



Typhoon Newsletter

Department of Pacific Areas, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



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FREE

“GET IT DONE”

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REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

<http://www.vfwdeptpacific.org/index.php/registration>

Inputs for the April Typhoon
Are due on 05 April 2019.



Department Officer's Comments & Department Committee Reports

From the Commander:

Comrades,

The Department of Pacific Areas membership program continues to move steadily forward. As of this writing – the DPA stands at 11,877 members or 101.09%. We have 20 Posts and 5 Districts that are at or over 100%. Keep working towards your All-State and All-American requirements. Make sure you stay in touch with SVC Farris and submit your completed requirements to the various DPA Program Chairs. You are on track to “smash” our previous records in almost all areas. Our Posts are doing an excellent job - we have 12 Posts who are in the running for All-American and an additional 10 who are on track for All-State.



Just returned from the Legislative Conference in Washington DC. Our representative for the VOD Award (Amaya R. Peruccio) represented us extremely well. She is an amazing young woman with a highly motivated approach to life. I was proud to escort her at the VOD Parade of Winners on Monday 4 March 2019. She has a bright future and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

The DPA Convention Registration is up and running on the DPA Website. Please go online and register as soon as possible. The Convention Committee is working extremely hard to ensure that you have an enjoyable time. In order to do that – they need to know the number of people attending, the number of meals required and the size and number of shirts you wish to order. Finally, flight bookings will be filling up fast. So get your airline tickets early.

The VFW National Convention Housing Registration had a minor glitch for the first few days after it opened. These were resolved a couple of days later and all is working well now. There is so much to do in Orlando. Minda and I spent 3.5 years there and still did not have enough time to see it all. Hope to see a big turn-out from the DPA this year!

Most Posts and Districts should have all of their requirements completed except CSRs and Financial Audits. Keep working to complete these – suspense for the CSR Report is 30 April 2019. Remember each Post must have at least 3 CSRs per month. If you missed a couple during the year you can go back and catch up. The majority of the time – Posts had many reports that were done but never reported. Audits should be submitted to the DPA Quartermaster as soon as possible after they are completed.

You can contact me anytime by email or F/B Messenger if you have questions or you just need to talk with me. Have a safe and prosperous New Year! Please keep working hard and let's continue to “GET IT DONE”.

Team DPA Rocks!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Michael R. (Mike) Verville
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas – 2018/2019

“GET IT DONE”

From the Senior Vice Commander:

Comrades,

In February I visited District 4 and Post 9957 in Taipei. This was my first time in Taiwan in almost 40 years, so it was a real pleasure for me. Between those physically present, and those on Skype, they had a real nice showing for their meeting. The advances in technology have made a real difference in enabling those to attend, that would not physically be able to. Look into utilizing this at your Post meetings.

On the membership front, as of March 4th, we are at 100.9%, having broken through the magic 100% mark earlier this month. Fantastic job to all of you recruiters out there. I would expect us to hit that in the next two weeks.

On the Veteran's Assistance front, I have enough funding for 4 more requests, having helped out 16 this year.

Included in this report is the status board for All-State. Keep in mind, this is based on the most accurate information I have as of this writing. If you know for a fact, you have completed an item I have marked as incomplete, get in touch with that committee chairman, and they will contact me. We have numerous Posts that are complete with the exception of the CSRs for March and April, and April's quarterly audit. Please keep in mind, Columns Weekly, Homecoming, and AAU, you only have to complete one of them. Very nice work by all in getting these requirements done.

VFW Nat'l now has a dashboard for keeping track of All-American status, and it is now running pretty good. Track your progress for A/A there.

I'll be heading to Kansas City early next month for SVC Training, so my report will be in early.

Until next month.

Yours in Comradeship,

Rick Farris,
Senior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
svcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org



MEMSTATS as of FEB 4, 2019

Post	Dst	Life	New	Rein	Cont	Total	Adjuste	Percent	Div	City	State	N LM	Prior	Retention	N/R %
9723	1	735	2	3	21	761	709	107.33%	2	OKINAWA	JAPAN	4	34	61.76%	1.27%
0	1	735	2	3	21	761	709	107.33%	6			4			1.27%
1054	2	779	4	8	10	801	772	103.75%	1	YOKOSUKA	JAPAN	12	32	46.88%	3.11%
9555	2	365	1	0	6	372	361	103.04%	2	YOKOTA AFB	JAPAN	5	24	20.83%	1.66%
9612	2	510	17	2	19	548	522	104.98%	2	CAMP ZAMA	JAPAN	23	48	47.92%	8.05%
0	2	1654	22	10	35	1721	1655	103.98%	4			40			4.35%

