



VFW State of West Virginia  
 5532 MacCorkle Ave SW  
 PO Box 9431  
 South Charleston, WV 25309  
 Phone 304-395-2430; 304- 768-7514  
 Email [vfwqm@frontier.com](mailto:vfwqm@frontier.com)  
 Website: [www.wvfw.com](http://www.wvfw.com)

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 10  
 SERIES 2023-2024, April 2024

All General Orders will be forwarded electronically and posted on the state website at <https://vfwv.com/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=60909>. 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.

Please keep the family of Past State Commander Kelly Goddard in your thoughts and prayers. PSC Goddard passed away on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> after a short illness.

1. **MEMBERSHIP**: Our membership stands at 94.48%, well off pace to achieve our goal of 98% by May 31st. For assistance with membership, contact Junior Vice Commander Heaney at 304-694-0504.

2. **UPCOMING DISTRICT CONVENTIONS**: *Per Section 218(a)(1)k. of the National Manual of Procedure, the Post Commander is to assure the Commander or their representative attends all properly called District Conventions or meetings*

*Districts serve lunch before meetings. Time listed is lunch time.*

|            |                    |          |          |         |        |
|------------|--------------------|----------|----------|---------|--------|
| District 1 | 7048 East Fairmont | April 28 | 12:00 PM | Ogden   | Crum   |
| District 2 | <b>Ripley</b>      | April 20 | 12:00 PM | Link    | Bise   |
| District 3 | Buckhannon         | April 20 | 12:00 PM | Elliott | Chipps |
| District 4 | Charles Town       | April 21 | 1:00 PM  | Link    | Chipps |
| District 5 | Madison            | April 20 | 12:00 PM | Heaney  | Smith  |

Schedule subject to change.

3. **ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER PHONE NUMBER**: *The Adjutant/Quartermaster has obtained an office cell phone, phone number 304-395-2430.*

4. **DATES TO REMEMBER**:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Apr 1, 2024      | Scout of the Year entries to State HQS   |
| Apr 30, 2024     | January 1 to March 31 Post Trustees report of audit to State HQS                   |
| May 1, 2024      | Proof of Post property insurance (if applicable) and 2022 tax filings to State HQS |
| May 1, 2024      | Post and District All-State requirements end                                       |
| May 1, 2024      | Rich Homan Award nominations to State HQS  |
| May 1, 2024      | “Bob and Rosa Kusterer” JROTC Cadet of the Year entries to State HQS               |
| May 15, 2024     | All-State Team selected  |
| Jun 1, 2024      | COMPLETE Post and District Election Reports to National and State HQS              |
| June 20-23, 2024 | State Convention Bridgeport Conference Center Bridgeport, WV                       |

5. **STATE CONVENTION ROOM RESERVATIONS**: The 2024 State Convention will be held June 20-23 at the Bridgeport Conference Center, 300 Conference Century Way, Bridgeport, WV 26330. Agenda and registration information forthcoming. Room reservations may be made by contacting the Wingate or Microtel:

**Wingate By Windham** (attached to the Conference Center):

350 Conference Center Way  
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Reserve a room by **Monday, June 3, 2024** under the VFW block by calling 304-808-1000. Room rate is \$99 plus tax.

**Microtel By Windham**

201 Conference Center Way  
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Reserve a room under the VFW Dept of WV by **Friday, May 3, 2024** by calling 304-808-2000, option 2 or online at

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/29594?checkInDate=06/20/2024&checkOutDate=06/23/2024&groupCode=VFW06202024>

Room rates: \$80 per night plus tax (no microwave or refrigerator), \$85 double queen with microwave and refrigerator plus tax, or \$99 plus tax for a suite.

6. **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Post Commanders are encouraged to review Section 217 of the National Manual of Procedure “Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office.” Nominations and elections shall be held at the Post meeting in April. The current Post Commander is responsible to ensure a completed 2024-2025 Post Election Report is submitted to National and State HQS by June 1<sup>st</sup>. The current Post Quartermasters is capable of submitting the election report via OMS.

7. **CONVENTION BOOK ADVERTISEMENTS:** *We are asking Posts, Districts and Auxiliaries to purchase an advertisement in the State Convention Book. We are also asking members to solicit local businesses to purchase an ad. The intent is for the purchase of ads to cover the cost of the Saturday evening banquet, making attendance at the banquet free of charge. Advertisements are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>. to PSC David Moske, 6633 Mud River Road, Barboursville, WV 25504. Payment is to be made to VFW State HQS.*

8. **POST DELEGATES TO THE DISTRICT AND STATE CONVENTION:** Post Delegates shall be elected in April. Posts are entitled to one delegate per 30 members and fraction thereof based on the total number of members as of March 31<sup>st</sup> (e.g. if a Post has 31 members as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, they are entitled to 2 delegates.) The State Adjutant will notify each Post of their delegate strength and State Convention Delegate Fee the first of April. Post Quartermasters can view their Post’s delegate strength in OMS. Posts are to provide a list of delegates to the District Quartermaster and State Quartermaster. A delegate or alternate listed must be present at the District Convention and State Convention to cast the Post delegate strength when voting.

9. **RICH HOMAN MEMORIAL AWARD:** This award will be presented to an outstanding VFW member who is a member in good standing with a Post in West Virginia. The recognition will be awarded for a comrade’s community service, promoting the objectives and values of the VFW throughout the community, and VFW achievements such as Membership Programs, Community Activities, Youth Activities, Project Chairman, and the leadership they have demonstrated at their Post that has brought prestige to the VFW. *All nominations must be submitted in writing to State Headquarters no later than May 1st.*

OFFICIAL:  
S. KEVIN LIGHT, ADJUTANT  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

BY ORDER OF:  
KAMI M. ELLIOTT, COMMANDER  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

**VFW State of West Virginia  
memstats as of 040124**

| City                    | Dst      | Life        | Difference | New       | Reinst    | Cont       | Total       | Adjusted<br>Prior Year* | Percent       | Div      | RS | N/R<br>LM | Prior<br>Annual | Retention | N/R %        |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|----|-----------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|
| MOUNDSVILLE             | 1        | 96          | -13        | 0         | 1         | 45         | 142         | 155                     | 91.61%        | 6        |    | 1         | 60              | 88.33%    | 1.29%        |
| MORGANTOWN              | 1        | 94          | +1         | 1         | 0         | 29         | 124         | 123                     | 100.81%       | 7        |    | 1         | 23              | 95.65%    | 1.63%        |
| TERRA ALTA              | 1        | 68          | -3         | 1         | 4         | 21         | 94          | 97                      | 96.90%        | 8        |    | 0         | 22              | 77.27%    | 5.15%        |
| FAIRMONT                | 1        | 347         | -42        | 1         | 1         | 9          | 358         | 400                     | 89.50%        | 3        |    | 4         | 33              | 33.33%    | 1.50%        |
| KINGWOOD                | 1        | 51          | -2         | 1         | 0         | 6          | 58          | 60                      | 96.66%        | 10       |    | 1         | 10              | 100.00%   | 3.33%        |
| MASONTOWN               | 1        | 82          | -6         | 2         | 0         | 5          | 89          | 95                      | 93.68%        | 8        |    | 2         | 21              | 80.95%    | 4.21%        |
| TUNNELTON               | 1        | 36          | -2         | 0         | 0         | 10         | 46          | 48                      | 95.83%        | 11       |    | 0         | 10              | 90.00%    | 0.00%        |
| BRUCETON MILLS          | 1        | 41          | +6         | 7         | 1         | 9          | 58          | 52                      | 111.53%       | 10       |    | 0         | 19              | 47.37%    | 15.38%       |
| WEIRTON                 | 1        | 156         | -22        | 5         | 2         | 38         | 201         | 223                     | 90.13%        | 5        |    | 1         | 90              | 56.67%    | 3.59%        |
| ROWLESBURG              | 1        | 30          | -2         | 0         | 0         | 1          | 31          | 33                      | 93.93%        | 11       |    | 0         | 1               | 0.00%     | 0.00%        |
| NEW CUMBERLAND          | 1        | 38          | -8         | 2         | 0         | 47         | 87          | 95                      | 91.57%        | 8        |    | 0         | 54              | 103.70%   | 2.11%        |
| ELM GROVE               | 1        | 74          | -41        | 9         | 2         | 70         | 155         | 196                     | 79.08%        | 5        |    | 1         | 103             | 58.25%    | 6.12%        |
| SISTERSVILLE            | 1        | 114         | +4         | 6         | 0         | 36         | 156         | 152                     | 102.63%       | 6        |    | 1         | 79              | 103.80%   | 4.61%        |
| CHESTER                 | 1        | 581         | +36        | 44        | 3         | 165        | 793         | 757                     | 104.75%       | 2        |    | 7         | 128             | 98.44%    | 7.13%        |
| EAST FAIRMONT           | 1        | 230         | +1         | 6         | 6         | 26         | 268         | 267                     | 100.37%       | 4        |    | 2         | 38              | 60.53%    | 5.24%        |
| WESTOVER                | 1        | 104         | +5         | 5         | 1         | 11         | 121         | 116                     | 104.31%       | 7        |    | 3         | 20              | 80.00%    | 7.76%        |
| <b>District 1 Total</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2142</b> | <b>-88</b> | <b>90</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>528</b> | <b>2781</b> | <b>2869</b>             | <b>96.93%</b> | <b>3</b> |    | <b>24</b> |                 |           | <b>4.71%</b> |

|                         |          |             |             |           |           |            |             |             |               |          |  |           |     |         |              |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------|--|-----------|-----|---------|--------------|
| PARKERSBURG             | 2        | 324         | -30         | 7         | 4         | 80         | 415         | 445         | 93.25%        | 3        |  | 3         | 111 | 79.28%  | 3.15%        |
| WEST UNION              | 2        | 40          | -4          | 1         | 0         | 10         | 51          | 55          | 92.72%        | 10       |  | 0         | 14  | 78.57%  | 1.82%        |
| CHARLESTON              | 2        | 125         | +26         | 1         | 18        | 24         | 168         | 142         | 118.30%       | 7        |  | 10        | 31  | 100.00% | 20.42%       |
| HARRISVILLE             | 2        | 66          | -5          | 0         | 2         | 19         | 87          | 92          | 94.56%        | 8        |  | 0         | 22  | 95.45%  | 2.17%        |
| CLAY                    | 2        | 43          | -4          | 0         | 0         | 10         | 53          | 57          | 92.98%        | 10       |  | 0         | 12  | 83.33%  | 0.00%        |
| BELLE                   | 2        | 34          | -10         | 0         | 1         | 15         | 50          | 60          | 83.33%        | 10       |  | 0         | 21  | 66.67%  | 1.67%        |
| GLENVILLE               | 2        | 40          | +3          | 1         | 0         | 0          | 41          | 38          | 107.89%       | 11       |  | 4         | 8   | 100.00% | 13.16%       |
| RIPLEY                  | 2        | 102         | -99         | 2         | 1         | 24         | 129         | 228         | 56.57%        | 5        |  | 3         | 122 | 33.61%  | 2.63%        |
| SAINT ALBANS            | 2        | 45          | -7          | 0         | 1         | 10         | 56          | 63          | 88.88%        | 10       |  | 0         | 12  | 83.33%  | 1.59%        |
| RAVENSWOOD              | 2        | 84          | -24         | 0         | 0         | 19         | 103         | 127         | 81.10%        | 7        |  | 0         | 42  | 61.90%  | 0.00%        |
| CHESAPEAKE              | 2        | 82          | -4          | 0         | 3         | 28         | 113         | 117         | 96.58%        | 7        |  | 0         | 42  | 69.05%  | 2.56%        |
| ELKVIEW                 | 2        | 42          | -15         | 1         | 0         | 12         | 55          | 70          | 78.57%        | 9        |  | 0         | 16  | 68.75%  | 1.43%        |
| MASON                   | 2        | 466         | +23         | 18        | 14        | 74         | 572         | 549         | 104.18%       | 3        |  | 10        | 66  | 100.00% | 7.65%        |
| <b>District 2 Total</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1493</b> | <b>-150</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>44</b> | <b>325</b> | <b>1893</b> | <b>2043</b> | <b>92.65%</b> | <b>4</b> |  | <b>30</b> |     |         | <b>5.14%</b> |

|                         |          |            |            |           |           |            |             |             |               |          |  |          |     |         |              |
|-------------------------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------|--|----------|-----|---------|--------------|
| BELINGTON               | 3        | 171        | -5         | 1         | 1         | 10         | 183         | 188         | 97.34%        | 5        |  | 0        | 18  | 55.56%  | 1.06%        |
| CLARKSBURG              | 3        | 334        | -33        | 15        | 4         | 96         | 449         | 482         | 93.15%        | 3        |  | 1        | 163 | 60.74%  | 4.15%        |
| WESTON                  | 3        | 25         | -4         | 0         | 0         | 10         | 35          | 39          | 89.74%        | 11       |  | 0        | 15  | 80.00%  | 0.00%        |
| GRAFTON                 | 3        | 97         | -8         | 1         | 1         | 37         | 136         | 144         | 94.44%        | 6        |  | 1        | 40  | 97.50%  | 2.08%        |
| BUCKHANNON              | 3        | 127        | +4         | 7         | 10        | 33         | 177         | 173         | 102.31%       | 6        |  | 1        | 28  | 100.00% | 10.40%       |
| WEBSTER SPRINGS         | 3        | 22         | -6         | 2         | 0         | 10         | 34          | 40          | 85.00%        | 11       |  | 0        | 15  | 66.67%  | 5.00%        |
| BURNSVILLE              | 3        | 14         | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0          | 14          | 14          | 100.00%       | 11       |  | 0        | 5   | 100.00% | 0.00%        |
| MARLINTON               | 3        | 33         | -6         | 0         | 0         | 11         | 44          | 50          | 88.00%        | 11       |  | 0        | 17  | 70.59%  | 0.00%        |
| SUMMERSVILLE            | 3        | 43         | -1         | 4         | 0         | 22         | 69          | 70          | 98.57%        | 9        |  | 0        | 19  | 94.74%  | 5.71%        |
| ALDERSON                | 3        | 37         | -10        | 7         | 5         | 7          | 56          | 66          | 84.84%        | 10       |  | 1        | 17  | 29.41%  | 19.70%       |
| RENICK                  | 3        | 9          | -1         | 1         | 1         | 4          | 15          | 16          | 93.75%        | 11       |  | 0        | 6   | 66.67%  | 12.50%       |
| CRAIGSVILLE             | 3        | 19         | -2         | 2         | 0         | 8          | 29          | 31          | 93.54%        | 11       |  | 0        | 12  | 83.33%  | 6.45%        |
| SALEM                   | 3        | 54         | -10        | 0         | 1         | 3          | 58          | 68          | 85.29%        | 9        |  | 0        | 7   | 14.29%  | 1.47%        |
| <b>District 3 Total</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>985</b> | <b>-82</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>251</b> | <b>1299</b> | <b>1381</b> | <b>94.06%</b> | <b>5</b> |  | <b>4</b> |     |         | <b>4.85%</b> |

