VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 6 403 Lee Jackson Highway (540) 886-8112 "Every Day is Veterans Day"

FAX: 866-416-0586 Website: www.vfwva.org Email: statehq@vfwva.org December 1, 2018 Staunton, Virginia 24401 In Virginia 800-888-3521

HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR THE WINTER CONFERENCE CLOSE DECEMBER 11TH.

WIN ONE OF THREE GREAT GUNS!!! GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!!!

VFW Department of Virginia Fund Raising Raffle

1st Prize CZU Hammer Coach Double Barrel 12 Gauge Shotgun 2nd Prize Henry 30-30 Rifle 3rd Prize AR15 5.56

Drawing will be January 12, 2019 at VFW Winter Council in Portsmouth, VA Tickets \$5.00 each

FOR TICKETS CONTACT

Eric Mallett JVC James Gierlak District 1 Ronnie Steele District 2 Mark Maggio District 3 Gus Villalobos District 4 Johnny Martin District 5 Jerry Jacobsen District 5 Mitch Rubenstein District 7 Geoff Lyster District 8 Howard Minton District 9 Tom Gimble/Randy Coker District 10 Bob Wyman District 13

GUIDE TO THE GENERAL ORDERS:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

- 1. Commander's Message
- 2. District Meetings
- 3. Active Membership
- 4. By-Laws and Manual of Procedure
- 5. Citizenship Education Teacher Award
- 6. Computer Available
- 7. Control of Units
- 8. Digital Membership Cards
- 9. Duties of Trustees
- 10. E-Mail Account Access
- 11. General Orders
- 12. Half-Staff Flags
- 13. Important Dates
- 14. Incorporation
- 15. IRS Form 8822-B
- 16. Legacy Life Membership

1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Hello from Staunton!

- 17. Life Member Drawing
- 18. Membership
- 19. Membership Incentives
- 20. Office Closure
- 21. Parliamentary Authority
- 22. Patriot's Pen
- 23. Post and District Service Officer Training
- 24. Reporting
- 25. Roster Updates
- 26. Special Order
- 27. V-MAIL
- 28. VFW National Public Servant Awards
- 29. VFW Riders
- 30. Voice of Democracy
- 31. Women Veterans Committee

We have had an awesome November and I want to thank so many who were involved. We had the District Tour for the 3rd and 7th Districts, VA Claims Outreach in Marion, Veteran's Day had tons of events, and we will be doing the District Tour in the 2nd District starting at the end of the month. Somewhere in the middle of that we also had Thanksgiving. I would like to thank those Posts who opened their doors for us to visit, to Post 4667 in Marion for hosting Service Officer Outreach (13 appointments in one day!), and all the Posts who participated in events for Veterans Day. Additionally, I want to thank Past State Commander Dan Boyer for his leadership at the veteran's memorial in Galax. He had an outstanding team with him and it was an honor to speak there.

As I enter my 6th month as State Commander, I want to pause to recognize just how much work you all do every day as it never ceases to amaze me. This has been an awesome experience so far and I know I would never be here without all of you nor would we, as an entire organization, be here without the amazing level of dedication given by each of you. I am always mindful of the incredible responsibility you placed in my hands and the massive amount of trust and faith you invested into me. As I work to honor you and our organization, I am both encouraged and stunned by all I see.

Your Post homes are a cornerstone in our community and your service to that community makes you leaders revered in a way equal to Washington, Lincoln, and the other great patriots we read about in books. There are towns who look to you to help in times of crises, members of Congress who will not introduce legislation without your approval, and families who lean on your shoulder when their veteran passes away. There is no way we would be the America we are nor, will we ever achieve a more perfect union without Posts like your own and members like you. As I still ponder Veterans Day I also look to Thanksgiving and I want to say how thankful I am to all of you for just being who you are.