8180	3	1660	93	36	74	1863	2024	92.04%	1	SONGTAN	KOREA	20	392	16.33%	7.36%
9985	3	210	36	3	26	275	273	100.73%	3	TONGDUC	KOREA	2	72	34.72%	15.02%
10033	3	497	6	1	16	520	551	94.37%	2	TAEGU	KOREA	1	50	38.00%	1.45%
10223	3	319	62	1	11	393	354	111.01%	3	CAMP HUM	KORE	29	94	22.34%	25.99%
12147	3	191	55	2	9	257	236	108.89%	4	SEONGNAI	KOREA	17	74	20.27%	31.36%
0	3	2877	252	43	136	3308	3438	96.21%	2			69			10.59%
9957	4	391	0	0	0	391	359	108.91%	2	TAIPEI	TAIWAN	0	11	90.91%	0.00%
0	4	391	0	0	0	391	359	108.91%	6			0			0.00%
9876	5	353	9	2	23	387	402	96.26%	2	PATTAYA C	THAILA	4	45	57.78%	3.73%
9951	5	226	5	1	13	245	248	98.79%	3	BANGKOK	THAILAND	4	25	60.00%	4.03%
10217	5	140	3	0	9	152	142	107.04%	6	KORAT AF	THAIL	1	16	62.50%	2.82%
10249	5	235	3	0	18	256	251	101.99%	3	UDORN	THAILAND	2	29	89.66%	1.99%
11575	5	106	4	0	14	124	121	102.47%	6	PHNOM PE	CAMBODI	0	21	76.19%	3.31%
12074	5	95	3	0	7	105	106	99.05%	7	CHIANG M	THAILAND	3	14	50.00%	5.66%
12146	5	191	2	1	7	201	163	123.31%	5	BAN CHAN	RAYONG	21	14	57.14%	14.72%
12163	5	42	1	0	3	46	42	109.52%	10	PERTH	AUSTR	6	10	40.00%	16.67%
0	5	1388	30	4	94	1516	1475	102.77%	4			41			5.08%
1509	6	332	0	0	7	339	358	94.69%	2	YIGO	GUAM	2	32	28.13%	0.56%
2917	6	197	5	0	9	211	233	90.55%	4	AGAT	GU	5	46	23.91%	4.29%
3457	6	281	5	1	12	299	284	105.28%	3	SAIPAN	CNMI	26	39	48.72%	11.27%
0	6	810	10	1	28	849	875	97.02%	6			33			5.03%
124	7	196	0	0	0	196	177	110.73%	5	BAGUIO C	PHILIPPI	22	1	100.00%	12.43%
2485	7	1633	16	1	38	1688	1665	101.38%	1	ANGELES C	PHILIP	29	75	68.00%	2.76%
9892	7	240	0	0	1	241	233	103.43%	4	BAUANG	LA UNION	2	4	50.00%	0.86%
11447	7	521	7	3	8	539	483	111.59%	2	SUBIC BAY	PHILIPPIN	35	21	100.00%	9.32%
12130	7	74	0	0	9	83	117	70.94%	6	CEBU	PHILIPPIN	6	50	26.00%	5.13%
0	7	2664	23	4	56	2747	2675	102.69%	3			94			4.52%
15055	99	522	10	2	27	561	562	99.82%	2	PACIFIC AF	PI	11			4.09%
0	99	522	10	2	27	561	562	99.82%	6			11			4.09%
0	255	11041	349	67	397	11854	11748	100.90%				292			6.03%

All-State Requirements

Post/District	Membership	Legacy	Insp	QMB	SO	Audit	CSR	VPT	BP	Week	WelcomeH	AAU	NH	VMS	TRNG	FB/Web	Complete
D1																	
9723		1															
D2																	
1054		1U															
9555																	
9612		2U															
D3																	
8180		2															
9985		1															
10033																	
10223		1+1U															
12147		1															
D4																	
9957																	
D5																	
9876																	
9951																	
10217		1															
10249		1															
11575		1															
12074		1															
12146		3+3U															
12163		1															
D6																	
1509																	
2917																	
3457		1U															
D7																	
124		1															
2485		2+2U															
9892		1U															
11447		1U															
12130																	
<div> <div>Complete</div> <div>On Track, not complete</div> <div>Delinquent</div> <div>Missing entries</div> </div>																	

From the Junior Vice Commander:

Greetings Comrades,

As we head into the last quarter of this term, it's time to recognize those members who have contributed their time and energy to the success of your post.

Please submit your nominations for the Outstanding Awards Program to your District Commander NLT 15 March. There are nine Outstanding Awards. The categories are available under forms on the DPA website and through your District Commander.



In addition to the above there is the National Outstanding Community Service Post nomination that is due to your District Commander NLT 25 March.

The Outstanding Community Service Post is a National program that recognizes Posts who have done an outstanding job in serving their local community through VFW programs. We are looking to recognize one Post that performed a community service project that had a significant impact on the community and demonstrated a positive involvement of the VFW within that community. The project should have an unusually profound affect on their community. In addition, the winning Post will have demonstrated a commitment to the National organization by submitting a high level of appropriate Community Service Reports (CSRs).

The selected DPA post will be recognized and awarded by National. Specifically they will receive the following:

- National Plaque recognizing the Post will be presented at a reception. Group photograph with Commander-in-Chief will be sent to each Post.
- Reserved seating at Joint Opening Ceremony.
- Post will be listed and recognized in the National Convention Booklet.
- Post Quartermaster will receive \$599 stipend check to disburse to their Representative to assist with some Convention expenses.
- Post Representative will receive a Recognition Street Sign.

Further information on the Awards program is available through your District Commander.

In addition to awards, remember we have two months remaining to update your CSRs over the past ten months and of course continue reporting your community service. We will be closing out the CSR year on 30 April. The current status of CSRs is listed at the end of this report.

It's been a great year so far let's finish strongly as we recognize our outstanding posts and members and continue to submit reports of our community service via the CSR.

