



THE MARYLAND VFW COMBAT VETERAN

The Official Publication of the Department of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



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July—August 2017

Volume 41—No. 1



William Miller, Commander
Dept. of MD Veterans of Foreign Wars

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

As I stated at our State Convention, thank you for the faith entrusted in me as I continue on my VFW journey of *"Giving Star-Spangled Veterans Service Daily"*. With a very successful Convention over, the real work now begins...State Programs. First and foremost are our membership goals and Core Programs. Although the Department of Maryland attained over 100% in membership for 2016-17, Nationally only 97.72% membership was attained losing another 28,038 comrades during the year. This is a trend that needs to be reversed by bragging about what we, the VFW, do globally to assist our Veterans and their families. Our retention rate for the state was over 91% which is good.... however, we still need to go out and get those new Life Members using the 50/50 program supported by state.

The Core Program requirements were explained at a very successful Officer Training Institute held on June 24th. Congratu-

lations to PSC Doug MacArthur, State Adjutant, and John Gistedt, his assistant, PSC Harvey Cunningham, the State Quartermaster, and last but not least Mary Walters, State Service Officer, for all the hard work that went into this great event to provide the latest information to you. I'm truly looking forward to seeing what 2017-2018 brings in this area

As I stated at convention, my plan is to be a "Field Commander". You will see me out and about the state visiting Posts and Auxiliaries, supporting programs whenever and wherever I can. Please provide me or Department with a list of upcoming events so we can help you advertise it and/or support it.

See **Commander**, Page 5



**PROUD
AIR
FORCE
VETERAN**



Denise Perry
Sr. Vice Commander
Dept. of MD VFW

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Senior Vice Commander. Congratulations to Past Commander T.C. Williams for being part of the 2016-2017 Department Commander All-American team and to the Districts and Post that achieved All-

American.

I've been traveling the past few months. I visited the National Home for the Jr. Vice conference. The Maryland House is in good shape, thanks to your contributions. I joined the Department in the Harve De Grace 4th of July parade. It was heartwarming to witness the show of respect and support we received. I also had the unfortunate experience of attending a meeting of a post who turned in their Charter. Their story was a familiar one, only a few active members left to keep the doors open. The Department and District officers are here to assist you.

Legislative

What can I say about the National Legislative climate. There are so many issues and
See SVC, page 5



Douglas MacArthur
Adjutant
Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades;

Welcome to a new VFW Administrative year. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce and congratulate your 2017-18 Line Officers:

Commander
Sr. Vice Cmdr
Jr. Vice Cmdr
Quartermaster
Service Officer
Judge Advocate
Surgeon
Chaplain
Chief-of-Staff
Inspector
IPSC
NDCM

William Miller
Denise Perry
J.J. Everett
Harvey Cunningham, PSC
Mary Walters
Victor Fuentealba
Frank Bennett
Ron James
Tonsel Lide
T. C. Williams
T. C. Williams
Brian Sturgis, PSC

The Department Directory has been completed and is at the printers and hopefully will be available at the July 15th Council of Administration meeting. All information was taken from the VFW Installation reports. If there are any changes, please notify Department as soon as possible.

See Adjutant, page 3

THE MARYLAND VFW COMBAT VETERAN

STATE COMMANDER

William Miller

ADJUTANT

Doug MacArthur

EDITOR

Jacquelyn Kimball

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MDVFWCombatVet@comcast.net

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WEBSITE

www.vfwmd.org



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



D. Harvey Cunningham
Quartermaster
Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades,

The Department 50% Life Membership Program is going well. I would just like to repeat that we discourage the use of a credit card to pay the Veterans half. The Department cannot process credit cards.

Credit Cards cannot be used online with national for the 50% program, which means they have to be sent to National for processing. This can sometimes take over a month. As of the end of May, 2017 we have 332 new or Converted Life Members. The total cost as of May 31, 2017 is \$52,727.61. The Council of Administration approved the program for a 3 year period at a maximum expense of \$50,000.00. As you can see the original \$50,000.00 has been exhausted and the program was refunded for another \$50,000.00 at the May Council of Administration Meeting. This funding had to be withdrawn from our investment Account. As of this writing the 50% Life Member Program is funded and ready to go for this year.

