

## Talking Points for District Meeting – August 2022

### 1. Membership

- a. Posts received a one time amnesty adjusting the prior year goals. This should assist posts in achieving 100% membership.
- b. Discuss the N/R% (All State Requirement above 5%) on the MEMSTAT report. Percentage is calculated using the total of new/reinstated members divided by Adjusted Prior Year (recruiting goal) x 100 to gain percentage. It represents the percentage of new/reinstated as a total of membership. Posts with greater than 5% reflect growth in the organization. A post can be at 100% membership with a less than 5% N/R%. This reflects a stagnated post in terms of growth.
- c. Recognize the following Districts, you are representing as the State Rep, who have currently achieved membership % exceeding the current state total % (State was 4.24% as of 8/10/22):
  - i. District 1 currently at 5.03% (as of 8/10/22)
  - ii. District 2 currently at 5.72% (as of 8/10/22)
- d. Recognize the top post in each district leading in total membership percentage as of 8/10/22 for their District:
  - i. District 1, Post 6327, Sisterville, 19.04%
  - ii. District 2, 9926, Mason, 11.80%
  - iii. District 3, 6723, Alderson, 9.52%
  - iv. District 4, 6452, Ridgeley, 23.17%
  - v. District 5, 5578, Madison, 7.23%
- e. Look for opportunities to recruit.

### 2. Inspections

- a. Posts will be inspected based on priority determined by the Department Inspector and other Department-level Officers for each District
- b. Priority will be primarily be determined by Posts in the arrears from 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 reports. Posts with deficiencies will be re-inspected.
- c. Important for Posts to meet all reporting requirements.

### 3. School of Instruction

The State will conduct SOIs within each District area. It is imperative for the Post Officers and the A/Qs attend the SOIs. Effort is being made to conduct SOIs in locations with computer labs so A/Qs can get hands-on training with OMS. Tentatively scheduled in October/November timeframe.

### 4. Adopt-a-Unit Program as part of Community Support

- a. Posts are encouraged to establish a relationship with a local military reserve unit in their area, e.g., National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve.

- b. Posts can apply for the Adopt-a-Unit Program on the VFW which outlines the program. It can be found under the banner of Community, then Troop Support. This also provides an excellent avenue for recruiting new members.

**5. Brand Utilization**

- a. Posts are not authorized to use the VFW Cross of Malta or Contemporary VFW on local merchandise sold for profit without approval from National HQ, especially if you are selling items on Facebook as National HQ monitors Facebook pages.

**6. “Woody” Williams Commemorative Ka-bar**

- a. The Department fundraising project is the Woody Williams Commemorative Ka-bar.
- b. The Ka-bar can be purchased by going to the VFW Department of West Virginia website.
- c. Posts can purchase as a raffle item for raising funds within their own posts.

**7. Honoring Our Pact Act – Toxic Exposure**

- a. Thank you to those who reached out to Congressional members to gain their support. VFW National Legislative Office was instrumental in developing the bill but it was the members who put it over the finish line.
- b. Signed into Law. The Department is putting together a Zoom training within the next 30 days to discuss the impact of the new law. Post Commanders need to notify members who may want to participate to include the Zoom links when they are available.

**8. Bonds**

Accountable Officer bonds expire on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Bond applications and cost sheets have been sent to all Posts. Get your bond applications in by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**9. Quarterly Audits**

Quarterly audits are due 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter. We have way too many Posts not meeting this requirement. Audits are still coming in not properly completed. An audit completion checklist is on page 17 of the 2022-2023 Commander’s Manual. If properly checked off the audit will be submitted correctly.

**10. Log/Manual/Directory**

Do you have your 2022-2023 Community Service Log, Commander’s Manual and Directory? If not, let Headquarters know.

**11. 2023 National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual**

Posts and Districts are required to have a copy of the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. They are now available to preorder from the VFW Store.

**12. Buddy Poppies**

Order your Veterans Day Buddy Poppies now! National asks for a 10 week notice for Poppies.

**Thank everyone for attending. Keep up the great work and have fun!**