Yours in comradeship, service to veterans, and with best wishes,

Kenneth A. Stein
Junior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

CSR Reports as of 01 March 2019

Post	Dist	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
9723	1	13	13	11	15	14	15	10	12	14	13	0	0	130
1054	2	16	9	17	10	8	10	31	19	8	16	0	0	144
9555		24	18	16	18	17	16	19	15	14	1	0	0	158
9612		10	11	7	7	33	61	32	23	17	12	0	0	213
8180	3	18	18	28	22	29	11	22	5	4	18	0	0	175
9985		18	12	7	12	8	7	10	11	10	4	0	0	99
10033		3	4	3	4	0	3	5	3	3	3	0	0	31
10223		8	15	10	8	11	8	9	2	6	9	0	0	86
12147		4	3	8	6	7	10	15	15	8	11	0	0	87
9957	4	5	0	0	2	1	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	18
9876	5	13	29	52	15	23	18	11	6	12	9	0	0	188
9951		20	21	21	25	22	31	21	13	16	0	0	0	190
10217		17	31	27	31	20	22	28	31	27	37	0	0	271
10249		10	6	8	9	6	6	10	8	4	5	0	0	72
11575		3	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	0	0	32
12074		8	10	12	11	17	11	10	8	9	0	0	0	96
12146		11	24	20	36	23	28	31	22	27	30	0	0	252
12163		15	14	16	16	11	14	13	5	13	18	0	0	135
1509	6	7	3	4	3	3	8	3	3	0	0	0	0	34
2917		50	8	11	12	13	21	4	7	9	11	0	0	146
3457		9	6	7	3	8	7	25	19	6	5	0	0	95
124	7	17	10	8	16	22	20	16	13	4	11	0	0	137
2485		141	128	134	122	110	142	128	122	127	111	0	0	1265
9892		60	64	4	65	33	51	37	41	41	38	0	0	434
11447		8	5	4	10	10	3	5	11	3	12	0	0	71
12130		2	2	5	6	3	4	1	3	4	1	0	0	31
Total		510	467	443	488	455	539	500	420	390	378	0	0	4590

From the Junior Past Department Commander:

Comrades,

The Department is now well over 100% in membership and Chairmen are reporting completion of all National Program requirements for both Posts and Districts. Your hard work and dedication to the goals of the VFW have enabled us to build our organization and to assist active duty, veterans, families, and our communities. We should achieve a long time goal of 12,000 members in the Department this year with a high percentage of Life members. A great way to close out the year.



I have mentioned this concern several times, but it bears repeating as we approach elections for the coming VFW year. No organization in the world does a better job of identifying, training, developing and mentoring future leaders at all levels than the US military. We all served in organizations where Officers and NCOs were expected, (or required), to “grow their own replacements”. Unfortunately, these lessons have been forgotten in many VFW Posts and Districts, and we key on filling blanks on the Election Report. Please reflect on this and work to prepare and move the best into leadership positions and groom them to move up. This is the only way we can grow as an organization and continue our tradition of service.

REMINDER: Our Service Officers at all levels devote their time and expertise to assisting our membership, active duty, and other veterans and families and perform a most important part of our mission. Unfortunately, much of their time is wasted on unnecessary actions or “self-inflicted wounds”, such as missed communication or appointments, failure to respond to VA communication, or near daily requests for updated claim status. Please take responsibility to have current contact information on file with the VA and to respond to all VA correspondence if required. As many have noted, the VA will suspend payment in cases of missed suspense.

If I can be of assistance, please contact me at pdcgilbert@vfwdeptpacific.org

Yours in Comradeship & Service,

John Gilbert
Junior Past Department Commander
Department of Pacific Areas

Get It Done!

From the Chief of Staff:

Hello Comrades,

We are having a great VFW year! Thank you for your outstanding work. Don't stop now. Almost every Post in Department is close to making All State this year. I as that Post Commanders and Quartermasters check the Dashboard on vfw.org. This will show you which area's still need to be reported.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson
Chief of Staff
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Adjutant:

Greetings,

I would like to call your attention to Sec. 222 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, specifically the Manual of Procedure, "Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions".

I have copied and pasted the specific paragraph below:

Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31st.

Delegates shall not be recognized at the National Convention unless they personally register their completed delegate card with the National Credentials Committee.

Posts instituted after delegate strength has been determined, but prior to convening date of the respective convention or district meeting, shall on the day of institution, elect one delegate and one alternate for each thirty names or fraction thereof according to the number of names listed on the charter application.

Please note that delegates for District and Department Conventions are to be elected at a regular Post meeting in April. Following your election of Post delegates, please forward your delegate letter, for the Department of Pacific Areas Convention, to me at: adjdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org.

Thank you.

Jerry Chaplin
Adjutant



From the Chaplain:

Comrades,

I hope everyone has a safe Holiday Season since the last holiday was President's Day. Our next major holiday is not for another three months (Memorial Day).

For those who does not received the VFW Calendar, let's remember the following dates:

- 19 Mar 2003 – Iraq War Began
- 24 Mar 1999 – Kosovo Campaign Began
- 29 Mar - National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- 31 Mar 1995 – Somalia Campaign Ended

Pray for those who made the ultimate sacrifice during these eventful days. Let's pray that we can continue to live in peace and harmony around the world.

Post Commanders and Chaplains Report any fatalities to me at the below email address:
Contact Info: davisronald738@gmail.com .

