



Volume 1, Issue 2

Department of Georgia Veterans of Foreign Wars Monthly E-Bulletin October 2007



1. **OFFICIAL.** The Monthly E-Bulletin is an OFFICIAL communication device of the Department of Georgia Veterans of Foreign Wars and is distributed "For the Commander/By Direction". The bulletin is intended to provide more timely information to the field than would be provided by the periodic Commanders' mail out or Quarterly Department newspaper. Target date for each issue will be the 25th day of the month and it will be distributed in the Adobe and Microsoft Word formats. Adobe Reader is available at no charge on the Internet.
2. **SUBSCRIPTION.** The bulletin is intended for Department Council of Administration members and Commanders and Quartermasters at all levels but any member of the VFW or LAVFW may request distribution by providing an e-mail address with identity and post number to the Headquarters by email (gahq@gavfw.org) with the subject line: "Subscription to Monthly E-Bulletin".
3. **REQUIREMENTS OF THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006.** The requirements of the Pension Protection Act (PPA) of 2006 will require ALL organizations exempt under the IRS 501 paragraphs provisions to file income statements regardless of income. In the past only organizations that had gross income of \$25,000+ were required to file; all must do so under the PPA. An Internet form that will only be available on line – the IRS Form 990-N – will be the form to be used by all organizations with income of from \$1 to \$24999. The requirement includes all VFW posts, all LAVFW, each VFW district, each LAVFW district. It is currently envisioned that most if not all, of the VFW subordinate units (posts and districts) will continue to be reported as such by the Department Headquarters (which is no change) under our Group Exemption Number (GEN). Further, LAVFW units previously rolled under the Department will very likely be required to be removed from the Department VFW and rolled under a new Department LAVFW GEN.
4. **GET YOUR EIN NOW.** The Employer Identification Number (EIN) is in this case basically a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) serving the same purpose for the organization that your Social Security Number serves for you with the IRS. Every post VFW and LAVFW and each district VFW and LAVFW should apply now for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) – this is not the GEN.
 - a. **APPLY BY EIN Toll-Free Telephone Service**
Taxpayers can obtain an EIN immediately by calling the Business & Specialty Tax Line at (800) 829-4933. The hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. local time, Monday through Friday. An assistor takes the information, assigns the EIN, and provides the number to an authorized individual over the telephone.
 - b. **APPLY BY FAX**
Taxpayers can FAX the completed [Form SS-4](#) application to their state FAX number (see [Where to File - Business Forms and Filing Addresses](#)), after ensuring that the Form SS-4 contains all of the required information. If it is determined that the entity needs a new EIN, one will be assigned using the appropriate procedures for the entity type. If the taxpayer's fax number is provided, a fax will be sent back with the EIN within four (4) business days.
 - c. **APPLY BY MAIL**
The processing timeframe for an EIN application received by mail is four weeks. Ensure that the [Form SS-4](#) contains all of the required information. If it is determined that the entity needs a new EIN, one will be assigned using the appropriate procedures for the entity type and mailed to the taxpayer.
5. **RICHARD BRANSON MEMORIAL POST SERVICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS.**
Nominations for the first annual Richard Branson Memorial Post Service Officer of the Year Award are due to the Department Headquarters not later than the close of business on December 31, 2007. The Post Service Officer selected will be announced at the Mid-Winter Conference Department Awards Banquet, February 16, 2008. This award is intended to recognize those individuals performing Veterans Service Activities at the

Post level that demonstrate dedication and excellence that clearly marks the nominee above all other Post Service Officers in the Department. Contact Past State Commander Ed Grealish with any questions.

6. DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA. The Department of California has established a special fund to assist our comrades and active duty military personnel who have been evacuated or suffered a loss due to the fires. The National Headquarters is sending \$100,000.00 - \$50,000.00 to assist non-military members and \$50,000.00 for the active duty military in California. All posts are encouraged to donate what they can to this effort. Such donations may appropriately be made from the Post Relief Fund under the provisions of Section 704(a) of the Manual of Procedure if so voted by the post. Donations may be made directly to Department of California Headquarters, 1510 J Street, Suite 110, Sacramento, California 95814. Specify whether the money may be used only for members or for non-members serving in the military. If your post makes a donation, please advise the Department headquarters of the date and the amount.
7. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR JOB FAIRS. The Georgia Department of Labor will hold Veteran Job Fairs at VFW Post 665, Columbus, GA on November 7 and 8, 2007 and at the Georgia International Convention Center, Atlanta, GA on November 8, 2007. Contact Walt Pollack 706-649-7423 (Columbus) or Larry Slagel 513-683-5020 (Atlanta).
8. GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICE SUPERMARKET OF VETERANS BENEFITS. The Annual Georgia Department of Veterans Service Veterans Supermarket will be held at the National Guard Armory in Rome, Georgia on December 6, 2007 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Contact Joel Willis or Herb Ward for additional information at 404-929-5345.
9. HALLMARK CARD DONATION. The Department received a donation of 14,000 greeting cards, including musical greeting cards that retail for \$5 to \$6 each, for distribution to deployed troops, hospitalized veterans, those in nursing homes, those homebound, and their families. More than half of the cards have been picked up for distribution. If you have not received any other these very nice cards, please contact Department Headquarters to find out how and when to pick up a share of those remaining. The only limitation on the use of the cards is they may not be sold and they may not be used as any sort of fund-raiser.
10. DONATION OF JEANS FROM THE GAP. The Department has received a donation of five cases of jeans from the GAP. These jeans are in a varying number of sizes and both men's and women's styles and will be used primarily for the Veterans Stand Down at the Atlanta VAMC. Those remaining may be used for our homeless programs, nursing homes, hospitals, battered women's shelters and similar programs. Please contact Leo Ott at VFW Post 6330 in Jonesboro for the latest status of the jeans that may be available.
11. BUDDY POPPIES. Many of you have ordered your Buddy Poppies for distribution on and around Veterans Day but many others have not. Please get your orders in so that you have them throughout the year. Remember that the National Commander-in-Chief's Buddy Poppy goal this year is five per member per post. The goal is a reasonable one; we currently have 74,000 ordered – only 44,195 to go.
12. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES REPORTING. As indicated above, IRS 501(c)(19) organizations are due to come under increased scrutiny from the IRS in the future and failure to perform their organizational purposes may result in the loss of tax-exempt status. Records of activities (see Section 3 of the Congressional Charter) fulfilling the purposes must be maintained and the IRS includes minutes of post meetings, activity books, written committee reports and *reports to the parent organization*. Please ensure that you are reporting your Community Activities (Community Services, Americanism, Safety, Youth Activities, Citizenship Education). This reporting is critical to your maintenance of your IRS 501(c)(19) status. If you have any questions contact Junior Vice Commander David Pipes.
13. INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS. The Veterans Administration is recommending that all veterans to get their flu vaccine this year, it is not in short supply. Contact your nearest VAMC or CBOC for further information.
14. ATLANTA VETERANS DAY PARADE. The Annual Veterans Day Parade – the second largest in the nation, will be held on Sunday, November 11, 2008 in downtown Atlanta. Please participate or attend – contact Andy Wysor at VFW Post 5255 for further information.
15. BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY DEDICATION. All veterans are invited to the dedication of a Blue Star Marker on November 12, 2007 at 11:00 AM at the South Welcome Center/Rest Stop on Interstate 75 South between Forsyth and Macon.

