

NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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

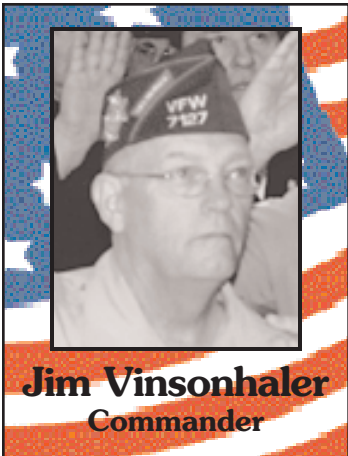


“Service and Representation”

January/February 2005

Jim Vinsonhaler, New York State Commander

Volume 25, Issue 1



**Jim Vinsonhaler
 Commander**



ideas and the problems with old ideas. Two of the most prominent questions I faced were concern for an increase in the Life Membership fees, and whether or not we felt direct dues would enhance the Department membership.

Please be aware that these issues are not made by the leadership of the Department, but in fact should be put in resolution form and presented at the State Convention in June. Remember, it is your voice that we carry to Salt Lake City, so make your concerns known to us.

I would like to take just a moment to thank all the committee chairmen and members for their support this year, as I feel we are doing a great job so far. The membership team has shown a tremendous effort in distributing information and tools to the

leadership at all levels in pursuit of maintaining and increasing our membership. Right now is the time of year that we all have to buckle down and tie up the loose ends to meet our goals; and Comrades, WE can do it. Keep thinking positive and together we can obtain our 100% goal. Check your membership program books and be prepared to take advantage of many of the incentives that are available to you.

Cell Phones for Soldiers, special project is doing extremely well; and we believe will do better than expected. Keep the phones and cash donations coming in; this is a great way to support our troops who now put themselves in harm's way for a free America.

Soon we will be gathering in Liverpool, NY, for our Spring Conference and Gold Chevron



Auxiliary President Terry McGarr presents a check for \$500.00 for Commander James Vinsonhaler's special project.

Comrades, let me take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a very happy and successful New Year. The first six months of our 2004-2005 year are over, and we are moving forward rapidly.

Recently, we completed a membership roundup of the Department that gave us the chance not only to pick up some transmittals but also to meet with new faces throughout the organization and listen to new

Ball. This is the time of year we show our thanks to our Department Service Officers for the great job that they do all year long. We ask that you show your support by attending the banquet, purchasing the raffle tickets and taking an ad in the Department Journal. Appropriately, our National Representative for this Conference will be Bill

Bradshaw, Director of National Veterans Service in our Washington office.

Again, thank you for all the support and hard work this year and let's finish up in New York style. Hope to see all of you in Liverpool.

Yours in Comradeship,
 Jim Vinsonhaler, Commander



DAV hosts PTSD Clinic at Bath VA – L-R: R. Gary Befus, Thomas J. Wisnieski, acting Medical Director; Paul Potter, Commander DAV (and VFW Life Member); Terri F. Julian, PhD Clinical Director, PTSD Clinic, Batavia; and Thomas M. Dolata, RN, MS, NP, PTSD Clinic, Batavia.



Vincent Siesta, State Photographer, was honored at a Testimonial Dinner in Albany. Vinnie (center, front row) is serenaded by all the Past Department Commanders.

Photographer: William Juteau		State Editor: William “Doc” Schmitz
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Photographer: William Juteau

2004-2005 State Officers

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James Vinsonhaler
Sr. Vice Commander:
James McNally
Jr. Vice Commander:
Donald Doell
Judge Advocate:
Philip C. Schiffman, PSC
Surgeon:
Robert Barnhart
Quartermaster:
Jim Longendyke
Adjutant:
Art Koch III, PSC
Chaplain:
Rev. Edward R. P. Kane
State Chief-of-Staff:
Robert Stinger
Inspector:
Jack Haight
Patriotic Instructor:
James Wilson

POLICY

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The views expressed herein are those of the writers and, unless otherwise stated, do not reflect the positions of NYSOV or its staff.

All members and other interested parties are encouraged to submit articles, opinions, letters to the Editor, or any other copy of pictures for publication on subjects relevant to veterans' issues and concerns. *New York State Overseas Veteran* reserves the right to edit material for length or grammar and to reject any material that is deemed not to meet current editorial needs.

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Donald Doell Junior Vice Commander



**Donald Doell
Jr. Vice Commander**

The comrades and sisters of the VFW are donating more volunteer hours and more money than ever before. We are supporting the troops now serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and operation Enduring Freedom. There are 'care packages' and phone cards being mailed at a tremendous rate.

