



**** Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States ****

**** Department of Connecticut ****



**DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER #1
SERIES - 2021/2022**

1. **Having been duly elected and installed as State Commander at the State Convention in Rocky Hill, I immediately assumed the duties of my office and shall endeavor to carry them out to the best of my ability. I thank the members of the Department of Connecticut for the confidence you have placed in me to serve in this high office.**
2. **The following Officers were elected or have been appointed by me to serve for the 2021/2022 term of office and shall be recognized accordingly:**

*Sr. Vice Commander	Mario Richards	(Post 1265)
*Jr. Vice Commander	Kenneth Tracy	(Post 4608)
*Adjutant/QM	Ronald Rusakiewicz	(Post 9460)
*Chaplain	Stanley Borusiewicz	(Post 1946)
*Judge Advocate	Robert Bailey	(Post 10153)
*Surgeon	Louis Carillo	(Post 5095)
*Chief of Staff	Joseph Beal	(Post 10201)
*Inspector	John Leblanc	(Post 1946)
*Past State Commander	Kenneth Hartline	(Post 1265)
Color Guard Captain	Michael Montecalvo	(Post 6933)
*Cmdr. District One	John Kennedy	(Post 10201)
*Cmdr. District Two	Charles Pickett	(Post 12150)
*Cmdr. District Three	Lee Wilson	(Post 1926)
*Cmdr. District Four	Antonio Rendon	(Post 1523)
*Cmdr. District Five	Christopher Omen	(Post 9243)
*Cmdr. District Six	John Botti	(Post 583)
* Members of the Council of Administration		

All other Officers and Committee Chairmen will be listed in the Department Directory.

3. **The following Comrades have been appointed to serve as Delegates and Alternates to the Eastern States Conference for 2021/2022**

THE DELEGATES ARE:

Dominick Cortese - State Commander
Mario Richards - Sr. Vice Commander
Kenneth Tracy - Jr. Vice Commander
Ronald Rusakiewicz - State Adjutant
Robert Bailey- State Judge Advocate ECC

THE ALTERNATES ARE:

Joseph Beal, State COS
James Delancy - PSC
Richard DiFederico - PSC
Kenneth Hartline - PSC
Bob Priest , PSC

4. **Congratulations to all the newly elected officers of the Posts and Districts. I look forward to working with all of you this coming year.**

OUER

5. For those that did not donate to the "Honor Flight Program" this year, please do so. As a VFW Post it is your duty to support this important project for our Veterans.
6. **MEMBERSHIP**, Post Quartermasters should remit any post dues they receive directly to National via the internet if possible.
7. Smoking or vaping at any VFW meeting is not permitted.
8. It is the responsibility of each Post Commander to see that their Post is properly represented at District meetings and Department functions. Each Post has a minimum of 12 elected and appointed officers, and if the Post Commander is unable to attend then the Post Commander should assign one of them to attend a district meeting or department function. That would have a member from each post at every district meeting, without someone going every month, although they may.
9. The Commander-in-Chief has reminded that it is objectionable for anyone to consume alcoholic beverages at any VFW meeting.
10. Anyone wishing to invite The State Commander to a function, must send the request via e-mail or in writing to Department Headquarters, to insure there are no conflicting dates and to eliminate any double bookings. Please be sure that the time and date of the affair is on the request, along with the dress required. If the Commander is unavailable for your event, he will assign another chair officer or member of his staff to represent him.
11. It is the responsibility of the Post Commander to see that the post is properly bonded and that all post audits are done and sent to Department when completed and on time.
12. The Department sends out "snail" mail at the beginning of each month to all of the posts and officers. If you want a post flyer included in the mailing/s please have it in to department by the third week of the prior month.
13. Our website for the Department of Connecticut VFW and a web page for each District. The District Commanders will be responsible for keeping it up to date with the time and place of district meetings and district and auxiliary events and news. Anyone wanting something posted on your district page, please contact your District Commander. Lee will be sending out the information to the district commanders on how to access and post information to your page. Remember you cannot post any flyer for a fundraiser not a VFW Program. The District pages are at vfwct.org under ABOUT and I suggest you familiarize yourself with our website, if you haven't already. It contains a wealth of VFW information.
15. You are reminded that the National By-Laws provide that each Post shall register at least one delegate to the National Convention
16. The All American Dashboard at vfw.org will be an important part of post and district adjutants putting their program reports into it. There are instructions for its use and I encourage all of you to familiarize yourself with the system at vfw.org.

17. **There will be wellness Post visits around the state with some of my staff accompanying me. This will be a meet and greet event with your members and a way of finding out how we can help you become more successful in your post programs.**
18. **I look forward to seeing many of you at the National Convention in Kansas City MO,**

By Order Of:

Dominick Cortese, State Commander

OFFICIAL:

**Ronald (Rusko) Rusakiewicz
State Adjutant/Quartermaster**



Scout of the Year

WHO CAN ENTER

Scouts who are registered, active members of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship who have received the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.

There is no minimum age requirement for applicants as long as all other eligibility criteria has been met.

The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old and if an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline.

HOW TO ENTER

Scouts should download and submit a completed VFW Scouting Scholarship form, resume of high school activities, scouting record, community service record and letters of recommendation to a local VFW Post no later than March 1. Locate your local Post here.

Note: A Scout can enter through ONE VFW Post only.

HOW IT WORKS

Local VFW Posts submit their winning candidates with full entry criteria to their respective VFW Department (state) by April 1. Ensure that if a District judging is taking place that entries are forwarded to the District first and that enough time is allotted to ensure that the Department still receives the entry by April 1. From there, the Department selects a winner and forwards the entry to the VFW National Headquarters by May 1 for national-level judging.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 51th Street Office 816.776.5590
Kansas City, MO 64111 Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E. Office 202.543.2259
Washington, D.C. 20002 Fax 202.545.6719

OVER
Info@Vfw.org
www.vfw.org



SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD CITATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR SCHOOLS

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 January 1 in each category. The Department may select a single candidate for each of the three awards and submit those to VFW National Headquarters by February 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 is now 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.

Who Is Eligible?

1. Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today.
2. 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.

Documentation required for all Candidates:

1. 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.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office 202.545.2259
Fax 202.545.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

2021-2022 Theme

“America: Where do we go from here?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2021

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$30,000 Award

What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 57,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, **America: Where do we go from here?**

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$154,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000.

The Rules

Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) audio essay and submit the recording, typed essay and completed entry form to your school/group competition or local VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin) although the recording and typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership. You may enter only one competition at one Post (if otherwise eligible) per year. At any time during the contest, additional participant personal information could be requested by the VFW, including but not limited to a photograph, SSN or biographical information.

2021-2022 Official Entry Form Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

() _____
Phone Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) Grade in School Age

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian
(required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

() _____
Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C, as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

2021-2022 Theme

“America: Where do we go from here?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2021

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement (On Opposite Side)

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant _____ Date _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature _____ Post # _____

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature (if applicable) _____

Post Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

VFW Post Email _____

No. of students participating _____

No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$ _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$ _____

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairman's Signature _____ Dist. # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

() _____

Phone _____ Email _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition, is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's Signature _____

() _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____ .

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the local VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit this website vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find A VFW Post." Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2021. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

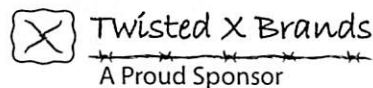
Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.



For assistance contact:
816.756.3390 ext. 6155
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

Revised 4/2021

LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION:

CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL: _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL: _____

2021-2022 Theme

“How Can I Be A Good American?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2021

Patriotic Essay Writing Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What Is Patriot's Pen?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 138,000 students who participated last year in this contest. The national winners will receive at least \$500. The first place national award is currently \$5,000.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.

Big National Prizes

National awards total: \$55,000

Prizes include the various amounts listed below:

1st: \$5,000	7th: \$1,750
2nd: \$4,000	8-10th: \$1,500
3rd: \$3,500	11-12th: \$1,250
4th: \$2,750	13-23rd: \$1,000
5th: \$2,500	24-25th: \$750
6th: \$2,000	26-53rd: \$500

The Internal Revenue Service requires that any recipient that receives more than \$599 award should receive a Form 1099, identifying the proceeds as taxable. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post competition. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. This participating Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by local VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The one first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. The winner from each Department (state) then competes for the national prizes.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools can participate, too. (Foreign exchange students and former winners that placed in the National contest are excluded from the contest.)

