



United We Stand



Indiana Combat Veteran

Spring 2018

Volume 62, Issue 1

State Commander Johnny Capps



Greetings Comrades,

I would like to start out by thanking all the Post Commanders and members for the hospitality I have been

showed this year. It is truly an honor to be State Commander of this great state. I appreciate all the hard work everyone does for our veterans and our communities.

We are having a great year working on our programs. Our VOD winner finished 16th in the nation. We had great success in both VOD and Patriots Pen. Job well done to all chairmen and members.

Membership is slowly going in the right direction of 100%. We are currently at 93.55%

which is good for 31st in the nation. Indiana has 26 posts and one District (11th) at 100%+. The 6th District is close at 99.50%. With a good push the rest of the year we can get the state to 100% for the first time since 1999-2000. Let's be the group that gets the state back to 100%.

I would like to thank Troy, our State Quartermaster, for all his support and hard work he does for the state and for me. Thanks Troy.

I also would like to thank my line officers and all the

comrades for the support this year. It's been a great year so far. It's been very rewarding and I have learned so much traveling the state. We have a great State full of good VFW Post's and members.

In closing I ask every Commander and member to push for membership the very last day June 30th. If we do the year will end on a great note for the State. Thank You All.

In Comradeship,
Johnny



Greetings Comrades,

I had a great time catching up with many of you during our Spring Conference. If you didn't attend the banquet, you missed some fantastic speeches from not only the amazing Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen winning students, but also National Conductress Jean Hamil and Commander-in-Chief Harmon.

Congratulations to the posts that have made 100%

with a pat on the back to those post commanders that not only hit 100% but kept going to help our VFW grow. Outstanding job! Be sure to check on those that haven't paid and make sure they are ok and might need some help, or may have simply forgotten. Please don't hesitate to contact your department or national membership teams if you need any help. They are there to help your post. Please check the upcoming

General Orders to confirm your post has all audits, documents, fees, etc submitted to HQ so you are eligible to vote at our Department Convention. I look forward to catching up with you at the convention. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can help in any way.

Thank you for all you do for Veterans, your post, and for the VFW.

Eric Billman
State Sr. Vice

ERIC BILLMAN Sr. Vice Commander



Words From The State Officers

MICHAEL L. SIMS

State Jr. Vice Commander



I hope everyone enjoyed their time, and learned a lot, at our Spring Conference that was just held in Indianapolis.

Several weeks ago, I attended the National Legislation in Washington D.C., along with State Commander Johnny Capps, Senior Vice Commander Eric Billman, National Legislative Chairman Richard Mrozinski, and National Rep Greg Baker. It was nice seeing and meeting the Representatives from the state of Indiana. At this time, I would like to congratulate all the Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and teachers for the awards that they received at the Spring Conference.

Please be sure to set aside some time to attend the State Conference, which will be held May 31-June 3, 2018 at Marriot East in Indianapolis. There will be a CFA meeting June 29, 2018 at Marriot East in Indianapolis. It is very important that you attend the State Conference because elections will be held to elect new officers for the state of Indiana.

1-2 weeks prior to this conference, call State Headquarters to make sure you are eligible to vote.

A special thank you to our National Commander in Chief Keith Harman and to our Auxiliary National Conductress Jean Hamil for attending our Spring Conference.

I want to thank everyone for their support to the VFW and veterans. I would like to wish all of you safe travels to the State Conference and may God watch over all of our troops here and abroad.

MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA.

Michael L. Sims
Junior Vice Commander

RICHARD LINEBERRY

Membership Chairman



Greetings Comrades,

Everybody is working extremely hard on membership and I thank you for that.

As I write this, we are in 32nd place at 93.48% (21 March). Every day we are slowly increasing our membership and we can be at 100% by June 1st!!

Also, a shout out to Clint Slinker for being the top recruiter with 46! Way to go Clint!!

A huge shout out to the 11th District, they are in first place with 100.91% and the 6th is breathing down their neck at 99.34%

There are several posts that are within 10 or less members of being 100% Please work your unpaid rosters. Call me if you have problems or need help making those phone calls.

Reach out to your local Congressman or Congresswoman to see if they would be interested in holding a Veterans Town Hall at your post. When you arrange it, reach out to the American Legion, Navy Club, etc. and ask them to join in the town hall. When they show up, recruit them. We picked up 4 new members that way.

