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GENERAL ORDERS NO. 8 SERIES 2022-2023, FEBRUARY 2023

All General Orders will be forwarded electronically and posted on the state website at <u>https://vfwwv.com/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=60909</u>. Posts or individuals who want a hard copy of the General Orders and accompanying documents, send \$25 to VFW State HQS, PO Box 9431, South Charleston, WV 25309.

1. <u>MEMBERSHIP</u>: Currently our membership percentage is 95%. We are ranked No. #18 in the Nation and No. #3 in the Southern Conference. Keep working your unpaid/expired/expiring lists and conducting Buddy checks with members you have not seen awhile. The new membership percentage goal is **97%** by February 28th, 2023. District 2 remains in the lead as the top District at 99.16%. The top Posts in each District are:

District 1	Post 6450 Chester, 105.05%
District 2	Post 3466 Charleston, 115.84%

District 3 Post 6723 Alderson, 128.57%

The top three recruiters to date are:

Joe Capito, Post 6450 Chester, 31 Ronie Wheeler, Post 9926 Mason, 23 NCM/PSC Vern Anderson, Post 4442 Elm Grove, 16

2. **FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE:** Our veterans need the VFW now more than ever, and we need a strong membership base to fulfill that mission. This month, we are once more focusing on total membership growth. Each Post that leads their Division in total membership increase will receive a \$1000 award deposited into the Post account - but there's an additional challenge! In order to qualify for this award, the Post must show at least a 2% membership increase in February. That means getting out there recruiting new members and retaining our existing ones! In addition, any Department that raises their membership percentage by 2% or more in February will receive a \$1000 award as well! We need everyone involved, getting out there to do the work and increase membership because **EVERY VETERAN COUNTS!**

3. <u>COMMUNITY SERVICE ENTRIES</u>: As a reminder, the Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Adjutant, or Quartermaster all have access to the All-American Dashboard and are encouraged to enter community service contributions by event via the All-American Dashboard.

4. DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 31	Post Trustees Report of Audit for Oct 1 – Dec 31 due State HQS
February 18	Commander/President Murder Mystery Dinner Post 629 Fairmont
March 1	Scout of the Year entries to Posts
April 1	Commander and President's testimonial, Post 7048 East Fairmont
April 1	Post Community Service Log/scrapbook to District Commander
April 16	District Community Service winner log/scrapbook to State HQS

District 4 Post 3522 Charles Town 107.44% District 5 Post 6153 Chapmanville, 121.68% 5. <u>COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT FUNDRAISER</u>: Commander Boggess and President Hudson are hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner on February 18th at Post 629 Fairmont to raise funds to battle food insecurity in youth. Proceeds will go to the children in Marion and Kanawha Counties. Please see the enclosed flier for more information. If you are unable to attend please consider a Post donation.

6. <u>ADOPT A UNIT PROGRAM</u>: Posts are encouraged to adopt a local National Guard or Reserve unit. Included is a Frequently Asked Questions on the program. For more information, visit <u>https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support</u>.

7. <u>VFW DAY OF SERVICE</u>: The second annual VFW Day of Service is part of the VFW's #StillServing campaign, which highlights the countless ways veterans continue to serve in communities across America. On May 6, 2023, the VFW will kick-off of the veteran-led community service projects that will take place throughout the month of May. VFW does ask that VFW members, all veterans and others visit VFWDayofService.org to register their event on the interactive Day of Service Map and receive a special participation decal and/or find a local event to join and see what veterans around the country are doing to make a difference.

8. **VFW #STILLSERVING COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT**: VFW #StillServing Community Support Grant has been designed to aid VFW Posts and Auxiliaries with projects that support, enrich and give back to their communities. Eligible applicants may apply for up to \$1,500 each through reimbursement for qualifying projects. There are two qualifying project types for which an eligible applicant may be awarded funding:

- Community outreach projects operated directly by the Post or Auxiliary. Examples include but are not limited to: Hosting a PTSD stand down event, a clothing drive for unemployed veterans, maintaining Post owned vehicles that transport veterans to medical appointments, etc.
- Repairs or renovations to Post buildings outside of a canteen area. The grant application must clearly indicate how the repair/upgrade allows the Post to better serve their community.

Applications for the VFW #StillServing Community Support Grant will be accepted through June 1, 2023, or until all grant funding is exhausted. For mor information visit <u>https://www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/post-grants</u>.

OFFICIAL: S. KEVIN LIGHT, ADJUTANT VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA BY ORDER OF: DR. CORRINA M. BOGGESS, COMMANDER VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA