



*DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
PROGRAM BULLETIN*

FEBRUARY 2020

HOSPITAL V.A.V.S
Harold R Olsen Jr., Director
Cell: 815.910.7171
E-mail olsenoly@yahoo.com

Now that the Holidays are behind us and we did a lot for our confined veterans please don't forget about them the rest of the year. There is a lot of things we can do for them during nice weather. The best thing is to get them out for a little while. We need to plan these ahead so this is a great time of year to get on the schedule to get them out for outings. The activities director can help plan one if you are interested in hosting one. They all love to get out for a little while if they are able.

If you do - don't forget to report it.

NATIONAL HOME
Michael J. McGrath, Director
630.357.2680
E-mail: mackcav1@sbcglobal.net

**** NATIONAL HOME'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY, MARCH 2020 ****

On March 9, 1925 the first National Home Residents arrived. The widow and family (6 children) of Deceased Sergeant Edward Pollett were left destitute as Sgt. Pollett's benefits ended at his death.

Since then and for almost 95 years, the National Home has grown and evolved to meet the changing needs of Veteran and Military families and "Help, Hope and Honor" continues to be the mission in 2020 as it was in 1925.

National Home Helpline - 800-313-4200

Is there someone out there who might need a helping hand?

****No Government Funding****

Commanders and Comrades, as our National Home receives NO Government funding. Our Donations are very helpful, and so we are asked to complete the "X" sheet program requirement. Keep in mind that this not only helps provide needed funding for the National Home but also helps our Department and our Commander as well.

Thank you all for all you do!

Illinois V.F.W. No one does more for Veterans.

SAFETY PROGRAM

Robert Mattson, Director

847.371.0209

E-mail: rmattson7248@gmail.com

Department Safety Report for February

Now that we have entered the final months of the Safety Program for 2020 we must prepare for filling out our Safety Reports which includes the reporting on all six (6) of our safety programs.

Remember that to achieve All State status you must report on the X sheet. All programs must be reported on to receive an award at the Department Convention. Please start working on these programs so that we can have a good showing from all of our posts. District Commanders you need to please address the safety program at your District Meetings.

The Department of Illinois is looking OK as far as membership but we could be better. We must look great in all of our Programs.

Please Commanders, put the pressure on your people to start reporting the work that they have done. I know that they have done it, just please report it.

Please have a good couple of months before Convention and make Illinois look GREAT! I hope to see all of you at the C of A & VOD this month!

Respectfully, Robert Mattson Department Safety Director

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Charles Ingle, Director

815.979.7152

E-mail: chuck@roscoevfw.com

Timeline update of annual Grants:

VFW Foundation Community Support Grant

At the beginning of February, \$30,000 remains in the 2019-20 funding allocation. The Foundation expects to grant about 30 more requests. Following which, they will promptly close the grant for the current term. Will your Post be one of those recipients? Visit <https://www.vfw.org/grants> , download the application and [apply today](#).

VFW Foundation Grant

At the end of a preset period, the Foundation closed this grant on Jan 15, 2020. Once closed, both of these grants will reopen on **Sep 1, 2020**.

Home Depot Community Impact Grant

The Home Depot has begun accepting applications for its 2020 Community Impact Grant. Your VFW Post can receive up to \$5,000 to fund construction projects or repairs to your Post building. The deadline for applications is Dec. 31, 2020, and grants will be awarded in the form of Home Depot gift cards which can be used to purchase tools and materials at your local Home Depot store. All projects must be completed within six months of their approval date, so time your application accordingly.

VISIT: www.vfw.org/grants , scroll to The Home Depot Community Impact Grant, and click on [Get more information and apply today!](#)

During January, a slight increase in the pace of regular reporting, places the Department at 2% above that of one year ago, for the Community Activities program. Thank you for your continuing efforts. Please encourage your Posts to **report before April 30th**, for those unclaimed “X” credits.

