



January 2024

Next Regular Business Meeting: 18 January @ 1900 hrs

Important Dates to Remember:

1 January – New Years Day

14 January – District 1 meeting at Hobart at Noon. Special guest star is the State Commander.

15 January – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

16 January – Military legislative day at the State House.

18 January – Regular Business Meeting at Munster Town Hall @ 1900 hrs.

VFW Membership

Looking outside of our post, VFW numbers are dropping to alarming levels. Every year the VFW of Indiana is losing 2000 members. Currently there are only 24,500 members. Do the math, if one more veteran doesn't join, then in 12 years there won't be a VFW in the Hoosier State. Nationally the numbers are dropping as well, while nationally we're still above 1 million members but once we drop below 1 million members, then it makes it hard for leadership to fight for veteran's rights with such a small percentage of the population represented. Our goal this year is to hit 102% membership.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

We had our volunteer dinner in December. Thanks to everyone who showed up. A great time was had by all. With the exception of some overcooked fish, the meal was great! Thanks to Legion Post 369 for hosting the event.

January General Orders

Highlights from the January General Orders are listed below. If you want any further information on anything below, please don't hesitate to ask and something can be sent out to you specifically.

- ***Quarterly Audits*** – Quarterly audits for the quarter ending 31 December are due by 31 January.
- ***Membership Updates*** – The state is currently at 87.6% membership as of 29 December. The following posts have met their 102% recruitment goals, Beech Grove, Crothersville and two Indianapolis Posts.

- ***District 1 Meeting*** –_District 1 meeting will take place Sunday, 14 January at Noon at Hobart Post 5365.
- ***Community Service Activities*** –_It was discussed during our October “Roundtable” meeting, and again at the fall conference that each individual VFW member can now enter in their own service hours onto the state website. This can be discussed in more detail at the January meeting.
- ***Buddy Poppy*** –_National switched from the traditional poppies to metal poppy pins. If your post ordered early, you could only order the pin poppies. Since then they have allowed posts to order the traditional poppies. The pin poppies were originally made in China and are more of an orange color. The thought process from National is that the pin poppies are cheaper to order and cheaper shipping and handling. There were a lot of complaints about the poppies at the fall conference but unfortunately there are no refunds so we’re stuck with the ones we have. During the January meeting we’ll have a discussion on what we want to do with these pin poppies going forward.
- ***Cocktails with the Commander*** –_State Commander Corcoran will be holding a monthly meeting via zoom that will last 60 minutes. All VFW Department of Indiana members in good standing will be allowed to join. Next meeting will be at 7pm (6pm central time) on 17 January.
- ***Spring Conference*** –_The spring conference and Patriot’s Pen/Voice of Democracy banquet is on 22-24 March at Indianapolis Marriott East. If you’re interested in going, please let me know.
- ***#StillServing Grant*** – This grant provides reimbursement of up to \$1,500 for expenses incurred while performing community service activities where Post and District members are engages community members directly. VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations, Richard Freiburghouse can be contacted directly by email. If you’re interested in contacting him, I can provide his email by request.

District 1 Meeting Debrief

- The meeting was attended by Commander Joe and Judge Advocate Frank Darrington.
- Munster still needs to complete it’s inspection. (District Commander will complete the inspections).
- District 1 Buddy Poppy campaign yielded \$2,144 in donations. Sr. Vice Commander Jesse Casiano and Commander Joe both assisted during the campaign at Cabelas.
- Community Service can be entered by individuals into dashboard directly. Myself and Jesse can still enter them if the individual members don’t want to do it.
- Patriots Pen and VOD winners unfortunately did not include anyone from the Munster Post.
- State Convention is 14-16 June. Our Munster post is meeting all of the requirements to allow votes at the convention.
- We have an additional requirement for All-State consideration. We have to select one of the following; Employer of the Year, Member of the Year or JROTC of the year. We must submit to state directly by March for consideration.
- Munster is currently at 84.2% membership, we need 11 members to pay up, we have 12 not paid. Congrats to John Sarnecki who was awarded a recruiter t-shirt for the member he brought in during December. He will be given his shirt at the January meeting.



MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

This is not the best example I've seen.

"True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom and equality not only for Americans but for all people on earth.

Eleanor Roosevelt



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Carry On!

Send correspondence
Commandermunstervfw@gmail.com
3542 44th Place, Highland, IN
46322