16. 2007-2008 CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, AND RITUAL PODIUM EDITION. The Department Headquarters has a few copies of the Podium edition available for purchase at \$15.00. Contact Judy at the Department Headquarters.
17. NOVEMBER DEPARTMENT CLOSINGS. The Department Headquarters will be closed November 12 (Veterans Day) and from noon on Wednesday November 21 until Monday morning November 26, 2007 for Thanksgiving.
18. POST AND DISTRICT VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER SCHOOL. The Department will hold a Veterans Service Officer School at Conyers VFW Post 5290 on December 1, 2007. Please RSVP for lunch to 770-483-7443. Contact Department Service Officer Joel Willis for additional information.
19. GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT FOUNDATION. The Georgia National Guard Family Foundation is looking for VFW Posts that might be available to "adopt" National Guard families during the upcoming holidays. The foundation will vet the applicants and match them with a donor in the area and provide information on contact names and numbers, children's names and ages and any "special" wants or needs. Contact Ed Grealish for information to "sign up".
20. MID-WINTER CONFERENCE. The Department of Georgia Mid-Winter Conference will be February 15-17, 2008. It is at the Mid-Winter Conference that we honor our VOD, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher Citizenship Education at the Awards Banquet in their honor. The banquet tickets are available at \$35 and may be obtained by contacting Sheila at the Headquarters (478-474-3737). A special room rate (\$69) is available but you must contact the hotel directly at 478-476-1461 and request "In House Reservations" and ask for the VFW meeting rate. Do not call Ramada's 1-800-number. Those who submitted their reservations cards do not need to call the hotel but do need to call Sheila to reserve the banquet tickets.
21. DEPARTMENT MEETINGS. Any member of the VFW is welcome and may attend Department Council of Administration meetings. In fact, members are encouraged to attend such meetings. These are not closed-door meetings and post members and officers can learn much about the organization by the "LWBA" method of educating themselves.
22. DISTRICT INSPECTIONS. District Commanders are reminded that the Department Commander requested that all post inspections be completed by November 30, 2007. One of the primary reasons is that much of the information is needed so that Department will be able to determine the posts that will need to most assistance in complying with the IRS reporting requirements in the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Although we are still researching the requirements and the intricacies of them, please contact the State Inspector or the Department Headquarters with any questions that you may have.
23. ARREARAGES. Posts that are in arrears to the District, Department, or National are reminded to clear up those arrearages as soon as possible. If there is a dispute about amounts owed, discuss it with us; don't ignore it. The following posts are in arrears for their National delegate fees (\$12.00).

3563	J. Barry Jones Post	(Lyons)
4259	Adams Walker Post	(Greensboro)
4421	Walton County Post	(Monroe)
4825	William Sikes Post	(Sylvester)
4995	Allen-Cook Post	(Thomasville)
8022	R. Hilton Smith Post	(Bartow County)
8377	Murray-Simpson Post	(Danielsville)
8433	Trafford Williams Post	(Cairo)
9147	Oconee County Memorial Post	(Watkinsville)
9560	John C White Post	(Folkston)
10683	Clyde Dobbs Jr. Post	(Woodstock)

24. CHECKS TO DEPARTMENT. Checks written to Department should clear your bank within at least two weeks of being sent to the Headquarters. If you have written a check to Department that has not cleared your bank within 15 days after you mailed it, please notify Judy so that we can determine whether or not there is a problem. As a reminder, please cash Department checks to you expeditiously so that we may keep our books up to date.

25. MEMBERSHIP. We are most of the way through October. As of today, the Department needs 554 New or Reinstated to meet the Commander-in-Chief's All-American Department goal given to Georgia of 100 percent with 5 percent New or Reinstated. The figure is neither unrealistic nor unreasonable. We must work the Unpaid Continuous rosters. You can print your post's and district's *unpaid* and *prior unpaid* at VFW MEMSTATS website. We are currently 3642 continuous members short of our 100 percent goal and that is provided we get the 554 New/Reinstated. Currently the district shortages are 1st District –140, 2nd District – 545, 3rd District –501, 4th District –324, 5th District –436, 6th District –214, 7th District –412, 8th District –187, 9th District –378, 10th District –399, 11th District –569, 12th District –272; Department –4196.
26. This bulletin may also be used to advertise items that your post may have for sale or to list items of interest to others in the Department such as your monthly fishing tournament, your annual golf tournament fundraiser, or the need for bottled water for fire fighters in your area.

Dedication Equals Success,

Dean E. Smith
State Commander

Official:



Albert R. Spears
State Adjutant/Quartermaster