



THE MARYLAND VFW COMBAT VETERAN

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



vfwmd.org

March-April 2018

Volume 41—No. 5



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

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

Here we are in March...9 months gone. We're not quite where I want to be as far as membership goals, but it's still doable. As of this writing, 14 Posts are at 100% or better and will receive a 100% Post Commanders Coat at the Ocean. 21 Posts need 10 or less, and of those, 11 Posts need 3 or less. There is one Post that only needs 1. Overall, we need 1611 members to be 100% in the State. Please don't forget the 1 Year Look see program and the 50/50 Life Member Program, both being funded by Department. The National Commander in Chief has challenged all Departments to be at 98% by 1 April 2018. I feel it is doable if we all pull together.

All our Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy contests are over and I'm proud to say that Maryland's Patriots Pen contestant won first place at National. No word as of now as to how our Voice of Democracy Winner did. Thanks to all the Posts, Districts, and our State Chairs Mike and Mike for all their hard work. I'll

report further after the Legislative Conference.

The State Commander and Presidents Testimonial will be on March 24th at the Pikesville Hilton, with the Council of Administration to be held on the 25th at Post 521 in Owings Mills. I'm hoping to see many of you at both events that weekend.

Thanks for all you are doing and continue *"Giving Star-Spangled Veterans Service Daily"*.

Yours in Comradeship,
Bill Miller
State Commander





Douglas MacArthur
Adjutant
Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters;

I would like to announce the winners of the Maryland Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Department Contests.

Maryland's Voice of Democracy First Place winner, is from District 7, sponsored by Counties Four VFW and Auxiliary Post 10076, Robyn E. Azulis. Robyn will attend

the Legislative Conference and be escorted by Commander Miller and President Rooker in the National Parade of Winners on Monday night, March 5th, 2018.

Maryland's Patriot's Pen First Place winner is also from District 7, sponsored by Lt. Peter G. Zouck VFW and Auxiliary Post 521, Karolina T. Mazur. Maryland, our entry did it once again! Karolina placed *First* in the National competition winning a \$5,000 Scholarship Award. She too will take the stage at the National Parade of Winners on March 5th, 2018.

We had great participation this year with all 11 Districts represented in both contests! I hope the participants who did not win, will return next year for another try at that First place award.

Our next CoA meeting will be on March 25, 2018 at Lt. Peter G. Zouck Post 521 starting at 12pm – VFW Uniform (Blue & Gray with Commander's (or other) tie).

Elections will be upon us before you know it. Be sure you refer to your Bylaws for Eligibility, Election and Installation questions. If you cannot find what you are looking for, do not hesitate to contact myself or any Department Officer for assistance. Be sure to input your election reports on the National Website immediately after your election, even if you do not have a full slate of officers.

The Annual Raffle tickets have been mailed and we are receiving returns on a daily basis. If you would like more tickets, please do not hesitate to contact me at Department headquarters. Remember, the “Early Bird” drawing will be after the CoA on March 25th.

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.

In Comradeship,

Douglas MacArthur

State Adjutant

THE MARYLAND VFW COMBAT VETERAN

STATE COMMANDER
William Miller

ADJUTANT
Douglas MacArthur

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The Maryland VFW Combat Veteran is published six times per year – July–August, September–October, November–December, January–February, March–April and May–June by the Department of Maryland, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, 101 North Gay Street, Room J, Baltimore, MD 21202, 410-752-6474
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Send all communications for publication to MDVFWCombatVet@comcast.net. Deadline for submissions is on the 20th, during the months of June, August, September, December, February and April.

WEBSITE
www.vfwmd.org



"Giving Star-Spangled Veterans Service Daily"



D. Harvey Cunningham
Quartermaster
Dept. of MD VFW

Post and District audits are very important and the National By-Laws state they must be filed with the Department every quarter. Audits are now due for the December 31, 2017 quarter. There are still audits due for September 30, 2017. Please get your audits in as soon as possible. If you need help please contact me.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2018, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 54.5 cents for every mile of business travel driven, up 1 cent from the rate for 2017.
- 18 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, up 1 cent from the rate for 2017.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The business mileage rate and the medical and moving expense rates each increased 1 cent per mile from the rates for 2017. The charitable rate is set by statute and remains unchanged. Many of us use these rates for our Travel reports and other reports.

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 December 2017 we have 159 New or Converted Life Members for this program year. The total cost as of December 31, 2017 was \$ 23,246.50. The Council of Administration approved the program for a 3 years period at a maximum expense of \$50,000.00. The funding has been extended once for another \$50,000.00 by the Council of Administration.

As most of you already know, I will be a candidate for State Quartermaster at the State Convention again this year. I would like to ask you all for your support. Thank you.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for the Cards and Prayers during my surgery & Chemo it has been a rough few months, but I am feeling much better now and ready to go.

Yours in Comradeship,

Harvey Cunningham

State Quartermaster



Rev. Ron James
Chaplain
Dept. of MD VFW

I have been with the Boy Scouts of America again. I always said I learned all I needed in life in the Boy Scouts. If everyone lived by the Boy Scout Pledge (Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent) I think the world would be a better place.

A young man that advances to Eagle Scout should be applauded. Every Eagle Scout I have met is an excellent example of how young men should live their lives. As a Chaplain I always try to be reverent. I may not always be thrifty or obedient, but I do try.

Please continue to pray for the troops that are still in harm's way. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead (SPRING AHEAD) on March 11th. March 17th is Saint Patrick's Day, the most widely celebrated Saints Day in the world, and the day everyone wants to be Irish (although Patrick was British). The first day of spring is March 20th, so look outdoors for God's work. Flowers will be blooming, and trees will be budding. The Passover season is from March 30 to April 7th. Good Friday is March 30th and Easter is April 1st. Remember that I am always available to each member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their family. 24/7 (410) 829-6308.

vfwchaplain@verizon.net

Reverend Ron

Rev. Ron



Frank Bennett
Surgeon
Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades,

It is getting close to the end of the year. Let us get our reports in. Reporting is most important, because it gives our National Organization the ammunition they need to lobby congress.

The weather will be changing. At the end of March comes Daylight Savings Time.

You will have more time to clean up after winter. Remember your neighbors. Help them and report it.

I am running for this office again, and respectfully ask for your support.

Frank Bennett

Frank Bennett
State Surgeon



Victor Fuentealba
Judge Advocate
Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades,

As of February 8th, 2018, 68 bills had been introduced in the General Assembly that were considered to be of interest to veterans. The most significant bills were those that would expand the exemption of military retirement pensions from State income tax.

As I had mentioned in a previous column,

Governor Hogan supports such legislation.

During last year's session, the Senate also supported the exemption, but the companion bill was not approved by the House Ways and Means Committee.

A reminder that all proposed amendments to either the Department or National By-Laws to be considered by the Department Convention in June, must be submitted in writing to the Department Adjutant no later than the close of business on Monday, April 16th, 2018. If your Post is planning to submit an amendment and needs assistance, please feel free to contact me and I will be glad to help.

Vic Fuentealba

Vic Fuentealba
State Judge Advocate

Believe... We Can Do It!

2018 National President Sandi Kriebel
Homecoming Celebration.
September 6-9, 2018
The Hotel at Arundel Preserve

Our own Sandi Kriebel will become National President at this year's National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Join us in September for her **Homecoming Celebration**. Registration is \$110 per person. August 1, 2018 is the deadline for all registrations. The Hotel rate is \$169.50 (includes all taxes and fees). To reserve your room, call 888-624-4011. The reference group name is **VFW Auxiliary/Celebration** or **180906AVFW**. The deadline for making hotel reservations is August 6, 2018.

For more information regarding the National President's Homecoming contact:

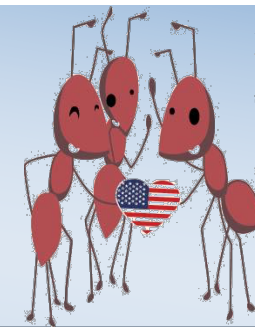
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Auxiliary News



All're
Needed
To
Succeed

VFW AUX
Dept of MD
2017-2018



**Karen Rooker, President
Dept. of MD VFW Auxiliary**

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

On March 5th I, along with Commander Miller, will proudly escort the Department of Maryland Voice of Democracy winner Robin Anzulis to the stage where she will be among all of the other Department winners as they announce the National winner of the contest. She had a powerful speech and we all wish her the very best! We will also be cheering on the National Patriot's Pen Winner – The Department of Maryland's very own Karolina Mazur! In placing first, she won the National \$5000 scholarship and has shown the rest of the organization true Maryland Pride! Congratulations to Karolina. There must be something in the air in District 7; both young ladies represented District 7 in these contests. Congrats to District 7-7-7!! It would be wonderful if we could flood the audience with as many Department of Maryland members as possible to cheer on all of the contestants. These young people are our future.

I hope you will all be able to attend the Testimonial for the Commander and President on March 24. This is not just a night for me and Commander Miller, but for all of us to shine. I am grateful that you have allowed me the honor to lead this organization, but without you, I am nothing. Please come join in the fun. Reservations must be to Tom Kimball no later than March 10.

Now is the time to take a look at all of the things that your auxiliary has done. Are you missing some things that you can quickly accomplish? I know that we are getting really close to the end of the year (April 15), but there are still a whole lot of reports that you can send in. **I say this all the time...you are doing the work so be Loud & Proud and**

REPORT – REPORT – REPORT!

And remember...

All're Needed To Succeed!

Karen D. Rooker
Karen D. Rooker
State President



Linda MacArthur, Secretary
Dept. of MD VFW Auxiliary

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

While our winter has been fairly mild, I know the cold and flu season has taken its toll on many of our families. Keep all of our Comrades, Brothers and Sisters in your thoughts and prayers.

March and April are key times for the Auxiliary as Election of Officers and Delegates will take place. Please refer to your Auxiliary By-laws, Article VIII Officers, Sec. 801 – Eligibility (anyone in good standing is eligible to hold an office); Sec. 802 – Elective Officers (identifies what Officers are to be elected); Section 803 – Appointive Officers (identifies what Officers may be appointed). Section 804 – Election - 804A – Auxiliary specifically the second bullet *“Elective Officers shall be nominated and elected at the regular business meeting in APRIL.”*

Nominating committees are permitted and many Auxiliaries hold their first nominations at their March meeting, and close and elect at their April meeting. By doing so they know which positions are “filled” and which positions will need to be “filled” before the night of the actual election in April. Also, a member who wishes to be nominated and elected to a position either needs to be present at the election or provide in writing their willingness to be elected and hold office. And do not forget to elect your Delegates to your District, Department Convention and National Convention (even if there isn’t anyone attending the National Convention, it is good practice to elect your allowable delegates and enter them into the National database).

Installation of officers can either be done at the April meeting immediately after election or at a separate or joint function with their VFW Post in late April or early May. Please do not wait to elect and install at your May meeting!

Presidents and Secretaries, watch for more information in a separate mailer in March which will contain your paperwork for reporting your election of Officers and Delegates. MALTA’s Installation reporting area now has all offices available for data input, so when you complete the Election Report worksheet, be sure to have all accurate information for data entry. Please clarify Member ID numbers for accuracy, as well as addresses, phone numbers and e-mail address. If your officer held a position last year, do not assume that there has not been a change in information, ask! Please complete the information requested on the entire form and either have your Secretary input the data or send to me within five (5) days of your installation so that I can update the National database. Since members are required to show their membership cards at all meetings, you should have that information available at the time you complete your report.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me by e-mail (lindamac55@comcast.net) or phone 410-272-8206 9am to 7pm. If your number is not identified by caller ID, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

On another note, do not forget the Commander’s and President’s Testimonial coming up on March 24, 2018 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Pikesville. I am sure that they would appreciate your support as they celebrate their accomplishments thus far this year. For more information, see that flyer that has been provided in your monthly mailer. The Auxiliary CoA will follow on Sunday March 25th, 12:00 Noon at Peter G. Zouck Post 521, Owings Mills, MD.

Wishing you all a terrific Spring!

Lyn MacArthur
Lyn MacArthur
State Secretary