

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

BULLETIN

Ocala, Florida

Aug, 2014

“Team Florida Together”



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS:

In our continued efforts to more responsively support you the Department HQ now has voice mail so that you can call after normal hours - Phone number (352-522-5126). We will respond to you the following business day. Your Headquarters is open from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm Monday – Friday, ready to assist you. If you have any questions about HQ operations contact the Department Adjutant, Karen Nigara at 352-622-5126 (office), 904-252-6900 (cell) or by e-mail at knigara@flvfw.org. We are here for you.....”*Team Florida Together*”.

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).

The Leadership School for invited new Post Commanders will begin Thursday, August 7 at 5:00 pm and continue through Friday, August 8. 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 strongly recommended.

PROGRAMS:

August means the end of summer is nearing which also means Youth Programs deadlines are fast approaching. Some schools start in August so now is the time to get out there to tell students and teachers about the programs and solicit entries. Please note below the upcoming deadlines for the Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen and Smart / Maher Citizen Education Teacher Award nominations. If you need help or have questions contact your District and/or Department Youth Activities chairman.

November 1, 2014: nominations to Post Chairperson.

November 15, 2014: nominations to District Chairperson.

December 14, 2014: nominations to Department Chairperson

Required reports

VJ DAY, SEPTEMBER 2. Commemorates the Victory Over Japan, 1945.

PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11 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.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 19. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure.

VFW DAY, SEPTEMBER 29. Celebrates the founding of our National organization.

SONS OF THE VFW. Those Posts with Sons of the VFW units are reminded that quarterly reports of activity are required. Please ensure that the Sons of the VFW unit activities are documented and reported correctly. If you have questions contact the Department Youth Activities Chairman, Larry Spanish by e-mail at youthchrm@fl.vfwwebmail.com.

HELPFUL HINTS: Many of the tools to help you through the year are available on the VFW National Web Site but are only accessible through the Online Membership System or OMS. Post and District Quartermasters can access information such as the Document Repository that includes Patriotic Day speeches, Chairman Guides and Member Services. Non-sensitive information such as Patriotic Speeches and Chairman Guides can be accessed by your Quartermaster and provided to members who need and use the information. Coordinate with your Post or District Commander and Quartermaster

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Patriotic Labels were mailed out from VFW National in July. In that package was also included a special Veterans Day Card for you to sign and return to the VFW. If you have not had a chance to sign and return the special Veterans Day card, please do so quickly so it can be distributed by National to hospitalized Veterans and current service members on Veterans Day this year. It is a great way to show your fellow veterans and current service members they are remembered and appreciated on such an important day.

BUDDY POPPY: Post plans should be under way for the Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Campaign and Post Quartermasters should be placing their Buddy Poppy orders now. Remember that your Poppies should be ordered a minimum of 12 weeks in advance of the planned distribution date. When ordering be sure to specify a date when the poppies are required, and please do not use ASAP.

The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds from Buddy Poppy distribution events 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 for promoting these programs.

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

Don't forget to check behind the login at www.vfw.org for all current NMS forms and applications.

MEMBERSHIP: "Membership is a Team effort and you will not reach 100% by running behind in New and Reinstated members. The National Department Dues Notice is not a membership "acquisition" program – it is only one component of a retention process." (Quote from Bob Crider, VFW National Membership Director.)

VFW leaders now have even more access to valuable reporting tools, updated in real time. These new reports accessible on the Online Membership System (OMS) include:

- Recruiter Reports
- Unpaid Reports
- Legacy Life Members

PLANNING CALENDAR:

7 – 9 August, 2014: Department Schools of Instruction
International Palms Hotel, 6515 International Drive, Orlando, Florida.
Phone: 407-351-3500.

7 September, 2014: 2014 VFW Fundraiser Day at the Tampa Bay Rays, Tropicana Field, St Petersburg
See attached Flyer for details.

19 -21 September, 2014: Commander T Wayne Markham Home-Coming
Edgewater Resort, Panama City, Florida.

30 Oct – 1 November: Department Fall Conference, Orlando, Florida.
Florida Hotel, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida 32809. Phone: 407-859-1500.

6 – 9 November: Southern Conference, Charleston W.V., Marriott Town Center.

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

