

**SEPTEMBER, 2009 POST NEWSLETTER****COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

On August 15, 2009 the 110th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States met in Phoenix, Arizona. One purpose of these Annual National Conventions is to consider, discuss and vote on proposed changes to our National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Rituals as may have been submitted by various VFW Officers, Posts, Districts and Departments. One of the more significant changes proposed deals with Section 102 of the National By-Laws where individuals who are unable to join a Post may now become, in addition to National members-at-Large, Department members-at-large. However, the provision that no member may belong to more than one Post or Department at one time still remains the same. This means that a member must make a choice and surrender membership in one of the Posts or Departments. Another significant proposed change is to add back into the Manual of Procedure Section 219 which deals with establishment and maintenance of Post Relief Funds. The provisions for establishing and management of Relief Funds were erroneously omitted from the 2009 revision of the Podium Edition of the VFW Congressional Charter By-Laws, Manual of Procedure/Ritual. It further mandates that Relief Funds may be invested in approved securities but shall not be loaned to the Post or other units or transferred from the relief fund in any manner or under any guise and shall be used only for those circumstances outlined in the Manual of Procedure.

At this time I would like to report to our membership our progress in computerizing Post records and activities. To date we have established computer file space and links for the following records and business.

1. Post minutes of meetings
2. Board of Directors minutes of meetings
3. Post newsletters
4. Deceased members
5. New-transferred and reinstated memberships
6. Total membership listing to include home address, service academies, Veterans Administration, and various Federal, Civilian and Military agencies
7. Membership address labels
8. Members initial date of entry into the VFW
9. Member email address listing
10. Memorial and Veterans Day activities
11. Special Post activities/program
12. Direct link to National and Department files/information
13. Storage and transmittal of Post Quarterly Audit Reports
14. Direct link to web sites for Veterans organizations, branches of military services,
15. E-membership program site where QM can conduct all new, transfer, reinstate member business on-line via computer program.

We have come a long way but it will require continued effort and expertise to insure that files are kept updated in a timely manner. One of the immediate updates is that if any of our newsletter readers have a email address, and you are receiving the newsletter by U.S. Mail, please let me know so that we can send you the newsletter by email thus saving some postage monies. In conclusion, I want to express my sincere thank you for your thoughts and prayers during my illness and surgery. I still have a long way to go but I am going to give it my best shot.

Bill Duke, Commander

ITEMS FROM THE AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

The meeting August 13 was called to order at the new time of 1900 hours by Commander Duke and opened in due form with 19 members attending. There were no new applications. The commander noted that he will personally follow-up on the status of all pending applications and transfers. Chaplain Hurley reported noting the disability of Judge Advocate Ed Bryant and the death of Comrade Julian Kaszuba. Letters of appreciation were received from the families of Comrades William Galanis and Julian Kaszuba for post funeral participation. There were no activity reports by any of the standing committees. Comrade Pete Wilson reported receipt of a donation of ammunition. Commander Duke reported that he had received notice of the resignation as Sr. Vice Commander to be effective immediately from Rich Barbato who will be leaving the area due to an employment promotion and transfer. The resignation was accepted with regret. Commander Duke remarked on the appreciation of the post for the past efforts by Rich Barbato on behalf of the post and noted that since the Jr. Vice Commander would assume the position of Sr. Vice Commander the Post would vote at the September Post meeting to fill the post of Jr. Vice Commander. Comrades Ted LeMieux and Dave Comeau, who had organizing responsibility for the Ipswich 375th Ipswich Anniversary Parade, thanked post members for their participation. Chaplain Hurley spoke expressing his positive reaction to having a collation following post meetings and it was noted that Comrade Duke had provided refreshments for a post social time following this meeting. Comrade Amirault won the meeting raffle and the winner of the membership raffle was not in attendance. **NOTE: At the September 10 post meeting a special election will be held to elect a Jr. Vice Commander.**

Post Members and Officers Dress Decorum

Article VIII, Section 803 of the VFW Manual of Procedure prescribes the official uniform of VFW members. Within this section it indicates that the VFW and Unit Number Collar pins are placed as follows: "VFW pin on left collar tab so that the bottom is **parallel** to the ground one-half inch to one inch above the tip and the Unit Number Pin is on the right collar tab so that the bottom is **parallel** to the ground one-half to one inch above the tip". Please check your uniform to make sure your collar pins are placed correctly. Officers at all District and National Meetings **do** wear the official VFW uniform. A small number of Posts within our Department **do** require that selected **Post Officers** (Commander, SrViceCmdr, JrViceCmdr, Chaplain, Quartermaster, Adjutant, OD) wear the VFW uniform at all regular scheduled meetings. It has not been the custom for Post 1093 to require **Post Officers** to wear the VFW Uniform at regular scheduled Post meetings. However, when the uniform is not worn it is expected that Post Officers will wear appropriate clothing for the occasion. This does not include T-shirts, cut off pants, sandals, flip flops, etc.

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS NEW WEB PAGE & OTHER INFORMATION

The Department of Massachusetts have established and set up an improved Web Page which is up and running and it is much more informative. It is possible to obtain blank reporting forms for example as well as a host of other information including Post membership rosters, etc. Check it out. It is a lot easier than going to the National Web Page. The web site is URL is www.vfwma.org.

Each year our State Commander picks a project as his Special Project. All proceeds collected during his term of office go to that project. This year the project is designated '**USO – SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS.**' State Commander, Thomas Paul, invites comrades to join his "Special Projects Team" on Monday, October 12, 2009, for a **Special Project Dinner at Antony's Pier Four Restaurant.** Tickets are \$150 each and the main attraction is a drawing for \$10,000 (only 200 tickets to be sold). For full details and an application go to the Mass. Dept. web site at www.vfwma.org or contact the Post Adjutant.

VFW Operation Uplink

the premiere calling program for deployed service members

August 15, 2009 • VFW National Military Services Update. VFW Free Calls Home for Deployed Troops Surpass 3 Million

The VFW is pleased to announce it has now provided more than three million free phone calls between deployed service members and their families back home in the United States, courtesy of VFW Operation Uplink™ "Free Call Days". At least one designated day each month, deployed service members making calls to the U.S. from their local Morale Welfare & Recreation (MWR) center are greeted by a recording stating their call will be free courtesy of VFW Operation Uplink™. The program began working through 191 internet cafes abroad and is now offered through more than 866 locations. The next VFW Operation Uplink™ Free Call Day will be held on August 16, 2009, courtesy of Burger King. VFW Operation Uplink™ works exclusively with DRS Technical Services, Inc. to provide the Free Call Day program - the only program of its kind. Anyone interested in donating to the program or sponsoring a Free Call Day is encouraged to contact Linda Ferguson of VFW National Military Services at 816-968-1102 or lferguson@vfw.org.

A REPORT FROM THE 110th VFW National Convention Aug. 15-20, 2009, Phoenix, Arizona.

President Barack Obama will address VFW members at the Joint Opening Session. Besides state and city dignitaries, also speaking at the convention were VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and Rep. Harry Mitchell (D-Ariz.), who is chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Noting that there has been a "huge drop in donations at all non-profits," VFW Quartermaster General Larry Maher said VFW faces "painful" budget restructuring. "We can't project a balanced budget without more revenue," he said. "We have been living beyond our means." Measures affecting national staff include a hiring freeze instituted in October 2008, an 18% reduction of employees and no merit raises for the next fiscal year. Adjutant General Gunner Kent reiterated the difficulty of going through this restructuring and emphasized that one department alone will lose more than 90 years of institutional knowledge following the retirement of several employees.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Tommy Tradewell said, "Modification is the way we have to go." Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Richard Eubank added that "each and every one of us have a responsibility to build up membership."

Commander-in-Chief Glen Gardner, Jr., concluded the day's meeting by saying that **the quality of VFW members is more important than the quantity. "It's not about the money members pay in dues,"** he said. **"It's about getting members who want to belong and care about this organization."**

RECOGNITION

Mike DeRosa, past president of the Mid-America Franchisee Association, received the Commander-in-Chief's *Gold Medal of Merit*. He was the chief volunteer for a Burger King project that raised **\$250,000** for VFW's Unmet Needs program.

Thomas Tradewell is New VFW National Commander.....

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 21, 2009-America's largest organization of combat veterans has elected a Vietnam War veteran to head the 1.5 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Thomas Tradewell, a resident of Sussex, Wis., was elected VFW National Commander on August 20, 2009, during the VFW's National Convention, held August 15-20 in Phoenix, Ariz.



During his acceptance speech Tradewell, who served in the Army from 1966-1968, introduced his theme *Honoring Our Military Heroes*, stating, "to honor our military heroes is to ensure that our military and our veterans are honored, recognized and cared for ... which is the focus of every program we conduct at every level of this great organization." He also reminded the mostly Vietnam-era audience that to remain a vibrant organization, the VFW must seek out and educate Iraq and Afghanistan veterans on the history and importance of the organization.

A BRIEF COMMENT FROM THE NATIONAL CONVENTION ON AUGUST 19TH

Brig. Gen. Michael Garrett represented the Army's Recruiting Command as he and Commander-in-Chief Glen Gardner signed a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations. Garrett listed five ways VFW can help the Army recruit new members: speaking engagements, reaching out to local military recruiters, inviting recruiters to VFW functions, encouraging corporate participation and partnering as tutors. Garrett emphasized the importance of the partnership when he said that "less than three out of ten 17-to-24-year-olds are fully qualified to serve in the military." He added that "VFW embodies what makes this nation great."

For a full report of the National Convention to go:
<http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=news.level&did=4851>

A RECENT QUESTION

Is there a way to get a list of all the VFW clubs that have a liquor license and serve alcoholic beverages? Our members travel frequently and would like to visit other clubs. **Answer:** The operation, management and control of club/canteens was never envisioned in the purposes of our organization nor is the operation, management or control of clubs/canteens provided for in our Congressional Charter, National By-Laws or Manual of Procedure. In addition to the By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Posts maintaining canteen/club operations serving alcohol beverages are required to comply with all applicable local, county and state regulations pertaining to such operations. In some instances, these regulations do provide for guests, but it is at the discretion of the Post to allow guests entry to their canteen/club.

It is a commonly held misconception that membership in the VFW or simply a member of the armed forces offers unlimited access to any VFW Post canteen/club operation, but this is simply not true. Consequently, VFW membership may not be sufficient to authorize admission to a VFW canteen/club operation other than ones home Post.

TAPS

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES - MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



O God, Father of us all, we offer this final earthly tribute to our beloved comrade who has passed on.

Stephen F. Pickul at age 89

passed away on 8-15-09 for which the Post conducted Wake & Burial rites:

The best wishes of the post members are extended to all comrades currently suffering from ill health or recuperating from injury. All comrades and their families are requested to advise Chaplain Bill Hurley regarding fallen or ill comrades or any comrade in need of assistance. He may be contacted by calling 978-462-4053 or on the web at subhurley@aol.com.

THE SECOND FLOOR LOUNGE

Comrades who have not been to our lounge on the second floor recently should definitely stop in and see the additions and renovations. Recently the Commander has assembled a number of photo albums with a wide variety of old and new pictures of members and activities. Other recent additions are the collection of military videos that have been accumulated along with a wide variety of books covering military subjects. Comfortable seating, TV, audio equipment, desk space, coffee, shoot a little pool.....and it is members and their guests only so you are likely to meet a comrade or possibly the commander updating the post computer when you visit..

MEMBERSHIP

The following Comrades have recently joined Post 1093 either as new, reinstate or transfer since January 1, 2009:

Richard Weagle	Scott Stone	Christos Stathopoulos
Frank Beier	John J. Harty	Gregory Nichols
William Hauser	Thomas Rasmussen	Gregory J. Keefe

