

General Order #4
January / February/March 2024

Post Mid-Winter Information:

Greetings Comrades,

Another Mid-Winter weather challenged gathering, this time in Wenatchee.

Sadly, this kept a number of our order at home, fortunately for the VOD families, all but 2 were able attend! The Patriots Pen winner as well sadly could not make it.

1. The following were the top 5 VOD placements:

Place	Name:	Gde	Post	Dist.
1st	Benjamin Offutt	11th	10435	6
2nd	Makenzie Stinson	11th	7511	1
3rd	Annika Trippel	12th	4314	2
4th	Isaiah Peppy	10th	7392	15
5th	Ava Triana	12th	10882	16

The Patriots Pen overall winner is:

1st Place – From District 16, Post 2200 in Centralia –

Emily Hammock: Emily attends Rochester Middle School

Congratulations to all Post, District & State winners for 2023-2024 !

Teachers of the Year:

Congratulations to Each School, we in the VFW & Auxiliary were blessed to be in your teachers' company on our awards evening!!!!

Elementary

Danielle Widmier

Gold Bar Elementary School

Middle School

William Lewis

Cedar Heights Middle School

High School

Geraldine Maxfield

Tenino High School

RECRUITING:

The current recruiting totals by individual recruiters for Washington State are as follows: per National the week of 2-20-2024.

Recruiter	Count	Post #	Dist.	Department
Steven L. Woodward	509	2224	3	Washington
Frank M. Persa, IV	215	5580	3	Washington
Keith Wooldridge	28	7392	15	Washington
David B. Moylan	20	10018	3	Washington
Darren Hughes	18	1435	9	Washington
Don Wischmann	16	2100	1	Washington
Douglas A. White	16	9417	1	Washington
Alec C. Haggerty	16	2224	3	Washington
James V. Docherty	12	8956	5	Washington
Todd R. Gruchalla	12	2669	4	Washington
Robert C. Penrod	10	5878	5	Washington
Jason A. Paxton	10	1854	4	Washington
Jim McEnry	10	7824	6	Washington
William J. Thiel	10	7392	15	Washington

The top 14 recruiters are reflected above, there are an additional 166 comrades who have recruited between 1 and 8 new members this year!!! Outstanding work, as State Commander, I challenge the remaining membership to personally bring one more recruit each into their post, just that small effort by each comrade would double the voice for veterans in Washington State and in the halls of Congress.

We; as your department leadership; are to travel to Washington DC the first week of March...I urge you all to put as many new voices as you are able in our back pockets as we walk the halls visiting each of our Congressional offices petitioning on behalf of Washington's Veterans for the legislation before Congress as well the pending affecting all Veterans in this State as well the Nation.

We take our membership voice to Washington DC for the benefit of the approximate 550,000 veterans currently living in our towns across this state and lend that voice to the whole of the VFW across this Nation as the VFW National Commander testifies before a Joint Session on Veterans Affairs in Congress!!!

2. Congratulations to the following Posts who are at 100% Membership:

1.	D4	POST 1854	106.97 %
2.	D16	POST 2200	103.70 %
3.	D11	POST 9430	102.56 %
4.	D6	POST 4278	102.07 %
5.	D9	POST 3386	101.78 %
6.	D17	POST 5785	101.62 %
7.	D4	POST 2463	101.31 %
8.	D3	POST 2329	101.25 %
9.	D15	POST 9301	100.98%
10.	D4	POST 4992	100.81%

3. The C of A met on January 31st 2024 during the mid-winter convention for the following:
 - a. Review of end of Fiscal Quarter report of expenditures
 - b. A motion will be entertained for the replacement of the main entry door locking mechanisms, the estimates for this expenditure were mailed to all Council members for their review previously.
 - c. A motion will be entertained to formally allow Disaster Relief Chairman, COS Jerry Herker to utilize and dispense dedicated funds via debit card for the relief of victims from the Spokane / Medical Lake fires this past late summer, this has been ongoing.

The C of A meeting then ended, there being no further business.

4. VOD / Legislative Gathering of the States Conference March 3-7th in Washington DC , National Reps gather March 2nd, preceding the conference.

5. Important AWARD due dates coming up in March/April 2024

- a. **March 1,** Scout of the Year due to Post
- b. **March 1,** Veteran of the Year due to District
- c. **March 15,** Veteran of the Year due to Department
- d. **March 30,** Publications Awards to Department
- e. **March 31,** Chaplain of the Year due to Department.
- f. **April 15,** Claude Owens Hosp / Comm. Service to Dept.
- g. **April 15,** Howard Shine Post Service Officer to Dept.

6. Coming in MAY 2024---VFW DAY OF SERVICE

https://todaysvfw.org/day-of-service/?utm_source=2024DOS5Leadership&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DayOfService

THIS IS THE LINK FROM THE VFW NATIONAL WEB WITH THE DETAILS AND SIGNUP portal.

If your Post has not been in the public eye this year, they in your community will not know you are there and what you may be doing locally. Step up and Step out and be a positive model in your community. Find that special project to join, lead or create that is of benefit where you live!!!! Be the host, it does not have to be big, lead the way!!! Open the link above to find out more details! Scour your community for opportunity!! Be VFW !

7. First Round of Post Officer Nominations will be made in March Post Meeting session.

8. Final Round of Post Officer Nominations will be made in April Post Meeting session.

a. Installation of Post Officers at the Incoming Commanders Discretion NLT MAY 31, 2024 !!!

b. All Election Reports (District & Post) due to Department by May 31, 2024.

9. 47 Posts are currently delinquent on Audits

a. 15 of 47 are delinquent on all 3 due to Department to date.

b. 3 more of 47 have missed June only due to Department to date.

c. 47 of 47 are delinquent for December due to Department to date. Follow on letters will be sent out within 30 days!

10. Comrades all, membership was mentioned early on, but we must all be reminded as we welcome Spring weather soon, our opportunity to canvas for new and reinstates can begin with your own post membership current Unpaid. Reinstatements of recent post members unpaid past an annual period can also be made if they fall within the time limits.

Early renewals can be encouraged prior to membership expirations between now and the end of June. It would serve as an opportunity for making contact as well to inquire as to health and claims they may need to proceed with.

Annual calls to members aged 75 and older are real opportunities to let your membership know you are thinking of them without having seen them recently.

For your annual members, Life Membership is a possibility with a monthly allotment payment, there is an option for a two-year annual payment as well.

MEMBERSHIP IS VOICE FOR ALL VETERANS!!! LET THAT NOT BE A REQUIEM AS WE WORK THE SECOND HALF OF OUR ANNUAL PLANS BUT A BATTLE CRY FOR SUPPORT OF ALL VETERAN BROTHERS & SISTERS ACROSS THIS COUNTRY!

“It is Veterans we serve”

**Fred Green
Department Adjutant**

**Craig Dougherty
State Commander**