

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

**NUMBER 8**

403 Lee Jackson Highway  
(540) 886-8112

**"Veterans Helping Veterans  
Dept. of Virginia 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary"**

FAX: 866-416-0586  
Website: [www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)  
Email: [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org)

**February 1, 2023**

Staunton, Virginia 24401  
In Virginia 800-888-3521

**GUIDE TO THE GO:**

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**1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:**

As the cold winters blow, some of us still hold out hope for some snow. But if you are not a fan of winter, remember that "no winter lasts forever, and no spring skips its turn" (author Hal Borland). February is a month to celebrate our Department of Virginia's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, George Washington's Birthday and Valentine's Day.

As a brief recap of this past month: we held a very successful Winter Council of Administration (COA) meeting at the Renaissance Portsmouth Waterside Hotel. We conducted some valuable training, held constructive business meetings, celebrated a great *Homecoming*, and enjoyed a nice *Banquet* to honor our youth and educator winners. Joining us was National Senior Vice Commander-In-Chief Duane Sarmiento; VFW Southern Conference Chairman Bobby Lovergne and Supreme Commander Military Order of Cooties Dwight Hora. We had a very good turnout, and a good time was had by all. The next gathering of the COA will be the State Convention June 1-4 in Portsmouth, VA.

In January we also made an official visit, with a rather large contingent, to Hampton VA Medical Center and presented them with a check on behalf of the Department of Virginia. We were joined by Mayor Donnie Tuck and National SVC Duane Sarmiento. We were pleased with what we saw and with the briefings we received.

Centennial Committee News: Your Centennial Committee has been hard at work arranging sponsors and establishing a statewide schedule of events. In 2023, we will hold seven *Centennial Celebrations* across the state. Look for a *Centennial* near you in the following locations: Mechanicsville, Dale City, Edinburg, Portsmouth, Clarksville, Roanoke and Marion (see schedule in General Orders). Thanks to Centennial Committee Chair Hal Roesch and his team.

New Post News: As demographics and growth areas change, sometimes there is a need and desire to stand up a fresh new Post. On February 25 we will be Instituting (new) Post 12217 Holland. Your State Commander will be the Instituting Officer. Light refreshments will be provided. If you are interested in attending RSVP to

[cdr@vfwva.org](mailto:cdr@vfwva.org). Additionally, we are working hard to establish a new Post in Western Prince William County. We hope to get this one Instituted in the coming quarter. Expect further news on new VFW Institution Ceremonies in the coming months!

Recruiting & Retention: We are ahead of schedule on recruiting thanks to our crack Membership Team. At the time of this writing, we are currently at 94.22 percent. We have been working hard on recruiting and reinstating with 1,192 and 242 members respectively. Winter is the time to work on your retention. I encourage you to reach out to all members nearing expiration or recently expired and attempt to renew them. Sometimes all it takes is a phone call letting them know you care.

The “state of the Department” is such that we are working hard and doing well. Our service to veterans; VFW programs and in-person attendance all appear to be improving. Keep up the great work. I hope to see you soon at one of our state sponsored VFW events. Have a great month.

Geoffrey Lyster  
State Commander  
Department of Virginia

## **2. 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.

## **3. ADJ/QM TRAINING:**

Adjutant/Quartermaster Training will be conducted by the State Adj/QM on Saturday 4 Feb 2023 at VFW Post 3103, 2701 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 from 1200-1600. Lunch and beverages to be provided by the Post during the training session. This is an opportunity for those already in these positions or those considering running for these positions to gain a better understanding of what's involved. Please notify Post 3103 of your intent to attend and number of attendees for lunch planning purposes **No Later Than** 28 Jan 2023. Questions or attendance notifications can be sent to [vfw3103@gmail.com](mailto:vfw3103@gmail.com).

We encourage anyone with these roles to bring their laptops along. Wifi will be available.

## **4. AMAZONSMILE:**

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to charitable organizations selected by our customers. Our very own Foundation is listed – The Virginia Veterans Foundation.

## **5. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:**

All officers should obtain current 2023 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 2023 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 123<sup>rd</sup> National Convention, which becomes effective on August 20, 2022.

