL
Total Recruited: 155

James Robert Bosch
VFW Post 10216, Dept. of PAC
Total Recruited: 140

Terry W. Vance
VFW Post 9789, Dept. of IL
Total Recruited: 134

Kenneth L. Kraft
VFW Post 1324, Dept. of OR
Total Recruited: 121

DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:

No new VFW Posts in the last 30 days.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE KANSAS CITY AWARD TRIP:

Division 6, District 1
Department of Louisiana
Commander Stephen Mainville

Division 5, District 5
Department of South Carolina
Commander Ralph Best

Division 3, District 10
Department of Pennsylvania
Commander James Frisbie

Division 2, District 14
Department of Illinois
Commander Gary Stork

Division 4, District 15
Department of Oregon
Commander Bert Key

Division 1, District 20
Department of Texas
Commander Crisoforo Vieyra

Division 4, VFW Post 8532
Department of Arkansas
Commander Lary Rutt

Division 9, VFW Post 12119
Department of Nevada
Commander Arthur Frederick

Division 2, VFW Post 7108
Department of Texas
Commander Jose Duran

Division 3, VFW Post 1324
Department of Oregon
Commander Kenneth Kraft

Division 1, VFW Post 8951
Department of Pennsylvania
Commander Eugene Myers

Division 5, VFW Post 8690
Department of New York
Commander Michael Cadoret

Division 7, VFW Post 7308
Department of Wisconsin
Commander Paul Frederickson

Division 10, VFW Post 6232
Department of Idaho
Commander Jack Toothman

Division 6, VFW Post 7972
Department of Kansas
Commander Herbert Schwartzkopf

Division 8, VFW Post 12041
Department of Texas
Commander Larry Sanders

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

We will be having a check presentation with the Commander-in-Chief at the VFW Programs Workshop on Sunday, July 20 at 1:00 P.M. Please call Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102 as soon as possible if your Department/District/Post/Auxiliary will be presenting.

Meeting Times at the National Convention in St. Louis:

NMS Chairman Committee Meeting
Sunday, July 20, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

VFW Programs Workshop - **Open to the public**
Sunday, July 20, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Over the last decade, approximately 80% of support received from VFW members and patriotic Americans was applied directly to veterans service, community service, legislative advocacy and military service programs worldwide.

Thanking All Supporters of the VFW – Soon you may receive a special “2014 Supporter Kit” from the VFW thanking you for all of your generous past support and for remembering the wounded veterans in your VFW Department and across the country. Your unique Supporter Kit includes a special personalized supporter card, a U.S. flag key chain and personalized address labels. Please remember these are our gifts to you for your ongoing and unwavering support of the VFW and the programs that assist fellow veterans and service members in need. In the letter that comes with your gifts, you will read about just a few of the struggles that our newest veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are facing and their need for assistance. These newest veterans and current service members are turning to the VFW for assistance in record numbers and we cannot continue to assist them without your support. Please remember your gift to the VFW will be put to use right away in your own Department.

Matching Gift Opportunity to Support the VFW’s Programs – The VFW has been presented with a matching gift opportunity by a generous patriot and friend of the VFW. This generous supporter has offered to match your gift dollar for dollar up to \$50,000 until June 17, 2014. The VFW programs to assist veterans, service members and their families are being stretched to the limit with requests for assistance. Many veterans and returning service members are turning to the VFW for assistance in filing VA benefit claims, finding and training for jobs when they return from long deployments, as well as emergency grants to keep their mortgages out of foreclosure...and so much more. This is a great opportunity to help support veterans of all ages, right in your Department. Be as generous as you can and send your gift in by June 17, 2014, to make sure it is matched!

May is National Military Appreciation Month – Is your Post planning to commemorate a special event for Military Spouses Day on May 9, Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15, Armed Forces Day on May 17, National Maritime Day on May 22 or Memorial Day on May 26?

If your Post is planning a special event this month to commemorate any of the above mentioned special days, please share your success story with us. We will be looking for special stories from Posts like yours to feature in upcoming monthly e-newsletters and on www.vfw.org/vfwatwork. You may email your story to success@vfw.org.

The VFW Launches “No Cuts! No Way!” Petition Online – Sequestration threatens a sweeping 10% cut across key VA discretionary accounts. The VFW is rallying concerned patriots and carrying their disapproval to the Hill with the “No Cuts! No Way!” Petition. The Petition demands that Congress keep its promise to America’s veterans. Sequestration could negatively impact the delivery of VA healthcare and benefits delivery, DoD budgets and other programs that affect veterans and military. Visit heroes.vfw.org/nocuts to sign the Petition. Then share it on your social networks. The VFW wants 50,000 signatures by Memorial Day. Let’s show Congress we mean business! **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

Helping the VFW for Generations to Come – One of the easiest ways to continue providing for veterans and their families after you are gone is to leave the VFW in your will or living trust. Simply include the following language in your will: "I, [name], of [city, state ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (Tax ID 44-0474290) [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property]." Even a small percentage of your assets could go a long way to helping the VFW continue its mission for years to come.

If you do decide to leave the VFW in your estate plans, or have already done so, please let us know! We would like the opportunity to say "thank you" and include you in the VFW's Heroes Circle, a group of people who have made a special commitment to supporting the VFW's mission for generations to come.

For more information on bequests, please contact our Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119 or by email at plannedgiving@vfw.org. Or check out our website at www.vfw.org/plannedgiving.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families without receiving all of the unwanted mail? The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email us at partners@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW's online community, please visit www.vfw.org and look for "STAY IN THE KNOW" to sign up. As a member of the VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit www.vfw.org/vfwatwork and click on "Story Archive" to read stories about how the VFW is fighting for veterans' rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

Department Resources – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting the fundraising programs. You need only go to www.vfw.org and log in. You will find "Department Resources" under the "How to Get Involved" heading. The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, press releases, banner ads and buttons for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

BUDDY POPPY:

NATIONAL BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.

The time frame for registering and setting up the Buddy Poppy displays for the National judging at convention will be the same as last year. Entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 19 until noon, Monday, July 21, 2014. Ribbons should be placed on the winning displays by 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 22 and these displays should remain until photos have been taken by the National photographer. **REMINDER:** All displays should be removed prior to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22. Any remaining displays past this time will be disposed of by Convention Center personnel.

MEMORIAL DAY BUDDY POPPY CAMPAIGN. Plans should be under way for the Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Campaign. Contact your Department Quartermaster to place your order for Buddy

Poppies. Remember that your Poppies should be ordered a minimum of 12 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, caps, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

"To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs." The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Youth Essay, 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.

PROGRAMS:

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military Service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (Left to Right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and then Coast Guard. For Military flags, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/otheroutdoorflags>.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM. This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time to outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards. For more information, see the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairmen's Guide or contact the VFW Programs department at 816-968-1148 for a nomination form.

A SATURDAY SALUTE. In honor of our nation's heroes, the VFW is working with Tractor Supply Company (TSC) to make this years "A Saturday Salute" a fun, nationwide community event. Starting April 7, each VFW Post and Auxiliary can visit www.TractorSupply.com/VFW. This link will direct you to the registration form. **To get connected with the TSC Store near you, all Posts must first register.** It's imperative that you complete the registration process and provide an accurate email address to include all of the additional required contact information. Once you've completed the registration process, the Post will receive an email with the store contact information. Additionally, as part of the registration process, the TSC Store will receive the Post's contact information. Once the Post has received the store's contact information, you can now begin the dialogue with the TSC Store Manager to accurately plan your "A Saturday Salute" on May 24, 2014. Please contact Nelda Clifton at nclifton@vfw.org or (816) 756-3390, ext. 148, if you have any questions.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG. The U.S. flag should be at half-staff on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May (federal holiday - half-staff until noon). Flags available at VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags>.

FLAG DAY, JUNE 14. All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. flag on Flag Day, Saturday, 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. This product is available at the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22874>.

SPECIAL NOTICE – COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING. All VFW Post and Auxiliaries chairmen will report to their respective Department chairman at least twice yearly in a timely fashion so as to

allow the Department chairman to report to the VFW National Programs office in June and December. The VFW Post chairmen's report should include whether or not their Auxiliaries participated.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES. The new 2014-15 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now on the VFW website.

The themes are on the forms, but they are:

Voice of Democracy theme:

Why Veterans are Important to our Nation's History and Future

Patriot's Pen theme:

Why I Appreciate America's Veterans

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/Login.aspx>, log in, then click on **Chairman Guides** under the **General Members Tools and Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials. Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen information is under the Scholarships section.

Additionally, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen by visiting the below links:

Voice of Democracy: <http://www.vfw.org/Community/Voice-of-Democracy/>

Patriot's Pen: <http://www.vfw.org/Community/Patriot-s-Pen/>

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store:

<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy> for Voice of Democracy and

<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen> for Patriot's Pen.

POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations, and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 17 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 26 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 19 (third Friday in September); and, Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22305>.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

Become an Active Veterans' Advocate - Join the VFW Action Corps today!

As we approach the May/June Department Conventions, now is the perfect time to encourage all of your members on every level – Post, District and Department – to join the VFW Action Corps Advocacy Team. Urge all to become an active veterans' advocate by signing up to receive the *VFW Action Corps Weekly* e-newsletter and all of our Action Alerts. Click here to sign-up today: <http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>.

Tell them they will be the first to know what is happening in Washington and stay abreast of legislation making a difference in their life and in the lives of other veterans, service members and their families.

Issues like those found in our 2014 Advocacy in Action booklet, entitled "**Our Nation Is Still at War**" and within your *2014 Legislative Priority Goals*. Both provide in detail the VFW's position on a variety of issues including VA funding, access to disability benefits, military quality-of-life programs, economic opportunity and health care. Other critical concerns include ending sequestration, passing advance appropriations for all VA accounts and in-state tuition for veterans **using GI Bill benefits**.

Review our booklet and legislative priority goals by visiting the VFW website at www.vfw.org and click on the <http://www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/National-Legislative-Service/> page. All of your advocacy efforts will help us ensure that veterans, our military and their families retain the benefits they have so justly earned.

VFW FOUNDATION:

DONOR-ADVISED FUND GIVING

Did you know that you can recommend grants directly from your donor-advised fund (DAF) through the VFW Foundation website? It is now possible through an online widget provided by DAF Direct. Currently, any DAF account through sponsoring organizations Fidelity Charitable®, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and Schwab Charitable are eligible for account holders to set up these charitable grants.

A DAF is a charitable account sponsored by a public charity, which donors use to support their philanthropy. After establishing a donor-advised fund, the donor may recommend grants to qualified public charities. They may also advise the sponsoring organization (e.g. Fidelity Charitable® or Schwab Charitable) on the investment strategy for the charitable asset.

If you are interested in recommending a grant through your DAF, go to www.vfwfoundation.org and the DAF Direct widget is located on the home page. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the VFW Foundation by phone at (816) 968-1128 or email at foundation@vfw.org.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

Car Rental Discounts

Save on your next rental car with discounts from Alamo, Enterprise or National Car Rental.

- Alamo Rent A Car 1-800-462-5266, Contract ID 7014176
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car® 1-800-736-8222, Customer #VFWERAC
- National Car Rental 1-800-227-7368, Contract ID 5026156

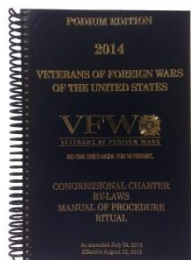
Motel Discounts - Motel 6

Motel 6 now provides VFW member's great savings on your next stay. Take advantage of the 15% discount by booking your reservation online. Your discount will automatically be applied when the rates are displayed. Please visit <http://www.vfw.org/MemberBenefits/> to book your reservation.

VFW STORE:



Get items you need for your Memorial Day Events and Buddy Poppy Campaigns at the VFW Store! Purchase flags, grave markers, memorial wreaths, Buddy Poppy posters, brochures, donation collection canisters and much more! To see Memorial Day merchandise go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/memorialday>. To see Buddy Poppy Campaign items go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy>.



Podium Edition of the By-Laws is now available in eBook format! Simply go to Amazon (http://www.amazon.com/Veterans-Foreign-Wars-Podium--Laws-ebook/dp/B00JVAH1HU/ref=sr_1_2?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1398438214&sr=1-

[2&keywords=vfw](#)) or Barnes and Noble (<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/veterans-of-foreign-wars-podium-edition-2014-veterans-of-foreign-wars-of-the-us/1119295032?ean=2940149172924>) to get yours today!



Order plastic cups and Koozies for your hospitality rooms at Convention! Instead of purchasing disposable cups, try plastic cups that you can personalize with your Department information - members can keep them as souvenirs and it provides a great advertising opportunity for you! The same can be done with Koozies for your beverage cans. For a FREE, NO OBLIGATION quote call Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org.



ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

WHITMORE, ELMO J., All American Commander, Department of New Mexico, 1983-1984 and a Life Member of John D. Gamble Post 8874, Los Alamos, New Mexico, April 20, 2014.