

NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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Dept. of New York,
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States



June/July 2007

"We honor our warriors because they are brave and because by seeing death on the battlefield they come to respect the greatness of life."
-Winnebago Elder

Volume 27, Issue 1

Robert Barnhart Commander



Newly elected Department Commander Robert Barnhart receives his cap. Wife, Karen, makes sure all the kids are happy.

Well, I'm finally here! I thank you all for your continued support throughout the years, and I look forward to serving this great organization.

We had quite a celebration at the Convention in Binghamton – a Hawaiian Luau theme and all. All seemed to have a great time.

For those who were unable to attend the Convention or the installation of officers, the following is an excerpt

of my speech.

My MISSION for this year is:

- Commitment
- Loyalty
- Accountability
- **Commitment** to this organization's mission: "Honor the Dead by Serving the Living."
- **Loyalty** to all veterans and their rights.
- **Accountability** to this organization's membership.

COMMANDER,
continued on page 5

Jack L. Haight Senior Vice Commander

The 83rd Annual Department Convention is now behind us, and I, again, want to thank all of you for supporting me to the high office of Department of New York Senior Vice Commander.

This past year, we lost more than 4,000 members. With the

loss of membership comes a loss of revenue, and this means cutting programs or replacing the money from other sources. We have had a loss in membership for quite a few years.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER,
continued on page 4



Elections over, it's time to celebrate – L-R: Skip and Cindy Campbell, Auxiliary Senior Vice President, Department Senior Vice Jack Haight and wife, Charlotte.

Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr. PSC, Quartermaster

Comrades,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the members of the Department, for your support and the confidence you have placed in me by re-electing me to the office of State Quartermaster. I congratulate Commander Barnhart and the newly elected Department, District, County Council and Post officers. I pledge my support to all of them and my personal best wishes for a successful year.

Each year we face new challenges in our membership program. At the end of 1996, the Department of New York had a total of 105,960 members. The current membership as of June 30, 2007, is 78,663. Currently we are down 4,082 members for the year. This equates to approximately \$46,000 in lost revenue for 2006-07. Since 1996 our membership has declined by 27,297 members, which in one

QUARTERMASTER,
continued on page 4



Department Quartermaster Harold "Hal" Burk and wife, Carol celebrate his landslide victory in the elections at the Convention reception.

GOT PROBLEMS? PLEASE USE THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

Recently, our State Commander has been receiving complaint phone calls at his home. Please note that this is not the way to handle Post problems. They are Post problems and need to be addressed at the Post level, and if they

cannot be resolved then the County Council Commander should be contacted; and if they still cannot be resolved, they should be given to the

PROBLEMS,
continued on page 4

Allan E. Davenport Junior Vice Commander

Thank you for electing me as the Junior Vice Commander for the ensuing year. I will do my best to serve the Department well. We need to all rally around our Commander Robert Barnhart and bring this state back to where it belongs.

Our programs are usually

well supported, but we need to get back on track with membership. Years past, we only missed our goal once. I am talking about the 80s; we were proud of that. I know that we

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER,
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Junior Vice Commander Allen Davenport and Auxiliary Junior Vice President Barbara Hodges discuss their upcoming year at the Convention reception.

Photographer:

John Brunato



State Editor:

William "Doc" Schmitz

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2007-2008 State Officers

Commander:
Robert Barnhart
Sr. Vice Commander:
Jack Haight
Jr. Vice Commander:
Allan Davenport
Judge Advocate:
Phillip Schiffman, PSC
Surgeon:
William "Doc" Schmitz
Quartermaster:
Harold Burke, Jr.
Adjutant:
Art Koch III, PSC
Chaplain:
Rev. Edward R. P. Kane
State Chief of Staff:
Jack Veazy
Inspector:
Ed Basset
Patriotic Instructor:
Harold "Mick" Leavor

POLICY

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POSTMASTER: If undeliverable, send form 3579 to: New York Overseas Veteran, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204.

Jack V. Veazy Chief of Staff

As Department Chief of Staff, I will strive to reinstate as well as form new Posts. I also will work with the State Membership Team to help promote membership.

As for the National Deputy Chiefs of Staff, we will have meetings at our Conferences. Please try to attend these meetings.

I will also need help from

our District Commanders, County Council Commanders, and Post Commanders.

I thank you for all the cooperation that you give me. You may reach me at my e-mail: veazy-rome.aol.com or by phone 315-339-3813 or cell 315-335-6750.

Jack V. Veazy
Chief of Staff

Harold "Mick" Leavor Patriotic Instructor

Support Our Troops and display Our Flag Proudly.

With the most patriotic holiday of the year, July 4th, now a recent memory, it is a good time to remind us that the flag is not just for parades. A properly illuminated flag can and should be displayed daily. However, if this is not possible, there are certain dates when it is important to display the flag of our country. Through the end of 2007 these are:

Labor Day - September 3
Patriot Day (half staff) -

September 11
Constitution Day - September 17
POW/MIA Day - September 21
Columbus Day - October 8
Navy Day - October 27
Veterans Day - November 11
Thanksgiving Day - November 22
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (half staff) - December 7

Christmas Day - December 25
Fly your POW/MIA flag with your United States flag on National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day.

Harold "Mick" Leavor
State Patriotic Instructor

Edward C. Bassett Inspector

Now that the dust has settled from the State convention, we are off to a new year. The Inspection Forms will be mailed soon from Department Headquarters to the new District Commanders to be given to the District Inspectors. The District Inspectors will give the Inspection Forms to the Council Inspectors to do the inspections.

After talking to the State Commander, the Department has acquired some serious problems from last year that never showed up on the Inspection Reports. Therefore, it is very important that the inspectors note on the form that there is a problem; we need to know.

As the State Inspector last year, the biggest issue to me was the Quartermaster Bond was insufficient and in some cases no bond at all. This issue should also be noted on the form.

Please send the completed inspector form to me at 3703 Dyke Road, Corning, NY 14830. After reviewing the Inspection Forms, I will forward them to Department Headquarters. If you have any questions whatsoever, please feel free to call at 607-937-5160 or e-mail me at donalynw@infoblvd.net.

Yours in comradeship,
Edward C. Bassett
State Inspector

George Whitfield Voice of Democracy Chairman

Department of New York
Voice of Democracy Program
2007-2008

The Voice of Democracy Program should be in the first stages of planning with the appointments of your Posts, County Councils and Districts Chairmen. Post Commanders will receive their Community Activity Program Guides in the mail and should take the time to familiarize yourselves and your chairmen with the information included.

The theme this year is "My role in Honoring America's Vet-

erans." The deadline dates for each step of the program is listed in the package. The Department final judging will be held in Rochester, New York, at 200 West Avenue, Monroe County Council's Office on Saturday, January 5, 2008. All tapes or CDs should be in that office by that date, along with the applications and related information. You will be updated on the program at the Fall Conference.

George Whitfield
VOD Chairman

Ron Bush Membership

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers for the 2007-2008 year. For you, the leaders, you have your work cut out for you. The 2006-2007 membership year has found us approximately 5,000 members down from the previous year. This is a crushing blow for all of us. Because of the drop in membership last year and the continuing decline in previous years, we are on the verge of having some of our major programs collapse. And we are also close to losing our seat on the National Council of Administration. We have already cancelled the Officer Training for this year. The Council of Administration has also tried to make other cuts that are not popular for our officers and membership. Everyone has some ideas on how we might be able to carry on as normal. But the only real answer lies in **Membership**.

The drop in membership this year alone will equate to a loss of thousands of dollars. We, as elected officers, appointed officers, and members of the largest combat organization in the world, must stand up to the plate and become recruiters for our great organization. Not for our personal accolades but for the returning Veterans. We need to represent these individuals on our local levels, state levels, and in the Congress of the United States. Without the membership numbers, they won't act on our Veterans' needs. They will listen to us; but without the numbers, others

with more of a voting strength will get the dollars.

This year the incoming State Commander has asked that we reach out to not only the War on Terror Veterans but also to the Women Veterans. He has appointed four women to help in this endeavor. These individuals and their areas of responsibility are posted in the newly designed Membership Book. Also in this book is a month-by-month description of how to make a hundred percent in membership for all concerned. Please follow these guidelines, and you, as an officer, will reap the benefits and so will the Veterans of the Great State of New York and the United States of America.

