

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
PROGRAM BULLETIN**

JANUARY 2019

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2018-2019

J.D. ðButchö Spindler

P.O. Box 577

Robinson, IL 62454

Telephone: Home: (618) 544-8562

Office: (618) 544-8141

Cell: (618) 562-8722

E-mail: spindler@springnet1.com

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. Now, it's time to get back to the business at hand ð *recruiting, reinstating, and renewing* our members ð both new and old.

We have several Posts that are already at 100%. **Congratulations** to all of you who have met this milestone. Don't forget, though, that you need 100% plus 10 members to meet the qualifications for ðAll Stateö this year. If you're already at 100%, this shouldn't be a problem. Be sure to check the qualifications for ðAll Stateö on Page 13 of the Membership Program, to be sure you cover all the requirements.

As of this writing, we have six Districts that are at (or over) 92% in meeting the qualifications for the first Membership bonus. **Congratulations to all for achieving this!** However, we still have plenty of work to do to get this Department to over 100% this year. The Fourth District continues to lead the pack, but we still have six months to go to determine which District Commander becomes the **Captain of the "All State" team**. In addition, we have several Districts very close to the 92% mark. The next bonus is February 7, and the District must be at 96% by that date. So, if you didn't make the 92%, you still have time to qualify for the 96% level and receive the bonus.

If your goal this year is ðAll American,ö PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU REVIEW THE QUALIFICATIONS ON PAGES 18 AND 19 OF THE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM, to make sure you meet all the qualifications. We are off to a good start this year; however, we are running a few hundred members behind this time last year ð **but I believe we can reach our goals.**

I believe in all of you, and I believe that by working together, we can make it happen for your Post, your District, and our Department this year! Activity makes things happen, so stay busy making contacts, and things will fall into place. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication. I hope to see many of you in upcoming District meetings, as well as at the February Council of Administration meeting.

HOSPITAL/VAVS REPORT

Harold Olsen, Director

(815) 910-7171

E-Mail: olsenoly@yahoo.com

Hope everyone had a good Christmas and spent some time with our veterans that are confined in our homes and hospitals. Don't forget about them the rest of the year now that the holidays are over.

Don't forget about their wish lists. They can use things all year long not just Christmas. They can always use toilet items, diabetic socks or new underwear.

Now would be a good time to contact the activity director and set up something for Valentine's Day.

Hope you all have a great New Year.

Don't forget our veterans and don't forget to report!!!

AMERICANISM PROGRAM

Tom Davidson, Director

Home: 847-352-5316

Cell: 847-347-8884

E-mail: pastcomm7@yahoo.com

The Department Judging for The Teacher of The Year is going to be held on January 3, 2019. I want to thank all who participated.

Now that the New Year has started it is time that all Post and District Commanders start reviewing their X Sheets and start sending in their reports. There are a lot of Posts that have not sent in even send in even one report this year for Americanism. If you need help reporting please just call me or Department for help. Every Post must have done at least one thing for Americanism so just report it and get your X. Some of things that you can report are if you did a ceremony for Memorial Day, 4th of July, Veterans Day or if you fly the American Flag at your Post just to name a few so PLEASE REPORT.

Loyalty Day will be coming up before you know it so now is the time to start planning for it.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Charles Ingle, Director

(815) 979-7152

E-mail: chuck@roscoevfw.com

At this point we're better than two-thirds of our way through the 2018-19, X-Sheet reporting cycle. At January's start, the Department has reached 54%, with respect to Community Activities. Please continue reporting! Your District is shown on the table at the end of this report.

Please remember that your first report of the term will get a participation "X" for your Post. However, Commanders must report on-line or on the Community Activities Report Form by **March 15th, 2019** in order to qualify for a **National Certificate of Recognition**.

Each Post must report in **each** of the following categories to qualify:

- a. Community Involvement
- b. Cooperation with other organizations
- c. Aid to others
- d. School and Church assistance

Community activities clearly benefit the people in the local community and involves the Post members to build a positive image for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Grants:

Funding from The VFW Foundation is still available for the Community Service Grant, and the Regular Grant. Complete details and forms, are available by use of the links below:

The purpose of this grant is to assist VFW and VFW Auxiliary members with projects that increase their impact upon their communities. <https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/VFWFoundationCommunityServiceGrant.pdf?v=1&d=20180831T153516Z&la=en>

The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for projects that address the underserved needs of military members, veterans, and their families.

