

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
HEADQUARTERS**

BULLETIN

Ocala, Florida

July, 2014

“Team Florida Together”



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS:

Your VFW Department Headquarters is here to work for you. In an effort to better and more responsively support you we will now be open for business and receive your phone calls through lunch. The Headquarters will be open from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm Monday – Friday. Anyone who wants to visit your Headquarters is more than welcome and encouraged. If you have any questions contact the Department Adjutant, Karen Nigara at 352-622-3869 or by e-mail at knigara@flvfw.org. We are here for you.....”*Team Florida Together*”.

NATIONAL CONVENTION:

The VFW National Convention is fast approaching and we hope to see lots of Florida members there. Complete information regarding the agenda, hotels and activities can be found at <http://www.vfw.org/115convention/>.

Remember if you are attending to bring your patriotic gear and plan to be part of the *Military Salute Parade* and *Patriotic Celebration*. This extravaganza promises to be a memorable event. On Tuesday, July 22, all delegates to the VFW National Convention, their families and friends are invited to join in on the evening’s events in honor of many special guests – YOU! Budweiser and the VFW would like to show their appreciation for your service to our great country. The Military Salute Parade route begins at the America’s Center Convention Complex and extends approximately one mile, concluding at Soldiers’ Memorial Military Museum. Attendees are encouraged to join the lineup on the south side of the convention complex no later than 4:30 p.m. ready to march. The National Commander will ensure all of Tuesday’s meetings conclude in enough time for everyone to join the festivities. There won’t be a formal review this year, so lineup will be according to arrival at the staging area. There will be a cookout hosted by Commander Bill Thien and Ladies Auxiliary President Sissy Borel to top off the evening, complete with free food, drinks and entertainment, along with a few surprises you won’t want to miss! Come for this great event and let’s represent Team Florida strong.

Convention Registration: Section 222 of the National By-Laws requires each Post will pay, in advance, a national convention registration fee of \$25 which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the national convention. Each additional delegate attending the national convention will pay a \$10 delegate fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register on-line by going to www.vfw.org.

National Buddy Poppy Display Contest: The time frame for registering and setting up the Buddy Poppy displays for the National judging at convention will be the same as last year. Entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 19, until noon Monday, July 21, 2014. Ribbons should be placed on the winning displays by 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 22. These displays should remain until photos have been taken by the National photographer. REMINDER: All displays should be removed prior to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22. Any remaining displays past this time will be disposed of by Convention Center personnel.

National Military Services (NMS): Meeting times at the National Convention in St. Louis for NMS are:

NMS Chairman Committee Meeting
Sunday, July 20, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

VFW Programs Workshop - **Open to the public**
Sunday, July 20, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

DEPARTMENT SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION: All of the Department of Florida VFW Schools of Instruction will be held at the International Palms Hotel, 6515 International Drive, Orlando, Florida (407-351-3500). VFW Room rate is \$69.00 plus tax.

The Leadership School for invited new Post Commanders will begin Thursday, August 7 at 5:00 pm and continue through Friday, August 8. The application for this school is on the Department website. Confirmation letters for those that have already applied were mailed 1 July, 2014. The Commander has invited and encourages spouses to attend.

The Business School of Instruction will be Friday, August 8 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. This is open to all House Committee members, Canteen Managers, Quartermasters and Post leadership. This important session will address proper Canteen procedures and legal issues affecting the business side of the VFW.

The VFW School of Instruction, the Service Officer and Men's Auxiliary Schools will be Saturday, August 9 starting at 9:00 a.m. until completion.

Let's start the year armed with current information and standard operating procedures – attendance at the School of Instruction is recommended.

FROM THE DIRECTOR, VFW VETERAN VILLAGE: Thank you all that attended the State Convention and as always we cannot do it without your support! I also, thank you for voting in two new board members (Kenny T and Chester) they will be a great asset to YOUR Village! Our current mailing address and telephone number is: 13005 NE 135th Street, Ft McCoy, FL 32134 and 352-236-0823.

Please contact us if you want to have representation from YOUR Village to come to an event and set up an informational booth if you are doing an activity, or if you need a guest speaker for any function, I am available and will wear my dress blues if you like! We would like to visit and say thank you to as many VFW Post members, Men's Auxiliary, and LA Auxiliary in the state this year! Mark your calendars for March 2015...Friday the 20th is golf and Saturday the 21st is your **15th Annual Picnic!** Keep in touch and see you in Ft McCoy! Scouts Out!

PROGRAMS:

Each District and Post Program Chairperson should complete the Program Chairperson report at Page 4 of this Bulletin and send it directly to the Department Programs Director, Dani Hernandez at progdir@flvfw.org.

Don't forget to report your Independence Day activities (4 July) and Korean Armistice (27 July).

Selective Service System Board members wanted. The State Director of the Florida Selective Service System is asking for volunteers to serve as Board Members for "draft boards". This is a voluntary and generally uncompensated duty that requires approximately 4 hours per year. Candidates who meet the eligibility and appointment criteria will be fully trained regarding appointment responsibilities. The National Director of the Selective Service System (SSS) has been actively working with VFW National and the Washington Office to increase the involvement of VFW members in this important role. Benefits of involvement in this program are giving back to our country and recognized appointment by the Governor. Eligibility requirements are: American citizen, no felony conviction, not receiving any military retirement pay, not a prosecuting attorney or public defender and not a law enforcement officer. Those that are interested should contact the State Director, Douglas Maddox, Jr. at 678-232-8312 or by e-mail at drmaddox1961@live.com.

Program Chairperson Appointment 2014-2015

Post Chairperson _____ District Chairperson _____ (Please Check One)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post # _____ District # _____

Email address: _____

Phone #: _____

Post Program Chairperson Duties: The Chairperson is responsible for ensuring all Program Reports are submitted correctly and on time. All Posts must have 20 reports submitted (30 for All State) by December 31st, 2014.

The District Program Chairperson is to ensure all Posts within their District are submitting reports as required.

ALL POSTS AND DISTRICTS SHOULD HAVE A PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON TO QUALIFY FOR ALL STATE.

Please complete this form and send to:

Dani Hernandez
VFW Department of Florida Program Director
3294 Lake Effie Court North
Jacksonville, FL 32277
Phone #: (904) 762-9634
Email: progdir@flvfw.org .

Mark your calendars and save the date for
2014 FLORIDA VFW FUNDRAISER
AT THE



Where: Tropicana Field – St. Petersburg, FL

When: Sunday, September 7, 2014 vs. BAL at 1:40PM

Seats: Lower Level Seats for \$20/each

A portion of every ticket sold will benefit
The Voice of Democracy

More details to come.

For questions please contact Darcy Calhoun at
727-825-3293 OR dcalhoun@raysbaseball.com