Ron Davis
Chaplain, DPA



From the Quartermaster:

Comrades,

With Post and District elections only a month away, I'd like to present a reminder to units considering electing a new Quartermaster. Please note that the current Quartermaster needs to serve out his term through the end of June. In July, the new QM will be given access to the online tools from National that he needs to submit members and conduct other QM business. Too many times the outgoing QM walks away from his duties, leaving the Post or District in a bind for a month or two. Try to avoid this situation.



Also, the current QM needs to submit the Election Report to National as well as sending in the registration information for at least one member for the National Convention, whether or not anyone from the Post is attending. And the current Adjutant should complete General Order #1 and submit it to the Department Adjutant. This allows for a smooth transition into the next VFW year.

The Department Convention Registration page is now active on the Department's website. You'll notice a few differences from previous years. We're asking you to provide incoming and outgoing flight information so we can provide free transportation from the airport to the hotel and back to the airport. Please be advised that the airport still has no operable jetways, and stairs are being used to enplane and deplane. I believe this will still be the case in June. Ground personnel are very accommodating in helping passengers up and down the stairs.

The first page of the registration is self-explanatory. If you wish to have a non-smoking room, please indicate that in the "Special Requests" box. The second part of the registration process is the "SHIRT/Activities" page found at the top of page 1. Here you can order a convention shirt and indicate if you are interested in any of the extra activities we're planning to offer. This page needs to be downloaded and emailed to convention@vfwdeptpacific.org. The activities are still in the planning stage, and will be finalized once enough interest is shown. Golf should cost about \$35 for green fees + cart. Shoes and clubs will be extra. The submarine tour of our lagoon is a special event for our group only. The cost is unknown until we get a good count of folks going. The historical tour is free. The Managaha trip is for spouses and kids while our meetings are in progress. Managaha is a small island inside the Saipan lagoon. It has pristine beaches and a very relaxing atmosphere – no cars, no roads, no shopping. Just sun and surf. Transportation to and from the island is by boat, and we are hoping to get free passes for those wishing to go.

The hotel's FAQ page is here: <https://www.fiestasaipan.com/resort-faqs/>

The Convention Book will go to print in the first week of May, so please get your convention book ads in as soon as you have them ready. You can pay for them at the convention if you wish.

Have an outstanding March and keep those Life Members rolling in.

Yours in Comradeship,

Pete Callaghan
Quartermaster
Department of Pacific Areas



2018-2019 POST AND DISTRICT AUDITS/POPPIES/QM BONDS

AUDITS SUBMITTED	JUNE '18	SEP '18	DEC '18	MAR '19	BUDDY POPPIES ORDERED '18-'19	QM BOND ORDERED 2018-'19
9723	X	X	X		\$116/1,000	\$100/\$40,000 Pd F*
District I	X	X	X		X	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd F*
1054	X	X	X		\$174/1,500	\$125/\$50,000 Pd F*
9555	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$75/\$30,000 Pd F*
9612	X	X			\$58/500	\$65/\$26,000 Pd F*
District II	X	X	X		X	\$17.50/\$5,000 Pd F*
8180	X	X	X		\$116/1,000	\$70/\$28,000 Pd F*
9985	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$65/\$26,000 Pd F*
10033	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$70/\$28,000 Pd F*
10223	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$100/\$40,000 Pd F*
12147	X	X			\$58/500	\$35/\$10,000 Pd F*
District III	X	X			X	\$17.50/\$5,000 Pd F*
9957	X	X			\$58/500	\$75/\$30,000 Pd F*
District IV	X	X			X	\$52.50/\$15,000 F*
9876	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$125/\$50,000 Pd F*
9951	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$35/\$10,000 Pd F*
10217	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$42/\$12,000 Pd F*
10249	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd F*
11575	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$17.50/\$5,000 Pd F*
12074	X	X			\$58/500	\$42/\$12,000 Pd F*
12146	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$125/\$50,000 Pd F*
12163	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd F*
District V	X	X	X		X	\$59.50/\$17,000 Pd F*
1509					\$58/500	\$175/\$70,000 Pd F*
2917	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$65/\$26,000 Pd F*
3457	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$65/\$26,000 Pd F*
District VI	X	X	X		X	\$10.50/\$3,000 F*
124	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$49/\$14,000 Pd F*
2485	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$400/\$160,000 Pd F*
9892	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$42/\$12,000 Pd F*
11447	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$31.50/\$9,000 Pd F*
12130	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$17.50/\$5,000 Pd F*
District VII	X	X	X		X	\$10.50/\$3,000
*F = Bond application form received.						

From the Judge Advocate:

Comrades,

In this month's issue I will discuss policy and procedures that pertain to delegates to District Convention-meetings and the Department Convention. Also, will render a heads up on office reelection installation prior to the Department Convention and end my article with notice concerning election reports.

Delegates for Conventions & Meetings

The following are some questions with answers and comments that concern delegates to both the District Convention / meetings and Department Convention ~

Question: How many members can one delegate or alternate represent for a Post in the District election?

Answer: Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing in a Post.

Comments: The below references will explain the answer.

□ Refer to National Manual Sec. 222 – Delegates, paragraph (a), where the Post delegates and alternates to the District shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District Convention with one delegate and alternate for each thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election. The District QM shall verify the delegate strength of each Post using the month-end membership report immediately prior to the convening of the convention.

