

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

**OCTOBER 2018**

**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](mailto:spindler@springnet1.com)

***“THE HEAT IS ON AGAIN”***

By the time you read this, our statewide dues roundup will be over. Let me thank each and every one of you who took the time to come and see us! Hopefully, this will jumpstart us to get on track to achieving our membership goals.

We only have a couple of good months before the bad weather and cold temperatures are upon us, so take advantage of it. ***It’s a lot better to be out working membership in warm weather than to be out in zero temperatures.***

We all have a job to do in helping promote our Membership Program. Leaders at all levels--whether Post, District or Department--accepted the responsibility for maintaining and developing our membership in each of our respective areas when you were elected and appointed to the position. **It’s hard to believe, but last year we had over 100 Posts in our Department that did not recruit or reinstate a single member! That’s approximately 1/3 of our Posts!!!** If your Post was one of those, please try to put more effort into developing a Post membership plan. If you need help, please call me.

Please refer to your Commander’s Leadership Manual, under the Membership Program, Pages 12-21, to refresh yourself on the awards and qualifications this year for ðAll Stateö and ðAll Americanö. Each year, we have people who worked so hard to bring in their respective membership, but failed to meet one or more of the qualifications. ***Don’t let that happen to you!***

By now, you should have seen that Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence has laid down a challenge for all VFW Posts for the month of October. From October 1<sup>st</sup> ó 31<sup>st</sup>, the Post in each Membership Division that achieves the highest percentage of membership increase will receive **an award of \$500, to be deposited directly into the Post fund, and to be used as needed for the Post.**

Congratulations to the Posts that are already at the 100% + level. As of this writing, we have nine Posts that are between 104% and 112%. GREAT JOB! but please keep on going. Don’t stop now, and keep in mind that in order to qualify for ðAll Stateö this year, you need **100% + 10 members.**

***District Commanders:*** Are you staying in touch with the Assistant State Membership Director assigned to your District? Are you inviting them to your meetings and functions? Remember, they have been appointed to help you so use them!

As previously stated, the difference between successful individuals and unsuccessful ones is in the effort put forth. Mainly, successful people are willing to do all the things necessary to make them succeed. Unsuccessful people are unwilling to do this. IT IS UP TO YOU! I'm here to help, and all you need to do is let me know what you need, and how I can help you.

Remember, nobody ever told you that developing a membership plan and working it would be easy. That being said, if you make up your mind you're going to accomplish your goals, that is a great first step. I sincerely appreciate everything each and every one of you do for the VFW, and I know that if we all continue to pull together, we can make great things happen in your Post, your District, and your Department!

### **HOSPITAL/VAVS REPORT**

Harold Olsen, Director

(815) 819-7171

E-Mail: [olsenoly@yahoo.com](mailto:olsenoly@yahoo.com)

Summer is winding down, but it's still nice enough to get our comrades out for an outing or cookout. If you aren't sure where to take them the activity director can make suggestions.

We had the Little People scheduled to come to LaSalle in September. We called to confirm and they told us they canceled because they didn't have a contact. We never have had one with them before; we always paid them \$400 when they came. The guy was very rude and said they didn't have anybody available to do it so they will not get any business from us at LaSalle Home ever again!!!

I hope our representatives attended the Advisory Council Meetings. They are very informative. The LaSalle Veterans Home has several job openings including Administrator.

Don't forget to REPORT!!

### **AMERICANISM PROGRAM**

Tom Davidson, Director

Home: 847-352-5316

Cell: 847-347-8884

E-mail: [pastcomm7@yahoo.com](mailto:pastcomm7@yahoo.com)

The deadline for the Teacher of The Year is coming up at the end of this month. Teacher Nominations should be to The Posts by October 31, 2018. Post judging should be completed by November 15, 2018 and forwarded to your District for judging. All the rules and forms you need can be found on The Department web site under The Commander's Leadership Manual. Just scroll down to Americanism and everything is there. If you should have any problems call me and I can walk you through it. Please keep a copy of everything that you submit because things sometimes get lost in the mail.

October is the time to start planning your Veterans Day Ceremonies. November 11, 2018 will be coming up very quickly so start planning now. Make sure that you try to get your local newspaper to cover your ceremony so we can promote Americanism in our local communities.

### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**

Charles Ingle, Director

(815) 979-7152

E-mail: [chuck@roscoevfw.com](mailto:chuck@roscoevfw.com)

Comrades,

With four sub-categories in Community Activities, could it be that your Post has performed none of them in 5 months? Not entirely likely.

So, in our search for the reasons why not reported, let's push the "Easy Button", and first go to Near & Dear. Interview *your* Post Commander, Quartermaster, or *Reporting Officer* (different). This ought to be the quick and simple way to obtain that much needed insight. It will give you and us a more accurate description of their "Reporting Pitfalls". This might be all that is required. No need to poll the entire District.

Since August 30th, we have only added 5% to the Department number. We needed 15%. Thus, an increase must be reflected in the new monthly goals. Please respond with the remarks from within your Post. If we don't take action, April 30th will arrive tomorrow! Then what kind of a term will we have had?

I am responsible for any math errors. Please notify me if any exist.

I believe we're in agreement that: It's not so much a stagnation of Community Activities, as it is a failure to properly report.

