



**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.

**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.

**Commanders Challenge:** Commander-in-Chief B. J. Lawrence has laid down a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of November 2018! From November 1 through November 30, the Post in each membership division that shows the highest increase in New/Reinstated percentage (the N/R% column in MemStats) will receive an award of \$500 to be deposited directly into their Post fund to be used as needed for the Post. In addition, each Department with a winning Post will receive a matching \$500 to be deposited into the Department fund to be used as needed by the Department. If a Department has more than one winning Post, they can receive this award multiple times! Totals will be based on close-of-business November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Veterans in the Classroom Month in November:** VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today. Additional information can be found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman’s Manual. Simply visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and LOG IN (or create an account if you do not have one). After logging in, you’ll be redirected to the “My VFW” page where you will click on VFW Training & Support and then Community Service, Youth Scholarships & Activities where you’ll have access to the “CHAIRMAN MANUALS.” **Participate in this activity during the week of Veterans Day, which is part of “National Veterans Awareness” week, as designated by Congress.**

Find Pledge of Allegiance pencils and coloring books, plus other citizenship education tools at the VFW Store

<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation>.

**Conduct a Veterans Day Program on November 11:** Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman’s Manual. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please go to: <https://www.vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches>. Click here for Veterans Day merchandise <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday>.

Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been changed to a 12-month dues structure that started July 1, 2018. The changes to subscription dues to a “DMV” model now allows anyone who becomes a member or renews membership after July 1, 2018, to postpone expiration until the last day of their 12<sup>th</sup> month. For example, if a new member joins or an existing member renews on July 5, 2018, their dues now expire on July 31, 2019. The annual membership card (effective July 1, 2018) reflects the month and year dues expire. Current members that are in good standing as of July 1, 2018, have been extended in OMS through the last day of the month when their dues are scheduled to expire. Regardless of the month they renewed, if they were in good standing as of July 1, 2018, they now have until the end of the expiration month to renew their dues.

Members that are in good standing but have not renewed for the 2018/19 membership year will see the changes on their digital ID card reflecting the updated month and year when their dues expire. They will have the option to request an updated annual membership card with the change reflecting the expiration month and year.

The purpose of the changes to subscription dues to a "DMV" model was to streamline the process for both the Post and Department Quartermasters to track expiring annual members. No longer will Posts and Departments have to chase annual members' dues on a daily basis; instead they can see a block of members during a specific month (one, two and three months out), allowing them to formulate a plan to collect dues at one time. This also makes it easier for the Department/District/Post Sergeant-at-Arms to quickly see if a member is in good standing prior to a meeting.

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."

For the purpose of establishing continuous membership, a member may reimburse Department and National dues for all delinquent years, provided they were a member in good standing for five (5) consecutive years prior to the delinquency.

**Post Commanders:** VFW Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of Sections 708 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities. It shall be the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure full compliance with both sections and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc., are met in a timely manner.

The attention of Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders is directed to Section 103, Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the way applications for membership will be handled. Applications for membership of new, reinstating or transfer members must be voted on by the members present at a regular Post meeting. No Post, County Council, District, Department or National officer, or any other member, has authority to reject the application card of a person who is eligible for membership.

Sections 219 and 704 of the Manual of Procedure outline the various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be used. A few years ago, the phrase, "To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs," was added to this section. This allows the Post to use the relief funds for the Voice of Democracy program or other Americanism programs that are

educational. This does not include Post building projects, hall remodeling, color guard uniforms or any other expenditure that does not follow these guidelines.

**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.

**All Posts:** Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2018-2019 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teachers' Awards, "Buddy" ® Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

**Dates to Remember:**

10 Nov > Marine Corps Birthday  
11 Nov > Veterans Day  
22 Nov > Thanksgiving Day  
7 Dec > Pearl Harbor Day  
15 Dec > Wreath Across America Day  
25 Dec > Christmas Day  
1 Jan > New Year's Day

**Directory Changes:** *Everyone is asked to review their information in the 2018-19 directory to make sure that all information is correct. If there is a discrepancy, please notify the State Adjutant office for correction.*

**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 3rd Quarter Audits were due as of October 31st, there are still many Posts who have not submitted their 3rd Quarter audits to date. If you have not turned in your 3rd 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:** Many posts have ordered their Poppies, to them a big "Thank you" for getting them ordered and done. For those who have not, please do so now that way we know you will receive them in a timely manner. Deadline for Poppy order is December 31,2018.

**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. I always hear of people needing help, but we get very few calls or emails asking for help.

Following information was forwarded from National Headquarters from Randy K. Law, Manager, Communications & Public Affairs:

We're pleased to officially announce the VFW will launch a new look on November 6! The new look will be spearheaded by the deployment of a new, modern and simplified VFW logo designed to better convey who we are as an organization and allow us to stand out in an increasingly competitive media market. In short, this new logo will strengthen the VFW brand, reaffirming our position as America's greatest veterans service organization and allow us to better connect with new audiences.

***See the historical evolution of the VFW logo.***

For clarification, the Cross of Malta will always remain the official seal of the VFW. We are not leaving the Cross behind, but rather elevating the importance of the Cross by limiting its usage to instances in which it can be fully reproduced, and instances which require formal representation of our brand. The Cross represents the highest ideals of the organization and should be afforded a degree of reverence when it is displayed.

We understand many of you have expended resources over the years to obtain merchandise and material displaying the current VFW logo. We are sensitive to this, and therefore, it is acceptable should you choose to exhaust your current inventory of VFW-branded print materials and continue to use VFW-branded merchandise until it is time to reorder or until the year January 1, 2021.

Please note:

1. All future orders of VFW-branded collateral will display the new logo. The VFW Store will begin expanding merchandise offerings which display the new logo while limiting options displaying the Cross of Malta, however, all offerings in this year's Store catalog which display the Cross will be honored.
2. For those of you using the Website Solution Program platform, the logo update will occur automatically on November 6.

**Exciting times are ahead for our great organization, and we truly appreciate your every effort to implement the new logo on, but not before November 6.**

Please feel free to direct any questions to [communications@vfw.org](mailto:communications@vfw.org).

***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.

VOD/PP/TOY Deadline for all 3 programs to the Post was Oct. 31, 2018. Deadline for the Post to the District is Nov. 15, 2018. Deadline for District to Department is Dec. 16, 2018 these dates/deadlines are for all 3 Programs.

Post and District Chairman please make sure all required documentation accompanies your entries. District Chairperson make sure your District report form, participation report for all 3 programs are forwarded to the Dept. Director, there are All-State points tied to Post participation. The Award ceremony will be held at the Mid-Winter Conference to be held January 24-26, 2019 at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo, MI. Hotel accommodations for your District Winners student and family is the responsibility of each District this includes their banquet tickets. All scholarship sponsors or any one that is interested in sponsoring/ co-sponsoring a scholarship for VOD/ PP please contact Dept. QM/ADJ Lynn Patterson to make arraignment to submit your sponsor fees.

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.

BY COMMAND OF:

*Phil Patterson*

Phil Patterson