□ Refer to National By-Laws, Sec. 421 – Voting, and you will see each delegate shall have one vote only and may vote his share of delegate strength at a District Convention or meeting. E.g., if the prior month ending Post membership was 195 members then the Post delegate strength would be $195 \div 30 = 7$ delegate strength. The Post then elects its delegates at a regular meeting at least thirty (30) days prior to the District Convention and writes a letter signed by the Post Commander indicating names of delegates (1 to 7 names) and alternates as deemed necessary. The letter is then submitted to the District Adjutant in a timely manner and updated when necessary during the ensuing year. If only one delegate is present at a meeting / convention they may cast one vote with delegate strength of 7. Should more delegates be present they would cast pro-rata share of the total voting strength.

Note: For the purpose of Sec. 421 the Post Commander shall be considered a delegate.

Question: Can one delegate vote the entire Post delegate strength?

Answer: Yes, see the above references and comment hereto.

Comment: Refer to National By-Law, Sec. 421 – Voting, where it states; "The delegate or delegates of a Post present at a District Convention or meeting shall be entitled to vote the full delegate strength to which the Post is entitled".

Question: If I'm the only Post member at a District Convention or meeting, can I vote?

Answer: Yes, as long as, a signed delegate letter has been submitted to the District indicating that you are a delegate or alternate.

Question: Can a Post Commander at the Department Convention vote a pro rata share of the Post delegate strength?

Answer: Yes, a Post Commander has the option to vote as a delegate rather than Post Commander, but not both.

Comment: Refer to National By-Laws, 521 – Voting. The Post Commander, or the SVC or JVC Commander functioning in his place as a member of the Convention, may at his option, choose to vote as a delegate rather than as a Post Commander.



Question: Are there any differences between policy and procedures concerning delegates for District Convention / meetings and a Department Convention?

Answer: There is not much difference in the National By-Laws and Manual, Sec. 222, paragraphs (a) and (b), as the policy and procedure are similar indicating both requiring Posts to elect delegates and alternates not less than thirty (30) days prior to convention, with one delegate and alternate for each thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of election.

Comment: The only difference is that Department By-Laws, Section 403 – Delegates, does indicate Posts in attendance at a Department Convention shall pay a Per Capita Tax (delegate registration fee) of \$6 per authorized vote (delegate strength based on 30 members) prior to voting. This tax will be submitted with a delegate letter prior to or at the Convention.

Heads Up – Post Installation

This is a reminder to Posts that current policy pursuant to National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure indicates that an officer-elect needs to be installed prior to the Department Convention. Please review the following section from the Manual of Procedures:

Sec. 217-- Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office. (Manual)

Installation of Officers. The Post Commander-elect will select the installing officer who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of Post Commander. Post officers shall be installed in their respective offices prior to the convening of the Department Convention, but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed. The installation may be conducted publicly at an open meeting.

An officer-elect who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause may be installed at any regular or special meeting prior to the Department convention. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant.

Comment: In the aforementioned paragraph an officer-elect if not installed prior to the Convention will have to go through the process again of nomination, election and be duly installed at a regular or special meeting.

Election Reports

Report of Elections 2019-2020 should be submitted in a timely manner as follows:

- ☐ Posts – June 1st National and copy to Department and District.
- ☐ Districts – Prior to convening of the Department Convention and National.
- ☐ Department – Prior to convening the National Convention.

This concludes my article for this month and if you have any questions concerning the by-laws and procedures please feel free to contact me at: advdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org

Yours in comradeship,

Robert MO Moses
Judge Advocate
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Inspector:

Comrades,

I want to congratulate all Posts and Districts in completing their inspections. The Department of Pacific Areas is now 100% completed for the 2018-2019 year. Thank you all Comrades, for your hard work and due diligence.



District/Post	Received Date	Notes
District I	16-Sep-18	Completed
9723	16-Sep-18	Completed
District II	09-Sep-18	Completed
1054	09-Sep	Completed
9555	06-Oct-18	Completed
9612	28-Oct-18	Completed
District III	01-Nov-18	Completed
8180	20-Oct-18	Completed
9985	01-Nov-18	Completed
10033	18-Aug-18	Completed
10223	14-Jul-18	Completed
12147	01-Dec-18	Completed
District IV	Feb-19	Completed
9957	19-Feb	Completed
District V	18-Aug-18	Completed
9876	09-Oct-18	completed
9951	13-Oct-18	completed
10217	13-Aug-18	Completed
10249	14-Nov-18	Completed
11575	24-Sep-18	Completed
12074	18-Sep-18	Completed
12146	18-Sep-18	Completed
12163	22-Nov-18	Completed
District VI	10-Oct-18	Completed
1509	20-Oct	Completed
2917	09-Oct-18	Completed
3457	10-Oct-18	Completed
District VII	01-Nov-18	completed
124	29-Oct-18	Completed
2485	01-Dec-18	completed
9892	13-Oct-18	Completed
11447	12-Sep-18	Completed
12130	13-Jan-18	Completed

Yours in Comradeship,

Bill Bradford
Department Inspector
Department of Pacific Areas

From the Surgeon:

Don't Worry- Be Happy

In my February report ([fb.com/groups/dpasurgeons/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/dpasurgeons/)), I mentioned the health benefits of positive thinking and out of hundreds of suggestions to cultivate positive thinking skills, this month I'd like to share four:

Smile

In a study, people who smiled (or even fake-smiled) while doing a stressful task felt more positive afterward than those who wore a neutral expression. Feel-good neurotransmitters- dopamine, endorphins and serotonin -are all released when a smile flashes across your face. You'll benefit more if the smile is genuine though so look for humor and spend time with people or things that make you smile or laugh.



