



From the Commander

No. 1, 2019-2020

Greetings Comrades,

CDR's Comments: First, I would like to thank everyone within the District for their confidence as the new District Five Commander. Well done to all the newly elected and appointed officers within the District. I look forward to working with you throughout the year. Congratulations to all posts that have achieved All-State recognition and those posts that achieved All-American status. I hope to see more of District 5 posts in the early bird and All-American status in the coming year. Your caps for All-State will be presented in Phnom Penh, Cambodia – looking forward to seeing everyone there. If you are unable, I will be presenting at a future date or sending to your post.

Compliments to Comrade James Maughmer for receiving a recruiting award at the DPA Convention in Saipan for new membership (6). I will be sending it out shortly, well done.

CDR's Old Business: Everyone should have completed their Election Report and General Order #1; if you have not submitted this please forward. We are establishing a better electronic filing system for the District reports and information. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Before assuming the position of Commander, some unforeseen events came to light within the District Leadership. Larry Williams has resigned as the ADSO and SVC positions within the District. This event was a personal decision on his part; however, it does cause a vacancy within the District leadership. As these are important positions within the District, the Service Officer because that position is the direct link between the Post Service Officers and Dept. I have put someone in the position in the interim. I am looking for a permanent Service Officer, who is willing to help coordinate between the Dept and Posts. However, I am also looking for this person to be separate from the Post position, if possible. If you have someone who is interested in the position, please let me know. The other position is the Senior Vice Commander overseeing membership; which, we will have nominations and election at the next District meeting.

CDR's Future Business I would like to submit some changes to our reporting procedures to help strengthen our administrative procedures by modifying our reporting procedures. As you can see from the CDR's Report Template; each one of the pages is separated by Post, CSR, and Service Officer Activities. This new template will help the district compile and submit additional required reports and awards to the Dept. without any difficulty. The template was modified to easily allow input of post information and will be discussed at the D5 CDR's Meeting – CDR's Session IAW the D5 Flyer.

Each year the district has a requirement to conduct a course of instruction (COI) for the post and District Officers. During my term, I will be conducting training in Oct (Pattaya) as to the subject it will be determined after the July meeting. There will also be Service Officer Training on the same day in Pattaya. Please inform your Service Officers that this training will be available and attendance is requested.

Community Service Reports: Please remember to complete your CSR reporting for May / June as the system has been updated. As you should know -- you are allowed to back fill your data to cover those periods of time.



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Membership: District 5 has completed its requirement for members relatively early each year. As every Post CDR and membership committee understands; membership is one of the requirements for All-State / All-American. So, we need to make sure that everyone is reviewing their membership numbers regularly. I would like to encourage every annual member to re-visit their ability to pay their annual dues with a one-time Life Member's payment or look into the installment plan. The post will receive credit for your Life membership upon completion of the payment plan. Please look at your current numbers to help determine your starting point. Like I mentioned earlier, I hope to see as many posts as possible in the early bird category come this December.

Post Obligation: There are several other requirements that are associated with VFW Dept. and National, which I refer to as "House Keeping Requirements". I would like to encourage all posts to submit those House Keeping items as early as possible. The biggest item most of the posts forget is the Legislative Chairman requirement, VFW Action Corps; Deployment / Welcome Home, or Adopt a Unit. One of the easiest requirements is the registration drive. Upon completion of any one of these items – please send an email to Jon Brazee (corter79@hotmail.com) and copy the District at vfwdistrict5deptpac@gmail.com, so I can track the notification process. We don't want any post left behind.

VOD/PP Themes for 2019-2020: The theme this year for both Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen programs is: **"What Makes America Great"**. If you have any additional questions, please contact Commander Lou Holub (Ban Chang/Utapao).

Websites: Glad to see some post across the District with the new websites. It looks like the Dept. of Pacific Areas will be shifting to the new format, also. This connectivity will help track the various items and programs through the calendar system. A major benefit is advertisements via the sponsor program – another avenue for each post to make money. Each post has the ability to standardize their location; I am only asking for professionalism with photos and information as to not expose the VFW to possible bad press. If you have not shifted to the new format – keep the information flowing about the organization.

Yours in Comradeship and Service

Randy Riggs
Commander