

From the Senior Vice Commander: May Report



Comrades,

I am humbled and honored to be your Senior Vice Commander of the VFW Department of Pacific Areas for the 2018-19 year. I will do my best to put the knowledge gained as last year's JVC to good use. I would like to congratulate all of this year's elected and appointed officers. I am sure you will strive to continue the example set by our past staff, in making our department a shining example for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As most of you are well aware, I have several responsibilities this year, Chairman for Veterans Assistance, Homeless Veterans Chairman, Budget Committee, and Membership Chairman.

Veterans Assistance is primarily for those Veterans in need of a bit of help due to emergencies such as Medical bills, etc. VAC Grant forms are available from me or through your Post. Once the Post commander receives this form, it is forwarded to me with any supporting documentation. The VAC committee consists of the seven District Commanders. They are sent the information by email and vote on whether to approve the grant. I only vote in the instance of a tie. The approval or denial result are sent by me to the Post Commander. If approved, I will instruct the Department Quartermaster to make a deposit for the recipient, either through the Post, or directly to him/her.

And closely related, occasionally is Homeless Veterans. I have not seen a homeless Vet in our department, but should you locate one, please let me know, and what he/she needs in the way of assistance from us.

Which brings us to Memberships. Now is the time to begin reviewing Commander Verville's All-State requirements. And don't forget CiC Lawrence's All-American requirements. There are several "early bird" incentives being given out by National. I would love to see our department get a few of those. Next month I will be posting a checklist, based on last year's, for the Post and District Commanders to follow as the year progresses. As you have heard already, please don't wait until April to finish the requirements. Getting it done early benefits everyone, the Post, District, and Department.

I will begin publishing MEMSTATS once the system gets caught up. And as the year gets going, you will be seeing the countdown to 100%. I personally liked tracking it last year and will continue it this year as we get close. This will be the year we hit 12,000 members for the department. Let's hit it sooner than later.

The Department of Pacific will have a banner year. Let's GET IT DONE!.

Rick Farris,
Senior Vice Commander
Dept. of Pacific Areas