No set of General Orders would be complete without a reference to membership. We continue to trend slightly ahead of where we were at this time last year and I extend congratulations to Posts 1811, 2123, and 3060 who have achieved their 100% marks. We will swear in our newest Post, VFW Post 12179, on December 8th. Additionally, November was another month where <u>ZERO</u> officers in our Posts let their dues lapse. The additional incentives I rolled out will close on December 31st and you can read more below. Let's work those unpaid lists because of the number of annual members who will expire in December and continue to show why we are the premier veterans organization to be a member of and what we do for all veterans.

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Years!

Ken Wiseman State Commander Department of Virginia

2. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date:	03/02/19			
•	Lunch:	11:00 AM	8 th	Date:	02/16/19
	Meeting:	to follow Lunch	0	Lunch:	12:00 Noon
	Location:	Post 2296, Tasley		Meeting:	1:00 PM
	Loodion.	21503 Daugherty Rd		Location:	Post 7728, Morrisville
	Rep:	Butch Schupska, Judge Advocate		Looution.	12496 Harpers Run Rd, Bealeton
	Кер.	Buten Benupska, Budge Auvocate		Rep:	Eddie Reasor, Surgeon
2 nd	Date:	02/23/19		Kep.	Ludie Reason, Surgeon
Z	Lunch:	12 Noon	9 th	Date:	01/27/19
	Meeting:	1:00 PM	9	Registration:	10:00 AM
	Location:			Lunch:	12 Noon
	Location.	Post 4411, Franklin			
	Den	3385 Beaverdam Rd		Meeting:	1:00 PM
	Rep:	Rick Raskin, Sr. Vice Commander		Location:	Post 7726, Independence
Ord	Data	00/00/40		Dec	115 Klondike Road
3 rd	Date:	02/23/19		Rep:	Ken Wiseman, State Commander
	Meeting:	10:00 AM	1 Oth	D /	10/00/10
	Lunch:	to follow Meeting	10 th	Date:	12/09/18
	Location:	Post 637 Hopewell		Lunch:	11:30 AM
	_	1400 Lynchburg St		Meeting:	1:00 PM
	Rep:	Ken Wiseman, State Commander		Location:	Post 8241, McLean
446	5 /	00/00/110		_	1051 Springhill Rd
4 th	Date:	02/09/19		Rep:	Ken Wiseman, State Commander
	Meeting:	1:00 PM			
	Location:	Post 8759, Amelia	11 th	Date:	1/26/19
	_	16440 Five Forks Rd		Lunch:	11:30 AM
	Rep:	Ken Wiseman, State Commander		Meeting:	12:30 PM
				Location:	Post 632, Harrisonburg
5 th	Date:	02/16/19		_	450 Waterman Drive
	Lunch:	12:00 Noon		Rep:	Rick Raskin, Sr. Vice Commander
	Meeting:	to follow Lunch			
	Location:	Post 4637, Martinsville	12 th	Date:	12/08/18
		2327 Old Chatham Rd		Meeting:	10:00 AM
	Rep:	Ken Wiseman, State Commander		Location:	Post 1994, Abingdon
					17581 Lee Highway
6 th	Date:	02/17/19		Rep:	Rick Raskin, Sr. Vice Commander
	Meeting:	2:00 PM			
	Location:	Post 5311, Christiansburg	13 th	Date	12/01/18
		490 High St.		Meeting:	12:00 Noon
	Rep:	Ken Wiseman, State Commander		Lunch:	After Meeting
				Location:	Post 1827 Charlottesville
7 th	Date:	01/19/19			1170 River Rd
	Meeting:	11:30 AM		Rep:	Eric Mallett, Jr. Vice Commander
	Location:	Post 2447, Edinburg			
		100 Veterans Way			
	Rep:	Ken Wiseman, State Commander			

3. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

The National By-Laws provide for only one type of membership: active membership. There are no provisions in the National By-Laws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, or any other special cards. Any Post issuing 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 By-Laws or procedures.

4. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2019 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the revised edition of the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2019 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 119th National Convention, which became effective on August 24, 2018.

5. CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD:

District judging should be completed by **December 15th** and nominations forwarded to the Department Chairman no later than **December 20th**.