## 6. DELINQUENT:

The following is a list of Posts that are still delinquent in Audits.

Dist.	Post	Audits	Dist.	Post	Audits
2	993	Sept	12	8652	June, Sept
			12	9600	Sept
5	7854	Sept			

## 7. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Date: 5/6/23 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 3219 Phoebus 122 E Mellen Street, Hampton Rep: PSC Butch Schupska	7 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 5/20/23 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: To follow Lunch Location: Post 9760 Berryville 425 S. Buckmarsh Street Rep: St Chief-of-Staff Ken Wiseman
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Date: 2/11/23 Lunch: Noon Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 8545 Smithfield 223 Washington Street Rep: St Judge Advocate Doug Hoffman	8 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/4/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg 2701 Princess Anne Street Rep: State Surgeon Mark Maggio
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Date: 2/4/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 637 Hopewell 1400 Lynchburg Street Rep: St Commander Geoffrey Lyster	9 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 5/6/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4667 Marion 861 Goolsby Street Rep: St SVC Gary Adams
4 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/11/23 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 8759 Amelia 16440 Five Forks Road Rep: State Inspector Charles Bush	10 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 3/26/23 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 1503 Dale City 14631 Minnieville Road Rep: State Commander Geoffrey Lyster
5 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/18/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: St Judge Advocate Doug Hoffman	11 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 5/13/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 8644 Bridgewater 118 Dry River Road Rep: State JVC Mitch Rubenstein
6 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 4/1/23 Meeting: Noon Location: Hosted by Post 5895 Buchanan at Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: St Chief-of-Staff Ken Wiseman	12 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 4/1/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9830 Damascus 23489 Mountain City Rd Rep: State Surgeon Mark Maggio
		13 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/11/23 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville 1170 River Road Rep: State JVC Mitch Rubenstein

## 8. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. 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](http://www.vfwva.org).
2. Click on Resources, Microsoft 365.
3. The username is your email address; put that on the first line (see below for your new address).
4. Your default password will be **VFW2022!** once you have accessed the mail program you will be asked to change it; it must contain at least one uppercase letter and one number.

For Post Officers, your address will be [cdrpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrpost176@vfwva.org) where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

[adjpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:adjpost176@vfwva.org)  
[qmpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:qmpost176@vfwva.org)

For District Officers your address will be [cdrdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrdist1@vfwva.org) for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with your district # **Please note District Senior Vice Commander's now have an email address**

[svdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:svdist1@vfwva.org)  
[adjdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:adjdist1@vfwva.org)  
[qmdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:qmdist1@vfwva.org)

## 9. GENERAL ORDERS:

The cut off for the General Orders is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. No EXCEPTIONS. Subscriptions for hard copy General Orders are \$30.00 for the year. Contact State Headquarters for more info.

## 10. IMPORTANT DATES:

June 1 – 4, 2023	State Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$149.00 per night. Group name “Virginia Department VFW & Auxiliary State Convention 2023”; Cut-off Date April 28, 2023.
July 22 – 27, 2023	National Convention, Phoenix, Arizona
November 1 – 4, 2023	Southern Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma
July 27 – Aug 1, 2024	National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky
August 9 – 14, 2025	National Convention, Columbus, Ohio

## 11. IRS FORM 8822-B:

It is now a requirement by the IRS that all Posts submit this form. This form must be submitted anytime the Post Quartermaster changes and/or the Post address changes. This is effective January 1, 2014.

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 numbers.

**12. LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:**

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are 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>Levels</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Departments</i>	<i>National</i>
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$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?*

**13. MEMBERSHIP:**

Comrades and Commanders,

The winter months are a good time to focus on renewals and reinstatements. Call or go visit the ones in your Post that haven't renewed. Often there is a reason that the member hasn't paid their dues. A visit will show that the Post does value them and may lead to a renewal.

Thank you for your efforts this far in our membership year. Please continue and we will have another All American Year.