As your appointed membership Chairman for the ensuing year, I look forward to seeing you in my travels this year. As you go about your daily activities, please think about our Veterans' needs and sign up those eligible Veterans. Remember our motto to Honor the Dead by Helping the Living.

If anyone needs my help, please feel free to contact me (my numbers and addresses are in the Membership Book and in the directory). I may not have an instant answer for you, but I will get you the answer; or I will steer you to someone who can answer your questions.

Yours in comradeship,
Ron Bush,
Past Department Commander
Membership Chair
for 2007-2008



Departments of New York and New Jersey go head to head on membership. Department Membership Chairman Ron Bush throws down the challenge at the Commander's Homecoming at Post #8645 New Paltz. L-R: George J. Lisicki, Senior Vice Commander-In-Chief; Barbara Bishop, Post Junior Vice; Ron Bush, PSC and Department Membership Chairman; Robert Pinto, NJ Department Commander; Department of NY Commander Robert Barnhart; Ma Mayer, Post Senior Vice; and Post Commander Terrance W. Meyer.

Candidate for National Home Trustee

Attention all Life members of the National Home for Children,

We have a position open in our District to elect a trustee this fall. You will be getting a ballot to cast your vote. Please note the Department of New York Ladies Auxiliary has a candidate we would like you to support. She is Past Department President Joan Chwalisz. Please cast your vote for Joan.

Thank you
Department of New York Ladies Auxiliary

Wilbur A. Gray State Bowling Chairman

The second annual Department of New York, Veterans of Foreign Wars Bowling Tournament was hosted by Auburn Post 1975 VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary.

They had 41 team events, 61

doubles events, 121 singles events, and 111 all events.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Post, Auxiliary Chairmen, and their officers and members for their hospitality.

Next year's tournament will be held in Geneva Post 2671 and its Ladies Auxiliary.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!!!!

Wilbur A. Gray
State Bowling Chairman

Trophy List

Team Handicap	Post #	City	
Keystoneers			
Mike Bennett	1975	Auburn	2007 NYS VFW Tournament
Dave Bennett, Sr.	1975	Auburn	Keystoneers First Place Tie – Team Handicap
Dave Bennett, Jr.	1975	Auburn	
Dave Gilmore	1975	Auburn	
Buffalo #2			
Mike Morehouse	1369	Buffalo	2007 NYS VFW Tournament
Martha Baird	1975	Auburn	Buffalo #2 – First Place Tie – Team Handicap
Kim Morehouse	1369	Buffalo	
Lori Lawrence	1369	Buffalo	
Team Scratch			
Hamburg #1			
Tom Wrobel	517	Hamburg	2007 NYS VFW Tournament
Tom Magdziak	517	Hamburg	Hamburg #1 – First Place – Team Scratch
Dan Kilichowski	517	Hamburg	
Joe Schuler	517	Hamburg	
Doubles Handicap			
David Willard	7545	Tonawanda	2007 NYS VFW Tournament
Ben Wojtas	7545	Tonawanda	First Place – Doubles Handicap
Doubles Scratch			
Samuel Folts	6780	Dansville	2007 NYS VFW Tournament
Robert McKeown	6780	Dansville	First Place – Doubles Scratch
Singles Handicap			
Justine Weller	2721	Cuba	2007 NYS VFW Tournament
			First Place – Singles Handicap
Singles Scratch			
Kevin Lyle	6249	Rocky Point	2007 NYS VFW Tournament
			First Place – All Events Handicap
All Events Handicap			
Mike Morehouse	1369	Buffalo	2007 NYS VFW Tournament
			First Place – All Events Handicap
All Events Scratch			
Jeff Norton	6912	Lowville	2007 NYS VFW Tournament
			First Place – All Events Scratch

Plaque

Jeff Norton – Post 69121 Lowville
2007 NYS VFW Tournament
High Game – 298
High Series – 726

Department Service Officer Raffle

Prize Donors Needed

I have been asked by our State Commander Robert Barnhart to Chair the Annual Department Service Officer's Raffle. As we once again prepare for the Raffle, we are soliciting prizes for the raffle. Last year, thanks to the generosity of the comrades and sisters of the Department of New York who donated prizes, we raised \$9,436 to support the operations of the Department Service Offices.

Would you consider donating one of the prizes of \$100 this year? If you would, please send

your prize donation to the undersigned by August 27, 2007. That is when we will send the tickets out to the printer.

My personal thanks for your support of this important project that keeps Veterans Serving Veterans.

Sincerely,
Hal Burke, Jr., PSC,
State Quartermaster
Department of New York,
Veterans of Foreign Wars
1044 Broadway
Albany, New York 12204
518-463-7427

Fred P. Schwally Buddy Poppy Chairman

For the first time in the 21st century, we have exceeded our Buddy Poppy purchases over previous year's totals. As of June 1, 2007, Department of New York purchases have reached 532,500, which exceeded 2006 year by 16,500. Last year's total was 516,000. Almost every District exceeded their previous year's total; we still missed quota of 650,000.

While numbers indicate a positive trend, much work remains.

Six years ago, the Buddy Poppy for Department of New York was one million, today the goal has been reduced to 650,000; and yet with all the

accomplishments achieved this year, that goal eludes the Department of New York. Buddy Poppies must be ordered through Department of New York and a minimum of 500 is required to be purchased to qualify for a possible white hat at Convention time.

This year's totals are rapidly reaching its conclusion, and we are grateful to all Posts who participated. Next year, let us strive to reach our goal of 650,000. Buddy Poppy Report for 88th Department New York Convention has reached its conclusion.

Fred P. Schwally
Buddy Poppy Chairman

George H. Osborne Life Membership Chairman

Two thousand and seven has been an outstanding year for Life Membership in New York. You have transmitted nearly 3,000 Life members for the year. That is a record that will long stand. I congratulate all of the Posts that participated. Yes, you can say it was because of the price increase; but I believe that there is more; that you have found how much Life Membership means to the Post and to the individual. The fact that Life members are still being transmitted means that Life Membership is still a good deal in spite of the increase.

When I became a Post Commander in 1979, we had 17 Life members. We got our Life Charter that year, and today we have 319 Life members. We will never be a 100% Life Post, but we have proven that "The more you get, the less you have to get." With help from the bell-jar funds, we pay one-half of a Life Membership. It does work!

Now, for another approach to Life Membership! The National Life Membership installment plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a Life Membership by making either 11 or 23 monthly installments after an initial payment of \$35. The member will be issued a "Provisional Life" membership card. He can elect, upon receipt of the first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The monthly fee includes a \$1.75 monthly service fee. The applicable Life Membership fee is to be determined using the applicant's age on December 31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual

date of birth. A "payoff amount" will be printed on each monthly invoice, allowing the member the option to pay in full, thereby avoiding additional service fees. For any questions, see your Post Quartermaster or feel free to contact myself by phone or e-mail. Good luck and let's all have a great membership year for Commander Bob.

Awards for 2,992 Transmitted Life Members:

In 1st place transmitting 52 Life Memberships, Post 1371 from Owego in District 5.

In 2nd place transmitting 47 Life Memberships, the Hilderbrand-Davis Post 1895 from Schenectady in District 3.

In 3rd place transmitting 42 Life Memberships, Post 9249 from Grand Island in District 6.

In 4th place, Post 8734 Little Valley in District 6 with 40 Life Memberships.

Tied for 5th place, my own Post 1470 Bath in District 5 with 38, and Post 8417 in Hoosick Falls with 38.

In 6th place, Post 2246 Rome in District 3 with 36.

Tied for 7th place, Post 524 Corning in District 5, and Post 510 Johnstown in District 3 each with 35.

In 8th place, Post 2670 Geneva in District 8 with 32.

In 9th place, Post 8495 Fairport in District 8 with 30.

And in 10th place, Post 2472 Kenmore in District 6 with 29.

