

TALKING POINTS – 2nd QUARTER

REVIEW ALL MATERIAL AND MAKE APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRUSTEE'S REPORT OF AUDIT: Trustee's Report of Audits for quarter ending **September 30, 2026**, was due at Department Headquarters by **October 31, 2026**. Your December Quarterly Audit is due by **January 31, 2027**.

ALL POST COMMANDERS: Post Emails must be checked at least once a week. The email that the Department sends all information to is EX: postxxxx@vfwfl.org. We do not send to personal emails such as Gmail, yahoo, etc.. If the post email is not checked you will miss information that is pertinent to your post. If you do not have access to your post email please reach out to the Department Headquarters.

990'S: DON'T FORGET TO FILE YOUR 990 WITH THE IRS AND SEND A COPY TO STATE HEADQUARTERS: All 990's are due by **November 15th, 2026!!**

ALL STATE ENTRY FORM: The All-State Entry Form is due to State Headquarters no later than **April 1, 2027**. 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 5, 2027**. 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.

CHAPLAIN TRAINING: National Chaplain training is available to anyone who is interested, and the link is posted on the Chaplain Brief and on the Department website under the resources tab.

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.* Everyone is urged to start using the scholars app for their submissions of VOD and PP.

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 donations 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, 2026**. Post judging should be completed by **November 15, 2026**. District judging should be completed by **December 15, 2026**. Department judging will be done by State Chairperson Heather Frank, and the committee she appoints. Post and District participation reports are due to the State Chairperson by **January 15, 2027**. Forms can be found on the department website under resources and report forms. Please email completed forms to statevod@vfwfl.org.

PATRIOT'S PEN: All entries are due to the Post by **October 31, 2026**. Post judging should be completed by **November 15, 2026**. District judging should be completed and sent to the State Chairpersons Brian Frank no later than **December 15, 2026**. 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, 2027**. Please email completed forms to statepp@vfwfl.org.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES: All entries are due to the Post by **October 31, 2026**. Post judging should be done, and results sent to the District by **November 15, 2026**. District judging should be completed and sent to State Chairperson James B Holmes no later than **December 15, 2026**. State Chairperson JB Holmes address is 4481 17th Avenue SW, Naples, FL 34116 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, 2027**. All candidates with full entry criteria must be submitted by the Post to the Department Scout Chairperson Ron Holladay by **March 15, 2027**. 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, 2027**. 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 Cash's Special Project is VFW National Home Florida House #2. Donations are to be sent to Department Headquarters earmarked Commander's Special Project. Special Project Chairperson is Amber Putnam.

STATE COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING: Commander Randy Cash's Homecoming will be at VFW Post 7122, Naples, FL on April 15- 17, 2027. Flyer coming soon.

VFW VETERANS' VILLAGE PROJECTS: \$75.00 for Memorial Brick; Lifetime Membership; order blanks on VFW Veterans Village website, accessible through the Dept. website. Annual Picnic – **Saturday, March 20, 2027**, at the Veterans Village, once tickets are out they will be \$15.00.

DEPARTMENT RAFFLE: Top prize is \$10,000 for the 300th 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 19, 2027**, 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. There are still tickets available at the Headquarters for sale.

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: Feb. 4th – 7th 2027 at Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, FL.32809. Room Rate for Single - \$149.00 + tax. Cutoff Date: **January 10th 2027**, or as long as there is availability. Check-in – 4:00 p.m.; check-out – 11:00 a.m. ***Banquet Ticket information will be made available at a later date. Do not make any reservations before the flyer is put out by Headquarters!***

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.

2027-2028 QUARTERMASTER SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION:

QM SCHOOL June 4th – June 6th , 2027, at the Florida Hotel, Orlando - \$132.00 + tax. Cutoff Date **May 2, 2027**. More information as it becomes available.

STATE CONVENTION - June 17th – 20th, 2027 at the Renaissance Hotel SeaWorld in Orlando, room rate \$159.00 plus tax. Cutoff Date – **Monday, May 24, 2027**. More information as it becomes available.