The name of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is at the forefront of Congress and all veteran service organizations. We need to keep this progress and the only way to keep our name in front of Congress and fight for Veteran's benefits is with membership.

The VFW is making great strides in improving Veterans benefits and health-care accessibility. Use that information when talking to perspective members. I'm here to help you, don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Comradeship,

Dick Lineberry
Membership Chairman
260-446-2627
Lineberry3@aol.com



KEISTON R. HOLLOWAY

State Chaplain

Greetings comrades and auxiliary of the post and district.

I hope all is well. I just attended the spring conference and look forward to the state convention. To date I have sent out 3082 condolences. I also continue to send sympathy

cards and get well wishes. I am up to 24 newspapers which allows me to touch every district in the state. I want to ask for your continued support as your department chaplain. I cannot do it without your help. If I can be of any assistance I am an e-mail or phone call away.

Please continue to visit the nursing homes, hospitals and the home bound. Thank you all at the post and district for all you do. May God bless America, may god bless our troops, may god bless the VFW, and may God continue to bless each and every one of you.

Words From The State Officers

TROY "DOC" KING

State Adjutant /Quartermaster

Greetings Comrades:

Our Spring Conference was very successful and the Headquarters Staff hopes all had a good time and returned home with new information and knowledge to share in your Posts and Districts.

We are 10 months into the year and it is not time to stop. Let's keep plugging away with membership for Johnny year. National VFW has reported that the Iraq and Afghanistan Vets are joining the VFW at the same rate as the Vietnam Veterans joined – so don't give up.

April is election month for Post officers. Quartermasters were mailed the Election Report/Convention Registration packet. Included with this packet are instructions to properly fill out the election report and transmit it to National Headquarters. Online reporting is the required method of submitting the Post's Election Report by the Post Quartermaster by logging in to the "Online Membership System" (OMS) at VFW.ORG. Please insure that the information in your election report is accurate as this information is placed in our State Roster Book.

With our State Convention two months away now is



the time for Post Commanders and Quartermasters to insure that your post is eligible to vote. Please check the General Orders to insure that you have submitted your Audits, Election Report, and the Quartermasters bond. Also to be eligible to vote your admission fees and delegate fees must be paid and your Post does not owe any monies under Shortage Due. Please do not wait until you arrive at the convention to find out your Post is not eligible to vote. If you have any questions or we show an item that you believe has been taken care of please call State Headquarters.

Let's have a successful end to the 2017-18 year!

Yours in Comradeship,
Troy "Doc" King
State Adjutant & Quartermaster

TAPS

VFW 1157

- Howard Strickland
- Paul Hess
- Edward Bezy
- Thomas brink
- Albert Culp
- Jody Hall
- Lawrence Halter

VFW 1405

- Paul Morris-
Life Member
- Spencer Post 1405,
Marine in Korea



Proud To Be An American

Words From The District Commanders

TIM HOUTS

1st District Commander

Greetings from the First District,

I want to talk about membership. Membership is important, not only to make our State Commander look good, but because of the vital importance of recruiting and maintaining a strong VFW. As I sat at conference and listened to the Commander talk about how our numbers are dwindling at a high rate of speed, I was shocked! It is an absolute necessity that we stop the bleeding of losing current members and concentrate on increasing our numbers.

I have been talking about this and pushing the First District posts to do just that as well as the opportunities on how to engage Vets of all ages.

If we are out in the community as we should be, the possibilities are endless. Besides, I am getting sick of wearing Pink Minnesota

shirts.

I don't have all the answers.... Only suggestions...

Engage the veteran in conversation. Whether that be doing poppies, on a job site, waiting in line at the drug store. Fish fry's... fundraisers... groups from the community that use your post. Explain what the VFW is all about. Offer to have the post pay for their first year of membership. Explain that there is obligation. (That can come later.)

We can be 100%. We just have to be willing to put forth the extra effort. Our VFW is worth it!

We, here in the first District, are going to do our very best to be 100%. I am proud to be involved in the VFW and thankful for Johnny Capps' leadership. It has been a pleasure to work alongside him.

