

Membership

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Although many of our VFW Posts are unable to operate in the accustomed manner during the current COVID-19 pandemic, the VFW is not about to stop our mission to assist our nation's veterans, and for that we must focus on membership, namely recruiting and retaining members!

For the month of September 2020, the Post in each membership division that recruits, renews, and reinstates the most annual members will receive a \$500 stipend deposited into the Post account!

In addition, each Department with a winning Post will receive a matching \$500 to be deposited into the Department fund to be used as needed by the Department. If a Department has more than one winning Post, they can receive this award multiple times!

We know that a strong membership base is how we will move forward as an organization, guided by **20/20 VISION FOR VETERANS!**

Membership totals will be based on close-of-business totals on Aug. 31 to Sept. 30.

2020-21 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The 2020-21 Membership Program is available online at vfw.org, under MY VFW, scroll down to Membership Quick Links, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention. You will see the 2020-21 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MATERIAL ORDER FORM

As you get started in the new membership year, we have made it easier for you to get all the recruiting brochures you will need to make this membership year successful! It is easy as one two three!

1. Go to vfw.org, and click the login link in the upper right corner. Sign in when prompted.
2. Under "Membership Quick Links," select **Membership Online Order Form**.
3. Use the dropdown list to indicate items you need. The form will automatically calculate the cost of items and shipping. When finished, click SUBMIT and it will take you to a billing page if there are any charges.

Follow the simple steps and if you have any questions, you may contact Leticia Cortez at **1.888.564.6839** or email us at membership@vfw.org.

POST DEVELOPMENT

Foreseeing what is to come in the membership year is a guess at best – that's what we have learned dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic! Getting creative and putting in place ad-hoc procedures to help overcome

recruiting challenges due to COVID-19 has been the call for the past several months. How do you plan for another crazy membership year? It starts with long-term planning; the topic for September's Membership Monday Webinar training!

Join us live on Monday, Sept. 14, at 2:00 PM, CST, for a live Zoom meeting (webinar) to present Long-Term Planning, a refresher on planning best practices. This may be just what is needed to move your program(s) up to the next level! If you can't make it to the live meeting, no worries! The recorded webinar training will be placed on vfw.org, under *Membership Recruiting & Retention*. Look for the Zoom link in an OMS notification the week prior to the scheduled date of training.

Please remember there are many resources available for you on vfw.org. View our latest training videos under Membership Recruiting & Training. For any questions or further information, contact the Membership Department via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 888.564.6839.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

If you've missed us on Facebook lately, we are back! Check out our new VFW Membership Page at facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/ and follow us to Like and Share posted stories and check in on Membership Shout-Outs to see just what some of our VFW Posts are doing around the world in these challenging times. If you would like to nominate a Post for a Membership Shout-Out, please contact the National Membership Department with details.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!

Top Three Recruiters (as of 8/27/2020):

Stephen M. Franklin – 38
VFW Post 1433, Dept. of AZ

Steven L. Woodward – 27
VFW Post 2224, Dept. of WA

Jack A. Hawley – 25
VFW Post 1087, Dept. of MT

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to vfw.org, click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life Member Program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

<i>Levels</i>		<i>Posts</i>	<i>Departments</i>	<i>National</i>
Gold-	\$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver-	\$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze-	\$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

VFW Foundation

The VFW Foundation Board meeting on Thursday, Aug. 20 was held via Zoom because of COVID-19. This was the first Board meeting with National Commander Hal Roesch II presiding as Chairman of the Board.

Nearly 850 BURGER KING® franchisee-owned restaurants raised funds for the VFW's Unmet Needs program during the 2019-20 campaign (includes the November 2019 and July 2020 fundraising periods). Despite a reduction in participating BK restaurants due to the COVID-19 virus, total donations still came in at \$412,770. This brings the BK total to nearly \$6.5 million received since 2007.

Kevin Jamison of the VFW Foundation staff has been promoted to Deputy Director, VFW Foundation, effective Sept. 1, 2020.

Development

VFW Christmas Cards and Holiday Music CD – This month we are mailing VFW Christmas Cards and a Holiday Music CD as our way of saying “Thank You” for your generosity in helping provide much-needed services to fellow veterans and service members. With the holidays quickly approaching, your support is urgently needed! Please help our heroes by sending a special donation when you receive this package. And please take time to visit or call a hospitalized veteran or service member in your community during the holidays. Your best wishes and thanks for their service means more than you can imagine. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/volunteer to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility.