George H. Osborne
Life Membership Chairman
607-776-4058
usmc1@stny.rr.com

POST QUARTERMASTERS DIRECT DUES – DIRECT DUES

The Direct Dues process seems to be working well. For the most part, members are receiving their dues cards within two to three weeks from the day they are sent it.

To expedite the process, please send your dues directly to VFW

Thank you,
Hal Burke, Jr., PSC
State Quartermaster

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QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 1

year equates to \$232,000 lost in revenue. Think of what this Department could do for its program and members with that additional income.

The key to all of our programs is membership; the grass roots that this organization was built on. We must make that our number one priority in 2007-08. Commander Barnhart has assembled a great membership team this year. Under the leadership of Past State Commander Ron Bush, I am sure that they will be successful in changing the direction of our membership. If each member of the Department recruited one new active member, we could double our membership this year and exceed the 150,000-member mark.

The Department of New York continues to enjoy financial stability. We have completed the 2006-07 year within budget overall. The Department offi-

cers and members of the Department Council of Administration receive bi-monthly and quarterly financial reports so that they can disseminate this information to their District, Council and Post membership.

I value the support I have received from the Department line officers, the Council of Administration, the Past State commanders, and comrades of the Department of New York during my tenure as State Quartermaster. I pledge my continued service to the officers and members of the Department of New York as I have for the past 24 months. Once again, thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as the Department Quartermaster.

If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Hal

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

There are a lot of eligible veterans out there. Let's get out there and ask them to join. We may have to pound on a few doors. Remember, if they are presently in Iraq or Afghanistan, they are eligible. Contact their families and sign them up. Let's help make Commander Barnhart an All-American Department Commander. If you need my

help, my phone number, etc., is on the vfwny.com Web site and in the director. My cell phone number is 315-521-5464. We, the officers, are here to help you.

Hope to see you at the National Convention in Kansas City.

Jack L. Haight
Senior Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

all can have excuses but excuses create failure, think positive; and you'll see it will work. Can do and get it done is what will do this, get aboard and help.

Thanks to all that donated to the disaster relief last year,

we served the needy well. The Ruth Baurer Fund expended \$11,000.00 of its funds last year, helping six organ transplant Veterans.

Allan E. Davenport
Junior Vice Commander

PROBLEMS, continued from page 1

District Commander.

Only after the above steps have been taken should a Post problem be forwarded to Department. These need to be in writing and signed. By signed, they need to be signed by individuals and not "concerned members" or something of that sort. If one feels the problem is that serious then they should have no problem putting their name to it.

Calls to the State Commander's home or any other officer are unacceptable, as are calls to the State Office. Follow the

chain of command listed above, and any letters forwarded should show that all steps were followed and the outcome at all levels.

Most of these types of problems can and should be resolved at the Post level. Post canteen problems are just that, Post problems, and need to be addressed at the Post level. All Posts that have canteens should have rules set in place for discipline, and these need to be followed.

Art Koch III
Department Adjutant

William "Doc" Schmitz
Surgeon

Help This Surgeon Operate!

Elections are over, and I would like to thank you for entrusting me with the job. I will work hard to sustain your faith and confidence in me. My job this year includes three major goals:

1) **Collaboration with All Level Surgeons and Visitations of Veterans' Health Facilities.** I look forward to working with Surgeons from Posts, Councils, and Districts to develop health programs at all levels. As you plan your programs, please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance. I will be organizing visits to health-care facilities including VA hospitals, State Veterans Homes, and VA Clinics throughout the State. I look forward to working with our local Surgeons and VAVS reps in their respective areas.

2) **Utilization of the Ruth Bauer Kidney and Liver Transplant Fund.** The purpose of the Ruth Bauer Kidney and Liver Transplant Fund "is to aid organ transplant patients, to help pay those expenses not



covered by most health insurance." This is a limited fund, meaning that when the fund monies are utilized, the program is completed. Applications are available through me or the Department of NY.

3) **Fundraising and Utilization of the Department Emergency Relief Fund, formerly known as the Disaster Relief Fund.** This year the fund has been expanded to include emergencies beyond disasters and thus the name change. Applications

are being developed and will be available through me and the Department. I am asking Surgeons at all levels of the Department to initiate a donation and/or fundraiser to bolster our Emergency Relief Fund. *This is one of the most crucial funds, which impacts veterans in their time of need.* Please make this a priority and send donations to the Department of New York.

William "Doc" Schmitz
Department Surgeon

Edith M. Horst, PDP
Chief of Staff, LAVFW

Dear Commander,

I am writing on behalf of the over 21,000 Ladies, who belong to the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in the State of New York. I am asking your consideration to help us achieve a win-win situation that I feel will not only help us increase our membership but will enhance your growth with new Comrades.

Our membership includes wives, widows, mothers, foster and stepmothers [who have performed the duties of parent]. Grandmothers, daughters, granddaughters, foster and stepdaughters [who attained that status prior to age 16 and for whom the duties of parent were performed], sisters, half-sisters, foster and stepsisters [who attained that status prior to the age of 16] of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign wars of the United States of America. These are the members who keep our wonderful programs function-

ing within our communities.

I feel confident in telling you about the many reasons and the benefits to your Post of having an Auxiliary can bring. LAVFW members have the skill to help in promoting youth programs, volunteering in the VA and local hospitals, writing letters on legislative issues ... and so much more! Last year alone, our 300 Auxiliaries raised over \$90,000 for Cancer Aid and Research. We work with Americanism and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action [POW/MIA] projects. We are a group dedicated to serving our veterans and their families, and the VFW National Home for Children is very special to us. We support all VFW programs, particularly the Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs [that do so much for our active-duty military in harm's way and their families bravely supporting them at home], as well as the USO. The Ladies Auxiliary is eager to partner with your Post to continue the

tradition of service that is so uniquely American.

Please consider this your official invitation to form an Auxiliary to your Post. If you or your Post members have any questions about how to start an Auxiliary, please contact me or the Deputy Chief of Staff for your area. You may also contact the Department Office at (315) 519-1615 and be referred to the person who will best be able to assist you.

Time is of the essence in forming new Auxiliaries ... our active duty, retired, and hospitalized veterans need us **NOW**. Please do not wait to get started on this important mission. Contact the Deputy Chief of Staff in your area; they are dedicated and well informed and are ready to help you in forming the new Auxiliary to your Post.

Edith M. Horst
PDP, Chief of Staff
Department of New York
LAVFW

Thank You

Thanks, all the Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries, for the cards and flowers that were sent to me during my recent surgery. I am now home trying to recover. Thanks, again.

Terri Veaxy



COMMANDER, continued from page 1

A few of the items I'd like to "touch on" are:

Membership

Two words are important here – **recruiting** and **retention**.

Aside from retaining our existing membership, we need to concentrate on recruiting two other major areas: Women Veterans and Returning Soldiers/Warriors.

Up until now, most veterans' organizations have basically ignored recruiting our women veterans. In my year, I plan to change this.

This virtually untapped pool of veterans equates to approximately 155,000 women in NYS alone.

I have appointed four women as membership chairpersons/recruiters that will reach out to as many of these women veterans as they can to invite them to join the VFW and ask them what this organization can do for **them**.

We intend to research and address health issues that are specific to these women veterans that have not been recognized before.

We also need to focus on recruiting the returning soldier/warrior. They **need** a Welcome Home! We, Vietnam veterans, remember all too well how we were NOT recognized and welcomed home – Most of us will never forget it!

It is important that we recognize that this generation of returning veterans have different issues to deal with upon their return than we had when we returned. We need to find ways to appeal to this group and think of new ways to

attract them. Ask yourselves how you can recognize their situations and help them.

Why not start a new concept in our Post by:

- Hosting a reception to recognize and welcome the returning warriors and their families in your Post, County Council, District and community.
- See that they "get connected" to a Points Contact/Case Manager with the VA to help them through their transition home.
- Encourage them to visit your Post and bring their families. Have games, toys, books, computers, etc. available for their children to enjoy.
- Ask how you can assist them on a personal basis to get them on their feet.

So, let's start to bring our organization into the 21st century! Think about how to restructure your Post to be a "Family Friendly" Post. And don't be afraid to "think outside the box!" Let them know that you are there to help them!

