



# STATE CHIEF OF STAFF



## Donovan C. Smith Chief of Staff

590 Baker Hill Road  
Cobden, Illinois 62920  
Cell Phone: (618) 697-0496  
Email: [vfw3455@frontier.com](mailto:vfw3455@frontier.com)

Post 3455-15

***“WE CONTINUE TO SERVE”***. This is State Commander Bill Phillip’s motto this year so let’s roll up our sleeves and get to work! I have been selected by Commander Phillips to serve as his Chief of Staff and to assist him and his “We Continue To Serve Team” during the 2011-2012 Term. I am truly honored by his confidence in me and I pledge to do my very best.

My primary responsibility will be to increase our new and reinstated membership and we plan to do this by instituting new VFW Posts throughout the State of Illinois AND to restructure some of our small Posts by helping them to increase their membership and in that way, allow them the opportunity of having some choices in filling the offices of their Post leadership. When a Post only has 25 members or less, we must remember that they need almost 50% of their total members to fill these positions. We realize that not all VFW members will attend meetings or hold office so by increasing their membership to 50 members, we hope to increase their active member participation and therefore, allow them to become more successful and involved within their community.

Our goal will be to make sure that once we sign up a new member or reinstate a member, we let them know they are important to our organization and don’t just walk away from them. We need to work with them to encourage and educate them on the purposes and goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars so they will want to assume a position of leadership and help to further our goals.

District Officers will be expected to work with a newly formed Post and to assign a “Follow-Up Officer” to “baby-sit” with them for at least one full year to make sure they understand the VFW and help them to understand the National By-Laws, State By-Laws, how to make out reports necessary for the successful operation of a new VFW Post, etc. This person needs to be someone who is dedicated and knowledgeable about our organization and who will have the time to attend each new Post meeting for at least a year.

Check out the areas within your District and if you have a community that does not have a VFW Post and you think it could support one, contact me and I will work with the District to try to institute a new Post there.

REMEMBER....New Posts and Restructured Posts bring in new members and we all know New Members are the lifeblood of any organization. The success of our organization can be achieved if ***“WE CONTINUE TO SERVE”***.