Join the Prestigious VFW Heroes Circle! – You can join an elite group of our most dedicated members and supporters in the VFW Heroes Circle! Comprised of those who wish to further our mission with a gift in their wills or other estate plans, the VFW Heroes Circle was created to honor our most loyal supporters who have made this extraordinary commitment to America's veterans, service members and their families. To learn how easy it is to make an impact on future generations of veterans, please contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org. More information is available online at vfw.org/plannedgiving.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Commander-in-Chief Roesch would like you to join with him in supporting the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive. The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible, and a Year End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at partners@vfw.org with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW's online community, please visit vfw.org and look for the gold banner that says “**Find Out What's Happening**” to sign up. As a member of the VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts

and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit vfw.org/vfwatwork and click on “**Read VFW success stories**” to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans' rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

Department Resources – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. These resources are available at heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools. The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mail schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the tools found on the VFW Department Resources Page to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

VFW Programs

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and then Space Force. For military flags, go to vfwstore.org/products/GP238.

WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL NEWS:

Is Your Post Named for a Veteran of the Great War (World War I)? If so, we want to hear from you! The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission is collecting information on VFW Posts named after WWI veterans. If your Post is honored by the memory of a local doughboy, marine, sailor, or nurse who served and sacrificed their lives, we want to know more. Please send your information and material on the history of your Post to: David Hamon, Veterans and Military Affairs Director, U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, at david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org or you may call him at 540.379.8584. The Commission is collecting historical and archive information on the Great War to observe and commemorate those 4.7 million who served in that conflict. America never forgets its veterans. Help them build a national memorial in Washington, D.C. To learn more, go to: ww1cc.org/memorial.

Help Build America's World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C. The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission recently announced the creation of the AEF (Allied Expeditionary Forces) Memorial Corps. The program is a special designation for Posts, patriotic organizations, local chapters of civic organizations, among others, to be recognized as an official "AEF Memorial Corps Post" for making a donation to build the national WWI memorial in Washington, D.C. Your Post will be certified with a special Centennial Certificate commemorating your contribution in "going over the top" to get the memorial built. For more information, please write Mr. David Hamon: david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org or call him at 540.379.8584. To view the progress of the memorial, go to: ww1cc.org/memorial. Your VFW Post will forever be enshrined in history as having pushed to get the memorial built. America never forgets her veterans!

50TH ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other non-governmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet one or more of the following objectives.

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

For the VFW Posts interested in becoming an official Commemorative Partner, they must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding.

Applications are available at VietnamWar50th.com on the Commemorative Partner Program. The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them to: whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil. For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at: vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam.

PATRIOT DAY, SEPT. 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, Sept. 11, is designated as “Patriot Day.” The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPT. 18. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia.

NEW 2020-21 SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM. Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program. Effective this year, VFW Post Teacher Award Chairman may submit a candidate to their Department Headquarters by Jan. 1 in each category. The Department may select a single candidate for each of the three categories and submit those to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1. VFW’s Department Teacher winners that are received at National Headquarters will receive a VFW National citation for both the winning teacher and their school in each grade category.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the “VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form” which will be available on the VFW website. Simply visit vfw.org/#login, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Additional Resources**. The Teacher Entry form, Instruction sheet, Citation Request form and Chairman’s manual will be up on the VFW website in the near future.

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves. These items will be forwarded on to the Department with the winning Teacher Entry form.

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines and information for the 2020-21 program year.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS. Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award. The amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now total \$154,000 and the Patriot’s Pen National Awards total is now \$55,000.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES. The 2020-21 themes have been chosen by then-Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Harold “Hal” Roesch, II. The Voice of Democracy theme will be “Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?” and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be “What is Patriotism to Me?”

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN BROCHURES. The new 2020-21 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

Simply visit vfw.org/#login, log in to My VFW, then click on **VFW Training & Support** under the **Member Resources** heading, then click on Community Service & Youth Programs and Activities, then click on **Chairman Manuals** under the **Additional Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials.

Additionally, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen by visiting the below links:

Voice of Democracy: vfw.org/VOD/

Patriot’s Pen: vfw.org/PatriotsPen/

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy for Voice of Democracy and vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen for Patriot’s Pen.

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS. Departments are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs office no later than Feb. 1, 2021. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award

Each Department will receive their three awards and should contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMTs, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership. Order plaques and citations for public servants from the VFW Store vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant.

