

## **TALKING POINTS – 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER**

### **REVIEW ALL MATERIAL AND MAKE APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT OF AUDIT:** Trustee's Report of Audits for quarter ending **September 30, 2023**, was due at Department Headquarters by **October 31, 2023**. Your December Quarterly Audit is due by **January 31, 2024**.

**ELIGIBILITY CHALLENGES:** Eligibility challenges must be done in accordance with Section 108 of the National By-Laws. Posts must approve the challenge at a Post meeting and notify the challenged member within five days of such action by certified or registered mail. The challenged individual will have 15 days to respond and provide proof of service. If eligibility cannot be established by the Post the member's application and proof of service shall be submitted to the Department Headquarters for review and disposition. It is imperative that the established challenge procedures in Section 108 of the Manual of Procedure be strictly and completely followed. Failure to do so will result in return of the action to the Post or delays in processing.

**990'S: DON'T FORGET TO FILE YOUR 990 WITH THE IRS AND SEND A COPY TO STATE HEADQUARTERS:** All 990's were due by **November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023!!**

**ALL STATE ENTRY FORM:** The All-State Entry Form is due to State Headquarters no later than **April 1, 2024**. The form is on the Dept. website under Resources, in the drop-down menu click on Reports and Forms; scroll down until you reach Post Forms. This form is required if you wish to be considered for All State Judging. All State Judging date is tentatively set for Monday, **May 6, 2024**. Districts are not required to complete this form. If the Commander and/or Quartermaster have changed since a post submitted the form an updated form must be completed again to avoid the ordering of the wrong cap size and shirt size for the All-State Awards. ***If you fail to submit the updated form the post will be responsible for the replacement of the wrong cover and/or shirt.***

**PROGRAM REPORTING:** Numerous Post fail to report any VFW Programs through the online Program reporting system. District and Post Commanders and Program Chairperson should review the Post program reporting status and help those Posts who have not reported. To access the program reporting go to the Department webpage (vfwfl.org) and click on the link marked Login then click on Members Only. The login is your membership number, and the password is your last name.

## **PROGRAM REPORTING CONTINUED**

Paper reports will be accepted by the Department or by the State Chairperson ***for the Voice of Democracy Chairperson, Patriot's Pen Chairperson, Teacher of the Year Program Chairperson and Scout of the Year. Report forms for these programs are on the Department website under get forms.***

**BECAUSE WE CARE:** The "Because We Care" Program benefits Veterans in need and assist the Hospital Programs and provides the VAVS Representatives at each facility when needed to help our veterans.

**VAVS:** For more than 92 years the Department of Florida has had a VAVS program. We offer a unique level of support and experience that only an organization with a strong service history like ours can provide. All donations to our VAVS program assist our VAVS reps. The funds are used to provide comfort items to those veterans hospitalized. Please make your donation s to the Department of Florida and in the memo block state which hospital your donation will go to.

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:** All entries are due to the Post by **October 31, 2023**. Post judging should be completed by **November 15, 2023**, and results sent to the District. District judging should be completed by **December 15, 2023**, and mailed to State Chairperson Chris Gates at 543 NE Sanchez Ave, Ocala FL 34470. The judging will be done by State Chairperson Chris Gates and the committee he appoints. Post and District participation reports are due to the State Chairperson by **January 15, 2024**. Forms can be found on the department website under resources, report forms.

**PATRIOT'S PEN:** All entries are due to the Post by **October 31, 2023**. Post judging should be completed by **November 15, 2023**, and results sent to the District. District judging should be completed and sent to the State Chairpersons Mike Cline no later than **December 15, 2023**. State Chairperson Mike Cline's address is 431 Alonzo Drive, Crestview, FL 32536 and is listed under Dept. Committees on the Dept. website. Do not forget to complete the Patriot's Pen Report Form, which is also on the Department Website under resources, report forms. Post and District participation reports are due to the State Chairperson by **January 15, 2024**.