2021-2022 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature (if applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of students participating

No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$

2021-2022 Theme

"How Can I Be A Good American?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2021

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant _____ Date _____

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairman's Signature Dist. # _____

Address

City, State, Zip

() _____

Phone _____ Email _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's Signature

() _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

How Am I Judged?

You will be judged on how well you understand, develop and present the theme. A positive approach is recommended to express your viewpoint.

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:
You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points:
Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:
Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing competition.
- Contact a local VFW Post within your local area within your state and indicate your interest in participating.
- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Oct. 31, 2021. You can submit your essay and entry form electronically (by email) upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to VFW National directly will be returned.

What Are the Rules?

- Essay length: 300-400 typewritten words (+ or - 5 words max).
- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and cannot be less than 300 words or greater than 400 words in length. (Essays under or over these word amounts will be eliminated. Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count. At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on your essay. The entry form is your essay's cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition). Contestants found in violation of this rule will face elimination from the competition and will be required to return any and all prize money awarded or received.

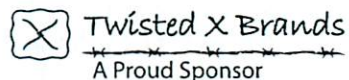
The essay must be a contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retain non-exclusive rights to use your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

Deadline Information

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2021.

Note:

- If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions:
First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find A VFW Post." Be sure this post is within the state you reside in.
- If you need assistance, please email us at the VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org.



For assistance contact:
816.756.3390 ext. 6155
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

Revised 4/2021

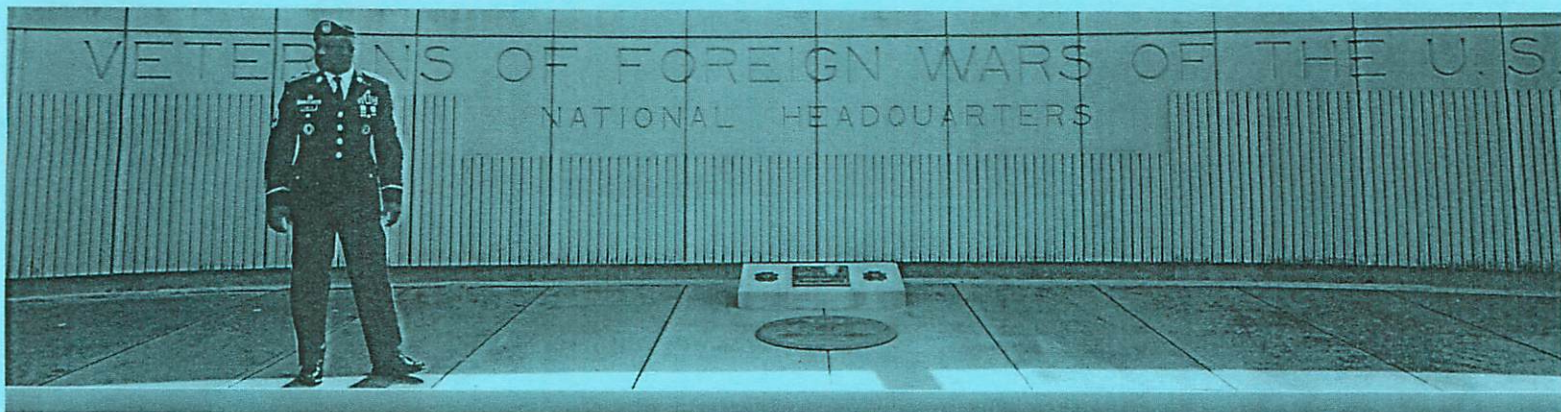
LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION:

CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL: _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL: _____



The VFW by the numbers

1.5 million

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

6,024

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



Helping struggling military families

10,828

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through *VFW Unmet Needs* since 2004.

\$5,387,846

Amount of grants provided through *VFW Unmet Needs* covering housing for struggling military families since 2004.

3,688

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs since 2004.



Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



Honoring the fallen

7.3 million

Number of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies distributed by the VFW last year.

\$7.2 million

Amount raised through the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy program for needy veterans last year.



Cutting red tape

110,000+

Number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2020.

