

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

www.wvfw.org

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 8
SERIES 2015-2016, February 2016

Like us on Facebook! Social media is a very powerful tool that can bring awareness to veterans eligible to join your Post. If you would like a link to your Post website or Post Facebook page placed on the state website, please email the information to Donna Hergenrether (dfhergie@yahoo.com) state website coordinator.

A NOTE FROM THE COMMANDER: Comrades, the decision to cancel our Mid-Winter Conference was a difficult one as there is a lot of planning and preparation that takes place prior to a convention. We all look forward to our Mid-Winter conferences. The Governor declared a State of Emergency and Martinsburg got hit with about 40" of snow!! With all this looming over my head I hope you will understand that first and foremost is and should be our safety. I know we were unable to get to everyone that was in transit as the decision was being made. For this please accept my apology!

Please check your Emails, Our Facebook and Department Web Page as we will be sending out information that pertains to the curriculum we had prepared for the conference.

We have our five District Conventions starting and ending in April. All Posts please make your best effort to attend these District Conventions as there will be award presentations and lots of information on where we are as a Department and where we need to go. PROUD TO SERVE YOU, CDR Hibbs

1. **MEMBERSHIP:** Since last month our membership standing has improved to 12th in the Nation and we remain 1st in the Southern Conference. We also remain 1st in the Nation in New and Reinstated members. "Membership makes dollars and SENSE". We are past the half-way point in the membership year. Congratulations to the 16 Posts who have achieved 100% or greater in membership. There are 28 Posts who need ten or less members to achieve 100%. Continue to work membership hard and let's watch the 100% or better list grow leaps and bounds. Posts are encouraged to work hard on recruiting new members and to recover those members whose dues have lapsed. Membership is something we do for each other. For assistance with membership, contact Vernon Anderson, 79 Blayney Avenue, Triadelphia, WV 26059; Phone: (304) 909-0187. Each Post Commander will be receiving a list of Post members whose 2016 dues are unpaid, or have expired. Post Commanders need to coordinate with their Post Membership Chairman to contact those on the list. Contact State Headquarters for a list of Members at Large, or VFW members who have relocated to your area that you can contact and encourage to transfer to your Post.

Congratulations to the following Posts for achieving 100% in membership:

6450 Chester	137.38%	8364 Oceana	101.47%	9926 Mason	103.27%
4484 Rainelle	121.32%	4469 Beckley	106.95%	4019 Berkeley Springs	104.20%
3757 Burnsville	100%	8413 Welch	100%	8363 Chesapeake	103.22%
1144 Iaeger	100%	8129 Charleston	114.28%	2716 Weirton	101.44%
9796 Milton	102.75%	410 Belington	100%	5501 Ripley	100%
629 Fairmont	100.44%				

MID-WINTER MEMBERSHIP AWARDS RECIPIENTS

(Percentage in parenthesis indicates membership strength as of December 15, 2015):

	<u>Post</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Quartermaster</u>
Category 1:	3757 Burnsville (100%) 8413 Welch (100%)	Franklin McPherson Charles Honaker	Daniel Arnold Ronald Wyatt
Category 2:	8364 Oceana (100%)	Shirley Brown	Johnny Sansom
Category 3:	4019 Berkeley Springs (103.36%)	Steven Luthardt	Tony Bozik
Category 4:	6450 Chester (132.90%)	Dave Ash	Joe Capito
Category 5:	9926 Mason (101.45%)	Milford Mowery	Bob Caruthers

District with the highest membership percentage as of December 15, 2015:

District 1 (89.46%), Commander Bob Haight

2. **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Jan 30, 2016	Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen Banquet Post 573 Clarksburg
Feb 15, 2016	Veterans Visibility Day, 9 AM House Chambers, State Capital
Feb 15, 2016	Citizenship Education Teacher Awards to Post
Feb 28, 2016	Post Citizenship Education Teacher selection to District
Feb 28-Mar 3, 2016	Legislative Conference and Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners, Washington, D.C.

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2. **DATES TO REMEMBER (CONTINUED):**

Mar 1, 2016	Scout of the Year Entry to Post
Mar 15, 2016	Citizenship Education Teacher Awards to State Headquarters
Apr 1, 2016	Scout of the Year Entry to State Headquarters
Apr 1, 2016	Post Community Service logs to District Commander
April 15, 2016	District Community Service winner's log to State Chairman
May 1, 2016	All-State requirements cut-off date
May 1, 2016	"Bob Kusterer" JROTC Cadet of the Year nominations to State Headquarters
May 15, 2016	Rich Homan award nominations to State Headquarters
June 1, 2016	Post and District Election Reports to State and National Headquarters

3. **DISTRICT CONVENTIONS:**

District One	Weirton	April 24 th	1:00 pm	Hibbs	Crouser
District Two	Ripley	April 23 rd	12:00 pm	Kingsbury	Stalnaker
District Three	Buckhannon	April 23 rd	1:00 pm	Talerico	Sanford
District Four	Martinsburg	April 24 th	1:00 pm	Pauley	Harless-Hurley
District Five	Madison	April 23 rd	12:00 pm	Kish	Harless-Hurley

All Districts serve lunch before meeting. Time listed is lunch time. Schedules are subject to change.

7. **POST COMMANDERS/MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:** There are currently 1,047 Members at Large, 2,606 Post members whose dues have expired since 2013, and 1,563 prior Members at Large whose dues expired between 2003 and 2013. A list of names living in your Post's area is available to your Post in hopes of finding someone to transfer to your Post. All a Post needs to do is provide a list of zip codes, or towns/communities in their area, to VFW State Headquarters for compiling and forwarding. For more information contact State Headquarters at (304) 768-7514, or via email at vfwqm@frontier.com.

8. **POST COMMANDERS:** Be advised that Article IV, Section 3 of the State By-Laws states "Each Post shall pay a Department Convention delegate fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for every delegate each Post is entitled and five dollars (\$5.00) for the Post Commander not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the convening of the convention. Such delegate registration fee of Posts and the Post Commander fee shall be placed in the Department Convention Fund and used to help defray expenses incurred by the Department at said Convention. Any Post failing to comply shall be considered delinquent and in arrears and shall be deprived of all representation until arrearages are resolved." Notification to each Post with the total amount of their delegate and Commander's fees will be sent out June 16th.

9. **POST QUARTERMASTERS:** National Headquarters will be sending out the 2016-2017 election report packet to all Post Quartermasters in the near future. Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a national convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. Further instructions will be included in the election report packet.

10. **COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS:** The Community Service mid-year report has been sent to National Headquarters. So far this year Posts have contributed \$157,533.56 and 43,055 volunteer hours to their communities. Posts are strongly encouraged to provide their District Commander the number of hours and dollars spent monthly. District Commanders forward their report to the Community Service Chairman by the 15th of the month. Contact Bob Caruthers, Chairman at (740) 992-6272, or via email at vfwpost9926@yahoo.com.

11. **VFW TRAINING AND SUPPORT:** Members are encouraged to visit the National website to view the VFW Training and Support section where information can be found on/for Recruiting and Retention, Community Service and Youth Activities, Media and Public Relations, Post Service Officers, Members and Officer Training, Forms and Templates, Veterans and Military Support, and Grant Program Resources. Simply log on to www.vfw.org and you will find the link to this information under General Member Tools & Resources.

OFFICIAL:
S. KEVIN LIGHT, ADJUTANT
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

BY ORDER OF:
ELMER R. HIBBS, COMMANDER
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
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