Districts:

- (1) Please ensure teacher nominations are complete before forwarding them to Department. By the time I receive the nominations, I do not have the time to go back to the Post to try and get the missing items (resume, photograph, etc.)
- (2) Complete the Post Teacher Entry Form listing all information called for.
- (3) I will be mailing District Chairmen the required report forms shortly. These forms should be submitted with your teacher nominations.
- (4) Submit your winning nominations to the address listed below:

Chris Birch 304 E. Main Street Berryville, VA 22611-1306

If you have any questions, call me at (540) 955-3311/(540) 539-5446 or email me at bigredtruk@comcast.net/cbirch@vfwva.org.

Chris Birch Past State Commander Chairman

6. COMPUTERS AVAILABLE:

Do you, your Post, or a needy veteran need a computer? How would you like to get one for free? That's right, FREE!

The Tech4Troops Project is now accepting requests. Any veteran is eligible to receive a FREE laptop computer. These are refurbished machines running Windows 7 and a have a free office suite of software installed. There are also some desktop computers available.

All you need to do is contact our point person District 3 Senior Vice Commander Jose Rivera at 804-241-2045 or by email: jose_e_rivera@hotmail.com. Jose will make arrangements with Tech4Troops for delivery to you.

Please do not contact Tech4Troops directly.

I still have some desktop systems available for which you can contact me at 703-369-2732.

Rick Raskin Department Sr. Vice Commander

7. CONTROL OF UNITS:

All Commanders are reminded that Section 709, Manual of Procedure - Control of Units, requires that any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or in behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department and that all money, property or assets of any kind or nature, must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster. All Commanders should ensure that all provisions of Section 709 are enforced.

8. DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS:

Members now can download their digital version of their membership card. Depending on whether a member has an iPhone or Android, they will be able to download and access their digital membership card from the VFW app.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card.

9. 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, one of which ends December 31, 2018. 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.

10. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 19**th. 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 <u>www.vfwva.org</u>.

- 2. Click on Member Tools, 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 Vfw2019# 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 <u>cdrpost176@vfwva.org</u> where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

adjpost176@vfwva.org qmpost176@vfwva.org

For District Officers your address will be <u>cdrdist1@vfwva.org</u> for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with **your** district #

adjdist1@vfwva.org qmdist1@vfwva.org

11. GENERAL ORDERS:

The cut off for the General Orders is the 20th of the month. No EXCEPTIONS. Subscriptions for hard copy via USPS for General Orders are \$24.00 for the year. Please contact State Headquarters for more info.

12. HALF-STAFF FLAGS:

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DECEMBER 7: Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates December 7 as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to <u>http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags</u>.

13. IMPORTANT DATES:

January 11-13, 2019	Winter Council, Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA. Phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$86.00 per night. Group name "Veterans of Foreign Wars-Winter Council Meeting". Cut-off Date December 11, 2018.
June 13-16, 2019	State Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$127.00 per night. Group name "VFW Department of Virginia Annual Convention"; Cut-off Date May 13, 2019.

14. 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.

15. 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 –<u>http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822b.pdf</u> This will also apply to all Auxiliaries that have their own EIN number.

16. LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

Legacy Life Membership: This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is 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.

Enrollment Cost:		Annual Payouts: Post:		Department:	National:		
Levels:	Gold-	\$1200.00		\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	
	Silver-	\$800.00		\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	
	Bronze	\$400.00		\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	
		+					

What will your Legacy be?

17. LIFE MEMBERSHIP DRAWING:

Congratulations to Tidewater Post 4809 as the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. Tidewater Post 4809 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 85% of their membership goal reported to State Headquarters by the October 31, 2018 deadline.

The next drawing will be January 4, 2019 for Posts who show at least 95% in membership.

18. MEMBERSHIP:

Commanders and Comrades,

Hope all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I'm sure we all need to lose a few pounds as we go into December. Might I suggest you burn some of those calories by hosting a recruiting event at your Post or out at a local storefront? What a great time to promote your Post out in the community, lots of people out shopping and in the giving spirit. When talking to a wife or husband of a veteran always remember to mention that a gift life membership is a lasting gift.