**VFW State of West Virginia**

memstats as of 040124

| City                    | Dst      | Life        | Difference | New       | Reinst    | Cont       | Total       | Adjusted<br>Prior Year* | Percent       | Div      | RS | N/R<br>LM | Prior<br>Annual | Retention | N/R %        |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|----|-----------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|
| MARTINSBURG             | 4        | 191         | -35        | 5         | 2         | 32         | 230         | 265                     | 86.79%        | 4        |    | 0         | 62              | 56.45%    | 2.64%        |
| ROMNEY                  | 4        | 62          | -2         | 4         | 1         | 19         | 86          | 88                      | 97.72%        | 8        |    | 2         | 27              | 85.19%    | 7.95%        |
| WARDENSVILLE            | 4        | 88          | -13        | 4         | 3         | 39         | 134         | 147                     | 91.15%        | 6        |    | 0         | 86              | 47.67%    | 4.76%        |
| KEYSER                  | 4        | 109         | -15        | 1         | 0         | 22         | 132         | 147                     | 89.79%        | 6        |    | 1         | 33              | 84.85%    | 1.36%        |
| CHARLES TOWN            | 4        | 601         | +43        | 36        | 2         | 2          | 641         | 598                     | 107.19%       | 3        |    | 4         | 29              | 100.00%   | 7.02%        |
| ELKINS                  | 4        | 88          | -9         | 6         | 0         | 25         | 119         | 128                     | 92.96%        | 7        |    | 1         | 40              | 75.00%    | 5.47%        |
| BERKELEY SPRINGS        | 4        | 84          | +5         | 6         | 0         | 35         | 125         | 120                     | 104.16%       | 7        |    | 0         | 41              | 100.00%   | 5.00%        |
| COALTON                 | 4        | 13          | +1         | 1         | 0         | 4          | 18          | 17                      | 105.88%       | 11       |    | 0         | 4               | 125.00%   | 5.88%        |
| HARMAN                  | 4        | 10          | -2         | 0         | 0         | 8          | 18          | 20                      | 90.00%        | 11       |    | 0         | 13              | 92.31%    | 0.00%        |
| RIDGELEY                | 4        | 50          | -8         | 1         | 0         | 23         | 74          | 82                      | 90.24%        | 9        |    | 0         | 31              | 74.19%    | 1.22%        |
| PETERSBURG              | 4        | 103         | +1         | 0         | 7         | 1          | 111         | 110                     | 100.90%       | 8        |    | 0         | 0               | 100.00%   | 6.36%        |
| FORT ASHBY              | 4        | 111         | +1         | 6         | 3         | 33         | 153         | 152                     | 100.65%       | 6        |    | 2         | 41              | 82.93%    | 7.24%        |
| MATHIAS                 | 4        | 15          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 2          | 17          | 17                      | 100.00%       | 11       |    | 0         | 2               | 100.00%   | 0.00%        |
| MOOREFIELD              | 4        | 67          | -8         | 0         | 0         | 35         | 102         | 110                     | 92.72%        | 8        |    | 0         | 59              | 69.49%    | 0.00%        |
| SUGAR GROVE             | 4        | 88          | +1         | 2         | 0         | 1          | 91          | 90                      | 101.11%       | 8        |    | 0         | 2               | 50.00%    | 2.22%        |
| <b>District 4 Total</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>1680</b> | <b>-40</b> | <b>72</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>281</b> | <b>2051</b> | <b>2091</b>             | <b>98.08%</b> | <b>4</b> |    | <b>10</b> |                 |           | <b>4.78%</b> |

|                         |          |             |             |           |           |            |             |             |               |          |  |          |    |         |              |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------|--|----------|----|---------|--------------|
| HUNTINGTON              | 5        | 175         | -22         | 0         | 1         | 41         | 217         | 239         | 90.79%        | 5        |  | 0        | 64 | 64.06%  | 0.42%        |
| IAEGER                  | 5        | 44          | -3          | 2         | 1         | 6          | 53          | 56          | 94.64%        | 10       |  | 2        | 9  | 77.78%  | 8.93%        |
| SOPHIA                  | 5        | 80          | -22         | 1         | 1         | 27         | 109         | 131         | 83.20%        | 7        |  | 0        | 49 | 51.02%  | 1.53%        |
| BECKLEY                 | 5        | 73          | -1          | 2         | 2         | 24         | 101         | 102         | 99.01%        | 8        |  | 1        | 37 | 59.46%  | 4.90%        |
| HINTON                  | 5        | 20          | -5          | 0         | 0         | 3          | 23          | 28          | 82.14%        | 11       |  | 0        | 14 | 42.86%  | 0.00%        |
| ALUM CREEK              | 5        | 50          | -4          | 0         | 0         | 17         | 67          | 71          | 94.36%        | 9        |  | 1        | 13 | 100.00% | 1.41%        |
| MADISON                 | 5        | 146         | -24         | 1         | 0         | 65         | 212         | 236         | 89.83%        | 5        |  | 1        | 82 | 86.59%  | 0.85%        |
| CHAPMANVILLE            | 5        | 71          | -23         | 1         | 0         | 6          | 78          | 101         | 77.22%        | 8        |  | 0        | 12 | 66.67%  | 0.99%        |
| ANSTED                  | 5        | 42          | -5          | 1         | 1         | 14         | 58          | 63          | 92.06%        | 10       |  | 0        | 20 | 90.00%  | 3.17%        |
| OCEANA                  | 5        | 58          | +9          | 8         | 1         | 2          | 69          | 60          | 115.00%       | 10       |  | 4        | 3  | 100.00% | 21.67%       |
| HURRICANE               | 5        | 120         | +3          | 2         | 9         | 38         | 169         | 166         | 101.80%       | 6        |  | 0        | 47 | 70.21%  | 6.63%        |
| HUNTINGTON              | 5        | 142         | -24         | 0         | 0         | 29         | 171         | 195         | 87.69%        | 5        |  | 0        | 56 | 67.86%  | 0.00%        |
| MILTON                  | 5        | 79          | -7          | 3         | 0         | 12         | 94          | 101         | 93.06%        | 8        |  | 0        | 31 | 70.97%  | 2.97%        |
| <b>District 5 Total</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>1100</b> | <b>-128</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>284</b> | <b>1421</b> | <b>1549</b> | <b>91.73%</b> | <b>4</b> |  | <b>9</b> |    |         | <b>2.97%</b> |

|                  |    |     |      |    |   |     |     |      |        |   |  |   |  |  |       |
|------------------|----|-----|------|----|---|-----|-----|------|--------|---|--|---|--|--|-------|
| Members at Large | 99 | 740 | -112 | 30 | 2 | 121 | 893 | 1005 | 88.85% | 1 |  | 6 |  |  | 3.78% |
|------------------|----|-----|------|----|---|-----|-----|------|--------|---|--|---|--|--|-------|

|                    |            |             |             |            |            |             |              |              |               |  |  |           |  |  |              |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--|--|-----------|--|--|--------------|
| <b>State Total</b> | <b>255</b> | <b>8140</b> | <b>-600</b> | <b>284</b> | <b>124</b> | <b>1790</b> | <b>10338</b> | <b>10938</b> | <b>94.51%</b> |  |  | <b>83</b> |  |  | <b>4.49%</b> |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--|--|-----------|--|--|--------------|





**KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM!**



This year the VFW has seen historic growth that we want to see continue as we strive for that 102% goal!

During the month of April, Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento has laid down a new challenge to our Posts: the Post in each membership division that increases their membership the most from April 1st through April 30th will receive a \$500 award as well as a special Commander's Cutlass, engraved with the Post's name and number to show everyone that you have done the work and MET THE CHALLENGE!



There will only be ELEVEN of these unique swords made, any Post that has one to display will show the world that they are among the elite! Get out there recruiting, renewing, and recovering lapsed members and it could be yours!

We are on track for a record-setting membership year if everyone continues to do their part and puts forth the extra effort! Let's shatter expectations as we go out to  
**MEET THE CHALLENGE!**



February 15, 2024

Dear Post Quartermaster:

Enclosed with this letter is the very important **Post Election Report**, which must be completed and immediately filed with VFW National Headquarters following your annual Post election in April. Although it is the responsibility of the Post Commander under Section 218(a)(1)(i) of the National Manual of Procedure to ensure the filing of the report for the ensuing year, you as Post Quartermaster have access to the membership and Post records which are needed to properly render the report. We are therefore requesting you complete the form online to ensure its accuracy. It is important that a Post Election Report be completed online even if there are no changes in the elected and appointed officers for the ensuing year.

To continue our commitment to better use our financial resources, I am encouraging every Post to file their report using the Online Membership System (OMS). This enhanced system allows you as the Quartermaster an opportunity to efficiently and effectively report the Post's newly elected and appointed officers.

Once you've successfully entered the new data and properly transmitted, a copy of the election report is automatically sent to the email address of the person completing the form and to your Department Headquarters.

Please be reminded that Section 211 of the National Bylaws stipulates authority to the Commander-in-Chief, to suspend and eventually revoke a Post Charter for failure to submit a properly completed Post Election Report to this Headquarters by June 1.

You will also find enclosed the **National Convention Post Registration Invoice**, which must be completed and filed in advance of the National Convention. Section 222 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Bylaws requires each Post to pay in advance a National Convention registration fee of \$25.00. This shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a \$10 delegate fee. Each Post is encouraged to register at least one delegate and one alternate for every thirty members or fraction thereof. *Please note that Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states that delegates shall be elected at the regular meeting in April, with delegate strength based on members in good standing as of March 31.*

Like the Post Election Report, the National Convention Post and delegate registration process is available to Quartermasters through the Online Membership System (OMS). Only a Post or Department Quartermaster can register a Post and its delegates online.

For your convenience, we are providing complete instructions on how to accomplish these two very important processes, as well as the OMS alternative methods.

I appreciate your cooperation on these matters.

Sincerely,

Dan West  
Adjutant General

DLW:qsc  
Enclosures

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## WASHINGTON OFFICE

406 W. 34th Street Office 816.756.3390  
Kansas City, MO 64111 Fax 816.968.1157

200 Maryland Ave., N.E. Office 202.543.2239  
Washington, D.C. 20002 Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org  
www.vfw.org

# The 2024-25 Post Election Report is to be completed by the outgoing Post Quartermaster during or immediately following the election meeting.

Information you will need to properly file your report:

- Elected Post officers membership information to include current contact information and membership number
- Post meeting information to include address, day and time. The day should be shown as "First Tuesday," "Third Wednesday," as appropriate. If a meeting is held more than once a month, show as "First and Third Monday," "Every Friday," as appropriate. Time should be shown as "11:00 am," "7:30 pm," as appropriate
- Post mailing address, Post email and website information
- Post Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Current Post dues amount
- Commander's named appointments for Adjutant, Chaplain and Service Officer (Judge Advocate and Surgeon if required by Post bylaws).

## **ONLINE ELECTION REPORT**

Online reporting is the preferred method of submitting the Post's 2024-25 Election Report. As Post Quartermaster, you will log into [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) accessing "My VFW." You will then click on the link "Online Membership System." You will find, in the left navigation pane "Election Report"; open the drop down and click "Post Election Report Filing." You are now ready to use the newly enhanced reporting procedure. Follow the step by step process, verify your summary, make any necessary corrections and submit. This is a 5-7 minute process for the average user.

Quartermasters who need assistance setting up their Online Membership System (OMS) account should review the "Quartermaster Guide to Member Dues Processing" training document located in "VFW Training and Support" under "Member & Officer Training, Forms & Templates." Additional technical support is available by calling VFW Member Service Center at 833.VFW.VETS (833.839.8387).

**Department Adjutants and Quartermasters have access to OMS; therefore, have the ability to enter Post Election results for a Post. Please consider this resource if you do not have access to OMS.**

In addition to the annual Election Report, this system will be utilized to make officer changes during the administrative year.

## **MAIL-IN OR FAXED ELECTION REPORT**

Although a return, postage paid envelope has been included in this year's mailing, we ask that you make every attempt to use the online reporting method. **Do not mail or fax your report if you have utilized the online reporting method.** Your report can be submitted by mailing one copy to the Adjutant General or fax to 816.968.1120.

## **NOTIFICATION**

Changes in Post Officers will also be acknowledged by email to the Post Quartermaster's and Department Headquarters email addresses.

Corrections should be made by accessing OMS.

National Headquarters will be providing Post and officer information to the Department Headquarters.