Tim Houts
District 1 Commander



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

www.vfw.org

MICHAEL OGDEN

5th District Commander



Good afternoon Comrades,

Hope everyone is having a great day as we are now into spring. Hopefully it will start warming up soon so we can enjoy the weather. Now that weather will be changing soon it will be a good time to get out and start going door to door to work on membership. We still need to be using our phone list and call members to try to get our membership up. This is something we **CAN DO**.

I talked about this at the Spring Conference and I am going to repeat it again in case you couldn't make it to conference. Comrades we have a problem in some posts across our state right now. When someone is being accused of something in your post a lot of people start spreading rumors about that person whether they know it's true or not. You are just jumping on someone else's bandwagon that started the rumor because they are your friend and you may not have all the facts. Unless you see someone actually do the offense then don't jump on someone else's bandwagon and believe what you are being told. The person

spreading the rumor may just not like the person and want everyone else against them. This is getting to be a problem in a lot of posts and it **MUST STOP**. Commander in Chief Keith Harmon told us on Saturday how we lost over 1500 members last year and over 700 the year before. This is one very good reason why we lose people every year. They are basically being bullied out of their post.

We must make everyone feel welcome in our post to help our organization keep going for years to come. I want the Vietnam members to remember how it felt when they tried to join and they felt unwelcome by the WWII and Korean vets. In some places this is happening again with the Vietnam vets making the Iraq and Afghanistan vets feel unwelcome in their post. Now please understand I am not, I repeat I am not saying that the Vietnam vets are the problem everywhere. Almost every post I have been throughout the state has a good repertoire with all their comrades.

Now we only have a couple of years left in this year and I want to thank everyone who has helped me these past two years as the 5th District Commander. It has been a great two years for our District and it has been great to be able to represent the District.

Let's keep working on membership so we can get 100% for Johnny. God bless everyone have a great spring and summer.

5th District Commander
Michael Ogden

Words From The District Commanders



RICHARD LINEBERRY
4th District Commander



Hullinger busy! The VFW State Teacher of the Year came from the 4th, Bryan Lineberry is a U.S. History Teacher at Belmont HS in Decatur.

I want to thank all Posts that have donated rolls of stamps to Honor Flight NE Indiana, thank you very much and they are much appreciated. Let's also not forget Commander Johnny Capps special project which is also supporting Honor Flight. Thanks again for donating to this worthwhile program.

Greetings from the Mighty 4th,

The last couple of months have been busy for us, with all posts working on their membership and Community Service projects. Garrett Post is leading the way at 100% with several others not far behind. Quite a few Posts need less the 10 members to bring them up to 100% Let's work on those unpaids! A well done to all posts who submitted entries for VOD, Patriot Pen and Teacher of the Year, way to keep Ken

Congressman Jim Banks visited a couple of Posts in the District, 857 & 2457, where he met with veterans and talked about veteran's issues. Below is a picture of the Congressman with Sam Hayward, a WWII Navy vet at 2457.

I'll be escorting Sam to Charleston SC, April 13 -16 so he can participate in the 75th Anniversary of the



Commissioning of the USS Yorktown, CV10. Sam is a plank owner and one of only 2 known plank owners still alive.

A shout out to Decatur Post 6236 for hosting a fund raiser dinner to help send 11 students to London, Normandy, & Paris in 2019 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. This trip is being organized by Bryan Lineberry.

On the VA front, the new construction/addition is coming along quite nicely with more building contracts being awarded for several more building programs. They will be having a partial re-opening ceremony of the newly renovated 4E inpatient hall sometime in mid to late April. There are a lot of changes taking place at the Ft Wayne VA. The Director, retired Col Mike Hershman is taking great strides in meeting the needs of our veterans. Mr.

Hershman is being very proactive in learning of issues and concerns from his fellow Veterans and their families - he wants to hear from you. If you have any complaints at all about your care or any issue for that matter, use the following email: VAIT-Network11WebDesigners@va.gov, or call 260-426-5431 ext 71504. The email will go directly to the Director.

The next Honor Flight is April 25th and May 23rd, come on out to the Ft Wayne Terminal and welcome these vets home!

State VFW Summer Conference is May 31 to June 3rd at the Marriott E, Indianapolis and School of Instruction is June 30th, same location. Our next District meeting is April 28th at 1pm at Columbia City VFW Post 5582.

Yours in Comradeship,
Dick Lineberry



Words From The District Commanders

RICHARD LEIRER
6th District Commander

Comrades,

The 6th District is working hard at getting over 100% in membership, as of this writing we are at 99.50%. Eight of the 14 Post in the District are over 100%. More importantly we are committed to getting the Department to 100%. Remember it's not just about the numbers it's about connecting with Veterans in your area. If you are only connecting with the members of your Post once a year when dues are due then you are doing a disservice to that Veteran and probably his family. You don't know if he has issues either financial, medical, or personnel, it's for damn sure that you can't help him if you don't know what's going on. Plus, that Veteran you only talk to once a year could be the next great volunteer at the Post, he/she may just be waiting for someone to ask them to volunteer, you don't know if you aren't talking to them.

Many Post are doing some great things, the Post in Noblesville is providing support for 9 kids from local

schools for a school trip to Washington DC. The Post is not only paying to get them there but they are helping the parents buy clothes and shoes for the kids. Attica is spearheading the effort to raise money for the Wheelchair Lift for the Indiana Veterans Home. All Post in the District have donated and Clint is also holding a raffle to help raise money for the Lift. At the Council of Administration prior to the Spring Conference I challenged all District Commanders to donate to the project.

The State Convention is coming up the end of May, actually the C of A is on Thursday 31st of May and the Convention starts Saturday morning June 1st. Post Commanders and other Officers should definitely attend and encourage as many members as possible to attend, this is the most important VFW meeting of the year.

District 6 Commander
Richard Leirer



KEITH ROHLOFF
7th District Commander

Greetings from the 7th!

We just finished with the Spring Conference which closes out the awards for Teacher of the Year, Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy. We had a great year in those programs as our awards program was held at the Martinsville Post 1257 on February 3rd @ 1300. We awarded the following awards: Teacher of the Year High School Curt Mahan (Fort Branch Post 2714); Middle School Teacher Major Reinhart (Greenwood Post 5864) and Elementary Teacher Stacey Johnson (Brazil Post 1127). Ms. Johnson was also the Department of Indiana Teacher of the Year (Elementary). Our Patriot's Pen winners were Asia Loney (Greenwood Post 5864), Brooke Wilson (Mooresville Post 1111) and Erika England (New Whiteland Post 6978). Asia Loney was also the Department of Indiana Patriot's Pen winner. Our Voice of Democracy winners were Holli Norris (Linton Post 7118), Delaney Collier (Martinsville Post 1257) and Daylan Segura (Crane Post 9297). A job well done by all the Post in the District on these core programs. We are working hard on membership and as of this writing we have 4 Post at 100% membership. They are Mooresville Post 1111, Fort Branch Post 2714, Linton Post 7118 and Odon Post 9627. The District is cur-



rently on pace to achieve 100% membership on 27 May 2018 and we will get it done to help the Department get to 100% for the year. The District has done a great job of reporting Community Service as we are 100% reported and will be 100% in the near future for Buddy Poppy purchases. Post 12153 has submitted a charter change to National for it moved its location from Greenwood to Franklin. Hopefully, their grand opening will be in the near future as I know they are working hard at getting their building ready. The District is getting ready for our election of officers and is looking forward to attending the State Convention and going to Kansas City for the National Convention. We hope you all have a great day!

Keith Rohloff
7th District Commander



Words From The District Commanders

JIM HANKINS

10th District Commander



Hello Comrades,

Another year has gone by very quickly. Membership is down from last year but we are working on new recruits and our current members to reach our goal.

Our inspections are 100% done and our Buddy Poppies are 100% ordered. We have several locations picked out with around 35

Post and Aux. Members participating in passing Buddy Poppies out.

We had great participation in the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy, also in Teacher of the Year.

We collected around \$300 to purchase items to take to the Veterans in the Dayton, Ohio VA Hospital.

Loyalty Day will be Saturday May 5th 2018 in New Castle, come on out and show your support.

It has been a great year for the 10th District and we are looking forward to the State Convention in May.

I would like to thank everyone for their support this year.

Thanks,
Jim Hankins
10th District Commander

RUSSELL (GABBY) PRYOR

11th District Commander

Welcome Comrades,

I want to talk about how great it feels to be able to follow your dreams. As some may know I am the new VFW Service Officer. This is a goal I have pursued and finally reached. As I reflect on my time in the service, I look at what I did and how I was able to help affect others, in my Department. Although I am out of the service, I still have those passions and desires to help my fellow Comrades. This has helped me as District Commander because we have reached 100% membership, and we continue to strive to improve. I have to say it has not been me in doing this alone, but all of you.. I say thank you to everyone, as we reach the end of my time as District Commander.

I say this because even though my time as 11th District Commander is ending soon, I will fulfill my desire to continue my service as a VFW Service Officer. With all this being said, we are all warriors and it's in our blood to never give up. So, if there is a dream or a passion that you want to achieve, keep reaching for it. It has taken me several years to get where I am and it is only by persistence and hard work, the kind we did when we were serving this great nation of ours. Keep your dreams alive and stay follow them. It has been a PLEASURE to serve as your District Commander and now it will be my pleasure to serve as your VSO.

Thank you,
Russell (Gabby) Pryor
District 11 Commander





JOE MISURACA

**I am asking for your support and vote
as I run for
SURGEON in the State of Indiana
for the year 2018-2019**

Since State Convention, we have only added 3 new members.

Things to Remember:

As a Legacy Life Member,
you receive discounts at the VFW store as follows:

Bronze 5% - Silver 10% - Gold 15%

You will also get a Hat Pin, Lapel Pen and
a Certificate for your legacy Life Membership.

You can find more information on this program at

www.VFWIN.org

Let's do whatever we can to get the number of members in
Legacy Life up in the Sate of Indiana.

Thanks you for all that you do for our veterans.



DICK LINEBERRY

I would like to announce my intentions to seek the high office of Department of Indiana Surgeon for the year 2018-2019

I earned my VFW eligibility with 4 deployments with the U.S. Air Force Reserves/Air National Guard. My first was to Saudi Arabia Dec 95 - Mar 96, Bosnia Aug 96 - Dec 96, Kuwait Jan 98 - May 98 and Iraq Aug. 04 - Feb 05.

I retired from the New Haven Police Dept. May of 2006 and the Air Force Reserves, Grissom ARB Dec 06. I just recently retired from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as the eligibility/enrollment/benefits coordinator.

I have been the 4th District Commander since 2014 and Post 2457 Commander since 2011 of which I'm a Life Member. I have come up through the Post and District chairs along with a National Appointment on the Resolutions Committee. I was selected as National Aide DeCamp in 2013 and recipient of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Outstanding Leadership 2014-2015.

I'm currently the State Membership Chairman.

I'm married to Jamie Lineberry, and have 4 children, Michelle who teaches school in Myrtle Beach SC, Bryan (AF vet) who teaches U.S. History in Decatur IN, Matt GySgt, USMC, currently stationed at Pensacola NAS FL and my step daughter Mary who works in Indianapolis. Both Bryan and Matt are life members of VFW Post 2457. Bryan was selected as VFW state High School Teacher of the Year for 2017.

I have the full support of my wife Jamie, my 4 children along with the rest of my family and friends. I also have full support from Post 2457 and the 4th District in seeking this high office.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any questions regarding my candidacy. Cell (260) 446-2627, email: lineberry3@aol.com

CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA SURGEON



I would like to introduce myself

My name is **REBECCA MURPHY**

I am running for the high office of State Surgeon for the year of 2018-2019. I am a Lifetime Member of Post 1282 in New Castle, Indiana. I earned my eligibility serving in the United States Marine Corps during Desert Shield / Desert Storm. I am currently retired from the US Marine Corps. I have been thru the chairs at the District level. I have been the District Commander for the year of 2013-2014. I have been the State Youth Chairman for the years of 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. I am a 2 time All-State Commander 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. I am currently your Department of Indiana Community Service Chairman.

I am seeking this position to help achieve great things for this organization. The most important is making sure and helping with membership growth on a daily basis. I am a part of this organization going forward by obtaining the membership of eligible veterans no matter their age, race, religion, sexual orientation. I want to lead this organization into the great changes that are happening everyday. We are an organization of veterans for veterans.

I want to Thank You for your service, everything you do for this organization, and the consideration you give me to become your next Department of Indiana Surgeon for the year 2018-2019