

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 35, NO. 12

AUG. 2011

G O D C O U N T R Y V E T E R A N S

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:

Attention Post Commanders and Quartermasters: in accordance with section 1401 of the National By-Laws, the proposed National By-Law, Manual of Procedure and Ritual amendments will soon be available online in the Online Membership System (OMS). To access these amendments, that include the Index and the "Be It Resolved" for all 200, 300, 400 and 600 series resolutions, simply login to OMS on www.vfw.org. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Jones at (816) 756-3390, ext. 133 or via e-mail at kjones@vfw.org.

During the National Convention in San Antonio, please plan to attend the Communications/Public Affairs Workshop at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 30. Also, stop by the Chaplain Workshop at 2:00 p.m. on August 30. Both will be held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center (check the Convention booklet for room assignments).

VFW FOUNDATION:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation will again be presenting a workshop in conjunction with the VFW National Convention. Emphasis will be on how the Foundation can assist VFW Departments and Post in their fundraising needs. Topics will include an easy-to-understand explanation of procuring local/regional grants and helpful ways that the Foundation can assist in this process. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 30, from 3-4 PM in Room HBGC-210A (subject to change). If you cannot make the workshop, VFW members are always welcome to contact VFW Foundation Grants Manager, Richard Freiburghouse, directly at: (816) 968-1124 or rfreiburghouse@vfw.org.

VFW STORE:

CONVENTION – Be sure to stop by the **VFW STORE** booth:

- See our *NEW MERCHANDISE* and *SALE* items
- Meet your personal shopping counselor who will help you select just the right items for all your special events.
- Get your new *CATALOG*
- Putt for a prize
- Don't miss *ROCKY BLEIER* on Tuesday, August 30th.

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

Due to the recent outbreak of tornados, fires, and floods wreaking havoc on our great nation, the **VFW Unmet Needs Program** proudly stands ready to assist our service men and women when they are burdened by circumstances out of their control.

The service member or veteran *must* have served on active-duty title-10 orders within the past 36-months in order to qualify. We have shortened the application to ONE PAGE for Natural Disaster Assistance. Assistance is limited to natural disasters which have damaged or forced the service member to vacate their primary residence. The assistance does not apply to vehicle damage or vehicle insurance deductibles.

The Unmet Needs Program's Natural Disaster Assistance is as follows:

Total loss of the primary residence: \$500

Power loss or damage to the home: \$300

Please contact Unmet Needs at 816-968-1144, for the one-page application or if you have any questions.

REMINDER: Please visit us at Booth #206 during the National Convention in San Antonio. Our workshop is being held on Tuesday, August 30th from 1-4 PM, and is open to the public!!

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 (DAY)</u>	
AUGUST	August 26	(Friday)
SEPTEMBER	September 30	(Friday)
OCTOBER	October 28	(Friday)
NOVEMBER	November 25	(Friday)
DECEMBER	December 30	(Friday)
JANUARY	January 27	(Friday)
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:

- **Shotgun Mailing Lists:** We have lists that you can work to help build up your membership. Please call the National Membership Department for assistance.

- **Membership Rosters:** National will not be mailing/emailing rosters out to Post Quartermasters as done in past years. Quartermasters are now responsible for downloading/printing their rosters online via the OMS system. Quartermasters who do not have access to the internet will need to contact either their District or Department officers to obtain a copy of their roster.
- **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.
- **All American Awards:** Any All American Commander who attends the National Convention will have their awards presented at the Joint Opening session on Monday, August 29. It is imperative that all Commanders check in at the Membership booth by close of business on Sunday, August 28 to receive their All American Packet. Failure to do so will result in non-presentation of their awards.

For those who are not attending the Convention, the awards will be mailed to their respective Department headquarters for presentation. In addition, awards for the winning Posts will be mailed to the Department for presentation.

- **Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans and Women Veterans meetings:** These meetings will be held during the National Convention on Monday, August 29, immediately following the Business Session until approximately 5:00 p.m. with a combined meeting from 5-6 p.m.

On Tuesday, August 30, an Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans committee meeting and Women Veterans committee meeting will both begin at 1:00 p.m. Please check the Convention booklet for room assignments. All are welcome.

- **National Membership Overview:** Also during the National Convention in San Antonio, all are invited to attend the National Membership Overview to be held on Tuesday, August 30 from 1-3 p.m. Check the Convention booklet for room assignments.
- **Legacy Life Membership:** Please pass the word on our Life Legacy Program available to all Life Members. This program offers 3 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 OUR 100% DEPARTMENTS

**ALASKA
ARIZONA
EUROPE
DELAWARE
GEORGIA
HAWAII
IDAHO
MONTANA
NEVADA
NEW MEXICO
SOUTH CAROLINA
TENNESSEE
WYOMING**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECRUITER OF THE YEAR!

**PETER H. LUSTE
VFW Post 8862
Department of Europe**

PROGRAMS:

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>.

PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11th is designated as "Patriot Day." The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here

<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=211>.

VFW PROGRAMS WORKSHOP. During the National Convention in San Antonio, to be held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, there will be a workshop "The Successful Post" on Tuesday, August 30, at 1:00 pm (please check Convention booklet for room assignment).

VFW NATIONAL SCOUTING TEAM MEETING. Also during the National Convention in San Antonio, the annual meeting of the VFW National Scouting Team will be held on Tuesday, August 30, at 2 p.m. (please check Convention booklet for room assignment). All VFW members active or interested in Scouting are invited to attend.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 16. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of

Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click here
<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=97>.

VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2011-2012 PROGRAM YEAR. The VFW wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively through the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

Based on the nominees submitted by November 1st, local VFW posts will recognize one outstanding teacher in grades, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Posts then submit the winners' names to their District level judging who will forward their winners to the Department (or state level) by December 15. After judging, each Department forwards the names of its winners to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national awards contest. This is part of the 2011-2012 All American Program.

VFW's National Citizenship Education Teacher awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and, an all-expenses-paid trip to attend the National Convention.

A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) can be viewed at www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/Community/Teacher%20Award%20Brochure.PDF, or ordered through www.vfwstore.org, or by calling 1-800-821-2606 and asking for item #4450.

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from VFW Emblem and Supply, product #4320, <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=23980>. Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS. Departments are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs Office no later than February 1, 2012. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

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

Each Department will receive their three awards and contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMT's, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership.

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 16, (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:

REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11 – TENTH ANNIVERSARY – WITH A COMMEMORATIVE 9-11 POPPY

Show your support by ordering your 9-11 commemorative poppies today. Commemorative 9-11 poppies (item #9750) are available from the VFW Store at a cost of \$100 per thousand, plus postage and handling. Commemorative 9-11 poppies are red with a black tag.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:

TRICARE Supplement

VFW National Headquarters is pleased to offer TRICARE Supplement to VFW members and their families. To request information, go to <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/Tricare.html>. You may also call 1-877-850-0183 to speak to an agent.

Medicare Supplement

Medicare Supplement insurance (also known as Medigap) is private health insurance designed to supplement Original Medicare and pay costs that Original Medicare may not cover, like deductibles, co-insurance, long-term care, blood work, or hearing aids. To find out more, call 1-877-247-1771 or visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/MedSupp.htm>.

Medicare Advantage

Medicare annual election period is from October 15 – December 7, 2011. Medicare Advantage plans offer more health plan choices. Plans are designed to provide more benefits than traditional Medicare, may include prescription drugs, dental, vision and preventive care, and may reduce out-of-pocket expenses for items such as doctors' visits.

Features:

- Lower monthly premiums, sometimes FREE
- Generic and Brand Name prescription drug benefit
- Freedom to choose your doctors, hospitals and specialists without a referral
- Preventive services at no extra cost
- Virtually no paperwork
- Emergency and urgent care worldwide.

To talk to a representative or if you would like more information, please contact Pinnacle Financial Services at 1-877-255-0884 or visit www.pfs-vfw.com.

Long-Term Care

Long-term care can protect your retirement savings and help you maintain your independence while providing you with quality-care options both in your home or in a facility. Long-term care also provides relief for family members.

Through Pinnacle Financial Services, the VFW offers a broad selection of long-term care plans, services, underwriting and premiums to meet the needs of our members. We also extend this protection to your spouse, children, parents, in-laws and friends. To request more information, go to <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/LongTerm.htm> or call 1-800-772-6882.

Individual & Family Health Insurance

VFW-Sponsored Insurance Programs offers *comprehensive, affordable health insurance* plans for members and their families, age 64 and younger.

- Individual Major Medical
- Individual Short Term Major Medical
- Family Major Medical
- Critical Illness
- Wide range of deductibles
- Your choice of co-insurance levels
- Co-pays for prescription medication and office visits
- A broad network of doctors and hospitals specific to your area
- Traditional PPO plans
- Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)

Visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/MajorMed.htm> or call 1-800-829-8390 for a quote.

Annuities

Annuities give you the peace of mind of a retirement vehicle that will safely grow in value, while protecting your initial investment.

Highlights of the VFW-sponsored annuity plan:

- Tax-deferred growth of retirement funds
- Guarantee minimum interest rate-safe
- Income option you cannot outlive
- Access to your funds penalty free
- Probate free.

To find out how the VFW-sponsored annuity program can give you the long-term financial security you deserve, call toll-free 1-800-772-6882 or visit www.pfs-vfw.com.

Member Insurance Brochure - download or view the Member Insurance brochure online at <http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/Join/Member%20Insurance%20Brochure.pdf>.

VFW Insurance

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

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

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

America's Heroes...Honoring America and Our Heroes – This month, you should receive an announcement regarding the 2012 Veterans of Foreign Wars Calendar. It will have a sneak peak of the cover. We hope you are as excited about the 2012 Calendar as we are! It was created to celebrate all of America's veterans! The actual calendar will mail early in September. Your support of the VFW 2012 Calendar program is vital. Your donations help your VFW Department serve veterans in need

throughout the year, and with the newest wave of veterans coming home from Afghanistan and Iraq, there will be a much greater need for help. Veterans in your area and across the country are counting on you! Watch your mail for this limited edition gift.

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 assisting 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 will 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!

MEMBER BENEFITS:

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 more information about USAA, or to learn more about membership, call 1-800-274-8839 or visit www.usaa.com/vfw.

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.

Medical Air Services Association (MASA Assist)

Emergency assistance transportation to private or VA hospitals at your discretion. 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. Give agent special discount **ID number 62615** 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.

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 (543-3562). Use **promo code "VFW"**.

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.

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.

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 From You Flowers. Simply visit www.fromyouflowers.com/vfw or call 1-800-838-8853 and mention **code 81Y**. *We also deliver to over 140 Countries!*

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**.

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 1-866-869-6686 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!

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