NOTE: VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form was developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairmen with an entry form to hand out to the local Fire Department, Police Department, etc. to assist interested individuals in nominating one of their own. The entry form along with the required documentation are to be returned to the local VFW Post for their judging. Once the winner in each category have been chosen, the Post will forward those entries on to the next level of judging.

Simply visit vfw.org, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Public Servant Program**.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING. All VFW Post and Auxiliary chairmen will report to their respective Department chairman in a timely fashion so as to allow the Department chairman to report to the VFW National Programs office by June 30. The VFW Post chairmen's report should include whether or not their Auxiliaries participated.

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER. VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today. Additional information can be found in the 2020-21 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. Simply visit vfw.org and LOG IN (or create an account if you do not have one). After logging in, you'll be redirected to the "My VFW" page where you will click on VFW Training & Support and then Community Service, Youth Scholarships & Activities where you'll have access to the "CHAIRMAN MANUALS." *Participate in this activity during the week of Veterans Day, which is part of "National Veterans Awareness week," as designated by Congress.* Find Pledge of Allegiance pencils and coloring books, plus other citizenship education tools at the VFW Store vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation.

2019-20 FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING POST SPECIAL PROJECT WINNER ANNOUNCED. SSG Jonathan Dozier Memorial Post 2894 in Chesapeake, Virginia, was selected to receive the prestigious VFW Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award, which recognizes VFW Posts for unique and outstanding community service projects.

VFW Post 2894 was selected for its home renovation project for Brandi Jones, a U.S. Navy veteran and single mother of two. After a traumatic home invasion forced her to move in 2011, Jones relocated only to discover her home would need more work than initially expected, but she didn't have the funds to address the growing list of concerns.

After a chance encounter during a VFW "Buddy"® Poppy drive, members of Post 2894 immediately set to work planning the renovation project. With support from several local businesses and associations, more than 150 volunteers rallied together to help ensure Jones and her sons had a safe place to call home. Valued at

nearly \$25,000, the renovation project included new exterior floodlights and an alarm system, a completely remodeled kitchen, new flooring, fresh ceiling paint, a new roof, new siding and gutters, and a backyard clean up with new fencing and landscaping.

POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 15, 2021 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 31, 2021 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 18, 2020 (third Friday in Sept.); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to vfwstore.org/products/GP237.

IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot's Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

VFW Member Benefits

Bridgestone is a world leader in developing innovative tire technologies. Their continuing investment in research and development has resulted in game-changing new products, like winter tires with more bite and better grip, fuel-efficient tires that enhance fuel economy and safety innovations like their next-generation run-flat tires.

Now, VFW members can receive an additional \$5 dollars off each tire, plus your purchase will be tax free.

Place your tire order by calling the Patriot Store Direct Automotive Tires at 1.800.664.8258. Provide the friendly customer service representative with your VFW membership number and the representative will assign you to an approved Firestone/Bridgestone service center to meet your automotive needs.

"Buddy"® Poppy

"BUDDY"® POPPY CAMPAIGN. Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as "They Gave, Will You?" is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use "ASAP." Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

The Manual of Procedure provides that Post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that nonprofit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the Post general fund.

Contact information: BuddyPoppy@vfw.org or 816.756.3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don't pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out, unless you are currently in your 100th year. These are ordered through the Department and processed the same as the red poppies. Annotate on the order to National that it is for anniversary poppies and specify which one.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS "WORLD WAR I POPPY PROGRAM." The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission will tell the story of those American veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

Click on the following link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: ww1cc.org/poppy

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War I: youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4l49mZso.

The red poppy is an internationally recognized symbol of veteran remembrance. Its use began in World War I and was captured in the war poem "In Flanders Fields," by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

National Veterans Service

National Veterans Service to Host All 2020 Skill Level Training Virtually

NVS takes the safety and well-being of our service officers' seriously and, due to the continued spread of COVID-19, the decision has been made to cancel the in-person Intermediate Skill Level Training (ISLT) scheduled for Annapolis, Maryland in November. Like the May PTC and the September Advanced and Basic, Part 1 training sessions, NVS will move forward with a Virtual Intermediate Skill Level Training (vISLT)

conference, where all instruction will be delivered through video teleconferencing and the VFW Online Learning Platform for accredited representatives.

Information regarding dates, times, and topics of instruction for November will be released as it becomes available. Projected attendees will be notified to register for this conference at the appropriate time.

Virtual training already scheduled for the remainder of 2020 includes:

September 14-23: Virtual Advanced Skill Level Training for Accredited Representatives
(2pm-4pm Eastern each business day)

October 13-26: Virtual Basic, Part 1 Training for Accredited Representatives
(class schedule TBD)

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

2021 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship Application Opening Soon: The 2021 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship will be accepting applications soon! The program, which is in its seventh year, is for VFW-eligible individuals and members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning. Ten student veterans will be selected for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The highlight of the program is participation in the VFW Legislative Conference, which in the past has included meetings at the White House and with senior officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Department members on Capitol Hill pushing the VFW's legislative priorities. Alumni of the program have become more active in all levels of the VFW and have changed laws that improve care and benefits for veterans. [Learn more about the fellowship.](#)

Unprecedented Poll Worker Shortage: Healthy elections require poll workers, the majority of whom are over the age of 60. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, election officials are reporting an unprecedented shortage. Without sufficient numbers of poll workers, it is possible that polling locations could have long lines, lack of staff to assist voters, and possible closures of polling locations. The VFW encourages any member, advocate, or supporter, who is healthy and willing, to consider becoming a poll worker for the general election in November. The [Stanford-MIT Healthy Election Project](#) has partnered with local organizations like Power the Polls, which help to follow up with applicants, confirm their commitment, and assist them in completing the process. If you sign up through this [special VFW link](#), you will be contacted by Power the Polls, a partner organization, or your local election administrators.

Administrative Operations

REQUESTING CEREMONIAL RIFLES, AMMUNITION & MILITARY EQUIPMENT - Department Adjutants and Quartermasters are asked to remind all Post officers to refer to the revised information located at vfw.org where they will need to log in to the "My VFW" page and select the "VFW Training and Support" link, then "Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates" where you'll have access to "Training Guides & Standard Operating Procedures" and then click on "Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment" when requesting a "conditional" donation of any government military equipment, ceremonial rifles or ammunition.

Before contacting the governmental agency, a formal written request is to be addressed and mailed to the Adjutant General at VFW National Headquarters, and must be completed and signed by the current *Post Commander*, *Post Adjutant* or *Post Quartermaster*, one of whom needs to be the contact person.

Also to be included is that contact person's mailing address and phone number, not the Post address. Address the request to the Adjutant General, VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Include the proper information as outlined in the "Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment" pages in the website. It is requested that a Post *not* go through their Department Headquarters (but send them a courtesy copy). This only slows down the processing and creates unnecessary paperwork for the Department personnel.

CAPS DURING CHAPLAIN PRAYERS – In accordance with the Ritual General Rule 13(b), "members will follow the action of the Chaplain or presiding officer relative to removal of caps during prayers; if uncovering, the hat shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart."

VFW Store

The VFW Store's new catalog should be arriving in mailboxes soon. Go online to see what's new at vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems.



Congratulations to All-American Posts, Districts and Departments! To help you celebrate your success, VFW Store is proud to offer custom apparel. To find out more, call Kim Winston at 816.968.1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org. To place an order for ball caps, name tags, pins or rings call 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387) or go to vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=all-american.

General Orders No. 2

2020-21 Series

1. The following officers have been duly elected and installed and will be accorded the recognition due them:

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Matthew M. "Fritz" Mihelcic, Post 2698, Sparta, Illinois

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Timothy M. "Tim" Borland, Post 9972, Sierra Vista, Arizona

