

1ST QUARTER TALKING POINTS 2026-2027

REVIEW ALL THE MATERIAL AND MAKE APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROGRAM REPORTING: All Program Reporting is to be done online on the Department webpage (www.vfwfl.org) under the link marked Login-Members Only- Login info: Membership number- Password: your last name.

Paper reports will be accepted by Department or by the State Chairman for Post/District Homeless Veterans Chairman, Post/District Program Chairman, Post/District Membership Chairman, District Hospital Chairman, District Because We Care Chairman, the Post/District Voice of Democracy Report Forms, Post/District Patriot's Pen Report Forms, and the Post/District Teacher of the Year Program. All forms are on the department website under post and/or district forms. Follow the directions on the form as to where to mail it.

All program reports are to be done online through the Dept. website. Programs for the 2026-2027 are from May 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027. Make sure all your programs are posted before the cut-off date.

990's: DON'T FORGET TO FILE YOUR 990 WITH THE IRS AND SEND A COPY TO STATE HEADQUARTERS. For the 990 forms go to IRS.gov due by November 15, 2026

QUARTERMASTER BONDS: All Quartermaster Bonds are due to Department Headquarters by August 31, 2026. If you have not submitted your bonds please do so immediately, Quartermaster Bond form, Canteen Employees and Bingo Chairperson Forms are on the Department Webpage (vfwfl.org) under Resources - Post Forms.

8822-B CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR RESPONSIBLE PARTY – BUSINESS:

Any entity with an EIN is now required to report a change in its "responsible party" by:

(a) by completing Form 8822-B as appropriate, including entering the new responsible party's name on line 8 and the new responsible party's SSN, ITIN, or EIN on line 9. Filing the completed form with the Internal Revenue Service within sixty (60) days of the change. The purpose of the form is to notify the Internal Revenue Service if you changed your business mailing address, your business location, or the identity of your responsible party.

The responsible party for tax-exempt organizations is commonly the same as the principal officer as defined in the Form 990 instructions. This form is located on the Department website (www.vfwfl.org) under Post Forms.

Training Videos are on the Department website (www.vfwfl.org) under resources.

COMMANDERS SPECIAL PROJECT: The Commander's Special Project is National Home Florida House #2: **ALL DONATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL PROJECT ARE TO BE SENT TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS EARMARKED "COMMANDERS SPECIAL PROJECT."**

VFW TRAINING AND SUPPORT:

The VFW National Headquarters has a VFW Training and Support section on www.vfw.org. The VFW Training and Support section has been designed to streamline your experience in your quest for the valuable training tools and resources you need to help lead the VFW into the future. In this section you'll find VFW-produced materials ranging from membership recruiting and Post meeting training videos to chairman guides, brochures, fact sheets, applications, and promotional material. Access to the page is gained by logging into the website and selecting the "VFW Training and Support" link in the left column of the My VFW Page. VFW Training and Support remains a work in progress; some materials may still reside in the document repository or are in the process of being updated and your patience is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the communications department at communications@vfw.org.

CHAIN OF COMMAND: In accordance with Section 418, Manual of Procedure (a) Officers (1) Commander (c): Enforce strict observance of the laws and usages of this organization, including District and Department By-Laws and the Congressional Charter, National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and the Ritual and all lawful orders from proper authorities.

DISTRICT MEETINGS: *If a District Meeting date, time and/or location are changed you **MUST** notify Christine at the Department in writing either by email (statecg@vfwfl.org); fax or regular mail.*

Each District Adjutant is **REQUIRED** to e-mail, fax or regular mail a copy of the minutes of each District Meeting to Department Headquarters within 10 days after each District Meeting.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOT'S PEN/TEACHER OF THE YEAR:

Get started early, all information is posted on the Department website. The Voice of Democracy & Patriot Pen theme is "What a Veteran Taught Me About America" forms and more information are under Community-Youth & Education on the National website, and the Teacher of the Year information is also under Community – Youth & Education on the National website.

2026- 2027 DEPARTMENT RAFFLE: The Department will be holding one (1) raffle to raise funds for the VFW Programs. Your District Commander will receive one ticket for each post and one for the District, so be sure to check with your District Commander first. Tickets will be \$100.00 each; you can also make checks payable to the VFW Department of Florida and mail them to State Headquarters, 543 NE Sanchez Ave., Ocala, FL 34470, and a ticket will be sent to you. Drawing will be held at the State Convention on Saturday, June 19, 2027, at the conclusion of the Banquet. The flyer for the Raffle is on The Department Website under Department Announcements.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER FIRE SIDE CHAT: On 10/21/2026 @ 16:00 a link will be sent to the District Commanders NLT 48 hours prior.

FLORIDA VFW VAVS REPRESENTATIVES: The listing of your Florida VAVS representatives is listed below: You are encouraged to reach out to them to coordinate hospital support activities. For more general questions you can also contact the Department Director Ron Evans at revans@vfwfl.org or Assistant Director Dani Hernandez at dhernandez@vfwfl.org.

Bay Pines VA Hospital – Gene Leshore (6287); **Gainesville VA Hospital** – Chester Lundy (2811) ; **Lake City VA Hospital** – Lucious George (8255); **Miami Clinic** – Patricia “Diane” Harrell (8195); **Orlando VA Hospital** – Terry Guthrie (4305); **Pensacola Clinic** – Edwin Soto (4833); **Tampa VA Hospital** – Brian Frank (10140); **West Palm Beach VA Hospital** – Barry Goldin (10556); **VA Panama City Beach Outpatient Clinic** – Kevin Delaney (2185); **Tallahassee Outpatient Clinic** – Debra Mann (3308)

FLAG DISPOSAL OPTIONS: Verified National Headquarters this is an acceptable way to dispose of worn-out American Flags. Nylon Flags are being recycled by Martex Fibers in South Carolina. All that is required is removing the reinforced strip that holds the grommets. There is no charge for the recycling just the cost of shipping. Address: Martex Fibers, 3200 Southport Road, Spartanburg, SC 29302; contact name Jimmy Jarrett; Phone No. (864) 583-6412 ext. 202.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE: October 22nd – 25th Mobile, AL

FALL CONFERENCE MEETING: October 29th – November 1st, 2026 at the Florida Hotel, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, FL 32809, FL. Room Rate \$125.00 + tax. Phone No. 407-859-1500, be sure and mention the Veterans of Foreign Wars Fall Meeting to receive the \$125.00 rate. Cut -off Date – September 28, 2026. Check in – 4:00 p.m. and Check Out – 11:00 a.m. **Do not book rooms before we tell you to.**