

# Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars

## ***“No one does more for Veterans”***

*January 2019 GENERAL ORDERS*

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***SPECIAL NOTICES <> SPECIAL NOTICES***

***Congratulations to the following District & Posts for attaining 100%+ in Membership for 2018-2019 during this last month:***

- >Hamtramck Wilock-Lubanski Post 4162, Hamtramck 103.63 % Commander Gary Nosis
- >Saginaw Post 1566, Saginaw 101.89% Commander David Weber
- >Borley-Hanel Post 3033, Mt. Pleasant 101.74% Commander Tim Artibee
- >Dewolfe-Dreon-Lukowski Jr. Post 4037, Troy 101.60% Commander Gerald Grzywinski
- >Glenn M. Arnold Post 4063, Perry 101.33% Commander Kevin Middleton
- >Lt. Clement F. Dereziński Post 7729, Muskegon 101.14% Commander Billy Stancroff
- >Peacock Post 5315, Baldwin 100.43% Commander David Woodman
- >Harris-Kehrer Post 3323, Westland 100.41% Commander Robert Campbell
- >Edward J. Werner Post 3733, Fowler 100% Commander Larry Goerge
- >Lawrence W. Smith Post 4139, Lapeer 100% Commander Scott Evoy
- >Oxbow Post 4156, White Lake Twp. 100% Commander Gary Schultz
- >Copper Ingot Post 4624, Hubble 100% Commander Frank Ozanich
- >Laurels Post 6898, Fremont 100% Commander Richard Raught
- >Gladwin County Post 7303, Gladwin 100% Commander Frank Peters
- >Eugene N. Kimbel Post 7806, Manton 100% Commander William Ewald
- >Clyde Manlius Post 7911, Fennville 100% Commander Ernie Moreno
- >Yale Post 8594, Yale 100% Commander Duane Peyerck
- >Carrick-Jarosz Post 9411, Homer 100% Commander Gary Goheen

***We now have 60 Posts that have reached 100% or better***

### ***District Standings***

- >District 9>95.81% Commander Shane Houghton
- >District 11>95.56% Commander Terry Inosencio
- >District 8>95.50% Commander Vern Blauwkamp
- >District 13>95.23% Commander Richard Plater
- >District 12>95.14% Commander Billy Stancroff
- >District 14>94.98% Commander Daniel Verville
- >District 10>94.48% Commander Don Callaway
- >District 6>93.88% Commander Bill Lietaert
- >District 7>92.53% Commander Bill Kushmaul
- >District 15>92.39% Commander Butch Paavola
- >District 5>92.30% Commander Norm Mauldin
- >District 4>91.12% Commander Bob Caldwell

***Who will take over the top spot next month???????***

***Department 93.84***

It's great to see that Membership for the State is 93.84% which means you all have been working hard at making us 100% for the Year, so THANK YOU for all the hard work, this makes us 18<sup>th</sup> in the Nation. I know that with all your hard work, we will reach our goal of 100% this year, we have a large amount of Posts that are 10 and under that will be 100% shortly. GREAT JOB! Let's all get out and help the National Commander in Chief reach his goal of 100%. We are having an Excellent year to date; let's keep it going.

**Membership Drawing:** Any Post that obtains 100% by Mid-Winter Conference that was not 100% by Fall Conference will be put into a drawing for \$200.00.

**Special Offer:** Recently, the Department office has received books called *"The Liberation of Kuwait" Honoring the Veterans of Desert Storm*. We have some books left over from Fall Conference so if you would like one please let Department know. I would like these books to be offered to all Desert Storm Veterans first.

**All Districts/Posts:** All Districts/Posts Commanders wishing to have the State Commander or designee attend a function are requested to forward their request to the State Adjutant for review of calendar of events.

**Dates to Remember:**

20 Jan > Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
24-26 Jan > Mid-Winter Conference  
3 Feb > Four Chaplain's Day  
18 Feb > President's Day  
19 Feb > USCG Reserve Birthday

**Dept. Roster Changes:** *Everyone is asked to review their information in the 2018-19 Roster to make sure that all information is correct. If there is a discrepancy, please notify Dept. Headquarters for corrections.*

**Audits:** Please see Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Trustees". Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager, Bingo Chairman and VFW Riders Groups. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.

The 4th Quarter Audits are due January 31st, there are still many Posts who have not submitted their 3rd Quarter audits to date. If you have not turned in your 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter audit, please do so. If you are 2 Audits behind your Post will be placed on suspension or if you submit an audit and the previous quarters audit has not been submitted your current audit will not be accepted and you will be considered delinquent and you will be placed on suspension. You may fax it in at 517-485-6432 or mail it to Dept. of Michigan VFW 924 N. Washington Ave. Lansing, MI 48906.

**POPPIES:** The distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Section 711 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the

distribution of Buddy Poppies for the Memorial Day campaign in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of Buddy Poppies shall be used in accordance with Sections 219 and 704 of the Manual of Procedure.

**Bonding:** Each Post should have submitted their Bonds in August because once September rolled around and the QM didn't renew their bond, then that means they have expired, and the Bonding Company is no longer reliable if something has happened. I can't stress enough the importance of getting these things taken care of and on time. As the QM, you agreed to maintain all books records and monies of the position. If anyone needs help, call Dept. QM Patterson at 517-485-9456.

