



**DEPARTMENT OF
MASSACHUSETTS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS**



NOVEMBER 2020

GENERAL ORDER No. 5

SPECIAL NOTICES **SPECIAL NOTICES***

I want to Congratulate the following Massachusetts Posts for winning the Commander-in-Chiefs Membership Challenge for the month of October.

SGT. Joshua D. Desforges Post 3236, Ludlow, MA
PVT. George F. Schindler Post 2547, N. Easton, MA

Division 7
Division 9

Both of these Posts have won \$1000 each. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

The Massachusetts Top Recruiter for the month of October is **Kim Emerling** Salem Post 1524. Kim wins a \$50 Gift card and a Commanders Gift set.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

The Massachusetts Top Post in New members for October is: The Witch City Post 1524, Salem, MA. The Post will receive a \$50 Gift card.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

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100% MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

- ❖ Posts of 50 or more members achieving 100% by December 31st, 2020 will be entered into a drawing to win one of (6) \$300.00 prizes. (6 Winners)
- ❖ Posts of 49 or less members achieving 100% by December 31st, 2020 will be entered into a drawing to win one of (3) \$75.00 prizes. (3 Winners)

The following Posts have already achieved 100 Percent and will be entered into the drawings.

Post	2547	112.16%	EASTON
Post	12158	166.66	N. EASTERN
Post	3236	104.06%	LUDLOW
Post	1105	101.58%	WATERTOWN
Post	5509	100.00%	ASHBURNHAM
Post	6539	100.00%	WESTFORD
Post	620	100.00%	STONEHAM
Post	2152	100.00%	WALTHAM

DISTRICT 100% MEMBERSHIP AWARD

The **1st District to attain 100% membership by December 31, 2020** will be awarded a **VFW Canopy Tent from the VFW Store OR a 6' VFW Tablecloth & 7' VFW logo Blade flag**. Includes marketing handouts (bling) for membership drives.

Commander-in-Chief's November Challenge - - The top Post in each division with the highest increase in total membership percentage between Nov. 1 and Nov. 30 will receive a \$1,000 stipend deposited into the Post account.

Extra Credit - - We want our Posts to show that they're reaching out to the community via social media. If the top Post in the division also shares this post from the [official VFW Membership Facebook page](#) on their Post's Facebook page, they will receive an **extra \$200** on top of the \$1,000 stipend!

Members are reminded that under the subscription dues model, an annual member's dues expire on the last day of the month of which they paid the previous year. Annual members are encouraged to renew their dues prior to their anniversary month to avoid a lapse in continuous membership.

If an Officer or Committee member fails to renew their membership before the last day of the month they renewed in the year before, they shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office for the remainder of the administrative year. This situation creates an administrative headache for the post and should be

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avoided. Please keep track of your officers and make sure they are renewed in time, or better yet, have them upgrade to a Life Membership!

Life Membership: The VFW offers the lowest Life Membership fees of most organizations and even offers a 12 month no interest payment plan. It is Easy; It is Cheap, and you never have to worry again. Plan E Life Membership fees shall be charged in accordance with the following Plan E fee schedule effective January 1, 2007:

Attained Age	Plan E Life Member Fee
Through 30	\$425
31-40	\$410
41-50	\$375
51-60	\$335
61-70	\$290
71-80	\$225
81 & over	\$170

Life Memberships Are the Way to Go!

The applicable fee from the effective life membership fee schedule will be determined using the applicant's attained age as of December 31st of the current calendar year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth.

VFW V MAIL

Please be advised all members at all levels have access to a V Mail account through the National Website. Just log on to www.vfw.org and under My VFW, navigate to member V Mail. Then click on that and login to receive all correspondence there. If you do not know your log in credentials for vfw.org or vmail, email member services at memberduesprocessing@vfw.org or call 1.800.963.3180.

DEPARTMENT PROVIDED EMAIL

Each Post has an email provided by the Department through our Go Daddy account. Here are the step by step instructions:

Search for Go Daddy-email-login on the Internet.

Enter email address as Post####@vfwma.org. For example, post9999@vfwma.org. Then enter the password-vfw2017. If that password does not work, contact PSC Eric Segundo at esegundo@vfwma.org to get a new password.