Quartermaster General

Debra L. Anderson, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

National Chaplain

Father Joseph J. Gallick, Post 697, Whitman, Massachusetts

Judge Advocate General

Bobby J. Cox, Post 2715, Mc Pherson, Kansas

Surgeon General

Renee L. Simpson, Post 10911, Camp Douglas, Wisconsin

National Council of Administration Members

Alabama	George H. Jones, Post 6073, Scottsboro, Alabama
Alaska	Johnathon "J.R." Hackett, Post 9365, Wasilla, Alaska
Arizona	Lewis E. "Gene" Wood, Post 9400, Sunnyslope, Arizona
Arkansas	Ashley A. Little, Post 4548, Jacksonville, Arkansas
California	Dale E. Smith, Post 3783, Ramona, California
Colorado	David L. Stone, Post 3917, Security, Colorado
Connecticut	Richard G. DiFederico, Jr., Post 7330, Oakville, Connecticut
Delaware	William R. "Russ" Hall, Post 8801, Clayton, Delaware
Europe	Norberto "Tony" Millet, Jr., Post 9342, Ansbach, Germany
Florida	W. Benny Bachand, Post 4287, Orlando, Florida
Georgia	Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt, Post 12002, North Fulton, Georgia
Hawaii	Norbert K. Enos, Post 2875, Honolulu, Hawaii
Idaho	Rockey A. Davis, Post 10043, Lewiston, Idaho
Illinois	Philip L. "Phil" Maughan, Post 3873, Naperville, Illinois
Indiana	Johnny R. Capps, Post 972, Terre Haute, Indiana
Iowa	Carol L. Whitmore, Post 9127, Des Moines, Iowa
Kansas	Patrick M. Briggs, Post 3111, Great Bend, Kansas
Kentucky	Robert O. "Bob" Hendrickson, Post 8639, Okolona, Kentucky
Louisiana	Gerald G. "Snake" Dugas, Post 3121, Gretna, Louisiana
Maine	David D. Williams, Post 1641, Rumford, Maine
Maryland	R. Brian Sturgis, Post 5118, Easton, Maryland
Massachusetts	Robert A. "Bob" Graser, Post 1822, Plymouth, Massachusetts
Michigan	Gerald J. "Jerry" Gorski, Post 2645, Southfield, Michigan
Minnesota	Thomas L. "Tom" Hanson, Post 1639, Willmar, Minnesota

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON OFFICE

Mississippi	Steven M. "Steve" Organ, Post 5395, Pontotoc, Mississippi
Missouri	Jessie L. Jones, Post 2657, Fulton, Missouri
Montana	Jack A. Hawley, Post 1087, Great Falls, Montana
Nebraska	Larry M. Gerlt, Post 2704, South Omaha, Nebraska
Nevada	Gerald L. "Jerry" Peterson, Post 12101, Las Vegas, Nevada
New Hampshire	Paul J. Lloyd, Post 1631, Concord, New Hampshire
New Jersey	William F. "Bill" Thomson, Post 6192, Washington Township, New Jersey
New Mexico	Lenwood P. "Len" Hampton, Post 6917, Las Cruces, New Mexico
New York	Robert E. "Bob" Barnhart, Post 686, High Falls, New York
North Carolina	Gregory A. "Greg" Stafford, Post 6060, Elizabeth City, North Carolina
North Dakota	William L. "Bill" Tuff, Post 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota
Ohio	Christopher W. "Chris" Haynes, Post 7596, Franklin, Ohio
Oklahoma	Robert A. "Robbie" Clark, Post 4876, Altus, Oklahoma
Oregon	John R. Wrinkle, Post 4108, Redmond, Oregon
Pacific Areas	Peter A. Callaghan, Post 3457, Saipan, Cnmi
Pennsylvania	Robert C. Eiler, Post 7842, Linesville, Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	Guyde A. Lombardi, Jr., Post 2812, Thornton, Rhode Island
South Carolina	Augustus "Gus" Singleton, Post 4262, Columbia, South Carolina
South Dakota	Rick L. Williamson, Post 3164, Canton, South Dakota
Tennessee	Henry Hooper, II, Post 11333, Memphis, Tennessee
Texas	Daniel L. "Dan" West, Post 3413, San Marcos, Texas
Utah	Dennis L. Parizek, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah
Vermont	Allston J. "Joe" Gilmond, Post 782, Burlington, Vermont
Virginia	Thomas F. "Tom" Gimble, Post 1503, Dale City, Virginia
Washington	Frederick A. "Fred" Green, Post 2669, Port Orchard, Washington
West Virginia	Todd C. Kingsbury, Post 3522, Charles Town, West Virginia
Wisconsin	Gundel "Gundy" Metz, Post 1318, Madison, Wisconsin
Wyoming	Rodney A. Birkle, Post 3558, Wheatland, Wyoming

2. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

3. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

Kevin C. Jones, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

National Chief of Staff

Rosalyn M. Cox, Post 680, Lexington, Kentucky

Inspector General

Richard N. Bell, Post 4262, Columbia, South Carolina

Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Director, Washington Office

Vincent B.J. Lawrence, Post 7686, Alamogordo, New Mexico

Assistant Adjutant General, Administration & Programs

Kim A. DeShano, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kansas

Director, Administrative Operations

Johnathan R. Duncan, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas

Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Washington Office
Terrence L. Hayes, Department of Maryland Member-at-Large
General Counsel
John R. Muckelbauer, Post 3712, Paola, Kansas
Director, Member Services
David E. Prohaska, Post 4434, Belleville, Michigan
Director, Membership
Rick L. Butler, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri
Director, National Legislative Service
Patrick D. Murray, Post 152, North Kingstown, Rhode Island
Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs
Robert H. Jackson, Post 2725, Frankenmuth, Michigan
Director, National Veterans Service
Ryan M. Gallucci, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia
Director, Operations, Washington Office
Anthony J. Lowe, Post 341, Washington, DC
Director, VFW Programs
Lynn W. Rolf, III, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kansas
Director, VFW Properties
Brian T. Opalewski, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas
National Sergeant-at-Arms
Bryan P. O'Brien, Post 2550, Dunedin, Florida

4. The following National appointments are hereby announced:

NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF:

Jerry Anger, Post 12185, Alabaster, AL
Derek Heavener, Post 9785, Eagle River, AK
Daniel Greene, Post 7968, Apache Junction, AZ
Stephen Knock, Post 9401, Lake Havasu City, AZ
Kenneth Tracy, Post 4608, Ledyard, CT
Wayne Holder, Post 10810, Stuttgart, Germany EU
Arden Battle, Post 4761, Jacksonville, FL
Kenneth Corr, Post 10097, Fort Myers Beach, FL
Daniel Duffy, Post 1966, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Ronald Evans, Post 3233, Sarasota, FL
Richard Possert, Post 3270, Jacksonville Beach, FL
Calvin Sagara, Post 10276, Honolulu, HI
Matthew Lineberry, Post 2457, New Haven, IN
Cory McClure, Post 2689, Huntington, IN
Rick Stell, Post 2689, Huntington, IN
James Wayman, Post 11355, Council Bluffs, IA
Gerald Marvin, Post 3147, La Crosse, KS
Christopher Stergos, Post 7397, Lenexa, KS
Matthew Brenner, Post 696, Owensboro, KY
Perry Muller, Post 3750, Luling, LA

Nathan Howard, Post 3373, Pascagoula, MS
Edward Byrne, Post 4042, Bigfork, MT
Walter Dybeck, Post 12119, Is Vegas, NV
John Hanson, Post 1874, Grand Forks, ND
Larry Lonca, Post 8040, Buffalo, OH
Darryl Mabry, Post 1193, Lawton, OK
Rick Higgins, Post 4039, Creswell, OR
Donald Kelley, Post 10223, Camp Humphreys, Korea PI
Michael Carter, Post 152, North Kingstown, RI
Ginger Graham, Post 6740, Leesville, SC
Gordon Paul, Post 2038, Pierre, SD
David Brock, Post 5154, Maryville, TN
Kimberly King, Post 10904, Manchester, TN
Timothy Von Bon, Post 8307, Layton, UT
Andy Lawson, post 8652, Coeburn, VA
Mitchell Rubenstein, Post 2447, Edinburg, VA
Thomas Spence, Post 4637, Martinsville, VA
Robert Carroll, Post 9097, Hurricane, WV

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL:

Janice Harris, Post 1349, Prattville, AL
Michael Cassidy, Post 10450, Delta Junction, AK
Raymond Gerving, Post 549, Tucson, AZ
James Johnson, Post 9399, Apache Junction, AZ
Joseph Beal, Post 10201, Brookfield, CT
Billie Sherd, Post 10708, Illesheim, Germany EU
Donald Bult, Post 11406, Oceanway, FL
Kevin Eck, Post 8255, Middleburg, FL
George Higginbotham, Post 7909, Jacksonville, FL
John Keith, Post 7122, Floral City, FL
Ova Moody, Post 4364, St. Petersburg, FL
Sean Mattimoe, Post 970, Hickam AFB HI
John Ayres, Post 1152, Kokomo, IN
Steven Heshelman, Post 3321, Washington, IN
Bryan Lineberry, 2457, New Haven, IN
Gerald Huffman, Post 8884, Vinton, IA
Harold Coons, Post 1022, Coffeyville, KS
Peter Jensen, Post 1528, Saint Francis, KS
Jerry Shanks, Post 7387, Hazard, KY
Shane Fowler, Post 3619, De Ridder, LA
Michael Bell, Post 5569, Ackerman, MS
Joe Murnion, Post 7886, Jordan, MT
Douglas Stout, Post 10247, Fernley, NV
Richard Belling, Post 7564, West Fargo, ND
Donald Clifford, Post 9857, Columbus, OH
Michael Curtis, Post 7538, Struthers, OH

