

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 36, NO. 6

FEB. 2012

S E R V I C E W I T H P R I D E

MEMBERSHIP:

Dues Notices - Just a reminder, the Dues Notice tapes are created on the last Friday of every month.

To prevent dues notices from being sent to those who have already paid, all membership transmittals must be received in the Dues Processing Department no later than noon on the following closing dates:

TRANSMITTAL DEADLINES FOR THE 2011-2012 YEAR:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DEADLINE DATE</u>	<u>(DAY)</u>
FEBRUARY	February 24	(Friday)
MARCH	March 30	(Friday)
APRIL	April 27	(Friday)
MAY	May 25	(Friday)
JUNE	June 29	<u>(FRIDAY - MUST BE</u>

RECEIVED IN DUES PROCESSING BY NOON FOR YEAR END CLOSING)

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:

- **National Membership Program:** The 2011-2012 National Membership program is listed in the Leadership Reference guide. This can be viewed online via the OMS system.
- **Subscription Dues:** The subscription dues program was approved at the National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. The program will not go into effect until January 1, 2014. More information will be released in the coming months.
- **All American Program 2011-2012:** Please review and follow the current requirements for this year's program. The deadlines for this year have changed. The deadline for completion of all criteria is ***June 30, 2012. However, in order to have your awards presented at the National Convention in Reno, all requirements must be met and reported by no later than June 15, 2012.***

NOTE: It is the Department's responsibility to ensure that all program participation is reported to the National Programs department by the deadline. A programs activity report will be sent to all Departments for review, once a month, beginning February 2012. Please review these reports to make sure that you have sent in all of the necessary information on all Posts and Districts. Failure to do so will result in the loss of awards for the participating Post/Districts.

- **Legacy Life Member Contest:**

Department Commanders who increase their Legacy Life members in their Department by May 31, 2012, will receive a \$300 cash award. *****A minimum of one new legacy life member per one thousand members in your Department is needed to qualify.**

District Commanders that increase the legacy life members in their District by May 31, 2012, will receive a \$200 cash award. *****A minimum of one new legacy life member per number of Posts within your District is needed to qualify.**

Post Commanders who sign up new legacy life members by May 31, 2012, will be placed in a drawing and six winners will be selected. *****You will receive one ballot for a new Bronze member, two ballots for new Silver members, three ballots for new Gold members and one ballot for level upgrades.** The six winning Commanders will receive round-trip airfare to the National Convention in Reno, Nevada for the Commander and their spouse, \$500 expense stipend, and special seating at the Joint Opening ceremonies on Monday.

- **Legacy Life Membership:** Please pass the word on our Life Legacy Program available to all Life Members. This program offers three levels of membership each offering its own packages of prestigious 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 (Natl., Dept. & Post):</i>
Gold - \$1200	\$18.00
Silver - \$800	\$12.00
Bronze - \$400	\$6.00

What Legacy will you leave?

Your continued support and cooperation in ensuring that all cards are received in a timely fashion will be greatly appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

“OPERATION FIRST STRIKE” WINNERS:

DAVID REARDEN, COMMANDER
ADAMS-HAMILTON POST 6932 – DEPT. OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Group 1

GERALD PETERSON, COMMANDER
MATTHEW R. HENNIGAN POST 12101 – DEPT. OF NEVADA
Group 2

G. A. WOLUSKY, COMMANDER
MSGT WILLIAM J. CRAWFORD POST 7829 – DEPT. OF COLORADO
Group 3

DARWIN DEMPSEY, COMMANDER
LLOYD R. SMITH POST 10293, DEPT. OF CALIFORNIA
Group 4

“POST NEW & REINSTATED MEMBER CONTEST” WINNERS:

Division 1

76 - TX
1503 - VA
7330 - CT
7686 - NM
9400 - AZ
401 - NM
10692 - EU
1114 - IN
5958 - PA
4548 - AR

Division 2

11160 - TN
3892 - TX
1152 - IN
4300 - FL
3586 - UT
3944 - MO
755 - IL
10281 - KY
1087 - MT
8587 - TX

Division 3

2451 - TX
970 - HI
2394 - MA
924 - AL
2875 - HI
4709 - TX
3911 - FL
10033 - PAC
4248 - OR
805 - IL

Division 4

10276 - HI
9985 - PAC
2738 - ID
2164 - IL
3331 - OH
12057 - LAT
2226 - NJ
7448 - IL
3973 - OR
4321 - FL

Division 5

4572 - AL
3457 - PAC
10454 - TX
3568 - AL
735 - ID
9934 - CA
1598 - OH
8241 - VA
9078 - TX
3292 - HI

Division 6

2214 - AL
2698 - IL
5619 - TX
3337 - LA
9983 - NC
9143 - GA
10427 - TX
4149 - TX
8164 - MA
2410 - TX

Division 7

4918 - UT
5838 - MD
9936 - OH
1487 - CA
1533 - TX
2298 - IL
10215 - PAC
9630 - OH
311 - IL
3467 - OH

Division 8

2830 - CA
10374 - TX
4736 - OH
4890 - OK
4484 - WV

Division 9

5917 - IL
2978 - IL
7539 - IL
3750 - LA
2379 - UT
5412 - VA

Division 10

4835 - IL
12071 - NM
836 - AZ
4595 - WV
9413 - UT
8564 - TX
2528 - NM
10293 - CA
4617 - OR
2850 - OH

Division 11

12107 - NC
11079 - SC
9761 - TX
12075 - TX

Division 12

6395 - UT
7829 - CO

Division 13

6500 - SC
7217 - NH

Division 14

9801 - IL
9632 - AZ
5355 - AL
9835 - VA

Division 15

5811 - WI
7975 - IL
1351 - CA

Division 16

409 - UT
1674 - AR
9248 - WV

Division 17

12101 - NV
12046 - FL

Division 18

7321 - LA
12014 - IL
12061 - UT
9796 – WV

Division 19

12087 - UT

MEMBER BENEFITS:

Car Rental Discounts

Whether it is business or pleasure, receive discounts for car rentals from Hertz, Avis, Alamo, Budget and National:

- Hertz: Call 1-800-654-2200 VFW identification number: **CDP164126**
- Avis: Call 1-800-331-1212 VFW identification number: **A9935000**
- Budget: Call 1-800527-0700 VFW identification number: **V026800**
- Alamo: Call 1-800-732-3232 VFW Identification number: **42592**
- National: Call 1-800-227-7368 and request VFW Contract ID **5180005**

LifeLock – Identity Theft Protection

Protect Your Identity with LifeLock – the VFW-sponsored program that guards against identity theft. Last year, identity theft increased 22% for a five-year high of nearly 10 million victims at a cost of \$48 million. That’s an identity stolen every three seconds. But you don’t have to be next. VFW has partnered with LifeLock to provide you a special savings on LifeLock’s industry-leading identity theft protection service. Don’t wait until it’s too late. Enroll today and you’ll receive a limited-time discount of 10% of the regular membership price. Help protect yourself now. Visit www.lifelock.com or call 1-800-LIFELOCK (1-800-543-3562). Use **promo code “VFW.”**

DISH Network-is proud to support the VFW. As our salute to you, VFW Members receive a \$100 American Express® Prepaid Reward Card when signing up for qualifying packages with a 24-month Agreement. Packages start at just \$19.99/month for 12 months! To learn more about the best value in TV call: 1-888-590-3688 or visit www.dish.com/vfw use **Offer Code 02VFW**.

Already a DISH customer? Refer a friend to DISH and get \$50 off your bill (\$5/mo for 10 months). Visit www.dish.com/refer for more details.