<https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/VFWFoundationRegularGrant.pdf?v=1&d=20180831T153629Z&la=en>

The recent window, for accepting applications of “The Home Depot Community Impact Grant”, has concluded on New Years Eve. I will send out a special notice to your Post, once they resume in 2019.

VFW 2018-2019 Community Activities, Dept. of IL

<u>District</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Posts Reported</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Community Activities Director</u>
3	Samuel Scaife, Jr.	9	60%	Richard E. Bukowski
4	Joseph P. Scanlon	7	47%	Thomas W. Davidson
5	Raymond O. Rigsby	11	55%	Daniel J. Pearson
6	Gary Holmes	17	100%	Rick Frank
7	Robert Sable	7	33%	Donovan L. Eskeson
8	Russell “Pete” Mosher	10	59%	Mark W. Sowers
9	"Scott" Buennemeyer	9	43%	Daryle D. Peters
10	Michelle K. Ramlow	6	35%	Jim Duvendack
11	Joseph S. Swinford	5	33%	Steve Jurgens

12	Christopher R. Retzer	8	44%	John "Jack" Fessler
13	Christopher L. Hatcher	6	50%	Elmer McDuffee
14	Maurice F. Bridges	15	79%	◆John Barrett
15	Clarence E. Caraker	3	21%	Barbara R. Wilson
16	Eugene C. Blackwell, Jr.	5	45%	William A. Browne, Jr.
17	Sean D. Conner	4	29%	◆Dan R. Swaner
18	Robert M. Adame	7	58%	Robert McLeod
19	Robert Zeman	24	96%	George R. Cramer

◆Assistant State Director

Total Posts
283

X-Sheet Data
26-12-18

Department Percentage
54%

Compiled by
Chuck Ingle

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Robert E. McLeod, Director
(708) 363-7462
E-mail: rock76@yahoo.com

To all members that worked the Voice of Democracy program this year, thank you for your work. Now is the time to celebrate at the post and district levels.

When the district has their dinner please ensure that you thank those that have guided these students in getting ready for life that is ahead of them. Remember that the students that are at the dinner are the ones that have taken that extra step. This speaks well of those guiding these students.

I hope to see you at the Department VOD banquet. Have an **OUTSTANDING** New Year.

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

Walter Sanders, Jr., Director
(312) 805-0490
E-mail: waltsanders722@comcast.net.

As we begin a New Year and go through those New Year resolutions (that we never really follow) there is one that you can keep this year. **DONATE** a pint of blood and as you do, you will get checked to see if you have any diseases in your blood.

Now that doesn't sound like a bad deal, help a fellow veteran, get your blood checked and all it will cost you is your time.

Remember you can also have post or district blood drives. If you are not sure of who to contact to have a blood drive ó log on to the state web site, as a member, go to resources and then click

on the Blood Donor Program and there is where I have who you can contact in your area of the state. If you have any questions please call me.

Have a great New Year.

NATIONAL HOME

Michael J. McGrath, Director

(630) 357-2680

E-mail: mackcav1@sbcglobal.net

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS í FAQ:

Q: Do children at the National Home participate in extra-curricular activities?

A: Yes, the children have the opportunity to take part in many activities, both through the public school system and via our on-campus programs. The Home offers many activities such as: 4-H club, life skill programs, summer enrichment programs and even piano lessons. Kids also have access to a gymnasium, basketball court, baseball field, and many playgrounds.

And what is needed most at this time? Gifts to the maintenance fund help defray the costs associated with facilities and grounds expenses; for example, items like landscaping or road repair. There is also a need for an additional van (new or used) for transportation and maintenance around the campus. This would be a big help as the Campbell soup label program is no longer available. And a donation of only \$ 50.00 will give you credit on the "x" sheet!

NO GOVERNMENT FUNDING

As you know the Home relies entirely on private donations.

Thank you; we are grateful and blessings to all in the New Year.

SAFETY PROGRAM

Robert Mattson

(847) 371-0209

E-mail: rmattson7248@gmail.com

Now that the year 2018 is almost complete, we need to concentrate on getting our Safety programs finished and reported. I do know that a number of posts and districts have done all of their reporting already, but Department needs all of our posts and districts to also comply.

The end of the year reporting is not all that complicated so please let us all get it done. If your post has not done anything with safety please try to do something at your next post meeting. It is very easy to do and will generally take only a few minutes to accomplish. Just a simple reminder to change out the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Then report it on your X sheet for your safety program.