Nearly 15,000

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2020 resulting in more than \$138 million in disability compensation.

27

Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.



Improving life in America

10.3 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

\$20.8 million

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.



Inspiring patriotism in young people

29,000+

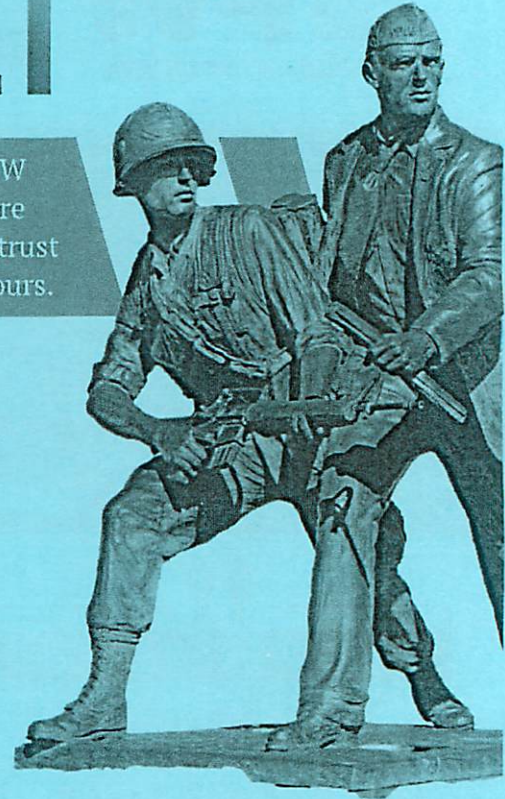
Number of high school students who competed in the 2020-21 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

84,000+

Number of students who competed in the 2020-21 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.

FACT SHEET

As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.5 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.



YOUR DONATION OF

\$20

ENSURES THE VFW CAN

Educate a separating service member about his or her well-earned VA benefits through a private benefits counseling session with a VFW Service Officer.

Provide training to 4 VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services.

Help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

Deliver 4 morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.

1,900+

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

61

Number of VFW-SVA Fellows (student veterans) who have traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for veterans' rights.

\$9.7 billion+

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits — which includes \$1.4 billion in new benefits paid to veterans in fiscal year 2020.

2.3 million+

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events since 2005.

23

Number of times the VFW has testified before Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

\$2.9 million

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

\$12.1 million+

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 44% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

\$9.2 million

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 2,054 veterans and service members through VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" since January 2014.

VFW District 1 Annual Family Picnic

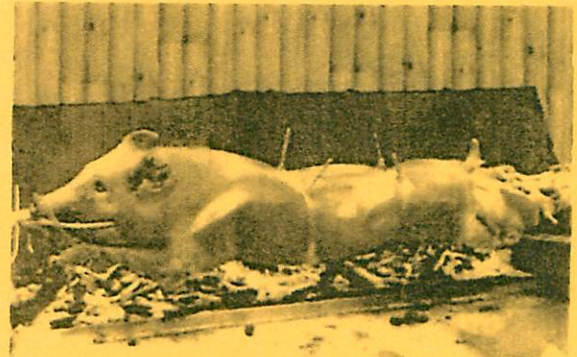
August 22, 2021

At the Bloom's House
25 Philo Curtis Road
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

10 am – 6 pm

Food, Games, Raffles, Beer, Soda and Wine

Tickets \$25.00 per person in advance \$30.00 per person at the door



(Kids 12 and under free)

For Info call or email:

Eduarda (Eddy) Swilling Wade, State Auxiliary Chief of Staff/Dist.1 President
eddyeswilling@gmail.com 203-384-8277

Kim McCarroll, State Auxiliary President/Dist. 1 Sr. Vice President
kimmccarroll@yahoo.com 203-482-9075

John Kennedy, Commander District 1/Post 10201 Adjutant
kennedy1073@gmail.com 203-948-5693

10 am (until we run out, so come early)

Liver, Bacon and Onions

Noon - 3pm

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Clams (Raw and Steamed) and Corn on the Cob

4 pm – 6 pm

Pig Roast and Chicken

Salads and Dessert

Make Checks payable to *District One Dept. of CT VFW* and mail to:

Kim McCarroll, 23 Philo Curtis Rd., Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Number of Tickets: _____ Amount of Check: _____

Post/Aux: _____ Name: _____



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

RON RUSKO, STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION,

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL ME AT HEADQUARTERS AT: (860) 616-2363.