USAA Credit Card & Banking, Investments, and Financial Planning

USAA provides insurance, banking, investment and retirement products and services to 8 million members of the U.S. military and their families. Known for its legendary commitment to its members, USAA is consistently recognized for outstanding service, employee well-being and financial strength. USAA membership is open to all who are serving or have honorably served our nation in the U.S. military – and their families. For information about USAA, or to learn more about membership, call 1-800-274-8839 or visit www.usaa.com/vfw.

Medical Air Services Association (MASA Assist)

MASA is proud to facilitate emergency assistance transportation, by providing Emergency Air Transportation, Helicopter Transportation or Ground Ambulance Transportation services to our

members during anxious times, when life-threatening events happen. These services are invaluable when you or a family member becomes too sick or injured to seek treatment locally. To learn more call: 1-800-423-3226 or visit www.masaassist.com/vfw. Don't forget to mention you are a VFW member.

Hotel Discounts – Wyndham Worldwide Family of Hotels

As a member of the VFW, you will receive up to **20% off** the "Best Available Rates" at participating locations every time you travel. When calling, give the agent the special discount **ID #100000469** at time of booking to receive the discount. Whether you are looking for an upscale hotel, an all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective, we have the right hotel for you...and at the right price. So start saving now. Call our special member benefits hotline and reserve your room today at one of Wyndham's fine hotels. Call 1-877-670-7088 to book your reservation.

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts -- Innovative & upscale hotels and resorts located in the U.S., The Caribbean, Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom and China. Enjoy the good life world-wide; call 1-877-6707088, option #1, for reservation and use **ID #100000469**.

Dell Computer Discounts

To order by phone, members call 1-800-695-8133 and mention **ID# PS30482412**. For posts, call 1-800-695-8133 and mention **ID# PS76832215**.

FromYouFlowers

Choose from over 2,000 exquisite gift items like our bouquet of roses or select any of our florist designed arrangements, all available nationwide for same day delivery. We have confidence your order will always be perfect so we back it with a 100% product and service guarantee. Make someone smile today—send Flowers!!!! **SAVE 20%** on all regularly priced floral and gift items with FromYouFlowers. Simply visit www.fromyouflowers.com/vfw or call 1-800-838-8853 and mention **code 81Y**. *We also deliver to over 140 Countries!*

1-800-Flowers/1-800-Baskets

We are pleased to partner with the VFW- Veterans of Foreign Wars, giving all members the opportunity to **SAVE 15%** off products with national and international delivery. Simply use **PROMOTION CODE: VFW** at check out on the web or on the telephone with one of our Gift Advisors. Visit www.1800flowers.com, www.1800baskets.com or call 1-800-356-9377.

eKnowledge SAT/ACT testing preparation materials

Big discount of **75%-90%** is being offered by eKnowledge on their acclaimed SAT/ACT testing products such as DVD programs, software and books. These materials help students prepare for their college entrance exams and will potentially increase confidence which can result in higher test scores, scholarships and acceptance into the college of their choice. Open to VFW members, employees, relatives and dependants. To order, visit www.eKnowledge.com/vfw or call: 1-951-256-4076.

Save with Sprint!

Switch to Sprint cellular service and save! Sprint has joined with the VFW to offer members, employees and their families several incentives with the purchase of a new wireless device and subscription through this exclusive program. Not only will you receive a **15%** monthly discount on your cell phone service, but you will also receive additional gift cards or accessories with your order.

Already a Sprint customer? Refer another member who signs up for new service and receive a \$25 prepaid debit card. To find out more, call 1-866-639-8354 or visit www.sprint.com/vfw.

Veterans Travel Service, Inc., – a VFW member benefit worth remembering!

If you are planning a trip, whether it is for business or personal, one of the member benefits is just a phone call away. Veterans Travel Service, Inc. has been working with VFW members since 1986 and

can handle all your travel needs. They are experienced in every area of travel. It could be for a tour, cruise or vacation package. You receive a VFW rebate when booking with Veterans Travel Service. If you need help with airline tickets, their expertise might be the ticket you need; although they charge service fees, the savings will usually far outweigh the cost of the fee. So if you're travelling soon, call them at 1-800-325-9377. They are located in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Headquarters, and their personal service is something to be appreciated these days!

Veterans Care Plus (VCP)

Diabetes Care management, Hearing Aid program, Drug Savings program and US Vision plan. To find out more, call: 1-877-252-0970 or visit www.veteranscareplus.com. Don't forget to mention you are a VFW member.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:

MetLife Dental Insurance

Maximize the value from your VFW membership with Dental Insurance from MetLife. VFW has selected MetLife because of their 140+ years' experience in the insurance business, extensive group benefits expertise and high-quality service. Visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/Dental.html> or call 1-877-627-5897 for more information.

VFW Sponsored Universal Life Insurance

Our exclusive coverage for VFW members offers up to \$1,000,000 of coverage for members and their spouses. Transamerica Life Insurance Company's TransTerm(SM) universal life insurance policy can help you plan for the unexpected. As a benefit, the VFW has secured an opportunity for you to receive a free quote from TransTerm(SM.)

Options and Features for Greater Savings and Protection:

- **Competitive Premiums.** You can select from a variety of planned initial level premium periods: 10, 15, 20, 25, or 30 years.
- **Higher Issue Ages.** With TransTerm(SM) a 65-year-old applicant can secure a policy with a 30-year planned initial level premium period.
- **Lower Coverage Amounts.** TransTerm(SM) offers policies from \$25,000. These smaller amounts are ideal for final expenses. Coverage amounts up to \$1,000,000 are available.
- **Accelerated Death Benefit.** In the event of a terminal illness, this benefit can be used to help pay medical and living expenses.

For more information, please visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/transtermlife.htm> or call 1-866-729-5251.

VFW Insurance

For information about various insurance plans sponsored by VFW National, please visit www.vfwinsurance.com.

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

Legislative Conference/Sr. Vice Commanders Meeting-NMS Check Presentation

The check presentation will be on **Monday, March 5, 2012 at 3:00 P.M.** when Commander-in-Chief DeNoyer meets with the Department Commanders. It is preferred all donations be made to NMS so the funds can be used where needed the most.

Remember, a donation to NMS is required for All-American.

Please let Linda Ferguson (lferguson@vfw.org) know if your department will be presenting a check at the conference.

Don't Forget...

February 12th-18th is ***National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans*** week. Request Virtual PINs for your VA and nursing home visits today and they will be emailed for easy distribution. Contact Darcie at 816-968-1155 for any questions.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

VFW Releases 2012 Legislative Priority Goals—The VFW's 2012 legislative priority goals are now available for download on the VFW website. The brochure lists critical areas that VFW believes must be addressed by Congress and the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense and Homeland Security. The priority goals include creating, improving or protecting services and programs provided to America's veterans, service members and their families, as well as advocating for secure borders and shorelines. Also included is the "10 for 10" plan, which are 10 services and benefits that VFW believes may be eliminated or reduced to help pay for 10 years of war. To download your copy of the VFW's 2012 priority goals go to:

http://stage.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/VFW_in_DC/2012%20Priority%20Goals%20Brochure.PDF.

To sign up for our weekly e-newsletter - always the best way to stay on top of everything happening in Washington, DC go to www.vfw.org/weekly.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Please remember VFW depends on your donations which cover 87% of the expenses for all VFW's life changing programs.

VFW National Veterans Service needs Your Support in 2012 – Nearly 40,000 troops have recently returned to American soil from Iraq, with thousands more expected home from Afghanistan in the months ahead. Your support is urgently needed for the 2012 NVS Annual Campaign, so we can help America's newest veterans — and those of all wars — receive the benefits they have earned. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created an unprecedented demand for VFW's programs. Veterans need our help securing the entitlements they were promised by our government. Help ensure we have the resources needed to meet the increasing demand by supporting the 2012 NVS Annual Campaign. Also, watch for the latest Supporter Quarterly Newsletter to arrive this month.