Officers Training School

The old OTI school, as we know it, will not happen due to its prohibitive costs over the past few years.

We are now going to bring the training down more to the local level on an ongoing basis to allow more participation and training. You will see workshops coming to your County Councils and Districts and also at Conferences and Conventions.

This new concept may take a year to "work the bugs out"

of it; but next year, it will work well.

*****Let me reassure you that OTI school has not gone away – It will just be structured a little differently!**

My Special Project – Fisher House

This is a unique private-public partnership that provides "comfortable homes" built on the grounds of major military and VA Medical centers.

These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at times of unexpected illness, disease, or injury.

New York State has one in Albany, and they have recognized a need for one at the Brooklyn VA Hospital.

Generally, the cost per night is as little as \$10 per family per day.

My goal for this project is \$50,000.

More information on Fisher House will be coming to you.

Don't forget to book your reservations for the Fall Conference, which will be held in Albany at the Marriott Hotel on October 12th, 13th, and 14th.

Also, just a reminder that NYS will be hosting the Eastern States Conference this year at the Marriott Hotel in Albany on November 16th, 17th, and 18th. Since this conference is right in "your own backyard," why not attend this one.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Fall Conference and Eastern States Conference.

Yours in Comradeship,
Bob Barnhart
Commander

Operation Uplink:

"Come Here 'Cause They Went There"

By Anna Lillian Moser
amoser@tcnewspapers.com

In this time of war, it's important for our soldiers and their loved ones to continually keep in touch. Operation Uplink, which was started by the VFW, helps to do this by providing soldiers with free phone cards, which are purchased completely through public donations.

Liz Hall and Dominick Girgenti, seniors at Mount Saint Mary College, managed to raise \$1,500 for the organization through a semester-long fundraiser that served as the pair's senior public relations project.

"We decided that this would be the perfect way to show our skills for a good cause as well," said Girgenti.

"Well, I figured everyone might not support the war, but they have to support our soldiers no matter what," Hall added.

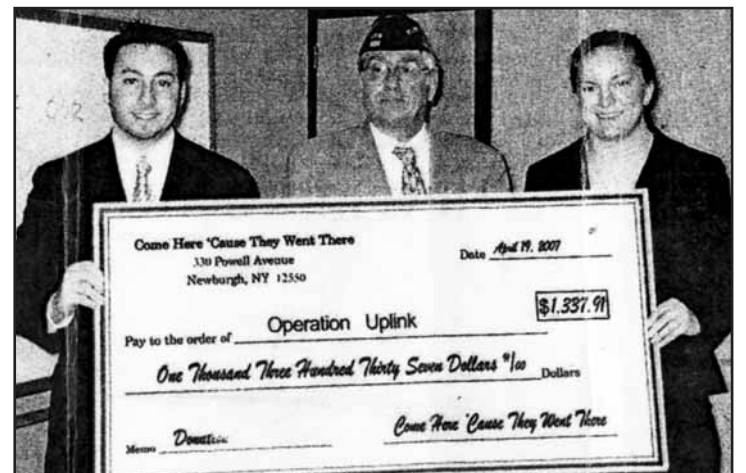
Hall and Girgenti came up with the name "Come Here 'Cause They Went There" for the project. The two students

put together a number of fundraising events, including a poker tournament, and tried to be present at every college event they could think of. In total, the project took their entire senior year to complete, from coming up with a concept and planning it (which took up the bulk of their first semester) to a final presentation Thursday, April 19.

Hall and Girgenti, although seniors, plan to approach members of next year's senior class with Operation Uplink.

"I'm proud that the young people are doing things because of the situation. It's a little hard to ask for donations if they don't understand what it's about. It's for a good cause, though, and I appreciate it, and hopefully they'll continue to do it next year," said Robert Barnhart, Department Senior vice Commander of the New York State VFW.

For more information about Operation Uplink, or to donate, visit www.operationuplink.org.



Dominick Girgenti and Liz Hall present a check for \$1,500 to Robert Barnhart of the New York State VFW. The donation will go towards the purchase of phone cards for U.S. soldiers.

State Commander's Special Project The Fisher House Program



The Fisher House program is a unique private-public partnership that supports America's military in their time of need. The program recognizes the special sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the hardships of military service by meeting humanitarian need beyond that normally provided by the Department of Defense and the Veterans Affairs.

Because members of the mil-

itary and their families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical care, Fisher House Foundation donates "comfortable homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA Medical Centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times – during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury.

Annually the Fisher House Program serves more than 8,500 families and have made available more than two million days of lodging to family members since the program originated in 1990. Based on comparison of fees at a Fisher House (the average charge is less than \$10.00 per family per day, with many locations offering rooms at no cost) with

commercial lodging facilities in the same area, it is estimated that families have saved more than \$60 million by staying at a Fisher House since the program began.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK EAR MARK IT FOR THE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT MAKE SURE YOUR POST, DISTRICT, OR COUNCIL'S NUMBER IS NOTED.

Also, we will have a Parade of Donations at the Fall Conference in Albany this October. Please be generous, and our troops and their families need our help.

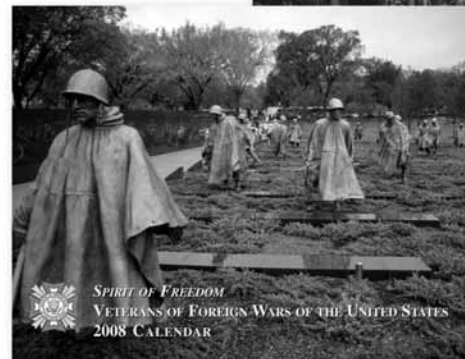
Mike Pascal
Phone # 1-631-758-9498
Pascal8172@aol.com.

Support Our Troops

The Spirit of FREEDOM



Presenting the new 2008 VFW Calendar, arriving soon in your mailbox!



Welcome in the new year and support your Department programs!

Watch the mail for your 2008 VFW Calendar. The dramatic, eye-catching photography makes it the 2008 calendar you will want to proudly display in your home or office this year!

2006-07 Membership Awards

County Council Commander All-State Awards

Captain: Arthur DeVoe, Hudson Mohawk County Council

County Council Membership Chairman Award

Miguel Pacheco, Hudson Mohawk County Council

Post Commander's State Convention Award

Div 2 – Post 8438 Commander Larry Bowman
Quartermaster James Gizzarelli

Div 3 – Post 770 Commander Toney Petruccelli
Quartermaster Ed Caggiano

Div 4 – Post 6912 Commander Peter McLane
Quartermaster Keith Steria

Div 5 – Post 5253 Commander Frank Maltese
Quartermaster Harry Wurth

Div 6 – Post 1371 Commander Joseph Ceurter
Quartermaster Jack Howey

Div 8 – Post 524 Commander Alexander Meholczo
Quartermaster Richard Teets

Post Division Award (largest numerical gain)

Div 1 – Post 1204

Div 2 – Post 6001

Div 3 – Post 7336

Div 4 – Post 6196

Div 5 – Post 375

Div 6 – Post 1371

Div 8 – Post 524

Big Ten Award

524 Corning

1371 Owego

375 Yonkers

4927 Centereach

5253 Albertson

5798 Angola

6196 Queensbury

6912 Lowville

7277 Massapequa

9592 Levittown

Life Membership Award

Div 1 – Post 44

Div 2 – Post 672

Div 3 – Post 7336

Div 4 – Post 9249

Div 5 – Post 375

Div 6 – Post 1371

Div 7 – Post 1469

Div 8 – Post 524

Life Member Recruiter Award

\$150 Gift Certificate.