Thanks. I'm looking forward to hearing from you,

### **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY**

Robert E. McLeod, Director

(708) 363-7462

E-mail: [rock76@yahoo.com](mailto:rock76@yahoo.com)

Posts have less than 30 days for student's entries in to the posts. Post chairman, ensure that the judges you have for the Post judging have a full understanding of the criteria that they will be judging on. Have the score sheet for the judges to use; if you do not have the score sheets, contact your District chairman for the score sheets. O.K., this is very important, when your Post does the judging, have all the judges present and use the same audio equipment for all entries. Ensure that all the paper work is filled out correctly and that every entry has the two (2) glossy pictures of the students. This will help out at the District level and Department level. I would hate to see a student not get advanced to the next level because of not having the paper work filled out correctly. I look forward to seeing and hearing the District winners this year.

## **BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM**

Walter Sanders, Jr., Director

(312) 805-0490

E-mail: [waltsanders722@comcast.net](mailto:waltsanders722@comcast.net).

Comrades, due to the blood shortage in the state of Illinois, I am asking you to conduct a blood drive sooner than later to help with the blood shortage in our state. If it is not possible to conduct a blood drive, instruct your comrades to go to the local blood bank and donate blood in the name of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Then report back to the post or district blood chairman of your donation.

## **NATIONAL HOME**

Michael J. McGrath, Director

(630) 357-2680

E-mail: [mackcav1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mackcav1@sbcglobal.net)

### *ILLINOIS DAY 2018*

A most sincere thank you to all who participated and helped make our 2018 Illinois Day such a great success as our Department contributed \$36,525.00 to the National Home. Some of our comrades came from long distances and that is much appreciated and we hope you all enjoyed the visit.

### *NEW WATERFALL*

Our new Illinois waterfall in the Tribute Park looks great and we thank our Department. The weather was spectacular; the campus and homes beautiful and well maintained. Sincere thanks also to all the staff at the National Home for their hard work and hospitality. The commemoration of POW/MIA Recognition day was also a very nice touch and well received.

### *PHOTOS*

Please don't forget to check out our new website at [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org) for some neat pictures of Illinois Day (our thanks to Carl Sorensen, Department Public Relations Director).

And "Save the Date" ! Our next Illinois Day is scheduled for September 28, 2019. Hope to see you there.

### *X SHEETS*

The x sheets should have gotten quite a good boost from Illinois Day so don't forget to report your hours and dollars and please let me know if you're having issues. I will help you. Thanks again, I'm grateful for your support.

## **SAFETY PROGRAM**

Robert Mattson

(847) 371-0209

E-mail: [rmattson7248@gmail.com](mailto:rmattson7248@gmail.com)

District and Post Safety chairman. We are heading into October and Halloween Time. It is time to speak to your membership concerning the safety of our children out trick and treating.

It is a good time to think about having some program in your posts for the children in order to keep them safe and off the streets. I know that my post 5151 has done something in the past for the kids. We really need to think about our future members and their families.

I know that I have been speaking to you concerning a District wide safety seminar for each District. I am not sure if any of our District Commanders have done anything concerning that issue. We in the 4<sup>th</sup> District are going ahead with our Seminar on October 27<sup>th</sup>, which is a Saturday. We will be doing it at the Streamwood Police Department again. This year's program will have 2 speakers. This first will be on Comfort Dogs conducted by Lutheran Church Charities (LLC) / K9 Police Ministry. The second will be a Pet Disaster Plan Presentation by the Streamwood Fire Department. Both I know will be very well received.

These are typical types of presentations that we do in District 4. With at least one post member from each of our Posts they can automatically put an X on their X sheets.

I am hoping that you will consider what I have just explained to you, and go ahead with your own Seminars on either the District or post levels.

If any of you have any questions concerning the safety Program, please give me a call.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT**

Carl Sorensen, Director

847-721-0281

E-mail: [prdirector@vfwil.org](mailto:prdirector@vfwil.org)

The successes we have accomplished have reinforced my goal to increase the image of the Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars.

1. I have begun establishing an address file of my contacts and will add to it and have it available for Districts and Posts in Illinois
2. Had positive feedback on PSA's for VOD, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year.
3. Our Press Release for Youth Scholarships and Teacher of the Year had received some ink both in on-line and print editions. (This can be increased in the future.)
4. Some of the District and Post Commanders feel they already have a relationship with a local newspaper, radio station; however, they call them and ask them to cover a project. We need to have THEM cover it with high quality photos and a well written concise press release.
5. We should consider road trip for PR Director, I want to compile a 15 minute presentation and make presentations all over Department to include Districts, Posts.

- a. We can start by "advertising" the photos on Department website and asking they email photos to PR Director for edit prior to posting.
- b. I want to make it clear as to what type of programs they should take photos, I can offer best practice ideas, providing information necessary for a press release, (Perhaps create a "Template" that can be used to provide the necessary information and email to me to write and submit to newspapers/cable channel/websites in their geographic area.)

The cooperation I have established with Bob McLeod VOD Program Director, Mike McGrath National Home Director as well as Paul Bezazian, Homeless Veterans Director who I have worked with for a couple years and will continue to look for additional opportunities to interact and Department Directors as well as Department Commander and line Officers. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve.