

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

MARCH 2019

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2018-2019

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Our National membership stands at 96%. This is great, and Illinois is at approximately 94%. Even though we are a couple of percentage points behind National, we are still within range of becoming a 100% Department. Keep pushing!

Congratulations to all of our Posts that are currently over the 100% mark. Post Commanders and Quartermasters--don't forget the "All State" requirement this year is **100% plus 10 members**. If you're already at 100%, you have plenty of time to get those extra 10 members!

District 4 is over the 100% mark! They are having a FABULOUS year. Thank you to **District Commander Joe Scanlon and his team!** In addition, we have three other Districts that are in the area of 97% - 98%. I know they will bring their respective Districts to over 100% this year. I must acknowledge the **6th District and Commander Gary Holmes**; the **13th District Commander Chris Hatcher**; and the **15th District Commander, Clarence Caraker**. We also have three other Districts between 95 and 96%.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS AND POST COMMANDERS: *If your membership is less than the 94% that has been attained by this Department, a little extra effort can turn this around.*

We want everyone to be successful and have a good year. If you need help, please let me know what you need, and I promise to do my best to make it happen. It's hard for us to know what is happening over the entire state and in each Post and District. If you are struggling, pick up the phone and call me.

I have been talking about this all year, but most of our Posts are not working unpaid prior or relocated members. We actually have more new and reinstated life members this year (194) than we have reinstated members, which stands at 144. We have hundreds of names that could be worked in all our Districts, but it is obvious that most Posts are NOT taking advantage of this opportunity. So, once more, I will tell you if you are looking for a way to increase your numbers, here it is.

We are heading into the final quarter of our year. I'm asking you all to put out a little extra effort and make BIG things happen in Illinois this year. Stay focused, keep your eye on the ball, and most importantly, believe in yourself. As always, I appreciate your dedication, your loyalty, and the hard work that it takes each year to keep our numbers positive. I believe in you, and I believe

that by working together we can reach our goals. Once moreô PLEASE CALL ME IF I CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE!

AMERICANISM PROGRAM

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Comrades, the time is starting to run short to report what you have done for Americanism. The deadline is April 30th. There are still many posts that have not reported. If you want to have a chance to make All State Commander you must report this program on the ôXö Sheet. It is very easy to report an Americanism Program and most Posts have done the work and just have not reported. If you need help you must ask. You can call the Department or me and we will help but you have to call. It would be a shame if your Post missed out on being considered for All State because you didn't report.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Charles Ingle, Director

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On a morning in February... 15th District Community Activities Director Barb Wilson, popped out of bed and did NOT see her shadow! As a result, our program got some much-needed time & energy from the Departments' mid-section. Barb, who is also the District Adjutant/QM, raised her Districts' position, in a single X-Sheet session by 50 percentage points, taking them from 17th place into the "top 5" in Department.

So, with pleasure, I naturally seized the opportunity to switch from drum-beating to horn-blowing:



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 | 56% | Richard E. Bukowski |
| 4 | Joseph P. Scanlon | 10 | 67% | Thomas W. Davidson |
| 5 | Raymond O. Rigsby | 11 | 55% | Daniel J. Pearson |
| 6 | Gary Holmes | 17 | 100% | Rick Frank |
| 7 | Robert Sable | 9 | 43% | Donovan L. Eskeson |
| 8 | Russell "Pete" Mosher | 11 | 65% | Mark W. Sowers |
| 9 | "Scott" Buennemeyer | 10 | 45% | Daryle D. Peters |

| | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|-----|------------------------|
| 10 | Michelle K. Ramlow | 6 | 38% | Jim Duvendack |
| 11 | Joseph S. Swinford | 7 | 47% | Steve Jurgens |
| 12 | Christopher R. Retzer | 9 | 47% | John "Jack" Fessler |
| 13 | Christopher L. Hatcher | 7 | 58% | Elmer McDuffee |
| 14 | Maurice F. Bridges | 18 | 95% | ◆John Barrett |
| 15 | Clarence E. Caraker | 13 | 93% | Barbara R. Wilson |
| 16 | Eugene C. Blackwell, Jr. | 6 | 55% | William A. Browne, Jr. |
| 17 | Sean D. Conner | 8 | 57% | ◆Dan R. Swaner |
| 18 | Robert M. Adame | 10 | 83% | Robert McLeod |
| 19 | Robert Zeman | 24 | 96% | George R. Cramer |

◆Assistant State Director

| |
|-------------|
| Total Posts |
| 285 |

X-Sheet Data
27-02-19

| |
|-----------------------|
| Department Percentage |
| 65% |

Compiled by
Chuck Ingle

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

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KNOCK KNOCK!! OK chairman, post and district commanders. We had a great VOD banquet. Thanks to all that help out. Now in talking with the students, we found out that a good way to reach the students is through snap chat. This is a wakeup call; we need to get with the times in contacting the students, (i.e. social media). Put this in the back of your mind, the Department dropped by 600 students this last year. I know that you can do better than that. Now is the time to make plans for summer time when you are out in your community; talk with the schools now. We will find out how our state champ did at the national level in a couple of weeks. You can use this information when you talk about the program. The district needs to have training on how the program works

Next year's theme is "What Makes America Great"; with this information and your desire not to fail, we can't miss out on doing better. **START PLANNING!**

NATIONAL HOME

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DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE NURSERY?

At the Nursery and Early Education Center on campus at the National Home, children up to 6 years of age receive dedicated care in a secure environment. National Home residents can utilize

this facility at no cost while working or attending school. You can find detailed information about this and other services at the National Home's website í <http://www.vfwnationalhome.org>

EASY "XS"

"It's all about the children." Commanders and comrades, proceeds from Life Memberships and the commemorative brick program help to fund these programs! Please do keep this in mind!

CONGRATULATIONS

Our thanks to District 3, Commander Samuel Scaife Jr. and John Jakoby, Assistant National Home Director and to District 7, Commander Robert Sable and Alfred Weedon, District Chairman for achieving 100%, District 14 Commander Maurice Bridges and District Chairman Paul Zinck are within 1 post of 100%. These results are as of Tuesday, February 26th.

DEADLINE

Please also keep in mind that the program deadline is April 30 and we are glad to help all Posts and Districts achieve 100% participation. Contributions have been very good and we thank you. If somehow you have overlooked the National Home for Children or haven't received proper credit on the activity sheets then please do reach out.

SAFETY PROGRAM

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Now that we have entered the final months of the Safety Program for 2019 we must prepare for filling out our Safety Reports which includes the reporting on all six (6) of our safety programs. Remember that to achieve All State status you must report on the X sheet. All programs must be reported on to receive an award at the Department Convention. Please start working on these programs so that we can have a good showing from all of our posts.

District Commanders, you need to please address the safety program at your District Meetings. The Department of Illinois is looking really good as far as membership; we must look good in all of our Programs. Please Commanders, put the pressure on your people to start reporting the work that they have done. I know that they have done it, just please report it.

Please have a good couple of months before Convention and make Illinois look GREAT!

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Carl Sorensen, Director

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PR = IMAGE

YOUR PUBLIC IMAGE IS AS IMPORTANT ON MANY AS ANY PUBLICITY.

YOUR IMAGE IS NOT ABOUT JUST PRESS RELEASES IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER, IT'S ALSO ABOUT YOUR OVERALL IMAGE. THAT INCLUDES:

- WEBSITE: IS IT UP TO DATE? FRESH CONTENT OR PHOTOS OF A FISH FRY IN 2009.
- SOCIAL MEDIA: FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, SNAPCHAT, YOU TUBE.

HOW ABOUT YOUR MEMBERS? ONE OF THE CHALLENGES FACED BY MANY VIET NAM VETS WAS BEING SPIT AT, YELLED AT, IGNORED, AND WHEN SOME TRIED TO JOIN VFW TOLD "YOU DON'T QUALIFY, YOU WEREN'T IN A REAL WAR!" I MENTION THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT ONE OF THE ISSUES I SEE IN SOME POSTS IS IGNORING TODAY'S VETS, NOT MAKING THEM FEEL WELCOME, NOT COMMUNICATING WITH THEM, OR BEING VERY PATRONIZING TO THEM.

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE THINGS YOU SHOULD KEEP IN MIND.

WHEN YOU RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER, DO YOU SAY SOMETHING SUCH AS, "BINGO ON TUESDAY, SHOW UP!" OR DO YOU SIT AND TALK TO THEM AND TELL THEM ABOUT YOUR POST, THE VFW MISSION, INTRODUCE THEM TO OTHER MEMBERS, AND INVITE THEM TO CALL YOU WITH QUESTIONS, OR SIT DOWN OVER COFFEE AND TALK TO THEM ONE ON ONE ABOUT TO FIND OUT THEIR HOT BUTTON ISSUES, THEIR FAMILY, THEIR CAREER.

IF YOU DON'T THINK THIS IS PART OF YOUR IMAGE, THINK AGAIN. WE WORK HARD TO BRING IN NEW MEMBERS FROM TODAY'S GENERATION OF VETERANS, DON'T JUST SIGN THEM UP AND IGNORE THEM, THAT'S THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO.

I DO SEE SOME DAYLIGHT, I AM STARTING TO RECEIVE SOME EMAILS, TELEPHONE CALLS ASKING FOR HELP; GUESS WHAT? THAT'S THE NAME OF THE GAME. I DON'T KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS, BUT IF YOU NEVER TALK TO ME, I CAN'T HELP YOU PROMOTE THE VFW, YOUR POST, YOUR COMMUNITY.

ASSISTANT YOUTH ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR/SCOUTING

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There have been 52,160 scouts who have achieved the rank of Eagle in 2018. That equates to 6.49% of all scouts eligible for the rank made Eagle. Eagle Scouts, and the volunteers they led, completed **7,987,074 hours of work** for Eagle Scout service projects in 2018. That works out to **153.1 hours per project**. At the 2018 **"value of volunteer time" rate** of \$24.69 per hour, that works out to **\$197.2 million worth of service** to communities.

Illinois ranked 10th with 1618 Eagle Scouts with an average of 17.4 years.