**Commanders:** IAW Section 105 of the National By-Laws, a member whose current dues are paid through their anniversary date is in good standing and, unless suspended or terminated, is entitled to all membership rights IAW the National By-Laws. A member whose dues are unpaid after their anniversary date ceases to be a member in good standing and loses all rights of membership in the Veterans of Foreign War.

Section 220 of the National By-Laws, "Vacancies and Removal of Elective Officers or Committee Members" states "Any elective Post officer removed by the Department Commander, by reason of failure to pay current dues or by vote of the post under the provisions of this section, shall not be eligible to serve in any Post office in the same administrative year in which the officer is removed."

**District Meetings:** All District Commanders are reminded that if a District meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, that they are to immediately notify the Department Representative, the State Adjutant and their respective Post Commanders. ***We do not want anyone to have an accident due to inclement weather.***

**Post Commanders:** Section 203 - Regular Meetings – All Posts shall hold at least one regular meeting each month. Failure to comply can result in immediate revocation of the Post Charter notwithstanding the provisions of Section 211 of the Manual of Procedures.

**National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures 2019 Edition:** Post Commanders are reminded that the new edition became effective 24 August 2018 with many changes. It is recommended that all Post Commanders purchase a copy from National Headquarters.

Recent changes to the VFW National By-Laws, Manual of Procedures and Ritual establish that ***Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*** shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of procedure. Newly revised ***Robert's Rules of Order*** is readily available at local book stores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

***Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism?*** Would you like to support the VFW's lifechanging programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising 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. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at [partners@vfw.org](mailto:partners@vfw.org) with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

***VFW Foundation Community Support Grant:*** The VFW Foundation Community Support Grant is open. Qualified Posts and/or Auxiliaries may receive grants of up to \$1,000 to support local nonprofits or important outreach projects in their communities. New to the grant this year, an applicant may be eligible to receive up to \$500 in additional funding by organizing a community service project that involves a local branch or affiliate of a VFW national corporate supporter (e.g. Burger King, Sport Clips, Walgreens, Humana, Ace Hardware, etc.). To view application guidelines or to apply for the VFW Foundation Community Support Grant, please visit [www.vfw.org/grants](http://www.vfw.org/grants). For questions, contact Jason Couch, Grants Coordinator, at [jcouch@vfw.org](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org) or (816) 968-1174.

***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, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>.

***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 18, 2019 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 27, 2019 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 20, 2019 (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP237>.

***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 in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the 2018-19 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

***VFW Friends of Freedom:*** If you are not already a member of the VFW's online community, please visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and look for the gold banner that says "Find Out What's Happening" to sign up. As a member of the VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit [www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://www.vfw.org/vfwatwork) and click on "**Read VFW success stories**" to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans' rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

***Walgreens No-Cost Flu Shots Now Available:*** Be prepared for the upcoming cold and flu season! Now through March 31, 2019, all VA-enrolled veterans are eligible for free annual flu shots at their local Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacy. While this immunization program is limited to VA patients, Walgreens offers flu shots to most VFW members and their families through other coverage programs, such as TRICARE, Medicare and many health care plans.

***COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT***

Once again, my Special Project this year is Cancer. Please make sure all your donations go through Department so that you may receive the proper credit.

I am asking that all Post issues try to be handled within your District prior to bringing them to the Department example:(QM questions, 990's, audits, monthly reporting etc.....). Try to establish a good working relationship within your District, every District has a lot of comrades that have a wealth of knowledge that they are willing to share with you, all you have to do is ask them. If your District cannot answer your questions by all means call Dept.

The 40th Annual Mid-Winter Conference will be held January 24-26, 2019 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo, MI. As of right now the banquet ticket form and the hotel form are on the Department website. As more details come in and get finalized the Agenda & Dress Code will be on the Department Website ([www.vfwmi.org](http://www.vfwmi.org)) under News & Events.

At our Mid-Winter Conference Karen Greene will be putting on a PTSD seminar for all veterans. This will be on Friday January 25, 2019 at 9:00 AM. Karen will also be available all weekend to answer any other questions that you may have. Hope to see you all there.

The Department Website is in good working order. Please remember National has a new website and is still offering Departments and Posts free grants to build a new website. Please insure any directory changes are sent to the Department Adjutant. Comrades, the Department website contains an incredible amount of information designed to make everyone's job more helpful. Many years have been devoted to creating this site so please utilize it! If anyone has any problems, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank You!

New MOV editor:  
Stacey Roberts  
7901 Backus Rd.  
Greenville, MI 48838  
[mov@vfwmi.org](mailto:mov@vfwmi.org)  
616-902-5877

***Changes to Department Roster:***

Post 4063 Commander  
Kevin Middleton  
1510 Cook Rd.  
Owosso, MI 48867  
989-293-3734

Post 4063 Adjutant  
12401 Ruppert Rd.  
Perry, MI 48872  
517-204-3269

Post 5065 Adjutant  
Terry Dowdell  
519 S. Ithaca St.  
Ithaca, MI 48847

Post 6015 Quartermaster  
Paul Bates  
18232 20<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Marion, MI 49665  
231-743-6217

Post 7911 Commander  
Ernesto Moreno  
5029 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Fennville, MI 49408  
616-813-5398

Post 7911 Adjutant/Quartermaster  
Ryan Lamb  
7034 Crawford St.  
Fennville, MI 49408  
616-566-8294

Post 8964 Adjutant  
Arthur Jones  
6201 Taft Rd.  
Ovid, MI 48866  
517-719-8993

BY COMMAND OF:

*Phil Patterson*

Phil Patterson