Michael Milam, Post 6069, Lebanon, OH
David Price, Post 4578, Guthrie, OK
Andrea Summerlin, Post 3156, Waldport, OR
John Farrell, Post 11575, Phnom Penh, Cambodia PI
John Gallo, Post 306, Pawtucket, RI
Erik Rothering, Post 641, Columbia, SC
Kenneth Payne, Post 6554, Plankinton, SD
James Cooper, Post 1294, Lexington, TN
Eric Spurbeck, Post 5156, Sweetwater, TN
Russell Pogue, Post 10900, Moab, UT
Kenneth Barron, Post 10840, Penhook, VA
David Dudley, Post 12145, Dinwiddie, VA
Melissa Patrick, Post 7814, Staunton, VA
William Wilson, Post 7048, East Fairmont, WV

5. Organizations exempt from income tax under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code are generally required to file Form 990 by the 15th day of the fifth month following the close of their accounting fiscal year. For the current IRS requirements (beginning on or after January 1), if the organization's annual gross receipts are normally more than \$50,000, the organization must file Form 990 or 990-EZ. Small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less are required to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard. There is no penalty assessment for late filling the e-Postcard, but an organization that fails to file required information returns for three consecutive years will automatically lose its tax-exempt status. The revocation of the organization's tax exempt status will not take place until the filing due date of the third year.

Gross receipts are considered to be normally less than \$50,000 if the organization:

1. Has been in existence for 1 year or less and received, or donors have pledged to give, \$75,000 or less during its first taxable year;
2. Has been in existence between 1 and 3 years and averaged \$60,000 or less in gross receipts during each of its first two tax years; and
3. Is at least 3 years old and averaged \$50,000 or less in gross receipts for the immediately preceding 3 tax years (including the year for which the calculations are being made).

If annual gross receipts are normally more than \$50,000, the organization must file Form 990 or 990-EZ. For the current IRS requirements, if an organization has gross receipts less than \$200,000 and total assets less than \$500,000, it may file form 990-EZ. However, if either gross receipts or total assets are above those limits, Form 990 must be filed.

For purposes of filing requirements, gross receipts include: total contributions; gifts and grants; program service revenue; membership dues and assessments; gross investment income (including interest, dividends, gross rents, and other investment income); gross income from the sale of assets other than inventory; gross income from special fundraising events; gross sales net of return allowances; and any other revenue.

IRS regulations require that all tax-exempt organizations make both their Application for Exemption and 990's for the last three years available for public inspection at their principal office and provide copies in response to written requests, subject to the payment of reasonable fees. There are substantial penalties for violation of these regulations.

6. The National Bylaws provide for only one type of membership: active membership. There are no provisions in the National Bylaws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW Bylaws or procedures.

7. 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.

8. The attention of Post Commanders, County Council and District Commanders and inspecting officers is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws - Bonds. Each accountable officer of this organization shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. Liquid assets are defined as cash on hand or in the bank and other negotiable instruments readily convertible into cash.

9. All officers should obtain current 2021 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the revised edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2021 revised edition reflects that in response to the deadly virus COVID-19, the 121st National Convention was held pro-forma where no amendments to the National Bylaws or Manual of Procedure were made.

10. All Commanders are reminded that Section 709, Manual of Procedure - Control of Units, requires that any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or in behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department and that all money, property or assets of any kind or nature, must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster. All Commanders should ensure that all provisions of Section 709 are enforced.

11. The attention of Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders is directed to Section 103, Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the manner in which applications for

membership will be handled. Applications for membership of new, reinstating or transfer members must be voted on by the members present and voting at a regular Post meeting. No Post, County Council, District, Department or National officer, or any other member, has authority to reject the application card of a person who is eligible for membership.