Helping the VFW for Generations to Come – Since you first started working, you've been regularly reminded of the importance of saving for retirement. Now you may find that your retirement savings are more than adequate. Because retirement plans are taxed differently than most assets, they may actually become a tax liability. Donating all or a part of a retirement plan to the VFW after your lifetime may be an attractive option for leaving a legacy and reducing income and estate taxes.

To complete the gift, simply ask your administrator for a Beneficiary Designation Form and include the VFW as a partial or full beneficiary. Beneficiary forms are often available online from your plan provider or check your statement for an 800# to call. Use the following language on the beneficiary designation form: Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Tax ID 44-0474290, with principle offices at 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

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

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

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

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of VFW’s online community, visit www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom to sign up. Members of this special online community will receive a monthly e-newsletter with new grassroots stories about VFW out in the communities assisting veterans in need, educating the youth, and military families across the nation and overseas. These stories can also be found by visiting www.vfw.org/vfwatwork. Check back often to see newly posted stories! Also, as a member of VFW’s Friends of Freedom, you will receive special e-mails with breaking VFW news, and special opportunities to help VFW in assisting our nation’s veterans, service members and their families.

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

PROGRAMS:

VFW Posts and Auxiliaries reported donating over 3.4 million volunteer hours and over \$18 million towards community service work from May 1 to October 31, 2011. The total value of our volunteers’ efforts is valued at over \$92 million.

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military Service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (Left to Right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and then Coast Guard. For Military flags, click here: <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22300>.

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 Chairman and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the 2011 – 2012 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Guide.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2012–2013 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief John E. Hamilton. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "What I Would Tell America's Founding Fathers?" This information has been posted on the VFW website.

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

POW/MIA FLAG - OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations, and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 19 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 28 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 21, (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, click here: <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22305>.

BUDDY POPPY:

Plans should be under way for the Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Campaign. Contact your Department Quartermaster to place your order for Buddy Poppies. Remember that your Poppies should be ordered a minimum of 12 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required; do not use, "ASAP". Miscellaneous items (coin cans, caps, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=128> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

"To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs." The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Youth Essay, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

POST ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION. Commemorate your Post's anniversary in Buddy Poppy style! As your Post celebrates 25, 50 or 75 years, order special silver-, gold-, or diamond-colored Poppies for distribution throughout this monumental year.

Remember: With Buddy Poppy, every day is Veterans Day.

- No extra cost for the commemorative poppies.
- Designate part of your regular poppy order as anniversary poppies.
- Different sizes of ads can be found at department resources. (Please go to www.vfw.org and log on to MyVFW and click on Department Resources and VFW Buddy Poppy.

Contact information: nclifton@vfw.org (816) 968-1148. For Buddy Poppy merchandise go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResults.aspx?CategoryID=128>.

VFW STORE:

Custom Apparel

There are many reasons ordering custom apparel from the VFW Store makes sense. We offer top of the line quality at attractive prices. Our capabilities are virtually limitless. **We are the only authorized source allowed to reproduce the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary logos on apparel.** The VFW Store stands by our products like nobody else. And maybe most important of all, 100% of any profit generated from the Store goes to help veterans, active duty military and their families. If you are looking for a unique item for yourself, your post, district or department, a membership prize or incentive that you wish to customize using our logo, give us a call and let us show you what we can do.

When you custom make apparel you decide what goes on it and that makes it one of a kind. People take notice and it sets you apart from everyone else. There is no better feeling than to wear something that makes you feel unique, that you designed and conveys to all that you are a member of the VFW or the Ladies Auxiliary.

We would love to help you design your custom shirts, caps or anything else you can think of. Please contact us by calling 1-800-821-2606 or email kwinston@vfw.org to be on your way to your custom needs.

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