See **Quartermaster**, Page 5

Register for National Convention by July 15th

Adjutant, from page 2

Please mark your calendars with the following list of Council of Administration Meetings:

Summer Uniform: Commander's Shirt, Khaki slacks

July 15th Post 1936, Hagerstown, MD 12:00 Noon

September 16th Post 7464, Grasonville, MD 12:00 Noon

Winter Uniform: Blue Blazer, White Shirt, Gray slacks, tie

November 18th Post 8175, Elkton, MD 12:00 Noon

January 20th Post 9619, Morningside., MD 12:00 Noon

March 18th Post 521, Owings Mills, MD 12:00 Noon

Summer Uniform: Commander's Shirt, Khaki slacks

May 12th Post 6054, Aberdeen, MD 12:00 Noon

I hope that those who were able to attend the OTI on June 24th at Owings Mills H.S. took away some new information this year. We are still waiting on Comcast to finish the cable and set-up at the War Memorial Building. You will be the first to know when it is completed.

Just a reminder, if you haven't registered for National Convention by July 15th, you can expect to receive a **Suspension Notice** from National per the By-laws. So please get your registration done as soon as possible. You need to register at least one member and can call National direct or go on-line to complete the registration form.

A special thank-you goes out to PSP Jackie Kimball for taking on the Combat Veteran this year. I know she will do a fantastic job!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 410-752-6474. Please forward all faxes to the Department Hqtrs. at (410-783-2939).

Remember – Not one of us is perfect. If there are no mistakes made, then someone is not doing their job.

In Comradeship,
Doug MacArthur
Adjutant



Rev. Ron James
Chaplain
Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades,
Although there are no religious (Christian or Jewish) holidays during these two months, we must still keep God in our hearts and minds. God has given us so much to be thankful for, especially those great tomatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, and juicy watermelon that we all enjoy this time of year.

As Department Chaplain I am often called for funerals or to give guidance during a rough period in someone’s life. I want everyone to know that I am also available to perform weddings, give sermons, or just show up to make balloon animals if you need a “Clown Chaplain”. I love kids and helping veterans, and “old” people. I wish I had more weddings and fewer funerals, but our membership is getting older, and I have to perform more funeral services than weddings most months.

If you did not make the O.T.I. in June, I want to get the word out about Chaplain Reports. All reports go through Department, anytime you contact me about Chaplain issues, it is a report. I make notes as you talk to me on the telephone, or I put your notes passed to me in my pocket, or I answer your emails. Chaplain reports are easy. I would like to know the Chaplain in every Post so I can make contact if I have a Chaplain issue in your area.

Please get me your name, phone number, or email. I am available to every member 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (410) 829-6308 vfwchaplain@verizon.net P.O. Box 122 Rhodesdale, MD. 21659

Rev. Ron James



Frank Bennett
Surgeon
Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and vote of confidence.

Now that the year is underway, we must get down to business. Get those reports in to Department. Congratulations to Wells Mccomas Post 2678, as they were the first to report. We all can follow their example.

I encourage you to:

- ◆ Conduct a blood pressure clinic;
- ◆ Give out Cancer and Diabetes literature;
- ◆ Sponsor a CPR Course;
- ◆ Volunteer in a VA Hospital;
- ◆ Conduct Health Wellness Fairs.

Yours in comradeship,

Frank Bennett



Tom Kimball
PSC
Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades and Auxiliary members,

I want to thank you for your support to bring the Wounded Warriors to the Beach for an 11th straight year. None of this would be possible without your assistance.

Thank You!

On another note, the VFW has again partnered with Progressive Insurance with a program called “Keys to Progress”. Through “Keys to Progress”, Progressive Insurance will provide veterans with vehicles. So far, in the last Five (5) years more than 59 veterans and their families across the country has received a vehicle. On that special day November 9, 2017 another 100 vehicles will be donated this year. More than 400 vehicles have been given away to veteran organizations. I have the criteria needed to qualify and the application. Give me a phone call or E-Mail request and I’ll send you the information.

Tom Kimball

443-235-0742

thomaskimball@comcast.net

Welcome to Team Maryland

Commander, *from page 1*

And, Last but not least, Welcome to all our Comrades, Sisters and Brothers from the former Department of the District of Columbia to Team Maryland. I look forward to working with you.