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES:** All entries are due to the Post by **October 31, 2023**. Post judging should be done, and results sent to the District by **November 15, 2023**. District judging should be completed and sent to State Chairperson Tony Salvo no later than **December 15, 2023**. State Chairperson Tony Salvo's address is 6314 Lake Drive, Panama City, FL 32404 and is listed under Dept. Committees on the Dept. website.

**EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR:** Nominees for Department Scout of the Year are due to the Post by **February 28, 2024**. All candidates with full entry criteria must be submitted by the Post to the Department Scout Chairperson Ron Holladay by **March 15, 2024**. State Chairperson Ron Holladay's address is 5303 Woodlake Terrace, Gulf Breeze FL 33579 and is listed under Dept. Committee's on the Dept. website.

**PUBLIC SERVANT GOLD MEDAL AWARDS:** The Firefighter, Police Officer and Emergency Medical Technician entries are to be submitted to the State Chairperson David Bear by **January 1, 2024**. State Chairperson David Bear's address is 8247 Hixton Drive, Port Richey, FL 34668-4446 and is listed under Dept. Committee's on the Dept. website.

**STATE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT:** Commander McLucas's Special Project is Veterans Village Modernization. Donations are to be sent to Department Headquarters earmarked Commander's Special Project. Special Project Chairperson is Jim Durnal.

**STATE COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING:** Commander Mac McLucas's Homecoming will be at VFW Post 2391 St. Augustine, **April 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> 2024**. **More info at a later date.**

**VFW VETERANS' VILLAGE PROJECTS:** \$75.00 for Memorial Brick; Adopt a Room; Lifetime Membership; order blanks on VFW Veterans Village website, accessible through the Dept. website. Annual Picnic – **Saturday, March 23, 2024**, at the Veterans Village, \$12.00 to purchase tickets.

**DEPARTMENT RAFFLE:** Top prize is \$10,000 for the 300<sup>th</sup> ticket drawn along with other prize amounts on different tickets drawn. Only three hundred tickets will be sold at \$100.00 each. The drawings will be held at the State Convention on **June 15, 2024**, at the Renaissance Hotel in Orlando. You can purchase a ticket through your District Commander or through Department Headquarters. More information is available on the Department website. Proceeds from this sweepstakes will go toward Department Programs.

**MONTHLY DEPARTMENT BULLETIN:** The monthly Department Bulletin contains critical and helpful information for Post Commanders and members. Leaders are encouraged to read this and the monthly General Orders which are posted on the Department Web Page under the Resources drop down menu. Information should be disseminated to the Post and Auxiliary members.

**MEMBER SOLICITATIONS:** Mail solicitation through the National Organizations such as Mailing Labels, Calendars, note Pads etc. is one of the many ways we support all our VFW Programs. A portion of the funds from these solicitations comes directly to the Department, please be as generous as possible.

**MID-WINTER CONFERENCE:** Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2024 at West Gate Lake Resort Orlando, FL.32819. Room Rate for Single - \$108.00 + tax. Cutoff Date: **December 28, 2023, or as long as there is availability.** Check-in – 4:00 p.m.; check-out – 10:00 a.m. *Reservations will not be taken at this time. Banquet Ticket information will be made available at a later date.*

**MID-WINTER – DISTRICT COMMANDERS:** Banquet information will be posted on the Department website under Events/Announcements at a later date. All District Commanders are required to escort their Voice of Democracy winner and Patriot's Pen winner (if applicable) to the Youth Achievement Banquet. If you are unable to escort your District Winner, you must notify the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster as to why and who will be escorting your winner in your place. Dress Code is a suit, Blues & Grays and you must wear a tie.

### **2024-2025 QUARTERMASTER SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION:**

**QM SCHOOL** May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at the Florida Hotel, Orlando - \$121.00 + tax. Cutoff Date **May 9, 2024.** More information as it becomes available.

**STATE CONVENTION -** June 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Renaissance Hotel SeaWorld in Orlando, room rate \$128.00 plus tax. Cut Off Date – **Friday, May 20, 2024.** More information as it becomes available.