**Questions regarding the Post Election Report can be answered by calling 816.756.3390 ext. 6299.**



# 20\_\_ - \_\_ POST ELECTION REPORT

**DATE OF ELECTION:**

|        |            |            |           |   |    |
|--------|------------|------------|-----------|---|----|
| POST # | DISTRICT # | DEPARTMENT | POST NAME | POST DUES AMOUNT<br>Includes National and Department Per Capita | \$ |
|--------|------------|------------|-----------|---|----|

| POST MEETING LOCATION (PHYSICAL ADDRESS) |       |          | POST MAILING ADDRESS   |       |          |
|--|-------|----------|--|-------|----------|
| BUILDING NAME (IF NOT POST NAME)         |       |          | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #   |       |          |
| STREET ADDRESS                           |       |          | ADDRESS LINE 2   |       |          |
| CITY                                     | STATE | ZIP CODE | CITY   | STATE | ZIP CODE |
| POST EMAIL ADDRESS                       |       |          | POST MEETING DAY/TIME  |       |          |
| POST WEBSITE                             |       |          | CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:  |       |          |
| POST PHONE #                             |       |          | <input type="checkbox"/> OWN <input type="checkbox"/> RENT <input type="checkbox"/> NO POST HOME <input type="checkbox"/> CANTEEN/CLUBROOM<br><input type="checkbox"/> PROVIDE HALL RENTALS <input type="checkbox"/> PROVIDE MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS |       |          |
| FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION # (EIN)  |       |          |  |       |          |

| COMMANDER    |               |      |      |                            |          |
|--------------|---------------|------|------|----------------------------|----------|
| MEMBERSHIP # |               | NAME |      | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX # |          |
| PHONE #      | EMAIL ADDRESS |      | CITY | STATE                      | ZIP CODE |

| SENIOR VICE COMMANDER |               |      |      |                            |          |
|-----------------------|---------------|------|------|----------------------------|----------|
| MEMBERSHIP #          |               | NAME |      | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX # |          |
| PHONE #               | EMAIL ADDRESS |      | CITY | STATE                      | ZIP CODE |

| JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER |               |      |      |                            |          |
|-----------------------|---------------|------|------|----------------------------|----------|
| MEMBERSHIP #          |               | NAME |      | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX # |          |
| PHONE #               | EMAIL ADDRESS |      | CITY | STATE                      | ZIP CODE |

| QUARTERMASTER |               |      |      |                            |          |
|---------------|---------------|------|------|----------------------------|----------|
| MEMBERSHIP #  |               | NAME |      | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX # |          |
| PHONE #       | EMAIL ADDRESS |      | CITY | STATE                      | ZIP CODE |

| CHAPLAIN (APPOINTED) |               |      |      |                            |          |
|----------------------|---------------|------|------|----------------------------|----------|
| MEMBERSHIP #         |               | NAME |      | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX # |          |
| PHONE #              | EMAIL ADDRESS |      | CITY | STATE                      | ZIP CODE |

| 1 YEAR TRUSTEE |               |      |      |                            |          |
|----------------|---------------|------|------|----------------------------|----------|
| MEMBERSHIP #   |               | NAME |      | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX # |          |
| PHONE #        | EMAIL ADDRESS |      | CITY | STATE                      | ZIP CODE |

| 2 YEAR TRUSTEE |               |      |      |                            |          |
|----------------|---------------|------|------|----------------------------|----------|
| MEMBERSHIP #   |               | NAME |      | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX # |          |
| PHONE #        | EMAIL ADDRESS |      | CITY | STATE                      | ZIP CODE |

| 3 YEAR TRUSTEE |               |      |      |                            |          |
|----------------|---------------|------|------|----------------------------|----------|
| MEMBERSHIP #   |               | NAME |      | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX # |          |
| PHONE #        | EMAIL ADDRESS |      | CITY | STATE                      | ZIP CODE |

| ADJUTANT (APPOINTED) |               |      |      |                            |          |
|----------------------|---------------|------|------|----------------------------|----------|
| MEMBERSHIP #         |               | NAME |      | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX # |          |
| PHONE #              | EMAIL ADDRESS |      | CITY | STATE                      | ZIP CODE |

| SERVICE OFFICER (APPOINTED) |               |      |      |                            |          |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------|------|----------------------------|----------|
| MEMBERSHIP #                |               | NAME |      | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX # |          |
| PHONE #                     | EMAIL ADDRESS |      | CITY | STATE                      | ZIP CODE |

| JUDGE ADVOCATE (IF REQUIRED BY POST BYLAWS)    ELECTED    APPOINTED |               |      |      |                            |          |
|---|---------------|------|------|----------------------------|----------|
| MEMBERSHIP #  |               | NAME |      | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX # |          |
| PHONE #   | EMAIL ADDRESS |      | CITY | STATE                      | ZIP CODE |

| SURGEON (IF REQUIRED BY POST BYLAWS)    ELECTED    APPOINTED |               |      |      |                            |          |
|--|---------------|------|------|----------------------------|----------|
| MEMBERSHIP #   |               | NAME |      | STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX # |          |
| PHONE #  | EMAIL ADDRESS |      | CITY | STATE                      | ZIP CODE |

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPERLY SUBMITTING POST CONVENTION REGISTRATION, DELEGATES, ALTERNATES AND ATTENDEES

## **NATIONAL BYLAW - SECTION 222**

*Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing. Delegates and alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure.*

*Each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee.*

## **NATIONAL MANUAL OF PROCEDURE - SECTION 222**

*Delegates and alternates for the National Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31.*

### **ONLINE**

Online submission is the preferred method of submitting the National Convention-Post & Delegate Registration Fee(s). As Post Quartermaster, you will log into [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and access "My VFW." You will then click on the link "Online Membership System." You will find, in the left navigation pane "National Convention"; open the drop down and click "National Convention Registration" and enter desired membership information. This is a 3-6 minute process for the average user. **Please have the membership number available of all delegates, alternates and attendees you are registering.**

**Only a Post or Department Quartermaster, utilizing this system, can register the Post's delegates online. Members accessing the National Convention website are registered as attendees only.**

The Post registration fee of \$25 must be remitted *prior* to the convention; Post delegates will not be able to register their credentials unless this fee is paid.

### **MAIL-IN OR FAX**

Enclosed with this notification is an invoice in the amount of \$25. Quartermasters may fill out and return this invoice using the enclosed pre-addressed, postage paid envelope. This form must be signed by the Adjutant or Quartermaster. The Post registration fee of \$25 must be remitted *prior* to the convention; Post delegates will not be able to register their credentials unless this fee is paid. When using the enclosed form you are required to include the membership number, name and address of all delegates, alternates and attendees you are registering.

### **DEFINITIONS**

Delegate- Member (in good standing) of the Post elected to represent the Post in all business activity at the National Convention. Delegates elected under Section 222 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure shall not be considered instructed and may exercise full authority in the duty performed.

Alternate- Member (in good standing) of the Post elected to represent the Post in all business activity at the National Convention in the event the elected delegate cannot attend. Alternates not fulfilling the role as "delegate" are considered "attendees."

Attendee- Any member in good standing may register for the National Convention. Registering for the National Convention is another way a member can show support for VFW programs. The \$10 registration fee entitles the member to a convention packet which may be picked up at the convention.

### **NOTIFICATION**

Post Quartermasters will receive letter confirmation that the Post is registered.

Delegates, alternates and attendees will receive a confirmation letter. Included in this letter will be a request for emergency contact information. We are asking all to fill-out and bring this form with them to convention; this is voluntary, but recommended.

All notification will be sent USPS, 3-5 days after processing.

### **DELEGATE STATUS**

Commanders, Quartermasters or Adjutants may report any changes to a delegate's status through the Member Service Center via email at [msc@vfw.org](mailto:msc@vfw.org) or by calling 833.VFW.VETS (833.839.8387). **Please have the membership number available of all delegates, alternates and attendees you are registering.**

# INVOICE

Due Upon Receipt



## National Convention - Post & Delegate Registration

**Section 222** of the National Bylaws states "Each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee." Each Post is encouraged to register at least one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for every thirty (30) members or fraction thereof. Delegates and alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure. Delegates and alternates for the National Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31.