12. The attention of all units is called to Section 1101 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides for the formation and jurisdiction of the Auxiliary. This section provides that each unit of the Auxiliary shall be under the jurisdiction of the corresponding unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, but shall be permitted to function in accordance with the National Ritual, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Auxiliary. In addition to provisions of Auxiliary Bylaws, solicitation of funds or donations by Auxiliary units, including contracts with fund-raising organizations for greeting cards, calendars and/or label programs shall be subject to approval and ratification by the governing body of the corresponding unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

13. Sections 219 and 704 of the Manual of Procedure outline the various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be used. Several years ago, the phrase, "To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs," was added to this section. This allows the Post to use the relief funds for the Voice of Democracy program or other Americanism programs that are educational. This does not include Post building projects, hall remodeling, color guard uniforms or any other expenditure that does not follow these guidelines.

14. On August 24, 2019, the National Council of Administration passed a motion extending the authorization of the wear of the VFW logo to those who are not members of the VFW for the limited purpose of demonstrating public support of the VFW. This authorization is only applicable to the VFW logo reflected below:



This authorization does not include the Cross of Malta or any other trademark and service mark of the VFW, including its name, emblems, or insignia. The use of other trademarks and service marks, including the Cross of Malta, is still limited to VFW members in good standing unless such written consent has been obtained pursuant to Section 803 of the National Bylaws.

Only the VFW Store, its Licensed Vendors and those properly authorized pursuant to the National Bylaws may manufacture or sell merchandise bearing the VFW logo. Additionally, no person shall wear the VFW logo while engaged in any commercial or political activity in such a manner as likely to falsely convey that such activity is approved or endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

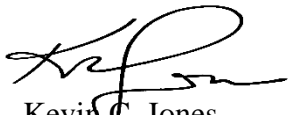
Non-members desiring to wear the VFW logo should not knowingly harm, misuse or bring into disrepute the name or logos of the VFW. Authorization for non-members to wear the VFW logo is subject to revocation by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

15. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:

Post Nos. 1773 and 3464 consolidated as Post No. 1773, Carrollton, Missouri

BY COMMAND OF
HAROLD "HAL" ROESCH, II
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin C. Jones", written in a cursive style.

Kevin C. Jones
Adjutant General

PLANNING CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF VFW MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rev. September 2020

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2020

September 14 - 23	Virtual Advanced Skill Level Training (vASLT) for Accredited Representatives <u>via teleconference</u> (2pm-4pm Eastern each business day)
September 21 - 23	Fall Virtual Legislative Conference
October 8 - 11	Virtual Junior Vice Commanders/Quartermasters Training Kansas City, MO
October 13 - 26	Virtual Basic, Part 1 Training for Accredited Representatives <u>via teleconference</u> (class schedule TBD)
October 16 - 18	Big Ten Conference Columbus, OH
October 29 - November 1	Southern Conference (Cancelled) Asheville, NC
October 30 - November 1	Eastern Conference (Cancelled) Ocean City, MD
November 5 - 8	Western Conference Cheyenne, WY
November 15 - 20	Virtual Intermediate Skill Level Training (vISLT) <u>via teleconference</u> (class schedule TBD)

2021

January 10 - 15	Accredited Service Officer Basic, Part 1 Initial Training Annapolis, MD
February 27 - March 3	Voice of Democracy Washington, DC
February 28 - March 4	Legislative Conference Washington, DC
March 24 - 28	Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming Portsmouth, VA
July 31 - August 5	National Convention Baltimore, MD

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON OFFICE

September 10	National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 11 - 12	National Council of Administration Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 19 - 23	Accredited Service Officer Advanced Skill Level Training Annapolis, MD
September 19 - 24	Accredited Service Officer Basic, Part 1 Initial Training Annapolis, MD
September 20 - 23	Fall Legislative Committee Meeting Washington, DC
November 5 - 7	Eastern Conference Manchester, NH
November 14 - 19	Accredited Service Officer Intermediate Skill Level Training Annapolis, MD
November 18 - 21	Southern Conference Hilton Head Island, SC

2022

February 27 - March 3	Legislative Conference Washington, DC
July 16 - 21	National Convention Kansas City, MO
August 19	National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Kansas City, MO
August 20 - 21	National Council of Administration Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 12 - 15	Fall Legislative Committee Meeting Washington, DC

2023

July 22 - 27	National Convention Phoenix, AZ
August 25	National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Kansas City, MO
August 26 - 27	National Council of Administration Meeting Kansas City, MO

September 11 - 14 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting
Washington, DC

2024

July 27 – August 1 National Convention
Louisville, KY

September 6 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
Kansas City, MO

September 7 - 8 National Council of Administration Meeting
Kansas City, MO

September 9 - 12 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting
Washington, DC