Thanks to Commander Jim and the First District for hosting a Recruiter School for the First and Second Districts. Also, thanks to Commander Melissa for organizing a school at State HQs for the Eleventh District. Hopefully we were able

to give some information that was helpful to the attendees. We believe each recruiter must establish their own sales pitch. Each sector of the State has its own challenges that recruiters must overcome to be successful. If your District or Post would like assistance with recruiting, please contact State HQs or any member of the Membership Team for help. It's that easy.

As you read these General Orders, we will be just days away from instituting our newest Post in Lynchburg. Thanks again, to David and Beth Jarrett for taking the lead and working tirelessly for over a year to make this a reality. They deserve a lot of credit for bringing the VFW back to the Lynchburg area.

Wishing all my brothers and sisters' good tidings for the holiday season. The Team is looking forward to helping you reach your quota in the second half of the year.

Tom Hines, PDC Chief of Staff Membership Team

19. MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES:

The State Commander has announced additional membership awards for Posts, Districts, and individual recruiters:

1) All Posts who make 100% by December 31st will be entered into a drawing. Three (3) Posts will be picked and they will get a personal check from me for \$200. You can put that money towards anything you want. The official membership statistics issued by the National HQs of the VFW, dated December 31st, 2018, will be the information used to determine who enters the drawing.

2) The District with the highest percentage gain in membership for the period starting October 21st and ending December 31st will receive a check for \$150. The official membership statistics issued by the National HQs of the VFW, dated December 31st, 2018, will be the information used to determine who enters the drawing. If there is a tie for first place, all Districts in the tie will get a check for \$150.

3) The District with the highest numeric gain in membership for the period starting October 21st and ending December 31st will receive a check for \$150. The official membership statistics issued by the National HQs of the VFW, dated December 31st, 2018, will be the information used to determine who enters the drawing. If there is a tie for first place, all Districts in the tie will get a check for \$150.

4) The District with the most Posts to make 100% in membership by December 31st, 2018 will get a check for \$150. The official membership statistics issued by the National HQs of the VFW, dated December 31st, 2018, will be the information used to determine who enters the drawing. If there is a tie for first place, all Districts in the tie will get a check for \$150.

5) The members who recruit the most from today through December 31st will also get cash prizes. The top five (5) recruiters who recruit at least five (5) new or reinstated members, annual or life, will be awarded \$100. The official recruiting report issued by the National HQs of the VFW, dated December 31st, 2018, will be the information used to determine who wins. This is based on increase over time from today, not including your total as of October 21st. So, someone who has recruited zero as of October 21st, 2018 and recruits five by December 31st, 2018 will have credit for five recruits. Someone who has 61 recruited as of October 21st, 2018 and has recruited 66 as of December 31st, 2018 will have credit for five recruits.

All funding for these contests will come from the State Commander personally.

20. OFFICE CLOSURE:

The State Headquarters and Hopewell Service Office will be closed December 24 - 26, 2018 in observance of Christmas and will close at noon on December 31, 2018 and reopen January 2, 2019 for New Years. The State Commander/Adjutant and Quartermaster will be available by phone and email for any issues that may arise.

21. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:

Procedure and Ritual establish that *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th 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 book stores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

22. PATRIOTS PEN:

The due date for submission for State judging is December 20, 2018. You should include your District's "District Reporting Packet" which can be found on the VFW's website, <u>www.vfw.org</u>. After you log into the site, click "My VFW", followed by "Training and Support". Last, choose the "Community Service, Scholarships, and Awards" tab and pick Patriot's Pen.

Please mail your DISTRICT winners to Past State Commander Buddy Weekly at 595 Bowman Rd, Dayton, VA 22821.