**Any member** in good standing may register for the National Convention. Registering for the National Convention is another way a member can show support for VFW programs. The ten dollar (\$10) registration fee entitles the member to a convention packet which may be picked up at the convention.

**Please type or print each member's information below and designate as delegate, alternate or attendee.**

(Any change to a delegate's status shall be reported to the Member Service Center)

| Registration Type   | Membership Number                          | Member Name | Member Address | Email | Amount  |
|---|--|-------------|----------------|-------|---------|
| Post Registration Fee w/ Delegate   |  |             |                |       | \$25.00 |
| <input type="radio"/> Delegate<br><input type="radio"/> Alternate<br><input type="radio"/> Attendee | CHOOSE ONLY ONE REGISTRATION TYPE PER LINE |             |                |       |         |
| <input type="radio"/> Delegate<br><input type="radio"/> Alternate<br><input type="radio"/> Attendee |  |             |                |       |         |
| <input type="radio"/> Delegate<br><input type="radio"/> Alternate<br><input type="radio"/> Attendee |  |             |                |       |         |
| <input type="radio"/> Delegate<br><input type="radio"/> Alternate<br><input type="radio"/> Attendee |  |             |                |       |         |
| <input type="radio"/> Delegate<br><input type="radio"/> Alternate<br><input type="radio"/> Attendee |  |             |                |       |         |
| <input type="radio"/> Delegate<br><input type="radio"/> Alternate<br><input type="radio"/> Attendee |  |             |                |       |         |
| <input type="radio"/> Delegate<br><input type="radio"/> Alternate<br><input type="radio"/> Attendee |  |             |                |       |         |
| <input type="radio"/> Delegate<br><input type="radio"/> Alternate<br><input type="radio"/> Attendee |  |             |                |       |         |
| <input type="radio"/> Delegate<br><input type="radio"/> Alternate<br><input type="radio"/> Attendee |  |             |                |       |         |
| <input type="radio"/> Delegate<br><input type="radio"/> Alternate<br><input type="radio"/> Attendee |  |             |                |       |         |
| <input type="radio"/> Delegate<br><input type="radio"/> Alternate<br><input type="radio"/> Attendee |  |             |                |       |         |

Packets not picked up at the convention will not be mailed unless a request is received in writing within 60 days of the close of the convention.

Post Registration Fee with one (1) Delegate \$ 25.00  
 Add \$10.00 each additional Delegate/Alternate/Attendee \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Adjutant or Quartermaster: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post # \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK/MONEY ORDER  VISA  MASTER CARD  DISCOVER  AMERICAN EXPRESS

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Holder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed form & payment to:**  
**VFW Convention Registration**  
**406 W. 34th Street**  
**Kansas City, MO 64111**

**VFW 125th NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**Louisville, KY – July 27-August 1, 2024**  
**NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING OPEN**

TO: POST ADJUTANT

FROM: National Convention Office, VFW

SUBJECT: ROOM RESERVATIONS FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION

---

Reservations for the 125th VFW National Convention opens in March.

All members of your Post who desire to make room reservations for the convention are directed to use one of the following procedures:

- 1) **Online:** It's the quickest and easiest way to book a room. Visit [vfw.org/convention](https://vfw.org/convention) to access the housing website.
- 2) **By phone:** Toll free 800-743-3100. (Agents available 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET, Monday– Friday) International: 1 502 561 3100 – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Mon-Fri.

In order to take advantage of the special convention rates, be sure to book your reservation by **June 10, 2024**. All reservations require a valid credit card for guarantee at time of confirming reservations. The card will **NOT** be charged at the time of booking. Credit Card will be charged if reservations are cancelled within the cancellation period or if a 'no-show' at the hotel. **Reservations received without a valid guarantee will not be processed.**

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

- Reservations canceled in their entirety starting May 15, 2024, will be charged a \$50.00 cancellation fee.
- Reservations canceled starting June 10, 2024, forfeit one night's room and tax to the hotel.

This housing procedure gives our membership the most efficient and effective method of making and ensuring room reservations in Louisville.

The enclosed housing form may be duplicated, as needed.



125<sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention 2024  
July 27 – August 1, 2024 – Louisville, KY

### Official Hotel Reservation Form

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Reservations can be made in one of the following ways:

**INTERNET:** Visit the VFW web site at [www.vfw.org/convention](http://www.vfw.org/convention)

#### TELEPHONE:

**Toll-Free:** 800-743-3100  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Mon-Fri  
**International:** +1-502-561-3100  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Mon-Fri

#### EMAIL:

[Housing@gotolouisville.com](mailto:Housing@gotolouisville.com)

#### DEADLINE

Reservations must be made by phone, or internet by **June 10, 2024**. Reservations received after this date will be subject to space and rate availability.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Louisville Tourism Housing will send you an Acknowledgement email including all details of your reservation. Please review all information for accuracy. If you do not receive an Acknowledgement email or have questions, please call Louisville Tourism at the above listed phone number.

#### TAX RATE & REQUESTS

Rates do not include 17.66% tax (subject to change) Special requests cannot be guaranteed; hotels will do their best to honor requests. Hotels will assign specific rooms upon check-in, based on availability.

#### CREDIT CARD REQUIRED:

All reservations require a valid credit card for guarantee at time of confirming reservations. The card will **NOT** be charged at the time of booking. Credit Card will be charged if reservations are cancelled within the cancellation period or if a 'no-show' at the hotel.

**Reservations received without a valid guarantee will not be processed.**

#### CANCELLATION POLICY

Reservations canceled in their entirety starting May 15, 2024, will be charged a \$50.00 cancellation fee.

Reservations canceled starting June 10, 2024, forfeit one night's room and tax to the hotel.

#### GUEST INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

FOR BEST AVAILABILITY AND IMMEDIATE CONFIRMATION, MAKE YOUR RESERVATION ONLINE AT [www.vfw.org/convention](http://www.vfw.org/convention) OR BY calling 800-743-3100 (toll-free) or, +1-502-561-3100 (international).

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

By requesting this reservation, I give Louisville Tourism Housing consent to use this personal data to process this reservation, provide housing services on behalf of the event organizers, and contact me in the future with notifications and/or reminders relating to this event.

#### HOTEL SELECTION

Each **state/department has been assigned a hotel with an allocation of rooms**. In the event the allotment has been filled, a room will be reserved at another VFW hotel based on your preference of rates or proximity and availability.

If hotel assignment is sold out, which is more important? (**check one**)

Room Rate     Location

State you reside in: \_\_\_\_\_

Room Type Requested:  One Bed  Two Beds

**Submit only one room request per form, please make copies if additional forms are needed.**

List all room occupants:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you have special needs and specify below.

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: All hotels are non-smoking properties.**

**PLEASE RETURN FORM VIAEMAIL:** [housing@gotolouisville.com](mailto:housing@gotolouisville.com)

**We will contact you via the telephone number provided to obtain the credit card details to secure the requested reservation.**

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us at 800-743-3100 or 1-502-561-3100 during the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Monday-Friday.

