

Comrades,

At the time of this writing, the Department is only 171 members away from 100% in membership. We can do this, so please continue to recruit. Thanks for all of your hard work in recruiting and re-recruiting.

It has been an honor for me to serve the department over the last 4 years in the Top 3 chairs and this year as the Junior Past Department Commander. I have been asked to run for the Department Judge Advocate for 2018-2019. It will be a big challenge, but will do my very best to serve as great as Comrade Wichmann has done over the last ten to fifteen years.

I really appreciate all of you and your service to our great organization as well as your service to our Veterans, Widows and Orphans. If you need any help or have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me. You may email me at: jpdmoses@vfwdeptpacific.org.

I would like to share with you some information on Reporting and Communicating at the Post, District and Department level that have been shared by other JPDC. Hope this will help mentor our incoming officers on why we do what we do at the post, district and department.

Reporting – The Key to Success

During the year the Department is on dependent upon the Posts to provide a variety of reports to them. These reports serve a purpose and often contribute to the Department need to fulfill its' reporting requirements to National. When you think about it, the number of reports may surprise you. They each contribute to the success we strive for at all levels. As Post leaders these reports help you in many ways. They provide you a means to prepare for the start of the new VFW year. They provide you a means to monitor, manage and document your operation and activities during the year.

Community Activities Program Report Post Program Chairman to DPA JVC

Twice a year the DPA JVC submits the Department report to National. The data enables our organization to illustrate to other organizations and Congress our involvement within our communities.

TAPS Report for Deceased Comrades Post Chaplain\Quartermaster to DPA Chaplain\National HQ

Our DPA Chaplain maintains a record of deceased comrades and they are honored in remembrance when we meet at our Department Convention. The loss of a comrade also needs to be reported to National HQ. This enables them to keep their membership records current. If they have incorrect records the Post MEMSTATS will be affected.

Trustees Quarterly Audit Report Quartermaster to DPA Quartermaster

The report provides the Department a record of the Post and District financial operation. It with the Annual Inspection Report can provide information of where the Post may need to make adjustments and the Department with the District may be able to provide guidance or instruction to assist the Post.

Inspection Report Inspectors to DPA Inspector

This report serves as a tool to identify areas of the Post or District operation that may require adjustment to comply with the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. It also provides an opportunity for the Post and Department to work together through the District to improve operation and their chances for a successful year.

Election Report Adjutant to DPA Adjutant It provides a listing of officers for the year to Department and National. This is important as it provides contact information. As an example, National needs to know where to send mail to the Post.

General Orders Adjutant to DPA Adjutant

Provides a listing of officers for the year to Department and when changes are made they need to be provided in an updated General Order. This is important as it provides contact information so the Department will know who they are working with.

History Historians to DPA Historian Over the year's significant events and activities take place at your Post. These are all part of your history and contribute to the history of our Department. Some Posts submit articles that are published in the Around the Department newsletter. This is also a part of your history and can be submitted to Department. Entries from your Post minutes also are a source to document your history. A little time each month and by the end of the year you have compiled a surprisingly thorough accounting of your Post history. If you have a question please contact the Department Historian.

Impact of Communication

Communication is a sharing of information or responding to an inquiry. As spread out as we are in our Department communicating by electronic means is critical to our success.

It also is an essential means of maintaining contact with members who have moved from the Pacific Areas and in some cases still reside in the community the Post is located in. This can be instrumental when it comes time to renew their annual membership dues. Why would a member renew their membership with an organization that does not "Reach Out" to them and share with them news from their Post? It also can be meaningful in generating interest of members to participate in Post activities. It can and has made a difference.

Communication has a variety of avenues to share information. Phone calls, email, website, newsletters, face book and twitter. We have a great Department website, email system and Department calendar. Let the members know about the website and your WebPages. It provides access to what is happening in the Pacific Areas at all levels. Some Posts publish newsletters to share information with their members.

Besides having different avenues to share information, communication is bi-directional. Do you have an idea to make things better? Share it and possibly it could make a real difference in support of our goal to improve and be successful.

Information flow to our members is important. We are an organization of volunteer members and our success and team building is dependent on ensuring the entire membership is included in the communication of information of interest to us all. The VFW Team is not just the elected and appointed officers. It is each and every member of our elite organization. Each of them has a role in our success.

When a comrade, District or Post receives recognition by Commanders at any level for their dedication and contribution to the VFW and when they are selected for recognition through awards such as: Post/District Awards, All State and Outstanding Recognition Awards. National Awards presented at the Department and National Conventions and national appointments, the results should be published for the members to read.

This accomplishes two things. First, it provides recognition to the comrade or Post for their dedication. Secondly, it provides member awareness that through their dedication and contributions to our organization comrades and Posts can attain recognition and appreciation for their efforts. True it is not the intent to receive recognition for their contributions and many do not seek awards, but it is a means of the organization expressing their appreciation for dedicated support.

To have the opportunity to be a successful organization, we need to communicate.

YIC and Service,

Robert Mo Moses