THE ADS.

WE WILL AGAIN THIS YEAR ASK OUR POSTS AND AUXILIARIES TO PURCHASE ADS IN OUR CONVENTION BOOK. (Starting in January). BY DOING SO, WE THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECEIVE THE FULL AMOUNT OF

NO VFW POST WILL BE SOLICITED BY OUR VENDOR; ALL REQUESTS FOR CONVENTION ADS FROM OUR POSTS AND AUXILIARIES WILL COME FROM DEPARTMENT. MONIES RECEIVED FROM OUR POSTS AND AUXILIARIES WILL GO SOLELY TO OUR DEPARTMENT. NO VFW MONEY WILL GO TO THE VENDOR.

WE TRUST YOU WILL POST THIS NOTICE IN YOUR POST HOME AND INFORM ALL OF YOUR OFFICERS AND THOSE THAT NEED TO KNOW ESPECIALLY YOUR BARTENDERS, (IF YOU HAVE A CANTEN) THAT ANSWER THE POST PHONE. PLEASE INFORM THE MEMBERS OF YOUR AUXILIARY AS WELL.

NUMBER/S.

FREE TO CONTACT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT: 860-616-2363 OR TO PASS ON OUR PHONE ORGANIZATION. WHEN INQUIRIES ARE MADE REGARDING THIS COMPANY AS BEING LEGITIMATE, FEEL

INFORMED THAT THIS COMPANY, CONSULT TELE - COMMUNICATIONS, REPRESENTS OUR ALL POST MEMBERS AND ESPECIALLY EMPLOYEES THAT ANSWER THE POST PHONES, SHOULD BE

WILL CO-OPERATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT IN THIS VENTURE.

I CANNOT IMPRESS UPON YOU THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROGRAM, AND I SINCERELY HOPE YOU

PROGRAM. WE WILL BE USING YOUR POST AS A REFERENCE.

OUR COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION HAS GIVEN US PERMISSION TO CONTINUE THIS PROGRAM. YOU MIGHT BE RECEIVING CALLS FROM YOUR LOCAL TOWN MERCHANTS AS TO THE LEGITIMACY OF THIS

IN THE COUNTRY.

THE DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT VFW HAS ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A PRIVATE CONCERN TO SOLICIT ADS FOR OUR CONVENTION AD BOOK THAT HELPS TO PAY FOR THE STATE CONVENTION. BECAUSE OF THAT, CONNECTICUT HAS THE LOWEST CONVENTION DELEGATE FEES

DEPARTMENT SOLICITION FOR ADS FOR THE CONVENTION AD BOOK FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES

URGENT AND IMPORTANT 2021-2022

P.O. BOX 429 Rocky Hill, CT 06067 (860)616-2360 Fax: (860) 616-2364
hqct@vfw.necoxmail.com vfwct.org





TO: All Members

FROM: Dominick Cortese, State Commander

RE: Council of Administration Meeting

The First scheduled Department Council of Administration Meeting of the 2021 - 2022 VFW administrative year, will be held on MONDAY JULY 26, 2021 at 7:00pm.

The meeting will be held at the Old Saybrook VFW Post 10153- 315 Essex Rd.- Old Saybrook, CT. Phone No: (860) 388-1155.

All Post Commanders are invited to attend this meeting and bring any Post Officer or Member who may wish to attend. Every VFW Member is welcome.

If any State Officer, District Commander or State Chairman is unable to attend this meeting, please notify the State Adjutant at Department Headquarters at: (860) 616-2363

Food will be available prior to the meeting starting at 6:00 pm.

Uniform is Khaki pants and the State Commanders shirt, or casual 3 button down sport shirt and VFW cap. (no shorts or dungarees please)

Any further 2020-21 Membership awards will be given out at this meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 26th of July, 2021.

Dominick Cortese

State Commander

OFFICIAL: For the Commander

Ronald (Rusko) Rusakiewicz

Ronald (Rusko) Rusakiewicz State Adjutant/Quartermaster

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