So, **Team Maryland**, let's get the ball rolling and attain all of our goals for this year by:

“Giving Star-Spangled Veterans Service Daily”

Yours in Comradeship,

Bill Miller

State Commander



Legislative Call to Action

SVC, from page 2

distractions. We have to stay vigilant about the matters that affect us. We recently had an “Action Alert” to contact our representatives to support the bill to expand caregivers’ benefits to not only Post 9-11 veterans, but to all eras of veterans. This is an important piece of legislation that provides financial resources to veterans so that they can remain in their homes. We are partnering with Maryland Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapters on the issue of GI Bill improvements. Please help us support this legislation by contacting your representatives.

H.R.2068, the Department of Veterans Affairs Education Relief and Restoration Act of 2017, which would ensure all student veterans using GI Bill benefits have their benefits restored when the school they are attending is abruptly closed, similar to their civilian counterparts using Department of Education programs.

S.798, the Yellow Ribbon Improvement Act of 2017, which would expand the VA Yellow Ribbon Program to the dependents of veterans who die in the line of duty, thus helping them achieve their educational goals.

H.R.1379 or **S.882**, the Purple Heart GI Bill Act, which would grant full GI Bill eligibility to Purple Heart recipients regardless of their time on active duty.

H.R.1384 or **S.667**, the Reserve Component Benefits Parity Act, which would ensure Guardsmen and Reservists who are called to active duty receive the same benefits as their active duty counterpart.

Denise Perry

State Sr. Vice Commander

Final Membership Results Reported

Quartermaster, from page 3

Membership:

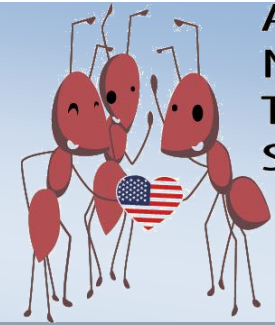
As you all know I was Membership Chairman for Immediate Past State Commander Williams. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work for the Past Membership Year. Final results for the Department of Maryland were 100.97%. We had six Districts over 100%, and 44 Posts over 100%. Thanks to your hard work this should make the Department of Maryland All-American again.

Yours in Comradeship,

D. Harvey Cunningham



Auxiliary News



All're
Needed
To
Succeed

VFW AUX
Dept of MD
2017-2018



Karen Rooker, President
Dept. of MD VFW Auxiliary

First off I want to thank Jr. Past Department President Betty Stahm for leading Maryland to 118% in Membership for the 2016-2017 VFW year! She and the rest of the Membership Team pulled out all the stops and did a super fantastic job!!! I look forward to going to the National Convention in New Orleans and loudly cheering as Maryland walks across the stage to receive many, many awards for all of the hard, but loving, work the Auxiliaries have done for our Veterans.

Well, another year has begun. We have many challenges ahead of us, some new ones and some that seem to be continual. Thanks to the change in the eligibility requirements we were able to add a great deal of new members. We still need to add many more, but do not forget the ones we already have. Engage as many members as possible in all of your Auxiliary programs and events. Don't assume that everyone knows what we do, why we do it and the rituals that we follow. Mentor someone – you might just learn something

new yourself!

Auxiliaries need to work with the Posts. Yes, we are “guests”, but we are all working towards the same goals – helping our veterans, military, and their families while getting our message out to the communities that we are more than just a place for old guys to get cheap drinks and tell war stories. Keep the lines of communication open between the Post and Auxiliary and check your egos at the door. Clashes of personalities should not prevent us from working together.

I am honored to have been chosen to lead our Department for the 2017-2018 VFW year. To Commander Miller – I look forward to working with you to keep Maryland in the forefront in making sure our Veterans' voices are heard and their needs are met. This is in keeping with the theme I chose for this year “All're Needed To Succeed” and ANTS is the symbol. One

*See **President**, page 7*

"All're Needed To Succeed"

President, from page 6

ant can't do a whole lot, but a bunch of them working together for the same goal can be unstoppable.

Here's to an Awesome Year!!!!

Karen D. Rooker

2017-2018 President

Congratulations!

**Brian Sturgis &
Lyn MacArthur**

**Our New National
Council Members**

**Representing Maryland &
New Jersey**



2017-2018 Department Officers

Seated Left to Right: Conductress Betty Dean, Chaplain Felicia Weeks, Sr. Vice Dr. Joyce Thomas, President Karen Rooker, Jr. Vice Cynthia Davis, Guard Cherie Brown, Chief of Staff Phyllis Cooks, Treasurer Carole Betro.
Standing Right to Left: Historian Patty Palmer, Jr PDP Betty Stahm, Asst Treasurer Susan Feyl, Secretary Linda "Lyn" McArthur, Patriotic Instructor Terry Dawson, District 3 President Janice Judy, District 10 President JoAnne Bierly, District 1 President Wayne LaFleur, District 11 President Joyce Gardner, Color Bearer #1 Cathy Estep.



Past Department Presidents Club with National President Colette Bishop at Department of MD Convention.

Left to right top: Pat McConville, Cathy Estep, Lyn MacArthur, Jackie Kimball, Wilma Van Ormer, Brenda Owings.

2nd row ,Phyllis Cooks, Sandi Kriebel , Colette Bishop (National President), Chris Koel, Marie Bunting

Front: Mary Cardinal Vogt, and Betty Stahm.



Linda MacArthur, Secretary
Dept. of MD VFW Auxiliary

Secretary
Assistant
Treasurer
Assistant
Chaplain
Conductress
Assistant
Guard
Assistant
Chief of Staff
Patriotic Instructor
Historian
Flag Bearer
Banner Bearer
Color Bearer #1
Color Bearer #2
Color Bearer #3
Color Bearer #4
Musician
Assistant
Soloist
Assistant
Jr. PDP

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our 2017-2018 VFW Auxiliary Officers and Chairmen.

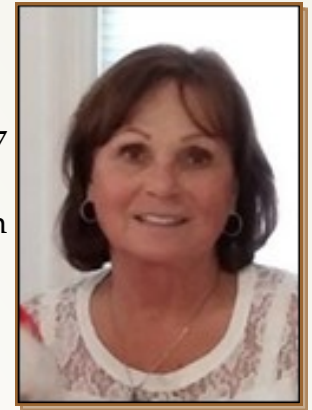
You have already met our 2017-2018 President, Karen Rooker in the preceding article. Here is her team:

Sr. Vice President Joyce Thomas
Jr. Vice President Cynthia Davis

Linda MacArthur, PDP
Pam Edmiston
Carole Betro, PDP
Susan Feyl
Felicia Weeks
Betty Dean
Dee Russo
Cheri Brown
Wayne LaFleur
Phyllis Cooks, PDP
Terry Dawson
Patty Palmer
Sharen Williams
Dean Henderson
Cathy Estep, PDP
Valerie Walls
Abbie Hardey
Toni Smiley
Marie Bunting, PDP
Robert Cross
Melissa Smith
Dianna Shine
Betty Stahm

Introducing Our Newest Line Officer Cheri Brown

Cheri was elected Department Guard at the 2017 Department Convention. Cheri hails from Chesapeake City Memorial Auxiliary 7867 in Chesapeake City, MD. Congratulations Cheri!



And our 2017-2018 Chairmen:

Americanism
Buddy Poppy Convention Display
Chaplain
Chief of Staff/Extension
Hospital
Legislative
Membership
National Recruiter Trainer
President's Special Project
Program Coordinator
Scholarships
Veterans & Family Support
Youth Activities

Terry Dawson
Fran Perini
Felicia Weeks
Phyllis Cooks, PDP
Betty Dean
Lee Lewis, PDP
Cathy Estep, PDP
Libby DallaTezza
Wayne LaFleur
Fran Perini
Cynthia Davis
Jackie Kimball, PDP
Carol Brown

Our School(s) of Instruction were held on June 24th & 25th at E. E. Streets Memorial Post 5118 and Molleville Farm Post 467. I hope all that attended took away something new from this year's Program. I still have several CDs and Credit Card USBs if there are any who did not get one and would like to purchase either. Send check made payable to VFW Auxiliary-Dept of Maryland for \$10.00 to me and I will be happy to forward one to you. These are on a first come, first served basis; so if you are interested get your check to me today.

See **Secretary**, page 9



Every Auxiliary Member is a Winner

Secretary, from page 8

Below are some upcoming events in July and August. Reminder to District President's: please contact President Rooker as soon as possible to schedule your Official District Visit if you haven't already.

July 2nd – Havre de Grace Parade

July 22nd - 26th – National Convention – New Orleans, LA

Aug 5th – Department Commander's Homecoming Post 521

Aug 12th – Department President's Homecoming Post 9619

Also, please note that the Christmas Conference date has changed from what was in the SOI Material. The correct date is Sunday, December 10, 2017 at Aberdeen Memorial Post 10028. More information will be available in an upcoming mailer.

Congratulations to those Auxiliaries and Members who received awards at this year's Department Convention. While not everyone could be recognized with a plaque or certificate, please remember that *every Auxiliary member is a winner* for supporting our Veterans, their families, our youth and our communities! Below is a listing of the First, Second, and Third place awardees for the 2016-2017 Program Reporting Year. There were many other awards/citations given to the Districts, and Auxiliaries by our Chairmen this year for participation, milestone donations and honorable mention as well as certificates for reaching goals set forth by the individual program chairmen, in fact, too many to mention here.

Awards—Honors



AMERICANISM			
Group	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
1	7757	5367	350
2	10146	10159	1936
3	9862	8806	10078
4	10081	3285	10028
5	5118	8672	8175
6	9619	6506	7687

EXTENSION – HEALTHY AUXILIARIES				
2632	8810	9376	9619	350
2562	5633	8950	9862	1411
10077	5246	7460	7464	5337
8126	10146	160	2462	467
521	6658	6918	10076	6027
7687	3065	5367	2621	6506
9083	10067	8276	10159	

HOSPITAL			
Group	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
1	7757	5367	5633
2	10146	1936	8185
3	2621	10078	8806
4	10081	2632	3285
5	8175	7472	521
6	7687	6506	9619

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR	
8175	Dee Russo

LEGISLATIVE			
Group	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
1	5367	8509	304
2	8185	10159	6054
3	10078	8806	2621
4	10081	10067	652
5	8672	5118	7472
6	9619	7687	5337

MEMBERSHIP			
Group	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
1	3065	327	5367
2	8185	10077	1411
3	6658	8806	6027
4	3285	7460	7464
5	6918	2678	5118
6	5246	467	8276

Awards



SPECIAL PROJECT			
Group	1st	2nd	3rd
1	5367	8509	7757
2	8185	10146	10077
3	6658	10078	9862
4	8126	3285	10067
5	6775	5118	2678
6	6506	7687	9619

SCHOLARSHIPS			
Group	1st	2nd	3rd
1	5367	8509	7757
2	10146	1936	10159
3	10078	8806	6658
4	10081	2632	7460
5	7472	2678	8672
6	9619	7687	6506

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT			
Group	1st	2nd	3rd
1	7757	8509	5633
2	10146	6054	1936
3	6658	8806	10078
4	10081	3285	652
5	8672	5118	2678
6	6506	8276	7687

YOUTH ACTIVITIES			
Group	1st	2nd	3rd
1	8509	327	350
2	10146	10077	6054
3	10078	8950	6658
4	10081	10028	3285
5	521	7472	2678
6	9619	6506	7687

Honors

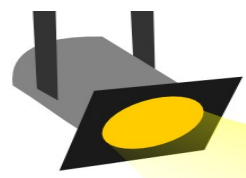
AUXILIARY HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR		
1st	Aux 8185	JoAnne Bierly
2nd	Aux 7687	Cheri Brown
3rd	Aux 5367	Marian Wylie

DISTRICT HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR		
District	10	Cheri Brown

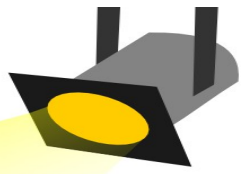
AUXILIARY OF THE YEAR	
GROUP 1	
Winner	Auxiliary 10146 - D5
Runner-Up	Auxiliary 8509 - D11
GROUP 2	
Winner	Auxiliary 10081 - D1
Runner-Up	Auxiliary 10078 - D11
GROUP 3	
Winner	Auxiliary 7687 - D10
Runner-Up	Auxiliary 2916 - D11

DISTRICT OF THE YEAR	
Winner	District 10
Runner-Up	District 4

BANNER AWARD				
2632	8810	9376	9619	10081
350	2562	5633	8950	9862
1411	10077	5118	5246	7460
7464	5337	8126	8672	10146
160	327	2462	467	521
3285	6658	6918	8806	10076
6027	7687	8175	8185	3065
5367	10078	2621	2678	6506
9083	10067	194	8276	10159



SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION



In the Spotlight



JUNE 25, 2017



JUNE 24, 2017