Tom Hines PSC  
Membership Team Chairman

**14. OFFICE CLOSURE:**

State Headquarters and the Smithfield, Norfolk and Dale City Service Offices will be closed February 20, 2023, in observance of President's Day.

Please note the Hopewell Service Office is temporarily closed.

**15. POSTS IN ARREARS FOR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:**

Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National Bylaws concerning any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council and District meetings; County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

**16. PROGRAMS:**

Post and Districts must now submit their VOD, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year through the All American Dashboard. The Department will update the District Reporting page when the All American Dashboard box turns

green. Only submit what your level judges. Post and District Commanders, Sr Vice Commanders, Jr Vice Commanders, Adjutants, and Quartermasters can now all make entries in the All American Dashboard. Call Headquarters (540-886-8112) or myself (804-304-7726) if you need further assistance or guidance.

Ed Mann  
State Adj/QM

**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](http://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. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 170:**

Membership Ineligible  
James M. Page  
VFW Post No. 4522

Pursuant to the voluntary resignation of their membership upon their acknowledgement of ineligibility for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the name of James M. Page, Life Membership No. 9370440, be removed from the rolls of Vinton Post No. 4522, Vinton, Virginia and their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States terminated by reason of ineligibility.

By order of  
Timothy M. Borland  
Commander-in-Chief

**19. ROSTER CHANGES:**

Thirteenth Dist QM  
Jonathan P. Reintges  
2441 Tisdale Road  
Barboursville, VA 22923  
434-964-8590  
[qmdist13@vfwva.org](mailto:qmdist13@vfwva.org)

Post 2217 SVC  
David F. Spellman  
13859 Willistown Ln  
Orange, VA 22960  
843-812-3495  
[dfs778@yahoo.com](mailto:dfs778@yahoo.com)

Post 2217 Cmdr  
Joseph R. Parra  
2900 Lakeview Pkwy  
Locust Grove, VA 22508  
540-972-6389  
[cdrpost2217@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrpost2217@vfwva.org)

Post 3219 QM  
Hal Roesch  
312 Dunn Cir  
Hampton, VA 23666  
757-880-0487  
[qmpost3219@vfwva.org](mailto:qmpost3219@vfwva.org)

Post 6975 Cmdr  
Shawn A. Swavely  
107 Carla Street  
Bristol, TN 37620  
423-335-2988  
[cdrpost6975@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrpost6975@vfwva.org)

Post 6975 SVC  
Jon A. Lewis  
308 Fairfield Road  
Bristol, TN 37620

Post 8467 JVC  
Mack W. Turner  
402 Highland Street  
Hillsville, VA 24343

Post 9760 SVC  
Christopher E. Birch  
304 E Main Street  
Berryville, VA 22611  
540-955-3311  
[bigredtruk@comcast.net](mailto:bigredtruk@comcast.net)

Post 9760 JVC  
Warren T. Dudenbostel  
PO Box 331  
Berryville, VA 22611  
703-283-9133  
[wdedenbostel@gmail.com](mailto:wdedenbostel@gmail.com)

## 20. VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM:

This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairperson and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairperson's Guide.

## 21. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:

Judging for state-level winners of Voice of Democracy contest occurred on 17 December 2022. The winners are listed below:

1st Place John P. McGraw - District 8 - Sponsored by Post 7589 in Manassas, VA

2nd Place Anish S. Aradhey - District 11 - Sponsored by Post 8644 in Bridgewater, VA

3rd Place Jillian R. Taylor - District 7 - Sponsored by Post 2123 in Winchester, VA


Louis Filippone  
Voice of Democracy Program Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann  
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Geoffrey D. Lyster  
State Commander

# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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

February 1, 2023, Post 9808, Mechanicsville [https://VFW\\_VA\\_100\\_Mechanicsville.eventbrite.com](https://VFW_VA_100_Mechanicsville.eventbrite.com)

March 4, 2023, Post 1503, Dale City [https://VFW\\_VA\\_100\\_DaleCity.eventbrite.com](https://VFW_VA_100_DaleCity.eventbrite.com)

April 22, 2023, Post 2447, Edinburg, VA [https://VFW\\_VA\\_100\\_Edinburg.eventbrite.com](https://VFW_VA_100_Edinburg.eventbrite.com)