I would like to see all of our posts through the Department to report, so that we can have 100% reported for the year. I know that we do come close to accomplishing this number, but close is not enough. Please do your best, Post Commanders, to get this done.

Please have a safe New Year and God Bless You All!

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Carl Sorensen, Director

847-721-0281

E-mail: prdirector@vfwil.org

Have you visited www.vfwil.org? You haven't? WHY? There is a treasure trove of information, ideas, training as well as photos and articles of what is happening at other VFW Posts, Auxiliary's, Districts around the Department!

While I have had a few photos and articles sent to me, there are some requirements we can review. First, Cell Phones really don't give you the ability to make adjustments to the settings to compensate for the lighting conditions. Today's cell phones do have a built in flash, but it's not very powerful, so if you insist, or it's your only option, make sure you are six to ten feet from your subject, and start with three to four exposures and add one for every person over three. (Trust me, somebody will have their eyes closed, not looking at you, or making a weird face). Before you take a photo, TAKE CHARGE, don't be afraid to "set-up" the photo to make your subjects look their best. Look at your subjects and ask them to turn at a 45 degree angle from the camera, except the person in the middle, so you can have a nice "tight" photo. Another tactic is to simply say, "Excuse me Sir, Ma'am, Miss" "Can you move to your left, right about X inches" (EXAMPLES).

I did some research and found some low cost effective cameras available you may want to consider. My source is ABT Electronics, in Glenview, Illinois, but they will ship UPS, or deliver if you are in Chicagoland area. (Check the website) I found a Canon 420 SX for \$199.00 until January 5th. (I suggest calling the store, and if you ask nicely, "Can you do a little better" they may be able to reduce it a bit more, unless the cost shown is the best. I also found a Canon 420 SX with such items as a tripod, case, SD card and other items for about \$252.00 on Amazon.

Either you or an "assistant" should have a Steno pad, or a "reporter's" notebook (Office Max, Depot) to get names, correct spelling, title of address, and also, you can find a VFW Photo Release on the VFW.org website (Training & Support, Communications and Public Affairs, scroll down) Print and carry them with you.

If you have questions about an upcoming event, email me or better yet, call me. Remember, I report to the Department Commander, but I work for you! My goal is to help you promote what your post is doing for Veterans, Service members and your community. My card should read, "Have Nikon, will Travel" but I may not be able to get to your event, but I can possibly offer some suggestions on how best to cover it and get major coverage, and also, PLEASE, PLEASE, send me your story, in your local newspaper, a press release, attach copies of your photos as a "JPEG" file.

HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM

Paul Bezazian, Director

773-387-7720

E-mail: pbezazian@sbcglobal.net

Let's remember our Homeless Veterans this Christmas Season. If you have an old coat, an extra scarf, a pair of gloves, long underwear that doesn't fit, a blanket or sweater to give away, please put this stuff together. A lot of people get new clothing this time of year. Go through your older clothing and pass it on to a Veteran in need. It's cold outside this time of year. Our homeless and needy Brothers and Sisters on the streets could use your help. There is a Veteran in your area that could use your stuff. Plus, that basket of fruit you got or the extra Christmas candy you have won't go to waste if you pass this on to our needy Veterans. You would be surprised at what they will use. While you are at it, make a turkey or ham sandwich and a bottle of water or some coffee to bring with. They would "love" that!!! Plus, you will feel good doing it. Check your õX " sheet to see if your post has made your donation of \$50.00. The programs your post donates to can't run without your help. We work hard to support our Veterans and need your help.

Thank You for all your help serving our Veterans. Have a Very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a safe & Happy New Year to you and your loved ones. Yours in V.F.W., Paul J. Bezazian, Homeless Veterans Director, Dept. of Illinois, V.F.W. P.S. see you in Springfield.

POPPY PROGRAM

Stephanie Kirksey, Director

(618) 973-0153

E-mail: kirksey714@gmail.com

Thank you to all the Posts who have already ordered their poppies!! District 11 ó hats off to you!!!

Order extra poppies for your displays, poppy days and any community activities your post/district has planned.

Make sure you organize your õPoppy Daysö enough in advance to coordinate with local businesses and your city officials.

I hope you have ideas for your Poppy Displays. District Conventions will be here before you know it. Remember you can submit more than one display. If anyone needs help, please feel free to contact me.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all