2006-07 All-State

Post Commanders and Quartermasters

Post	Commanders	Quartermasters
202	Daniel LaBarge	William Silpoch
347	James Ruff	Joseph Rondeau
361	Donnie Stevenson	Jessie Bell
375	Joseph Poecelli	Robert Wasiczko
395	Frank Todaro	Domenick Ercolano
400	Sidney L. Lynn	James Burdock III
487	Tony Moore	Herman Reise
502	Bruce Williams	Carl Dennis
524	Alexander Meholczo	Richard Teets
557	Donald Anderson	Richard Galloway
672	Arthur Hanley	Louis Gaspareni
686	George Clarke	Robert Barnhart
770	Toney Petruccelli	Ed Caggiano
1019	William Decker	Allan Davenport
1204	Salvatore Proietti	Clement Tardo
1323	Richard Tiff	Thomas Durling
1369	Howard Clarkson	John Skolen
1371	Joseph Ceueter	Jack Howey
1418	Stanley Lapiere	Willard Martin, Jr.
1434	Anthony Massaro	Robert Jones
1455	William Gligier	Julius Haener
1498	Thomas Grillis	Arthur DeVoe
1545	Ronald DeLong	Christopher Mattiace
1611	August Zurenda	John Zurenda
1896	James West	Bernard Thompson
2064	James Demilo	Richard Golden
2077	Ralph VanAlstyne	Lawrence Cross
2192	William McCann	John Walpole
2250	Billy Jo Robertshaw	Martin Pernesky
2320	George Hoffman	David Dirk

2475	Charlie Werner
2670	Allan Fox
2674	Bobby Estes
2721	Joel Vanik
2936	Scott Compo
3350	Joseph McCarthy
4658	George Rowley
4660	John Jankowy
4823	Daniel Murtha
4927	Andrew Chapman
5016	Edward Zamjohn
5253	Frank Maltese
5538	Guy Case
5798	Joseph Cattalano
5808	Eric Nystrom
5913	Frederick Lloyd
6001	Sean McGuirl
6196	George Daley
6200	George Rodriques
6247	George Knaisch
6249	Robert Ward
6396	Eugene Bryant
6431	Carl Singer
6703	Daniel Updike
7062	Louis LeFevre
7227	Randall Goeman
7277	Albert Milite
7336	Israel Rivera
7338	Donald Essenter, Sr.
7545	Benjamin Wojtas
7763	Richard Begandy
7872	Daniel Delaney
7967	Marlene Roll
8113	Robert Smith III
8534	Lawrence Goins
8691	Dominick DeLaura
8692	Robert LaDuke
8734	Stanley Board
8823	John Williams
9249	Daniel McMahon
9251	George Whitfield
9263	Frederick Amore
9592	George Doll
9593	Joseph Dygas

Carl Fosco
Philip Smith
Michael Lisowski
James Rose
David Bush
Robert Jacoby
Dennis Eccleston
Ronald Wharton
Joseph Daniel
Dennis Sullivan
Robert Siple, Sr.
Harry Wurth
Mark Shoemaker
Robert Jakubzak
Francis Armstrong
George Hemroth
Steven Rys
Thomas Durkey
George Artley
John Grant
Joseph Cognitore
Melvin Garrett
Albert Martin
Richard Waye
Arthur Stanton
Fred Chartrand
Francis VonDuerring
Thomas Mazza
John H. Clark
David Grosskopf
Stephen Piller
Frank Hyrnio
Donald Gratien
Norman Drabek
David Lizotte
Harold Williams
Robert Clingerman
Kenneth Farnham
James Johnson
Richard Lozo
Vern Warfield
Eugene Orlandi
Frederick Wedin
Wally Zincio



William "Doc" Schmitz
Special Projects Chairman

Membership Shows Its Strength

I want to thank you for the outstanding support you gave to the special project, the Batavia VA PTSD Clinics. We raised in excess of \$70,000.00 in cash and product value. Your support resulted in our exceeding all prior fundraisers for the Department.

The Ladies Auxiliaries have outdone their typical generosity with ongoing packages of craft supplies, books, quilts, and games.

Kudos to the Men's Auxiliary in participating so generously in this project.

The Batavia VA PTSD Program includes a men's combat trauma residential program and a women's combat and sexual trauma residential program. The monies have been used to purchase equipment for the recreational and therapeutic activities of veterans in treatment. These purchases include a basketball hoop, television, video game unit, glider rockers, and Power Point equipment. The men's program expands to almost double its size this August, increasing to room for 30 veterans in residence at a time.

Some of the special project money has been used to furnish a

therapy group room and lounge for this expansion. This room is a VFW and Ladies Auxiliary dedicated room. Dr. Terri Julian, PTSD Program Manager said, "The gifts of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary have made our dreams come true in providing our veterans with comforts and materials that help emotional healing. It was my honor and joy to partner with you. The compassion and generosity of the VFW family inspire our community every day." I wish to extend a warm thank you to PSC Donald Doell for my appointment as Chair of this Special Project; to Ladies Auxiliary Past President

Martha Ferens for her enthusiastic support; to Ladies Auxiliary Special Project Chairwoman, Brenda Koch for her hard work and success; and to fellow VFW member, Darryl Fuchs who

managed things for us on the Batavia site.

If you would like to continue your support of this special facility for our emotionally wounded veterans, donations can be sent to: Dr. Terri Julian, PTSD Program, Batavia VA, 222 Richmond St., Batavia, NY 14020. Checks should be written out to Batavia VA PTSD Clinic. To obtain a wish list, please contact Susan Busch, PTSD Program Assistant at 585-297-1207.

William "Doc" Schmitz
2006-07 Special Project Chairman



L-R Department Auxiliary President Martha Ferens; William "Doc" Schmitz, VFW Department Special Project Chairman; Dr. Terri F. Julian, Clinical Director Batavia VA PTSD; and Brenda Koch, Department Auxiliary Special Projects Chairman. Martha proudly declared the project a huge success.

Commander's Special Project Donors

Post 7914	Post 8534	Post 44
District 6	District 2	MA 901
CVS Flag Program	Post 516	Post 9251
Post 2674	Post 8534	MA 917
Post 2320	Post 395	Post 770
Post 8645	Twin Lakes Race Track	Sullivan County
Post 3054	Post 7338	Council
Post 1666	Post 400	Post 2913
Post 150	Post 7414	Emy & Emil Herzfeld
Post 420	CVS Flag Program	Foundation
Lefton Post	Men's Auxiliary 5007	VFW Post 2936
Post 5806	Post 1895	Wal-Mart
Post 5218	WOVA Post	Post 1498
Post 107	Post 524 Men's	Post 672
Post 2893	Auxiliary	District 5
Post 6196	Auxiliary 2973	Post 9486
Post 6396	Post 8158	District 7
Post 600	Men's Auxiliary	Suffolk County
Post 8762	Little Valley	Council
Post 3211	Men's Auxiliary	Post 375
Post 851	Post 2320	Post 4927
Post 455	Men's Auxiliary	Nassau County
Post 358	Post 8440	Council
South Bay Vets Club	Post 8702	Post 107
Post 524 Auxiliary	Post 2721	District 8
Post 6105	Men's Auxiliary 1371	Post 7279
Post 917	Post 5296	Post 361
Post 7763	Post 961	Post 2670
Post 7062	Post 5538	Post 6001
Post 5016	Post 2936	Post 5538
Post 524	Post 6200	Post 2250
Post 686	Post 1231	Post 2782
Post 9486	Verizon	Post 6703
Post 4927	Post 961	Post 1019

Post #4787 – White Stone



Post #4787, White Stone, celebrating another good meeting – L-R: Benjamin Singer, Byron Dresler, Attorney and Dr. David Copell. Note the doctor is taking medication.

Post #2472 – Kenmore



L to R, front row: PC John F. Fitch, Anthony Pavone, PC John Cavanaugh, PC Bob Frangoles, and PC Clayton Burden. L to R, second row: Commander Charles Catalina, unidentified, PC Walter Kwiatkowski, PC James Mooney, and PC Harris Bartz.

Life Membership



Grandson receives Life Membership. Submitted by Charles Flieger, no Post mentioned.

Post #1419 – Hamburg



Post #1419 – Hamburg – Memorial Day Ceremonies.

Post #6196 – Queensbury



VFW Post #6196 in conjunction with Mrs. Cheryl Daniels is proud to announce Ms. Megan Aurelia, Class of 2007, Queensbury High School, as a recipient of the First Annual Edgar H. Eggleston III Memorial Scholarship of \$1,500.00. This scholarship is in remembrance of Edgar who while serving with the U.S. Air Force was killed in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988. In the picture with Megan are Mrs. Cheryl Daniels, Mother of Edgar and Tom Durkee Post #6196 Quartermaster.