Comrade **Rich Barbato** was offered a promotion "too good to refuse" and as you read this he will have relocated to work in Connecticut. He will however, retain his membership in Post 1093. Rich was recently elected to the office of Senior Vice Commander and will be missed. For example: He was the moving force behind a trip to veterans memorials in Washington, D.C. and in June, 2009 organized and hosted the Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Convention. Rich also, in company with Buddy Bernard, presented a military display and program at Brooksby Village in Peabody that is still talked about. Your post is fortunate in having a cadre of dedicated comrades who work in many ways to keep Ipswich Post 1093 alive and well as a defining local organization of those who trod foreign shores or sailed on far seas in defense of our freedom. We must be aware, however, that approximately 50% VFW members served in either World War II (29%) or the Korean War (20%). It is not surprising that the single largest number of our members are Vietnam veterans whose ages go from 56 to 73 years. It doesn't take a math wizard to realize that we must look to Persian Gulf War and Afghanistan and Iraq veterans to fill our ranks. VFW National is an effective advocate for veterans and our posts offer help, aid, assistance and comradeship. Are we doing enough to get our story out to our newer vets? A suggestion: Use your computer or maybe one at the library to go to WWW.vfwma.org and when you get to the web site click on "news" from the choices on the left side of the page. Then take the time to read the *Massachusetts VFW Newsletter*. If you don't get a real sense of pride and an urge to participate in what is going on in your post and posts statewide then maybe you should see the family doctor. Make a decision to make a difference and begin by showing up at the next post meeting.....Thursday night at post quarters.....7:00 p.m.....1900 if your remember it this way. The following article is from the current Mass. Dept. newsletter and included here as a clue to the depth of Mass. VFW post participation in activities and programs to help our returning veterans, most of whom are potential VFW comrades. We should let all returning vets know that we are here to help. Find a buddy, choose to help, participate.

VFW Unmet Needs

VFW Unmet Needs was created in 2004 through a partnership with Vermont American Power Tools to assist military service members and their families who are experiencing a financial hardship directly related to military service. The financial assistance is in the form of up to \$2,500 in grants that do not need to be repaid. All grants are paid directly to the “creditor” companies (such as the electric company), and not to the individual. Each case is reviewed individually and acceptance determined by a committee.

The service member has to have been active duty or discharged from active duty within 36 months prior to applying.

Application and information are available at www.vfwdepartmentresources.org. For more information, contact: VFW Unmet Needs, VFW National Headquarters, 816-756-3390 or Fax at 816-968-2779 or e-mail at unmetneeds@vfw.org. Boston Police VFW Post 1018 offers free WEBCAM connections for family members to connect with soldiers overseas, every third Saturday of every month. Please call to make arrangements with Jorge Castro, 500 Morton St., Dorchester, MA 02124 or call him at 617-282-4055.

You may be eligible!

With the recent Priority Group 8 Enrollment Relaxation and other ongoing evaluation and changes by VA, you may now be eligible to enroll with VA for health care services. Below are some of the basic factors that go into determining your eligibility for health benefits:

Eligibility for most veterans’ health care benefits is based solely on active military service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard (or Merchant Marines during WW II), and discharged under [other than dishonorable conditions](#).

Reservists and National Guard members who were called to active duty by a Federal Executive Order may qualify for VA health care benefits. [Returning service members](#), including Reservists and National Guard members who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations have special eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for five years following discharge from active duty.

Health Care eligibility is not just for those who served in combat.

[Other groups](#) may be eligible for some health benefits.

Veteran’s health care is not just for service-connected injuries or medical conditions.

Veteran’s health care facilities are not just for men only. VA offers full-service health care to [women veterans](#).

You may call VA toll free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., eastern time if you need more assistance.

ALSO:

BENEFITS ON THE GO: VA enrollment allows health care benefits to become portable throughout the entire VA system. Enrolled veterans who are traveling or who spend time away from their primary treatment facility may obtain care at any [VA health care facility](#) across the country without the worry of having to reapply.

NATIONAL PHARMACY CONTACT CENTER: The national Pharmacy Contact Center (NPCC) which will help veterans with questions regarding their prescriptions, will open soon in 2010. To learn more about how the NPCC will benefit veterans nationwide, read the National Pharmacy Contact Center Fact Sheet. The National Pharmacy Contact Center is part of a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) strategic initiative to improve customer service to Veterans and to improve access to care at VA Medical Centers. For additional information go to the following web site: <http://www1.va.gov/CBO/docs/npcfcfs.pdf>.

POST OFFICERS

Commander Bill Duke, Sr.

Vice Cmdr Bob Metz Jr. Vice Cmdr –open

Quartermaster Bob Riddle, Chaplain Bill Hurley, Judge Advocate Ed Bryant, Post Surgeon Joe Parks,

Service Officer Chad Freeman Adjutant George Lewis

Trustees – Pete Nicholson, George Lewis, Jake Burridge.