VFW 2019-2020 Community Activities, Dept. of IL

<u>District</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Posts Reported</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Community Activities Director</u>
3	Christopher C. Garza	4	27%	Christopher C. Garza
4	Joseph P. Scanlon	7	47%	Thomas W. Davidson
5	Christine A. Pawley	9	47%	Daniel J. Pearson
6	Mark A. Miller	8	47%	Gary D. Holmes
7	Robert Sable	10	48%	Robert Sable
8	Russell “Pete” Moshier	8	47%	Mark W. Sowers
9	Elton H. Murphy	14	67%	John L. Finnegan
10	Bobby J. Edwards	9	56%	Bobby J. Edwards
11	Joseph S. Swinford	13	87%	not yet appointed
12	Timothy B. O'Donnell	14	74%	John “Jack” Fessler
13	Christopher L. Hatcher	9	75%	Elmer L. McDuffee
14	Kenneth E. Williams	13	68%	♦John E. Barrett
15	Gary J. Fravel	4	31%	Barbara R. Wilson
16	Bruce Borowicz	6	55%	William A. Browne, Jr.
17	Sean D. Conner	8	57%	♦Dan R. Swaner
18	Paul Barclay	10	83%	Robert E. McLeod
19	George Miller	21	88%	George R. Cramer

♦Assistant State Director

Total Posts
280

X-Sheet Data
29-01-20

Department Percentage
60%

Compiled by
Chuck Ingle

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

John E. Barrett

618.444.2906

E-mail: happy2baliv@yahoo.com

1. As of January 29, 2020 a total of 146 Post and District Inspections are annotated on the X-Sheet as having been approved. An additional four or five Inspections have been approved, but are not yet tallied. I am awaiting additional information on several Inspections pending approval. Five Inspections have been referred to the Adjutant/Quartermaster for his action.

2. Four to six Districts are at the halfway mark or less with another four to six Districts nearly complete. District 9 is our only 100% District at this point. Unfortunately, five of our Districts have no Inspections approved as of yet and another District has only one. In summary, one third of our Districts are doing great, one third of our Districts are doing alright, and one third of our Districts haven't started yet. This is far from acceptable.

3. Primary problems encountered thus far seem to be centered around bonds and minor omissions or incorrect dates. Additionally, Department e-mail tech problems have slowed the approval process. (I could help Districts expedite the approval process by previewing your Inspection Reports.)

4. I would like to re-emphasize the information on Inspections contained in your January General Orders:

Attention is directed to the importance of CONSTANT INSPECTION!! District Commanders will exert every effort to have each Post in their District inspected at least once annually. Posts Commanders will insist on Quarterly audits of records and books by Post Trustees, subject to penalties outlined in Section 213 of the National By-Laws. Post Quartermasters are reminded that they are to be Bonded in AN AMOUNT AT LEAST EQUAL TO THEIR LIQUID ASSETS. It is important that the District Inspector contact the Post well in advance of their official inspection advising the Quartermaster when they will inspect the Post and what items they will need to conduct the Inspection. Each District will be compensated at the rate of \$10.00 per Post Inspection at the time the District becomes 100% inspected and approved by the Department Inspector.

5. Overall I highly commend the excellent work I've seen from our District Commanders and Inspectors to date. Thank you.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

David Darte, Director

Cell: 217.273.2218

E-mail: ddarte@yahoo.com

Hats off to all the District PP Chairmen, who have advanced their District Winning Entries, with all the documents that were required and did so in accordance with important

deadlines. For the thirty, or so, percent that did not comply, please make a concerted effort to get better at that before next year's contest. I will be developing a tutorial to help with procedures next year to avoid the mistakes, confusion, and frustration that results for all involved when there are omissions and late reporting.

Well, all our hard work is coming to fruition this month at the VOD/PP Banquet. We will be making the students that have advanced to this level feel very special for their accomplishments and bring much favorable attention to our great organization across the state. To all who made that happen, give yourselves a pat on the back and take pride in your service to the VFW and enjoy that weekend. Then, we can return to our posts with renewed incentive to roll up our sleeves and make next year's programs even better.

I would remind all who attend that students and families from all reaches of our State, will be observing our actions at all times during that weekend. For that reason, let's all present a professional and welcoming appearance at all times.

For those posts who will participate in the Scouting Program this year, I would like to remind you of critical deadlines.

March 1----Entries to Post

April 1----One candidate, WITH FULL ENTRY CRITERIA, in each Scouting category, to Department headquarters.

May 1----Department Scouting Chairman will submit state winners to National Headquarters.

Comrades, during this month and the remainder of the year, please report the youth activities that I am sure you are doing in your posts and districts. Community services that involve our nation's youth is probably the very best advertising of the VFW's willingness to partner with our community and school systems. The events that are reportable are only limited by your imagination. You don't have to expend large sums of money. You can offer your post as a place for sporting teams to hold their team signups or awards programs. You can provide hotdogs or an ice cream bar to sports teams, church camps, scouts etc.

The Department will award a prize to the District with the highest reporting of youth activities. Posts in three categories, based on their membership numbers, will also be awarded prizes. These awards will be presented at the Department Convention in June. Comrades, thank you for all you do for VFW!