23. POST AND DISTRICT SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING:

The State Service Officer, Bobbiejo Lazo, will be leading training for those Post and District Service Officers who are able to attend. The training will be held at the Mid-Winter Conference in Portsmouth on January 12th, 2018. This training fulfills a requirement to offer training but **DOES NOT** meet the requirements for accreditation. The VFW does not accredit Post or District Service Officers. Details on the times and location for the training are in the agenda for the Mid-Winter Conference in the back of the General Orders.

24. REPORTING:

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.

25. ROSTER UPDATES

First District SVC Mark A. Shockley 116 Admiral Ct Hampton, VA 23669 757-377-3467 Email: <u>cdrpost3219@vfwva.org</u>

First District JVC George F. Copping 258 E Queens Dr Williamsburg, VA 23185 757-229-6545 Email: <u>cdrpost960@vfwva.org</u>

Sixth District New QM Jody Callen 2311 12 O'Clock Knob Rd Salem, VA 24153 724-544-6665 Email: <u>gmdist6@vfwva.org</u> Post 3150 New Commander Eric J. Ganser 1276 N. Wayne St Arlington, VA 22201 760-519-4354 Email: <u>cdrpost3150@vfwva.org</u>

Post 3150 New SVC Samuel N. Wolfe 4200 N Carlin Springs Rd Apt 103 Arlington, VA 22203 202-253-7339 Email: samuel.n.wolfe@gmail.com

Post 7360 Quartermaster Earnest Lowe 2831 Riverside Dr Raven, VA 24639 Post 10574 New Commander Carroll B. Longerbeam 917 Garfield Ave Colonial Beach, VA 22443 804-617-1669 bredskin1983@gmail.com Post 10574 New SVC Adam C. Longsdorf 100 Taylor St Unit 407 Colonial Beach, VA 22443 412-313-8782 alongsdorf@gmail.com

26. SPECIAL ORDER:

SPECIAL ORDER NUMBER 93

Their eligibility to membership having been questioned under the provisions of Section 108 of the National Bylaws and the veteran having failed to submit proof of campaign medal service which would qualify for membership,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the name of Bobby R. Robinson, Life Membership No. 1583776, be removed from the rolls of Waynesboro Post No. 2424, Waynesboro, Virginia and their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States terminated by reason of ineligibility.

By order of Vincent B.J. Lawrence Commander-in-Chief

27. V-MAIL:

Go online to http://www.vfw.com to stay in communication with other Posts as well as with National Headquarters. Check in often for important VFW updates and news from national. The VFW Membership Department will be using this avenue for communication more regularly. If you need assistance logging in or your password, contact Leticia Cortez in the Membership Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6292.

28. VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:

Posts are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to State Headquarters no later than January 4, 2019. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

VFW National Law Enforcement Award VFW National Firefighter Award VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award

Send resume of nominees' background, resume of background in Law Enforcement, Firefighter or Emergency Medical Technician, accomplishment in the field, photograph, title and address.

This award will be presented at the State Convention or at a local venue.

NOTE: "NEW" VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form has been developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairmen with an entry form to hand out to the local Fire Department, Police Department, etc. to assist interested individuals in nominating one of their own. The entry forms along with the required documentation are to be returned to the local VFW Post for their judging. Once the winner in each category have been chosen, the Post will forward those entries on to the next level of judging.

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

29. VFW RIDERS:

Comrades,

July 2019 the VFW Riders Virginia are going to ride to the VFW National Convention in Orlando, FL. Our goal is to raise money to carry to the VFW National Convention's Howard E. Vander Clute Ride prior to the start of the Convention. Last year we donated \$15,001 from the Department of Virginia, various Posts of Virginia and the VFW Riders Virginia. I am asking for donations from you to help us raise money for the Howard E. Vander Clute Jr. Memorial Motorcycle Ride. The monies raised this year will go to help our veterans through the National Veterans and Military Services program. This year with your help and monies raised by the VFW Riders Virginia we are hoping to surpass last year's numbers.

Thank you, Comrades, for all you do for our veterans.

Please send your donations to:

Ken Wiseman Department of Virginia Commander/Adjutant 403 Lee Jackson Highway Staunton, VA 24401 Earmark your donations VFW Riders Virginia Howard Vander Clute Memorial Ride.