Post 3275 – Fort Plain



Memorial Day remembrance, Past All-American District Commander James A. Wilson, Commander David Hotaling with the members of Post 3275 Fort Plain VFW Post perform the annual Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony for Past National Commander Earl Stock.

Tribute to fallen heroes

Local Iraq vet speaks about sacrifice, memory

By Stephen Bartlett
Staff Writer
(Reprinted from the Press-Republican May 29, 2007)

PLATTSBURGH – Freedom comes with a high price.

Nothing comes without cost, and sacrifices are meaningless without remembrance, Donald Buhr, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 125 on Boynton Avenue in the City of Plattsburgh, said during Monday's Memorial Day service.

"I ask you to join me in celebrating the lives of those who make the ultimate sacrifice for this nation," he said to the crowd gathered for the service. "Each life contributed to the notion of America as we know it today. God bless all of our departed heroes and their families. God bless America."

Buhr, a retired Air Force veteran, sat at the head table inside the VFW. To his right, a table for one had been set to remember those who couldn't be there Monday.

The white tablecloth adorning

that empty table was symbolic of the purity of the intentions of those who respond to the nation's call to arms. A single red rose stood for the bloodshed, a lemon a reminder of their bitter fate and the salt sprinkled on the plate represented the countless tears shed.

"May God continue to give us victory."

Capt. Anne-Marie Farrell

Veterans from conflicts such as the Korean War, World War II, Vietnam and Iraq stood proudly as the crowd joined in singing the National Anthem. A group of teenagers at one table had tears in their eyes as they sang, too.

Afterward, wreaths were placed on empty seats in front of the head table to honor fallen heroes.

Monday's guest speaker, Capt. Anne-Marie Farrell, enlisted in the United States Army in 1994 as a Patriot Missile Crew member.

In 1997 she joined the National Guard and served in Bosnia and then Iraq in 2005. She has also worked as a military helicopter pilot and public affairs officer.

She lives in Plattsburgh with her husband, Michael, and is a real estate agent.

Farrell wrote columns for the Press-Republican while serving in Iraq and was welcomed home by a party thrown by family, neighbors and friends in November.

Farrell scanned the crowd Monday as she spoke of soldiers who defended America, liberated the oppressed and stood for freedom and democracy.

There is no greater sacrifice, she said, than laying down one's life for a friend.

"They are our nation's heroes, fathers and grandfathers, sons and daughters, our loved ones."

Their sacrifice shall never be forgotten, Farrell said, nor should anyone forget that freedom is not free.

Farrell recognized veterans present for their honorable service, saying, "You were there when the enemy bombed your base and young lives ended abruptly. You were there to reach



Staff Photo/Rob Fountain

Capt. Anne-Marie Farrell of the U.S. Army, salutes Monday during the memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 125 in Plattsburgh. Farrell was the guest speaker and spoke about those who serve in the military and sacrificed everything for our country.

into your dead buddy's pocket for that goodbye letter to a mother, father, wife and children."

Farrell recalled being at her desk in Iraq and the phone conversations she had with a young female member of the military police.

One day, Farrell called to request two seats on a convoy to

northern Iraq, but she never heard back from the MP who had become her friend. The 23-year-old had been killed that morning.

"She is the reason you and I can sit in peace this day," Farrell said. "She made the ultimate sacrifice."

"May God continue to give us victory, and may He continue to bless America the beautiful."

Department of the Army

Headquarters 42nd ID, New York Army National Guard
137 Glenmore Road • Troy, New York 12180

DFHT-CH

1 June 2007

Dear Fellow Veterans,

My name is Chaplain Eric Olsen, Command Chaplain for the 42nd Infantry Division in Troy, New York. I am an Iraqi veteran and now on active duty to assist soldiers and their families in these difficult times.

As you know from the news reports and the visible impact in our communities we remain engaged in the "War on Terrorism." This war continues to impact our state and in particular the soldiers of the New York National Guard and their families. In the past five years we have sent thousands of young men and women into harm's way and some of them have paid the ultimate price in their service.

Over the next year we will again be sending a large force overseas into combat areas. These soldiers and airmen come from throughout the state, from the neighborhoods you serve and the churches in your area. We are asking for help. The New York National Guard chaplaincy is building a coalition of faith and service to assist the soldiers and families during this deployment and for the deployments that will follow. Our plan is to invite local VFW groups or a representative to meet with us in different areas throughout the state in order to share our concerns and to allow soldiers and their families more access to your com-

munities. We know that you have been there and continue to care for these brave Americans.

We have learned that strong faith in conjunction with strong community ties make for a better soldier both while deployed and as they return home when his or her duty is done. Here is a list of things that would be helpful to us in the coming months.

- 1) Prayer for our soldiers both privately and during worship opportunities.
- 2) A roster of VFW Commanders willing to participate in our meetings.
- 3) A list of local resources willing to be available to assist the families of our soldiers during their deployment.
- 4) Names of those individuals willing to assist in grief counseling or are willing to be a source of hope should the need arise.

Our mission in chaplaincy is to Nurture the living, Comfort the dying and Honor the dead. With your help we will succeed. Please contact me at eric.w.olsen2@us.army.mil or 518-891-2805 or 518-891-7435. Thank You!

ERIC W. OLSEN
Chaplain (LTC) NYARNG
Division Chaplain
This or the address above:
304 Glenwood Drive
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Brewster Post #672 receives check for \$5,000



Specifically, the grant was awarded through the Assemblyman's 2007 member item appropriation. The money will help the Post pay for general maintenance and services.

"Brewster VFW Post 672 has done so much to help the local veterans community and the community at large. I am so thrilled to highlight and praise their accomplishments while also securing and presenting this grant at the same time," concluded Ball.

Freshman NYS Assemblyman Greg Ball (R) representing the 99th Assembly District and a member of the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs, visited Post 672 at our May meeting and installation. Assemblyman Ball although not a combat vet is a veteran having graduated from the USAF Academy in Colorado Springs and served four years in the Air Force as a protocol officer. The Assemblyman was there to present the Post with a check for \$5,000.

When presenting the check to Post 672 Commander Art Hanley, Ball said, "I am proud to help support veterans and to recognize the honorable sacrifice they have made for the rest of America. Their patriotism and bravery has always been inspiring to me, and I am glad to help."

Post #3350 – East Rockaway

Former East Rockaway, NY, Post #3350, Veterans of Foreign Wars former member Donald Conway's Town of Hempstead 2006 Make a Difference Award was accepted recently by his wife, Ann Conway (center, holding certificate.) Among those honoring Don at a Town Hall ceremony were (seated, l-r): Jr. Vice Commander Al Adler, member James Caffrey, Commander Joseph McCarthy, Sr. Vice Commander Tom Caffrey, Trustee Dominic Roggio, Judge Advocate Brian Meyer and Adjutant William Torpey. Standing, l-r, are Quartermaster Robert Jacoby; former N.Y. State Assemblyman Gregory Becker, unidentified Conway relative, Town of Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray, Nassau County Legislator Francis X. Becker, Ann Conway, member Marco Benedetto, Surgeon Peter Vitulli, member Robert Schatz, Chaplain Harry Ehrhardt and Lynbrook Mayor Bryant Curran.



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

VFW-PAC Since 1979

Political Action Committee

Origin

The VFW-PAC was approved by the delegates to the 1979 National Convention and established as a separate corporation, chartered in Washington, D.C., to enhance the VFW position in its dealings with Congress.

Purpose

To support candidates for election to federal office who have taken responsible positions on legislation pertaining to our nation's veterans and issues involving national defense. VFW-PAC does not engage in state and local elections.

Composition

The VFW-PAC is governed by an eleven member Board of Directors that is comprised of a Director and Treasurer appointed by the VFW Commander-in-Chief for a one-year term; eight members – two of whom are appointed each year by the VFW Commander-in-Chief for a four-year term; and one VFW Ladies Auxiliary member appointed by the VFW Ladies Auxiliary National President for a one-year term. The VFW Commander-in-Chief appoints one Board member to serve as Chairman for a one-year term.