Surround yourself with positive people

In every Post Home and Canteen, there are positive people and negative people. Happiness is contagious and one of the best ways to find happiness is to find those who know how to nurture and create their own happiness, and share it freely. Spend time around these people and you'll find yourself seeing the world differently. Less complaining is good for everyone. We all have our struggles but isn't it refreshing to spend time with people who don't waste time and energy complaining? You can almost feel your spirits lifting around someone who is willing to see the good in things.

Focus on the present

I'm talking about the present—not today, not this hour, only this exact moment. You might have disagreement with a comrade, but what in this exact moment is happening that's so bad? Forget the comment he made five minutes ago. Forget what he might say five minutes from now. Focus on this one, individual moment. In most situations, you'll find it's not as bad as you imagine it to be. Most sources of negativity stem from a memory of a recent event or the exaggerated imagination of a potential future event. Stay in the present moment.

Practice Gratitude

Gratitude is when we feel or express thankfulness for the people, things, and experiences we have. I'll be the first to admit that there are a lot of things to be angry, sad, or anxious about. But the truth is that there is also an infinite number of things to feel passionate, joyful, and excited about. It's up to us to decide which things, the positive or the negative, we want to focus on. One way to train your brain to focus more on the positive things in life is to practice gratitude. When we express gratitude we can more easily gain the respect and camaraderie of those we are with.

Learning how to think positive is not a quick fix, and it is something that may take some time to master. Analyzing your own thinking habits and finding new ways to incorporate a more positive outlook into your life can be a great start toward adopting a more positive thinking approach to life. **Article resources:** webmd.com, berkeleywellbeing.com, happier.com, success.com

Yours in Comradeship & Well-Being,

Brian J. Hamic
Surgeon
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Life Membership Chairman:



Life Membership another new high at 11,042 Lifers on deck. This figure represents 93.11% of total Membership. **GO LIFE!**

For the 2018-2019 year, the Department will provide a free Life Membership or a \$400 stipend for Posts meeting the following criteria:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| A. Posts over 500 Members | Each 10 N/R Life Members recruited |
| B. Posts with 500 Members and under | Each 5 N/R Life Members recruited |
| C. Districts at 100%, a free Life Membership will be awarded. | |
| D. For Posts converting 5 Annual Members to Life Membership, DPA will send the Post \$250 (see DPA Membership Program for details). | |

The following Posts have won DPA paid Life Memberships or \$400 stipends:

Post	Total N/R LM Recruited	Total Awarded
124	21	4 (\$1600)
1054	12	1 (\$400)
2485	30	3 (Life Memberships)
2917	5	1 (\$400)
3457	26	5 (\$2000)
8180	20	2 (\$800)
9555	5	1 (\$400)
9612	23	2 (\$800)
10223	29	5 (\$2000)
11447	35	7 (\$2800)
12146	21	4 (\$1600)
12147	17	3 (\$1200)
12163	6	1 (\$400)

Yours in Comradeship,

Cliff Wilsey,
Life Membership Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas

From the National Home for Children Chairman:



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
Every child deserves a happy family



Comrades,

My deepest appreciation to every one of you that have donated to the National Home this year. This is the first time, to have all the District and Post in the Department of Pacific Areas complete this requirement for their donations to the NH this early.

I would like to thank the all of the District and Post of the Department. The donations to the National Home for Children are at a 100% for 2018-2019 year.

Since we are at 100% I have only posted the DPA Total Donations so far this year.

This report is as of February 28, 2019 as received in from the National Home and Post Quartermasters.

District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated		District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated
Congratulations to All District & Post for making this year's Donation to the National Home for Children						
Dist/Post Total	\$2,085.00	Special Projects		\$6,500.00	Grand Total	\$8,585.00

Check out the National Home for Children by [Click here](#) this link will take you to the News and Photo's as to the happenings with the National Home on their web site.

Comrades, the National Home is requesting Donations to help cover the cost of last week's sever weather. The Arctic blast of this magnitude has many impacts, but the biggest is yet to come – the next electric and gas bill!

Can you make a special gift to help them overcome the unexpected utility costs because of this unprecedented Arctic blast? [Donate to Arctic Blast](#), we can never forget that within our homes are the families of our nation's war heroes.

Please report any and all donations that you make to the National Home to me so they can be recorded and tracked. Email them to nhcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org

The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America's Veterans by helping our nation's veteran and military families during challenging times.

Yours in Comradeship,

Randell E. Himes
nhcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org

From the Legacy Life Membership Chairman:

Comrades,

Posts who have new or upgrade Legacy Members for 2018 - 2019:

9723 - 1 New
1054 - 1 Upgrade
9612 - 2 Upgrades
8180 - 2 New
9985 - 1 New
10223 - 2 New and 1 Upgrade
12147 - 1 New
10217 - 1 New
10249 - 1 New

12074 - 1 New
11575 - 1 New
12146 - 3 New and 3 Upgrade
12163 - 1 New
3457 - 1 Upgrade
124 - 1 New
2485 - 2 New and 2 Upgrade
9892 - 1 Upgrade
11447 - 1 New



If I missed anybody please contact me. bobzaher@gmail.com

Yours in Comradeship,

Bob Zaher
Legacy Life Membership Chairman

From the Americanism and Loyalty Day Chairman:

Comrades,

During the month of March, we will observe the National Vietnam War Veterans Day. National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29 honors the men and women who served and sacrificed during the longest conflict in United States history.