> William J Shepherd VFW Riders Virginia Chairman

30. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:

Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition 2018-2019

The Voice of Democracy (VOD) is the VFW's premier scholarship program. Each year over 40,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. This year's theme is *"Why My Vote Matters."* All program rules, forms and brochures are available at http: <u>www.vfw.org</u>.

2018-2019 Program Reporting Deadlines

December 15 - Completion of District judging December 22 – Department VOD Selection Board January 10 - Completion of Department judging January 15 - District Participation Reports due to Department Chairman January 15 - Department winners due to National

The top three awards will be presented to the Department winners at the Department Winter Council meeting on January 12, 2019. Please be sure to send your District Chairman all the information that is required. This includes the completed Official Student Entry Form. A typed script, audio CD or a flash drive (one student per CD) and a photograph of the District winner. Please verify that your recorded CD plays on a standard CD player. If you do not include the information that is required in the VOD guidelines, your District winner will not be eligible to compete at the Department level. District Chairmen must also complete the District Participation Report. The District first place winning submissions shall be mailed to the Dept VOD Chairman at: **P.O. Box 1196, Warrenton, VA, 20188**. All submissions must be received by December 21, 2018. The Department VOD Selection Board will be held on December 22, 2018 in Warrenton, VA.

Voice of Democracy Department Awards

The top three finalists will be invited to the Winter Council Luncheon in Portsmouth on January 12, 2019. All three finalists will receive their awards and be expected to present their audio essays at the luncheon awards ceremony. The specific places - first, second and third place will be revealed at the awards ceremony. The winning first place student will receive \$2,000.00 from the Department; \$500.00 from the Commander's Club and an additional check from the Auxiliary. The second-place winner will receive \$1,500.00, and the third-place winner will receive \$1,000.00. Each Post that Participates in the Voice of Democracy Program will receive a Department Citation.

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 on June 13, 2019. If you have any questions regarding this year's VOD program, please let me know. Thanks.

Geoffrey D. Lyster Chairman, Voice of Democracy Program

31. WOMEN VETERANS COMMITTEE:

The Women Veterans Committee will host a meeting on January 12th, 2019 during the Mid-Winter Conference in Portsmouth. All woman who are veterans and members of either the VFW or VFW Auxiliary are invited to attend. As this is a new committee, we will be meeting with each other to discuss future project ideas.

By Order of:

Ken Wiseman State Commander State Adjutant

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 4th *WINTER COUNCIL MEETING*

January 11 – 13, 2019 Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel ~ Portsmouth, Virginia ~ 757-673-3000 ~ \$86.00 Per night

(Group Rate Deadline is December 11th)

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET \$45.00

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

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 Pies Regular & Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea and Water

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTER Check, Discover, American Express		(NO EXCEPTIONS)
Person placing the order (name)	_ Phone:	
Please fill out completely for each person you are registering including Pos	st number or Auxiliary numb	per:
Name:	Post/Aux:	
Please charge my card: \$ Name on Card:		
Please Circle One: Discover American Express MasterCard Visa SIGN	NATURE:	
Card Number:	Exp. Date:	Billing Zip Code
Mail form to: State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, V	A 24401	
You may also e-mail this form to: statehq@vfwva.org or fax it to: 1-866-4	16-0586 if paying by Credit	Card only
Pre-paid tickets will not be mailed to you; they will be available for pi	ck up at registration.	

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AND VFW AUXILIARY

Winter Council of Administration Meeting January 11 - January 13, 2019 Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel Portsmouth, Virginia 757-673-3000

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019

8:00 AM	3:00 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
9:15 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
4:00 PM	6:00 PM	VOD & PP BANQUET	Holley Ballroom
7:00 PM	8:00 PM	MOC Meeting	Madison
7:00 PM	8:00 PM	MOCA Meeting	Portsmouth V

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019

Holley Ballroom IV

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 715 Hospitality Room –Studio Suite 615

(Tentative schedule subject to change)