

TALKING POINTS – 2nd QUARTER

REVIEW ALL MATERIAL AND MAKE APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRUSTEE'S REPORT OF AUDIT: Trustee's Report of Audits for quarter ending September 30, 2018 was due in Department Headquarters by October 31, 2018 and will now be consider late. Your December Quarterly Audit is due by January 31, 2019.

ELIGIBILITY CHALLENGES: Eligibility challenges must be done in accordance with Section 108 of the National By-Laws. Posts must approve the challenge at a Post meeting and notify the challenged member within five days of such action by certified or registered mail. The challenged individual will have 15 days to respond and provide proof of service. If eligibility cannot be established by the Post the member's application and proof of service shall be submitted to the Department Headquarters for review and disposition. It is imperative that the established challenge procedures in Section 108 of the Manual of Procedure be strictly and completely followed. Failure to do so will result in return of the action to the Post or delays in processing.

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 15th.**

ALL STATE ENTRY FORM: The All State Entry Form is due to State Headquarters no later than **April 1, 2019**. The form is on the Dept. website under Resources, in the drop down menu click on Reports and Forms; scroll down until you reach Post Forms. This form is required if you wish to be considered for All State Judging. All State Judging date has been changed to Friday, **May 3, 2019**. Districts are not required to complete this form. If the Commander and/or Quartermaster have changed since a post submitted the form an updated form must be completed again to avoid the ordering of the wrong cap size and shirt size for the All State Awards. ***If you fail to submit the updated form the post will be responsible for the replacement of the wrong cover and/or shirt.***

PROGRAM REPORTING: Numerous Post fail to report any VFW Programs through the online Program reporting system. District and Post Commanders and Program Chairman should review the Post program reporting status and provide assistance to those Posts who have not reported. To access the program reporting go to the Department webpage (vfwfl.org) and click on the link marked Programs then click on Program Reporting. The login is the Post number and the default password abc123. The password cannot be changed.

PROGRAM REPORTING CONTINUED

Paper reports will be accepted by the Department or by the State Chairman *for the Voice of Democracy Chairman, Patriot's Pen Chairman, Teacher of the Year Program Chairman and Scout of the Year. Report forms for these programs are on the Department website under get forms.*

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY: All entries are due to the Post by **October 31, 2018**. Post judging should be completed by **November 15th** and results sent to the District. District judging should be completed by **December 15th** and mailed to State Headquarters, 543 NE Sanchez, Ave., Ocala, FL 34470. The judging will be done at State Headquarters by State Chairman Glenn Wright. Post and District participation reports are due to the State Chairman Glenn Wright by **January 15, 2019** and mailed to Glenn Wright, 5867 – 111th Street, Jacksonville, FL 32244. Forms can be found on the department website under resources, report forms.

PATRIOT'S PEN: All entries are due to the Post by **October 31, 2018**. Post judging should be completed by **November 15th** and results sent to the District. District judging should be completed and sent to the State Chairmen Ron Chapman no later than **December 15th**. State Chairman Ron Chapman's address is 820 Hanover Court, Rockledge, FL 32955 and is listed under Dept. Committees on the Dept. website. Don't forget to complete the Patriot's Pen Report Form which is also on the Department Website under resources, report forms . Post and District participation reports are due to the State Chairman by **January 15, 2019**.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES: All entries are due to the Post by **October 31, 2018**. Post judging should be done and results sent to District by **November 15, 2018**. District judging should be completed and sent to State Chairman Antonio "Tony" Salvo no later than **December 15, 2018**. State Chairman Tony Salvo's address is 6314 Lake Drive, Panama City, Florida 32404 and is listed under Dept. Committees on the Dept. website.

EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR: Nominees for Department Scout of the Year are due to the Post by **March 1, 2019**. All candidates with full entry criteria must be submitted by the Post to the Department Scout Chairman Bruce A. Sitki by **April 1, 2019**. State Chairman Bruce Sitki's address is 4111 W. Fair Oaks Ave., Tampa, FL 33611 and is listed under Dept. Committee's on the Dept. website.

PUBLIC SERVANT GOLD MEDAL AWARDS: The Firefighter, Police Officer and Emergency Medical Technician entries are to be submitted to the State Chairman David Bear by **January 1, 2019**. State Chairman David Bear's address is 8247 Hixton Drive, Port Richey, FL 34668-4446 and is listed under Dept. Committee's on the Dept. website.

STATE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT: Commander Anderson's Special Project is to raise funds for the Veterans Village Roof Project. Donations are to be sent to Department Headquarters earmarked Commander's Special Project. Special Project Chairman is State Adjutant/Quartermaster Gene Perrino, 543 NE Sanchez Ave., Ocala, FL 34470; Phone: 352-622-5126 or email: gperrino@vfwfl.org.

DEPARTMENT SWEEPSTAKES: Top prize is \$10,000 for the 300th ticket drawn along with other prize amounts on different tickets drawn. Only 300 tickets will be sold at \$100.00 each.

Any Post that purchases tickets will receive 5 points for each ticket toward All State Judging up to 25 Points. The drawings will be held at the State Convention on **June 22, 2019** at the Renaissance Hotel in Orlando. You can purchase a ticket through your District Commander or through Department Headquarters. More information is available on the Department website. Proceeds from this sweepstakes will go toward Department Programs.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT BULLETIN: The monthly Department Bulletin contains critical and helpful information for Post Commanders and members. Leaders are encouraged to read this and the monthly General Orders which are posted on the Department Web Page under the Resources drop down menu. Information should be disseminated to the Post and Auxiliary members.

VFW RETIREMENT HOME PROJECTS: \$75.00 for Memorial Brick; Adopt a Room; Life Time Membership; order blanks on VFW Veterans Village website, accessible through the Dept. website. Golf Tournament – **Friday, March 29, 2019** at Stone Creek Golf Club, Ocala - \$55.00 each person; Annual Picnic – **Saturday, March 30, 2019** at the Veterans Village, \$10.00 donation. More details will be available on the Veterans Village Website.

MEMBER SOLICITATIONS: Mail solicitation through the National Organizations such as Mailing Labels, Calendars, note Pads etc. is one of the many ways we support all of our VFW Programs. A portion of the funds from these solicitations comes directly to the Department, please be as generous as possible.

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE: **Feb. 1 – Feb. 3, 2019** at the Westgate Resorts, 10,000 Turkey Lake Road, Orlando, FL.32819. Room Rate for Single - \$99.00 + tax; for 2 Bedroom Suite \$159.00 + tax. You must use **Group Code 61-173** to receive room rate. Cutoff Date: **Jan. 9, 2019**. Check In – 4:00 p.m.; Check Out – 10:00 a.m. ***Reservation will not be taken at this time. Banquet Ticket information will be made available at a later date.***

MID-WINTER – DISTRICT COMMANDERS: Banquet information will be posted on the Department website under Events/Announcements at a later date. All District Commanders are required to escort their Voice of Democracy winner and Patriot’s Pen winner (if applicable) to the Youth Achievement Banquet. If you are unable to escort your District Winner you must notify Department Headquarters as to why and who will be escorting your winner in your place. Dress Code is a suit, Blues & Grays and you must wear a tie.

NATIONAL VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE: March 2, 2019 – March 6, 2019 in Washington, DC.

2019-2020 QUARTERMASTER SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION:

SOUTHERN AREA– May 30 – June 2, 2019 at the Holiday Inn, Ft. Myers - \$114.00 + Tax.
Cut Off Date: **Friday, May 10, 2019.** More information as it becomes available.

NORTHERN AREA– June 7 - 9, 2019 at the Florida Hotel, Orlando - \$109.00 + tax.
Cut Off Date – **May 17, 2019.** More information as it becomes available.

STATE CONVENTION - June 20 – 23, 2019 at the Renaissance Hotel SeaWorld in Orlando, room rate \$118.00 plus tax. Cut Off Date – **Tuesday, May 28, 2019.** More information as it becomes available.