It was on March 29, 1973, when combat and combat support units withdrew from South Vietnam. Generations later, Veterans of this time period are gaining the respect that was not so freely given upon their return. Involving five U.S. presidents, crossing nearly two decades and 500,000 U.S. military personnel, it left an unforgettable mark on the American mind.



Returning Veterans did not always receive respectful welcomes upon their arrival back to American soil. There were 58,000 killed, never to return. National Vietnam War Veterans Day recognize the military service of these men and women who answered the call to service their country when she needed them. They didn't make the decisions to go to war.

On National Vietnam War Veterans Day, we recognize the service and duty rendered by all servicemen and women of this era. Around the country, commemorative events, speeches and luncheons are being held inviting Vietnam Veterans as honored guests.

March is also National Women's History Month. Women have served the United States Military since the Revolutionary War. Today more than 174,000 women serve in the Total Force. Women serve in every career field in the Military, and are critical members of the United States Armed Forces. The VFW is proud of today's women in arms, who serve with distinction and are role models exemplifying the Nation's highest values. Women's History Month stands as a reminder of the strength the Military has gained through a high-quality diverse all-volunteer force.

Thank a Vietnam Veteran!!

Yours in Comradeship,

William Russell
Americanism and Loyalty Chairman

From the Legislative Committee Chairman:

Comrades,

Just a reminder, time is getting close in which to get your post's All-State requirements done, and one of our requirements for All-State and All-American is as follows:

Post participation in one or more of the following activities:

1. Support an ongoing "VFW Action Corps Weekly" registration drive reporting to the Department National Legislative Chairman.
OR
2. Hold a Deployment or Welcome Home event (Department will help fund via the Department Veterans & Military Support Chairman).
OR
3. Adopt a Unit, reporting to the Department Veterans & Military Support Chairman. to either



If it is difficult for your post to hold a Welcome Home Event or Adopt a Unit, then holding a VFW Action Corps Weekly is a simple and relatively easy task to accomplish. Once you complete the drive, please email me at the below email address. Holding the drive is not merely a checkmark, though. The weekly is the best way that we, as VFW members, can keep track of legislative action that matters to the VFW and all vets. So even if your post has completed either of the second two requirements, I urge all posts to still hold their registration drive.

Here are some of the current legislative highlights concerning vets:

1. **VFW to Deliver Veterans' Voices to Congress:** More than 500 VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are arriving in the nation's capital this weekend to urge their respective members of Congress to continue improving the programs and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Highlighting the annual legislative conference will be VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence's testimony Wednesday at 10 a.m. before a special joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs in room G-50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. Topping his list of VFW legislative priorities is passage of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, a call for full congressional oversight over the implementation of the VA Mission Act of 2018 and the combined VA and Defense Department electronic health record initiative. Other priorities include improving burn pits research and accountability, eliminating the so-called "Widow's Tax," allowing military retirees to receive full retirement pay and disability pay without offset, and expanding and improving VA health care and research programs. [Read the VFW's full list of 2019 Priority Goals.](#)
2. **VA Announces Expedited Claims for Purple Heart Veterans at Oversight Hearing:** On Tuesday, Feb 26 Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie and Veterans Health Administration Executive in Charge Dr. Richard Stone testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies on the current improvements to VA customer service, MISSION Act implementation, business transformation, and VA/DOD collaboration. Secretary Wilkie announced that effective in April, VA will provide priority disability benefits claims processing for the initial claims from discharged combat veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal. Wilkie also said that the state of VA is getting stronger, but there is still an enormous amount of work that needs to be done with veterans' homelessness, opioid safety & reduction efforts, and women's health. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#).
3. **New Appeals Process Launched:** VFW Washington Office Executive Director Bob Wallace, National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci, Training & Quality Assurance Manager Lauren Barefoot, and Retired National Veterans Service Director Jerry Manar joined senior VA officials at VA central office for the kickoff of the new and improved appeals process. Starting this week, all veterans who disagree with their VA rating decision will have

three new options to resolve their benefit disputes: request a higher-level review from a more experienced person, submit a supplemental claim with additional evidence, or appeal directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Over the past four years, Mr. Manar and Ms. Barefoot have represented the VFW in negotiations with Congress, VA, and other veterans organizations to craft this new framework. The goal of the new process is to offer veterans greater flexibility and transparency to resolve benefit disputes in a timely manner, instead of waiting years for VA to adjudicate their appeals. The VFW will monitor the implementation and work with VA to resolve any issues that come up. Read more about appeals modernization. For assistance appealing a decision on your benefits claim, contact a highly trained and accredited VFW Service Officer.