Staff

The operating staff consists of a non-salaried Director, a salaried Secretary, and a part-time non-salaried Treasurer. In addition, part-time help is sometimes employed to cope with excessive workload.

Funding Resources

The VFW-PAC cannot accept contributions from non-members, the VFW national organization, or any other corporations that are not the results of a legitimate VFW-PAC fundraising activity. Donations can only be solicited and accepted from VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members and employees. VFW Departments, Districts, Counties, Posts and auxiliaries may contribute to VFW-PAC through fundraising events. These donations fund all VFW-PAC operating costs, political advocacy programs and candidate endorsement contributions.

Operational Responsibility

The VFW-PAC is guided by committee bylaws established by the Board of Directors and approved by the VFW National Council of Administration. The VFW-PAC regularly reports to the VFW National Council of Administration on its financial condition.

All VFW-PAC operations are regulated by the Federal Elections Commission (FEC), which includes providing the FEC with scheduled reports on all VFW-PAC activities.

The VFW-PAC is audited annually by Certified Public Accountants.

VFW Iron Triangle

The VFW-PAC, National Legislative Service and Action Corps comprise the VFW Iron Triangle, which meets frequently to discuss all legislation and initiatives in both chambers of Congress that affect veterans' entitlements and national defense.

Endorsement Process

The VFW-PAC Board of Directors determines the endorsement policy for each Congressional election cycle. Members of Congress and non-incumbents must meet the criteria. The entire U.S. House of Representatives and one-third of the United States Senate are elected every two years. Senators are elected for six-year terms. Political party affiliations are never considered and Presidential candidates are not considered or endorsed by the VFW-PAC.

The VFW-PAC endorsement considerations will be coordinated with the respective Department and their recommendations will be considered. The VFW-PAC Board of Directors will take action, finalize all endorsements and determine the level of a monetary contribution to be presented to an endorsed candidate.

A copy of the current endorsement policy may be requested from the VFW-PAC office.

Political Advocacy

The VFW-PAC communicates regularly with members of Congress and their staffs through letters, faxes, e-mails, telephone and personal visits. New programs and initiatives are constantly being developed that directly enhance our ability to make a positive difference in the lives of veterans and military personnel, as well as strengthen our nation's security and defense posture.

Publicity

The VFW-PAC relies upon the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary National Officers, members of the National Council of

Administration, VFW-PAC Board of Directors, and State PAC Chairmen to promote VFW-PAC activities.

The contact information for the PAC Chairman in your area may be requested from the VFW-PAC office.

The Importance of VFW-PAC

The VFW needs a Political Action Committee because the competition on Capitol Hill is great. There are over 4,000 powerful and well-funded Political Action Committee's vying for time and attention to push their own special interest agenda through Congress. The VFW is the only major veterans' service organization with a PAC looking out for this nation's security, veterans, military personnel, and their families.

How You Can Help

- Know How VFW-PAC Operates
- Promote VFW-PAC Activities
- Organize Fundraising Events
- Donate to Support PAC
- Keep Abreast of the Political Climate
- Consider the Importance of the Issues
- Communicate With Your Elected Officials
- Get Involved in the Election Process
- Support Pro-Veteran/Defense Candidates
- VOTE

To Send a Donation or For More Information Contact

VFW-PAC
VFW Washington Office
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002
Tel. (202) 544-5868
Fax (202) 544-8495

VFW Political Action Committee National Awards Program

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Political Action Committee regularly thanks its contributors for the continued support in helping to further the aims and ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The following gifts of appreciation are awarded. All of the awards can be jointly received for combination Post/Auxiliary contributions at any level during our fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).

\$100 Citation

A beautiful crafted certificate printed in full color and gold with the American Flag awarded to those who contribute a one time donation of \$100 in a fiscal year.

\$500 Plaque

A 9x12 wooden plaque laser carved with the American Eagle and VFW-PAC seal awarded to those who contribute \$500 in a fiscal year.

Golden Eagle

A 17 inch high golden American Eagle to those Post, Auxiliary, District, and Department contributions of \$1,000 in a fiscal year.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Political Committee Wishes to Thank You



VFW Political Action Committee Contribution Form

(Please type or print)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Post/Auxiliary _____

Amount \$ _____

*To receive individual credit, this form must accompany all cash contributions.

VFW-PAC
200 Maryland Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20002

Akron VFW Post raises \$40,960 for Alden Marine wounded in Iraq

Outpouring stuns veteran, wife

By Anthony Cardinale
News Staff Reporter
Reprinted from *The Buffalo News*, 8/25/2006

Marine Lance Cpl. Mark Beyers of Alden was handed a check for \$40,960 Thursday evening from fellow veterans at Akron Post 3180, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"I'm still trying to take it in," he said as the three-hour party was breaking up. "I love the military family, I love the VFW, I love the community."

Beyers, 27, who lost his right arm and leg to a roadside bomb in Iraq a year ago, was attacked and robbed of \$300 with his wife, Denise, on July 22 as he was taking a break from rehabilitation in Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Beyers began work last week

as an estimator with his family's business, Beyers Construction of Alden. He and his wife, who is an X-ray technical at Mercy Hospital, will use the money toward buying or building a handicapped-accessible home. "We're going to look around right away," Beyers said. "We're not going to waste an opportunity like that. We want to try to get our life started again."

Nancy O'Hara, president of the Post's women's auxiliary, said the fund drive for Beyers began last February and culminated with a silent auction on Aug. 12. "The money is still coming in," she said. "I called the bank today and learned that another \$400 has come in. We'll keep the account open for a while longer."

Most of the veterans at the party weren't acquainted with



Sharon Cantillon/*Buffalo News* Mark Beyers and wife, Denise, are upbeat after receiving a \$40,960 check Thursday night from Akron Post 3180, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Beyers before this all happened, but they donated just the same.

"No matter what branch you served in " said Bill Ward, a Marine veteran of World War II and the Korean War, "if you've been there, you're part of the brotherhood."

Post #9215 – Upper Nyack



Post #9215, Upper Nyack, the brothers of Ann Cacioppo served honorably in WWII. Standing, L-R: Septimo, Leon, Carl, and Joseph. Sitting, L-R: Andy, Tony, and Jimmy. Submitted by George Douzella, Commander.

Post #6427 – Narrowsburg



Post #6427, Narrowsburg – Memorial Day Services – From left to right are: Theodore Repella, Trustee, holding our colors; Norman Sutherland, Adjutant; Peter Barnes, Guard; Kenneth Reuter, Junior Vice Commander and a Past Commander; Robert Grab, Trustee; Our present Commander Paul G. Zimmermann (Paul has been Commander for a record nine years to date); Frederick Bosch, holding the American Flag, Chaplain; and Marine Gary Scotch of Honesdale, PA, visiting Bugler who plays a wonderful Taps.

87th Testimonial Ball



Queens County Council Commander Bernard Robinson and Auxiliary President Gloria Myers at the 87th Testimonial Ball celebrating a good year.

Boonville Nursing Home Visit



Center, back: Grand Commander of the Cooties, Department of New York, Jerry Lenox and Department President Katie Posa visit at the Boonville, NY Nursing Home.

POST TO POST

POST #1666 – YONKERS – Commander Joe Battista has four terms in office. Happy Birth to Eric J. Bauer, Joe Lombardo, Larry Weisman, Edward Jones.

POST #557 – BEMUS POINT – Dick Galloway retired from the Quartermaster position after several years of service, a personal thanks from Commander Don Anderson. The Post is sponsoring Babe Ruth. Homer Meekins was an Afghan.

POST #9587 – STATEN ISLAND – Celebrating The USS Sullivan Anniversary. Bus Trip To A.C. (?)

POST #516 – FARMINGDALE – Commander Doug Makosky thanks Ed Yaworski and Randy Carroll, who are working hard on membership. Adjutant Bill Schwarz monitors their membership drawing; Larry Ryan, a Chaplain, monitors the sick and shut-ins.

POST #1498 – HALFMOON – John Dahoda spearheading the Post Poppy Drive. Tom Gillis monitoring the elections.

POST #7462 – PIERMONT – John Kroll, Quartermaster and Jr. Vice John M. O'Neill working on membership.