# 2024 DEPARTMENT HOTEL ASSIGNMENTS

## GALT HOUSE (VFW)

New Jersey  
Georgia  
Iowa  
Delaware  
Texas  
Europe  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
New York  
Pennsylvania  
Rhode Island  
Vermont  
New Hampshire  
Alabama  
Florida  
Kentucky  
Louisiana  
Mississippi  
North Carolina  
Oklahoma  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Virginia  
West Virginia

## MARRIOTT (AUXILIARY HQT)

Utah  
Missouri  
Arkansas  
Connecticut  
Alaska  
Arizona  
California  
Colorado  
Hawaii  
Idaho  
Kansas  
Montana  
Nevada  
New Mexico  
North Dakota  
Oregon  
Pacific Areas  
Washington  
Wyoming  
Unaffiliated Posts

## HYATT REGENCY

Illinois  
Indiana  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Nebraska  
Ohio  
South Dakota  
Wisconsin

# 125<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION

Louisville, Kentucky

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION



## 125<sup>TH</sup> VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION

The VFW provides more options for checking in, faster service and better customer service at every turn.

### Pre-Check-In

The first thing attendees will notice is the pre-check-in option. On Friday, July 26, before the festivities start, VFW National Convention pre-registered attendees can check in side-by-side with Auxiliary Convention attendees outside the exhibit hall in the Kentucky Convention Center.

### On-Site/New Registrations

On-site/new registrations will be handled at the convention center with registration beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, July 27. Remember to download “VFW Events,” the VFW’s official event app, before you get to Louisville. It will contain all convention information, including agendas and the shuttle bus schedules. The app can easily be downloaded at the Apple Store and the Google Play Store.

On-site registrants checking in at the convention center will find a streamlined process providing great customer service. Your registration letter will have a barcode on it. Bring that letter with you and our volunteers, armed with Bluetooth scanners, will scan your letter as you arrive and direct you to a kiosk where your registration information will be displayed as you approach. Additionally, you can use the digital touch screen to confirm your information.

If you need a guest pass you can print one out on the spot. Need to know who else from your Post or Department has arrived? A quick query will bring those names up. If you bring a friend and they want to partake in the convention they can pay at the kiosk and get a badge immediately.

We are making every effort to speed up the process and give you, the members of the VFW, the best experience we can deliver!





Department of West Virginia

25 February 2024

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary,

This year the Department of West Virginia VFW will host a Poker Run during the week of the convention. The Poker Run will be held on Saturday, 22 June 2024, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This is a motorcycle ride where riders donate to ride with us on a designated route. The funds from this ride will benefit the Department of West Virginia VFW.

If you would like to donate to this cause, the cost of a sponsorship for the Poker Run is \$200, your business or Post will have their name on the back of the Shirt.

These shirts will be sold to anyone at the convention. Brochure for the Poker Run is attached, please help spread the word.

If you would like to purchase a Shirt, the cost of the shirt will be \$20.00. All checks payable to

VFW State HQS  
P.O. Box 9431  
South Charleston, WV 25309

Veterans and Auxiliary attending the State Convention will be able to register at the registration desk at the Convention. For everyone that only want to ride on the Poker Run you will register at Meuse-Argonne VFW Post 573  
430 West Pike Street  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
Beginning at 12:00 noon.

We appreciate your consideration, thanks again for your support. Contact Kevin Link at 304-703-2771, or email [klink@hardynet.com](mailto:klink@hardynet.com) for questions.

With Dedication

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Link", is written over the typed name.

Kevin Link

Surgeon

Department of West Virginia  
85 Lower Arkansaw Road  
Baker, WV 26801  
Cell: 304-703-2771  
Email: [klink@hardynet.com](mailto:klink@hardynet.com)

**VFW POST 2102**

PO Box 276  
Wardensville, WV 26851

# WV State VFW Convention Poker Run 2024



- Poker Run 2024
- Bridgeport Conference Center
- 300 Conference Center Way
- Bridgeport, WV 26330
- Meet at 12:00 P.M.
- KSU at 1:00 P.M.
- 22 June 2024
- \$20.00 Singles
- \$30.00 Doubles
- Free Patch with each registration
- Highest Hand: \$200
- Lowest Hand: \$100
- Sponsor's Welcome

If attending the State VFW Convention, you will register and purchase shirts at the registration table.

If attending Poker Run only, register

Meuse-Argonne VFW Post 573

430 West Pike Street Clarksburg, WV 26301.

On 22 June 2024 at 12:00 to 1:30. T-Shirts available for sale, \$20.00 a shirt. To preorder email shirt size to [klink@hardynet.com](mailto:klink@hardynet.com).

## 2024-2025 Theme

# “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”

**Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024**

**Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award**

### What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ (VFW’s) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year’s theme is, “**What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?**”

### Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

### The Rules

#### Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

#### What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or – 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org) for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership.

### Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: First, visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.vfw.org/FindaPost) to “Find A VFW Post.” If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office’s phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)

### What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, **Oct. 31, 2024**. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

### What Are the Judging Criteria?

#### Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

#### Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

#### Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

# 2024-2025 Official Entry Form Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age

Jacket Size

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

## To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

( )

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian Email

## Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

## I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have not used any AI tools. I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant

Date

## To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of students participating

No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$

## To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Phone

Email

## To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

( )

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner  has been  will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on \_\_\_\_\_.

For assistance contact:  
816.968.1155  
Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2024-2025 Theme

### “My Voice in America’s Democracy?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

#### What is the Patriot’s Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 73,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

#### Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

#### How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

#### Who Can Enter?

Patriot’s Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students are ineligible.)

#### How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot’s Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.

- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of October 31, 2024. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post’s approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

#### How Am I Judged?

##### Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:

You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

##### Theme development is worth 35 points:

Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

##### Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:

Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

#### What Is the Theme?

VFW’s Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year’s theme. The 2024-2025 theme is:

“My Voice in America’s Democracy?”

#### Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2024.

#### Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost) to “Find a VFW Post.”

If you don’t have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit [vfw.org/contactus](http://vfw.org/contactus) to look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office’s phone number and email.

For assistance contact  
the VFW National Headquarters  
at 816.968.1155  
Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)

# 2024-2025 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

## To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

## What Are the Rules?

- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).
- The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.
- At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

## I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student Participant

Date

## To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants \_\_\_\_\_

No. of winners \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone

Email

## To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner  has been  will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on \_\_\_\_\_.

## Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_



Twisted X Brands  
A Proud Sponsor

# Come and celebrate our year!



## Testimonial Dinner for Commander Kami and President Mary

June 15, 2024

VFW 9738

Social Hour 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Dinner 6:00 pm

Cost: \$20.00



RSVP to VFW Auxiliary 9738

PO Box 3426

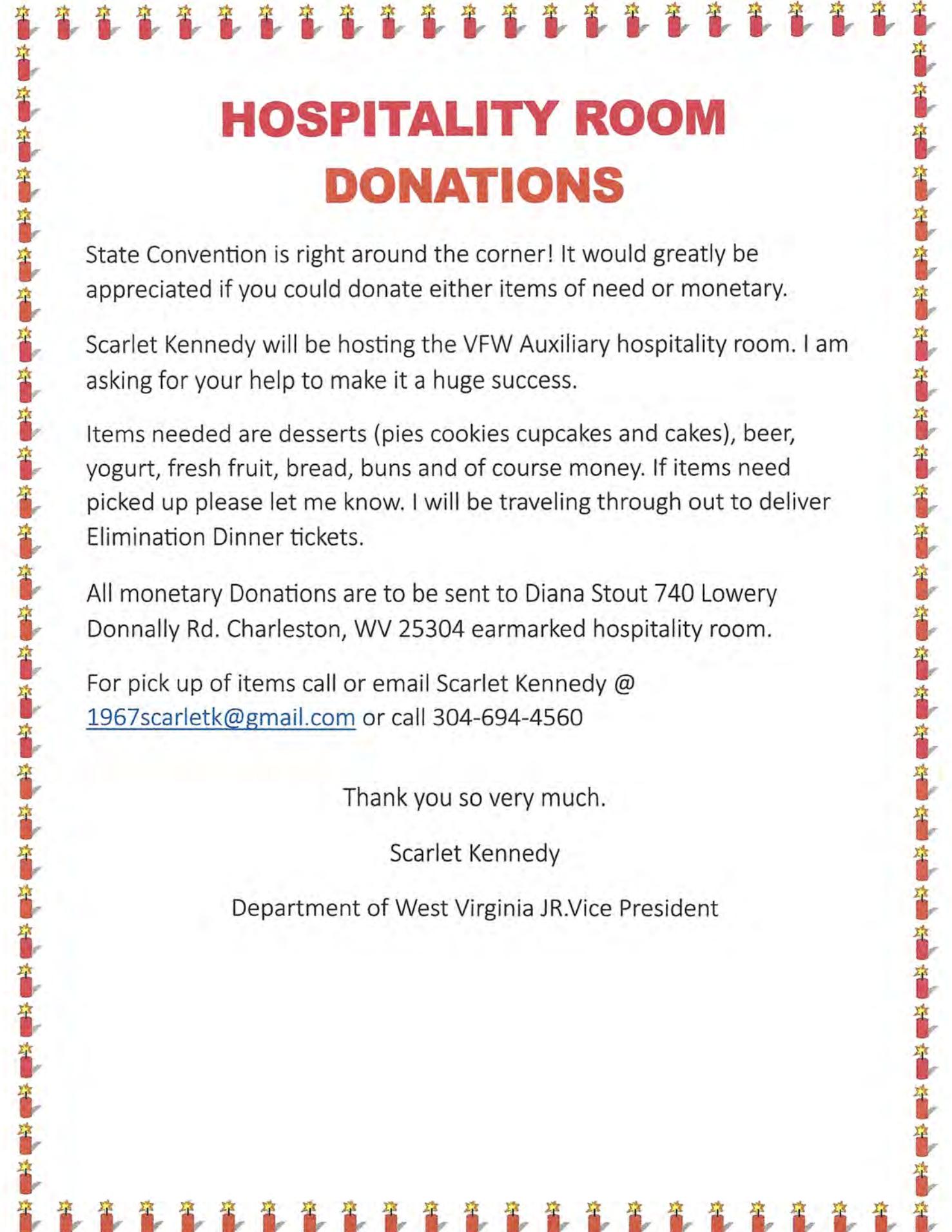
Huntington WV 25702

(by May 15, 2024)

**Dress is casual!**

**Lodging information coming soon!**





# HOSPITALITY ROOM DONATIONS

State Convention is right around the corner! It would greatly be appreciated if you could donate either items of need or monetary.

Scarlet Kennedy will be hosting the VFW Auxiliary hospitality room. I am asking for your help to make it a huge success.

Items needed are desserts (pies cookies cupcakes and cakes), beer, yogurt, fresh fruit, bread, buns and of course money. If items need picked up please let me know. I will be traveling through out to deliver Elimination Dinner tickets.

All monetary Donations are to be sent to Diana Stout 740 Lowery Donnally Rd. Charleston, WV 25304 earmarked hospitality room.

For pick up of items call or email Scarlet Kennedy @ [1967scarletk@gmail.com](mailto:1967scarletk@gmail.com) or call 304-694-4560

Thank you so very much.

Scarlet Kennedy

Department of West Virginia JR.Vice President

## Deceased member 0227-032824

| Post  | First       | MI | Last        | Date      |
|-------|-------------|----|-------------|-----------|
| 410   | Paul        | D  | Corley      | 3/12/2024 |
| 437   | Gary Robert |    | Lutes       | 3/18/2024 |
| 573   | Robert      | W  | Le Masters  | 3/12/2024 |
| 826   | Ludwik      |    | Bernatowicz | 3/26/2024 |
| 1064  | Thomas      | A  | Phelan      | 3/5/2024  |
| 1064  | Charles     | A  | Yanov       | 3/5/2024  |
| 1101  | Hobert      | S  | Simmons     | 3/5/2024  |
| 1212  | Roy         | R  | Trembly     | 3/26/2024 |
| 2102  | Norman      | R  | Heishman    | 3/12/2024 |
| 2716  | Ralph       | P  | Wyatt       | 3/19/2024 |
| 3008  | James       | J  | Gary        | 3/5/2024  |
| 3408  | Glen        | R  | Willis      | 3/19/2024 |
| 3466  | Joseph      | W  | Songer      | 3/12/2024 |
| 4442  | Michael     | L  | Hummel      | 3/19/2024 |
| 4442  | Stanley     | W  | Whiteman    | 3/5/2024  |
| 4469  | James       | A  | Edens       | 3/12/2024 |
| 4469  | Melvin      | K  | Goddard     | 3/7/2024  |
| 5501  | Clarence    | L  | Golden      | 2/27/2024 |
| 5578  | Larry       | G  | Williams    | 3/2/2024  |
| 6106  | Gordon      | H  | Moore       | 3/19/2024 |
| 6153  | Thomas      |    | Mc Cormick  | 3/19/2024 |
| 6153  | Paul        | G  | Bell        | 3/5/2024  |
| 6667  | Charles     | L  | See         | 3/13/2024 |
| 9097  | Joe         | E  | Gilfilen    | 3/5/2024  |
| 9097  | Arnold      | E  | Jividen     | 3/3/2024  |
| 9666  | Byrl        | E  | Shaver      | 3/19/2024 |
| 9738  | Denton      | S  | Stark       | 3/26/2024 |
| 9796  | Grover      |    | Jordan      | 3/12/2024 |
| 15050 | John        | A  | Heinrich    | 3/19/2024 |
| 15050 | Roger       | A  | Wilkinson   | 3/19/2024 |
| 15050 | Jack        | D  | Hayes       | 3/12/2024 |
| 15050 | James       | A  | Bell, II    | 3/5/2024  |

**Changes to the 2023-2024 State Directory to accompany the April General Orders**

**VFW:**

**Change:**

Post 8516 – change Quartermaster to Scott Smith, 9 Acorn Ln, Elkview, WV 25071, 304-410-8040.

Past State Commander John Dillinger's address to 472 Cabin Rd, Augusta, WV 26704.

Past State Commander Kelly Goddard is deceased.

*In accordance with Section 714 of the National By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the names and addresses of the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be considered confidential and shall not be made available for commercial or political use.*