4. **Coast Guard to Build New Heavy Icebreakers:** Congress has restored funding for the Coast Guard to begin building its first new heavy icebreaker in 40 years. The funding was part of the \$333 billion spending bill the president signed last week, according to an article in Stars and Stripes. The Coast Guard will receive \$655 million to begin building an icebreaker to replace the aging Polar Star — its only working heavy icebreaker — and \$20 million more to begin buying materials for a second such vessel. "With the support of the administration and Congress, we plan to build a new fleet of six polar icebreakers — at least three of which must be heavy icebreakers — and we need the first new Polar Security Cutter immediately to meet America's needs in the Arctic," the Coast Guard said in a statement to USNI News. The Coast Guard has one operational heavy icebreaker and one that is inoperative. The service also has a medium icebreaker and a research vessel with light ice-breaking ability. This fleet is miniscule compared to Russia's 40 icebreakers. Even China, which aims to create an Arctic trade route known as the "polar silk road," has two heavy icebreakers and plans to acquire more. Read the Stripes article [here](#).
5. **VA to Implement Appeals Modernization Act:** Beginning Feb. 19, all veterans who disagree with their VA rating decision will have three new options to resolve their benefit dispute: request a higher-level review from a more experienced person, submit a supplemental claim with additional evidence, or appeal directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Over the past two years, the VFW worked closely with VA and other veterans' organizations to craft this new framework, which was authorized by the VFW-supported Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017. The goal of the new system is to offer veterans greater flexibility and transparency to resolve benefit disputes in a timely manner, instead of waiting years for VA to adjudicate their appeals. Read more about appeals modernization. For assistance appealing a decision on your benefits claim, contact a highly trained and accredited VFW service officer.

Comrades, this concludes my report on legislative matters concerning veterans. If you have any questions you may contact me at corter79@hotmail.com.

Yours in Comradeship,

Jonathan Brazee
Legislative Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Roving Ambassador:

Greetings Comrades,

Time is flying as we are almost to the end of the first quarter of the New Year!!! Another busy month was just completed by your Roving Ambassador. I was able to attend the D7 Meeting hosted by Post 124 in Baguio. Then like Superman I jumped on a plane and surprised VFW Post 9555 (my home Post) during our Membership Drive which was very successful.

Returning to Angeles at about 0300 on February 18th, I was able to attend Post 9892 member Tom Darkus' Memorial Service at Clark Cemetery. Tom was a long serving member of our Department. I knew and served with him when he served as District 7 Commander and Department Chaplain. I had the privilege to speak to the members who attended as a fellow member of our Department and Past Grand Commander which Tom served as our Chaplain. Others who spoke were Department Commander Verville, D7/Post 124 Commander Alex Fores, Post 9892 Commander Bobby Reyes, and PDC Rhett Webber spoke representing the MOC. Post 2485 Commander Jim Collins officiates the ceremonies because of his position. The Honor Guard is always superb!!! Tom will be missed by all and may you rest in peace Comrade!!!

Also, we have a Department member named Gordy who videotapes the ceremonies at Clark Cemetery. Please go to YouTube and in the search put: "VFW HGR" and for those who missed some past ceremonies, you can review them. Hit the subscribe button and you will receive notifications. Comrade Gordy has done an outstanding job producing the Videos!!!

Comrades the Department has continued to press forward in all Programs and your hard work is very much appreciated. Again, please feel free to contact me at pgcmitchell@vfwdeptpacific.org if I can be of any help.

In closing, please continue to take care of yourselves and your families. May God continue to bless you, your families, and the good ole USA!!

Yours in Comradeship,

Kevin E. Mitchell
Roving Ambassador
Department of Pacific Areas
"Get it Done"



From the Webmaster:

Hello Comrades,

The website is now open for registration for the Department Convention in Saipan. I apologize that it took so long to get up and running. Ran into a few problems getting everything lined up. You will notice that on the top menu of the page, there is a link (shirts/activities), if you want to buy shirts or are interested in side trips during the Convention please fill this form out and email it to the convention chairman at convention@vfwdeptpacific.org.

If you notice any problems with the website please let me know.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson
Webmaster





Letter of Intent – 2019-2020 VFW Year



LETTER OF INTENT SEEKING 2ND TERM AS DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Comrades,

The purpose of this letter is to announce my intent and desire to run for the position of Department of Pacific Areas Chaplain for a 2nd Term (2019-2020). I believe I have all the qualifications to excel in this position and pledge my full commitment. I successfully served as both Post 10216 Commander and 3-time All American District III Commander. I greatly desire to expand my work with the Department believe I will serve you well.

- Currently serving as DPA Chaplain
- Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Past Post Commander and Life member of VFW Post 10216 -- total commitment to the VFW and our cause
- Past 3-Time All American District Commander, Senior Vice Commander of District III Korea; and served with distinction as the Junior Vice Commander
- Served as Department of Pacific Deputy Inspector, Past Department Surgeon and Past Department Chaplain, Past Department Americanism Chairman
- Served on numerous District and Post Committees, to include Youth Activities, Americanism, and House Rules
- Currently serving as Post Quartermaster. Have been All American and All State Quartermaster
- Participated in the Armed Forces Day Parade at Osan and the Korean American friendship festival for the past eighteen years
- Was VFW National Aide-de-Camp 2016-2017 and has been named as VFW National Aide-de-Camp for 2017-2018
- Currently serving as Grand Junior Vice Commander
- Currently serving as Grand and Department Deputy Inspector

If elected, I pledge that I will exert all my efforts in expanding the success of the Department of Pacific. My efforts in both the VFW and Grand have been tireless.

//Original Signed//

Ronald J. Davis
Grand JVC