POST #5540 – PHOENIX – John Halstead, Commander; Don Helstead, Sr. Vice; and Bob Halstead, Jr. Vice. Wow, large family!

POST #8692 – ALBANY – Jim Fuller, Donald Jeffry, and Frank Preville won the fundraising raffle. New members, John DeGonzague and Scott Alphen. Roy Bailey donated a new copier and Pete Weier polished the floors.

POST #600 – CANASTOTA – Joe Palmisono oversaw the elections of officers. Addresses of the local service men are listed for package mailing in the newspaper. Danny Klahs,

Chairman of the new Post Flag program. Nice pictures in the paper, "Doc" would like them, hint, hint.

POST #348 – SALT CITY – Golabki cook off results: 1st place Trish Holbert, 2nd Ginny Mahalick, and 3rd Chris Lashomb.

POST #5298 – SPRINGFIELD GARDENS – Commander Leroy A. Barnes thanks all for donations to the Bronx Fire Fund. William Smith, Hospital Chairman, is very organized in his focus on St. Albans VA programs. Bolo Walker Building Chairman working on repairs and possible expansion of the Post.

POST #6338 – GOUVERNOUR – Commander Mike Webster and Karl Beck are putting together a Memorial Wall of Honor.

POST #2736 – EAST MEADOW – New members Vincent Ropele and Joseph Fiorello. Anthony Batera was awarded his 10-year pin by Commander Pellegrino. Chaplain Fred Schnettle and members handed out gifts to veterans in a local VA.

POST #2813 – WOODSIDE – Bob Shaw and Teresa Kennedy cooked up a storm at a St. Patrick's Day party. A \$500.00 donation was made by the Post to the Borden Avenue Homeless Vets Program.

POST #5253 – ALBERTSON – Chaplain Vincent DeMartino reports on the VA hospitals and comrades who are hospitalized. Commander Frank Maltese wishes Happy Birthday to William Allen, Vito Amarosa, James McCann, William Savary, Thomas Wetzel, and Luis Wirth.

POST #6394 – SYOSSET – Birthdays – Fred Barrell, William Titus, Stanley Michalowski, Frank Montelcone, and Brenda O'Sullivan.

Post supporting the Eagle Scout Program. Joseph Robert DeMartin's got it.

POST #2913 – PATCHOGUE – Commander George W. Egan, pins to many senior members of the Post. Robert Waste, Adjutant, noted 60-year pins to Joseph Jurgans, Ambrose Beckemeyer, and Charles Drake; 20-year pin to Louis Blair and 30-year pin to John Knoth and James Belmonte.

POST #5491 – MAHOPAC – Bob Wilson Golf Outing Chairman. Venison dinner thanks to C. J. Gilleo, Skip Tompkins, Kenny Carroll, and Terry Queally, and send thanks to Mrs. Moberg and Rich DiRusso.

POST #4927 – CENTEREACH – Veterans Stand Down scheduled. Commander Andy Chapman and the Post are active in tent. Dennis Sullivan, Quartermaster, welcomes two new members, Frederick R. Woodard and James Lockleinstner, Jr. Nice article, D.S. – "Doc."

POST #6196 – QUEENSBURY – Commander Chick Daley given good advise on elections, elect persons who will do the job. The Post boasts of a Junior Girls Unit.

DISTRICT #3 – Commander Luther Reid received a check for \$1,365.00 for his special project – Saratoga National Veterans' Cemetery. Arnie Anderson spearheaded the District Raffle and did a great job. Roy Post and Malcolm Van Hoesen were heavy ticket sellers.

POST #478 – BINGHAMTON – Commander James L. Furch announced a big project of replacing the heating and air conditioning units in the building.

POST #7127 – MORAVIA – Building Fund Raffle underway, Steak and

Chicken dinner upcoming, flags on graves with a breakfast before. Thane Benson will lead a parade for veterans on Memorial Day.

POST #4787 – WHITE STONE – Commander Ernest C. Malrieini attended a Welcome Home for the National Guard; Joe Panzardi, Ben Singer, and Dr. David Copell went with him. Quartermaster Joseph Panzardi announced the Post's new Web site: www.post4787vfw.com.

POST #9289 – GRAND ISLAND – Commander Dan McMahon still pushing membership heavily. WOW – very impressive list of new members and Life members too! Buddy Poppy Drive underway, Quartermaster A. Lozo, Sr.

POST #375 – YONKERS – Jr. Vice Ken Fleiger is spearheading a Support the Troops Drive; donations can be left at the Post. Happy Birthday to John Hickey, Philip Barile, Richard Murphy and John Ziembra. Commander Joe Porcelli, what is an honorary member? "Doc."

POST #2307 – LYNBROOK – Memorial Day Parade with a barbeque and children's entertainment, plus a breakfast and Poppy Drive. Commander Pat Cardone. Happy Birthday to Tony Lenzo, Mignon Tipton, John Johnson, and Bill Richardson.

POST #2670 – GENEVA – Gloria or Kay who? Several new members, several events mentioned.

POST #8647 – MAYVILLE – Commander Don Skellie announced \$2,100.00 donated to Hospice; Golf Tourney to be held to support the local food pantry. Quartermaster Wayne Dunbar drew Melissa Monroe's name for a Life Membership. Nice newspaper, Editor Debbie

Cenni, "Doc."

POST #420 – SARATOGA SPRINGS – Published a list of members that can't be located and a phone number for someone to contact if they know where they are. Commander Gene Ratigliano.

POST #5491 – MAHOPAC – New Commander Charles Monte and Ladies Auxiliary President Mary Monte.

POST #202 – HOLLEY – Memorial Day services to be held in conjunction with The American Legion Post #529. 35th Anniversary Dinner to be held, Commander Dan LaBarge. Many events being held by the Post, Men's and Ladies Auxiliary – lots of cooperation.

POST #4927 – CENTEREACH – Very nice idea, an envelope pre-addressed with info on the Poppy and asking for a donation. New Commander Dennis Sullivan, and PSC Don Doell taking over Quartermaster position. Senator John Flanagan helped with a grant for the Post. Charlotte Stogdale pushing Poppy funding.

POST #46 – STATEN ISLAND – Andy Baldassare working on the outside botanical garden. "Doc" Dougherty improving services? Quartermaster Gus Grecsek addresses the rising costs of utilities and programs and is seeking help to meet the growing needs. Sr. Vice George Congo, nice article, "Doc," "Overcome our petty differences and really enjoy each other."

POST #8647 – MAYVILLE – Gay Burdick, Edward Cannon, Hobart Damico, Edward Davis, Jan Derbish, Wayne Durbar and Wes Weise were thanked for their honorable service in the school awards ceremony by Commander Paul Holthouse.



Vietnam Memorial, Farmingville, Suffolk County. Photo submitted by Commander Ray Hansen, Suffolk County.



Department Commander Donald Doell conducting the Convention Memorial Service.



Rev. Edward R. P. Kane being pressured to hurry up by Ralph U. DeMarco, PSC.



Dennis Sullivan and Dr. Terri F. Julian take a spin.



Center, PSC Ralph U. DeMarco receives multiple recognition for his untiring service to veterans from members of District # 1 and Queens CC; presenting Willie Burk.



L-R Senior Vice Commander-In-Chief George J. Lisicki; Ron Mironchik, Department Eagle Scout Chairman; Department of NY VFW Eagle Scout of the Year, Justin A. Bullard; and Commander Don Doell.



Incoming Commander and President for OCC - Commander Edward Stoutenger and President Wanda Steinbrecher.



Department Commander Barnhart and Department President Sally A. Gagnon taking a break.



Newly elected officers being sworn in at the Department Convention.



Yup, the VFW is for families and their kids.



Al Klein, PSC, being escorted by Department Sergeant-At-Arms Robert Wasiczko to be sworn in as the Department of NY VFW National Council of Administration member.



James Longendyke, PSC and National Council of Administration member has been replaced as Commander Barnhart's adviser.



What's that song, "Leader of the Pack?"



The NYC connection.



It was announced that everyone needed a date!



Formal dress code?



Just more pretty faces.



Commander Barnhart's security.



Commander Fred Amore and the members of VFW Post 9263 remembering our Fallen Comrades on Memorial Day.