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ORDERS

- 1. Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Essay Programs.** We have some flexibility at the Post & District levels to get the essays submitted and judged. Please follow these dates - All essays should now be turned in to the Post for judging. All Post winners need to be submitted to District NLT November 23rd for district judging. All District winners are to be submitted to the Department NLT December 18th. Department winners are due to National January 10, 2021.
- 2. Post Inspections:** Section 518 provides that the Department Inspector shall require that each Post be inspected in accordance with Department and National guidelines. The purpose of the inspection is to assure that the Post operates in a manner that supports the purposes set forth in the Congressional Charter, complies with the By-Laws, preserves the financial integrity of the Post and protects the interest of the member. Every Post is expected to be inspected at least once each year. It will also be a requirement for All State. It is the duty of the District Inspector to notify the Post Commander, Quartermaster, Adjutant and Trustees of the date and time that the inspection is scheduled. The inspector should allow you enough time to prepare for the visit. The Post inspection will go a lot smoother if it is conducted at some time other than a Post meeting night. If, for any reason, a Post cannot be inspected thoroughly, a report stating the facts must be submitted. It is the responsibility of the Post Quartermaster and Post Adjutant to provide the records necessary to complete the duties of Inspector. When the inspection of a Post is completed, the Post Inspection Form will be made out in triplicate. The yellow copy will be mailed to the Post Commander and a copy should be retained for your files.

*****ALL POSTS ARE TO BE INSPECTED BY ORDER OF THE STATE COMMANDER *****

- 3. Commanders at all levels are reminded** of their duty to conduct the business of the organization while adhering to COVID-19 restrictions and that as Commander they shall "insist that... business and activities are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on the... Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States."

On July 29, 2020, Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch issued Executive Order No. 1 which provided Commanders the discretion to conduct meetings and conventions electronically where COVID

- 4. VFW Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located.** Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of Sections 708 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the

Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities. It shall be the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure full compliance with both sections and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc., are met in a timely manner. Necessary forms are available on our Department website; www.vfwma.org or by contacting our Department Office.

- 5. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees**, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. June reports are due now! **Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters. All reports should be turned into the Department Headquarters.**
- 6. Attention of Post Commanders** is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Trustees." Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ends Dec. 31, 2020. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager, Bingo Chairman and VFW Riders Groups. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.
- 7. Posts are urged to recognize Veterans Day in some public way. Many posts are still conducting smaller outdoor ceremonies. All posts should adhere to the requirements of the local governments.**
- 8. U.S. Army ARDEC has issued guidance on the operation and maintenance of the M1 Garand.** The manual can be found in the VFW Training & Support section at vfw.org or you can visit the M1 Garand Associated Website: m1garandtraining.com. TACOM is conducting an inventory. We are attempting to contact each post on our list but unfortunately many of the posts have submitted inaccurate contact information on their election reports. This needs to be fixed promptly.

BY COMMAND OF:



Russell Jobe, Commander

OFFICIAL:



William G. LeBeau, Adjutant

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DISTRICT MEETINGS:

District 5	November 15	10:00 AM	Medway	1526
District 6	November 15	1:00 PM	N Easton	2547
District 7	November 15	11:00 AM	Forest Park	7352
District 8	November 15	2:00 PM	Uxbridge	1385
District 9	November 15	10:00 AM	Lenox	12079
District 11	November 15	2:00 PM	Gardner	905
District 12	November 9	6:30 PM	Plymouth	1822
District 15	November 15	10:30 AM	Natick	1274
District 18	November 8	10:00 AM	Somerville	529

FORMS:

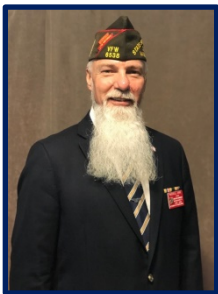
If you are looking for forms, try these links first! Also, forms are available on our state website, www.vfwma.org, under Member Tools.

**For all Veterans & Military Support program information and forms, use provided link below:
VMS Formstack Links:**

- Virtual Pins: <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/virtualpinrequest>
- VFW Website Solution: <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp>
- AUX Website Solution: <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp>
- Chairman Report: https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms_chairman_report
- MAP Grant Application: www.vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication
- MAP Grant Report: www.vfw.org/MAPGrantReport
- Adopt a Unit Application: www.vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp
- Adopt a Unit Report: www.vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport
- Programs Donation Form: https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation.

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MASSACHUSETTS VFW FOUNDATION Commander's Special Project



Commanders Special Project - Massachusetts VFW Foundation

The purpose of the Massachusetts VFW Foundation is "To promote and carry out the purpose of aiding Massachusetts communities, charitable organizations, and individuals in achieving their charitable goals, through its affiliates, resources and funding programs with particular interest in the Department of Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars. To conduct such other activities and programs in furtherance of the foregoing purposes ..."

I ask for your support this year to help raise money for the Massachusetts VFW Foundation so we can continue to carry out our purpose. **Please look at planning a fundraiser at the Post and District levels to help. If you work for companies that regularly support (501)(c)(3) organizations then mention the Massachusetts VFW Foundation.**