

## COMANDERS GUIDENCE

Congratulations on being nominated and elected as Commanders. It is a great honor to lead this organization at all levels. Much of the success of your Post and District's will depend on you. Comrades will look to you for your guidance and leadership. You have accepted this position and must perform your duties to the best of your abilities. Learn and enforce the By-Laws and Ritual. If we all follow the By-Laws we will not only improve our organization but will have a successful year. Hard work does work and let's have some fun along the way. Use the chain of command. We must do our best to fix problems at the lowest level. Do not be afraid to ask for help. Set goals for yourself and do your best to complete them your year as Commander. Meetings must be productive, meaningful and conduct training as needed at all levels. Get your team of Officers and Chairman involved to do the work of our order. Without communication and team work success will be highly unlikely. Get out in your communities working activities and our programs. Again you must work as a team. Plan ahead for the future and strive to leave your Post and District in better shape than it was when you became Commander.

## MISSION

The Mission of the VFW is foster camaraderie among United States Veterans of Overseas Conflicts. To serve our Veteran's and Families, the Military and our Communities. To advocate on behalf of all Veterans and to foster true Patriotism.

## MEMBERSHIP

We cannot perform our mission without members. We lose members three ways: 1. Attrition, 2. Removal and 3. Lack of Retention. Retention is our Biggest Looser. The 3 R's in membership is **RECURIT** new members, **RETAIN** the members we have and **REINSTATE/RECOVER** the ones you have lost. Call them and find out why and fix the problem.

Membership effects the Department, District and Post financially and by delegate strength during voting at Conventions. Each Post has to ensure eligibility of each member and be voted in at Post meetings. Again follow the By-Laws. Membership and Communication is the Key to our success.

It is very rewarding this year to see the younger Veteran's in many Leadership positions throughout our State. Hopefully this will encourage the younger ones out there to join. This is why we need to be seen doing our work in our communities and letting the public know what we do.

The term of Buying Membership has been around since I became a member. There are reasons why you can use your Relief Fund or Post with Charities to pay for membership and only after voted on and approved at a Post Meeting. Examples of which some post pay for membership dues are for those still serving our country, 1<sup>st</sup> year member, after they reach a certain age, in a rest home, been laid off from work, family in distress etc. Again only the Post has the right to vote on and approve for these type members.

At no time will the Department be involved in paying for membership to run up the numbers. Paying for members just to get an award is wrong and effects Commanders at all levels following in our footsteps. Let's work hard to reach 100% in membership and be proud of how we accomplish that goal.