June 3, 2023, State Convention Portsmouth [https://VFW\\_VA\\_100\\_Portsmouth.eventbrite.com](https://VFW_VA_100_Portsmouth.eventbrite.com)

August 26, 2023, Post 8163, Clarksville [https://VFW\\_VA\\_100\\_Clarksville.eventbrite.com](https://VFW_VA_100_Clarksville.eventbrite.com)

September 16, 2023, Post 1264, Roanoke [https://VFW\\_VA\\_100\\_Roanoke.eventbrite.com](https://VFW_VA_100_Roanoke.eventbrite.com)

September 23, 2023, Post 4667, Marion [https://VFW\\_VA\\_100\\_Marion.eventbrite.com](https://VFW_VA_100_Marion.eventbrite.com)





Limited Edition

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia

Centennial Anniversary KA-BAR Knife

Celebrating 100 years  
Only 100 made  
\$100 each



To get yours contact State Headquarters.

(540) 886-8112

Shipping Charges may apply.

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

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

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

If you are interested in learning more about what it takes to become a Cootie reach out to [grandcdr@vfwva.org](mailto:grandcdr@vfwva.org).

**"Neb"**

***Ben Guinan***

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





Charles H. Bush, Jr.

### **Candidate for the High Office of VFW State Surgeon 2023-24**

Comrades, my name is Charles Bush, and I am running for State Surgeon. With your help, I want to bring learning, knowledge, recognition, and creditability to each position. I'm passionate about supporting our veterans, impacting our communities with good deeds, honoring our teachers and educators, engaging with our first responders, and encouraging youth activities by setting the example of a good American to all.

My goals are to continue improving our work on the business and administration side of our organization, grow membership and find a way to improve membership retention (I think we are missing out on grooming our next set of VFW leaders). Continue to make the VFW a strong voice for veterans. Create a strategic plan to visualize these goals along with your feedback, comments, and support. On the VFW membership side, embrace the family culture by enhancing members' experiences through recognition and increased learning. We, the VFW family, can uphold the VFW's outstanding achievements of the past with future process improvements.

My eligibility includes joining the Marine Corps and serving two combat tours, Desert Storm/Desert Shield in 1990 and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) in 2003, also deployments in South Korea.

My qualification includes joining the VFW organization as a Life Member in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, in 1997 while on active duty, transferring to Post 3103 Fredericksburg in 2009, and being appointed as the Senior Vice Commander pro temp in 2009 and elected to Post Commander in 2010-2011. Served on the District Eight Staff for over eight years, designated as the Inspector, and elected JVC, SVC. I was elected District 8 Commander and achieved All-State and All-American District Commander as District Commander for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. In 2019 all five posts made 100% membership, and two of five posts made All-American and All-State.

I'm currently serving as the State Inspector. In my positions working with the Posts, Districts, and the State, I have accumulated experience in the business of the VFW. I am ready to serve my comrades at the state surgeon level.

I am a learning member of the State Resolution Committee and the current President of the Commanders Club. I am also a member of the Past Post Commanders Council for Post 3103.

I'm currently employed by the Marine Corps Systems Command as a civilian employee since 2012, working in Acquisition Logistics. My wife Danielle is also a veteran and lifetime member of VFW Post 3103.

Born and raised in Mobile, Alabama (LA Lower Alabama), and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps from June 1981 until July 2011. With over 30 years of active duty military service and achieved the highest enlisted technical rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant/E-9 (MGySgt) in the Tactical Field and Garrison Communications MOS, starting as a basic field wireman to Communications Chief.

My father was Army Vietnam Veteran Airborne; my grandfathers were Veterans, and eight great uncles joined the military. I grew up around veterans and enjoyed the benefits as a dependent of a 100% disabled veteran (father). Now I have the opportunity to serve as a veteran in this organization. Together, Let's keep moving forward!

In Peace and Comradeship, Charles Bush, 540.907.5292 (cell), [charlesbush2259@gmail.com](mailto:charlesbush2259@gmail.com).