My concern is that many of our 'regularly scheduled' programs are being put on the back burner and tend to be forgotten. There are too many teachers that should be recognized for their teaching of patriotism. There are too many police, fire, and EMS personnel that should be recognized for their bravery and heroism. There are too many students that should hear our stories and the history of our nation. So there is work to do, let us not forget our obligations. With the worst of winter behind us (we hope), we start to look forward to spring and the Gold Chevron Ball. The Gold Chevron Ball is held in honor of, and support of our Department Service offices and their staff. Our Service Officers are charged with obtaining benefits

for veterans who were injured as a result of their military service. As with most businesses and organizations, the four service offices located in Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany and NYC, are operating on a tight budget and need our help. Certainly the veterans they help and the work they do is worthy of all the support we can give them.

Although more than half the year has passed, there is still time to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves this year. As always, being 100% in membership is always at the top of most lists. Commander Jim Vinsonhaler works hard for all the comrades in the state, whether it is as Service Officer or Commander. Jim gives his all each and every day for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We should take a page from his book and make that call, knock on that door, or ask that person you know is eligible to join. The Department of New York should and can be 100% in membership if we all work at it.

Unfortunately, I will not be attending the Spring Conference in Liverpool. Commander Vinsonhaler has asked that I represent him at the Eastern States Conference in Vermont. Our very own PSC Bernard (Big Ben) Thompson is slated to be the next Chairman for the Eastern States Conference. It would be an honor for me to nominate such a hard working and dedicated comrade to that high office.

Thank you, to all of you, for your continued and dedicated service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and to the United States of America.



(L-R): Donald Doell, Junior Vice; Commander Jim Vinsonhaler; PSC Ben Thompson; Sr. Vice James McNally and Surgeon Robert Barnhart, all pledge their support for Ben Thompson, who has been endorsed by our Department for a run at Eastern States Chairman.

James McNally Senior Vice Commander



**James McNally
Sr. Vice Commander**

It is most gratifying to hear that the Department of New York VOD winner, Mathew Warren, is a young man that my Post sponsored. I look forward to attending the National VFW Community Service Conference in Washington, DC, to wish him the best of luck in the national competition.

Speaking of community service, VFW Post 3452 in Tualatin, Oregon, has really set a shining example of what a Post can accomplish. This VFW Post persuaded the City Council to approve a resolution adopting the 671st Engineer Company, a U.S. Army reserve unit that was mobilized for duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The VFW Post then coordinated a yearlong campaign to collect donated personal care items for the troops. The Post enlisted the aid of schools, Boy Scouts, The Elks, Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, and local chamber members in collecting nearly 2,500 pounds of items along with the cash to cover the cost of mailing the packages to Iraq. This effort culminated in a community-wide homecoming

for the unit, involving a parade and catered picnic for the troops and their families. Elementary school children sent letters to the troops, and High Honor Society members canvassed neighborhoods for personal care items. A trophy company donated the profits from the purchase of engraved, military-style dog tags, and the library waived overdue book fines in exchange for personal care items. The Post also organized four free tax-preparation sessions for dependents of deployed troops. A job well done!!

At our Mid-Winter Conference, a proposal from the National Organization was distributed to all members of the Council of Administration, concerning a new life membership plan. The benefits of the new proposal are stated as:

1. Increased dues revenues for Posts, Department, and National.
2. Protection from inflation.
3. Secure the VFW's financial future.

The time line for the "Plan E Life Membership" is:

- A. October 2004-June 2005 – Educate members to benefits of new plan.
- B. August 2005 amend the By-laws to incorporate Plan E.
- C. January 1, 2006 – New plan effective date.

See details of the plan in this issue. Our Department will be asked to vote on this proposal at our convention in June. Our incoming Department Commander will then reflect your feelings at the National Convention in Salt Lake City in August.



Discussing legislation at the Albany Conference – L-R: Chaplain Rev. Edward R. P. Kane, Surgeon Robert Barnhart, Sr. Vice James McNally, PSC Tony Ferrarese, Commander James Vinsonhaler, and Jr. Vice Donald Doell.

National Headquarters

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

General Orders No. 5

The attention of Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders is directed to Section 103, Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the manner in which applications for membership will be handled. Applications for membership of new, reinstated or transfer members must be voted on by the members present at a regular Post meeting.

*By Commander of John Furgess
Commander-in-Chief*

2004-05 Series

Legislative Chairman

Karl Rohde



Karl Rohde
P.S.C. & Legislative Chairman

There is a single issue that I wish to rouse a sense of passion in my fellow comrades and sisters. The VA budget is a hideous insult to all of us and to our comrades in arms overseas. There has always been a feeling that as the time grew between the last shot fired in a war the more veterans were abandoned by their government and the public at large. It appears with this most recent budget that time has been shortened. We are being forgotten as the guns are blazing. If your Post, Council or District only does one thing! At your next meeting, get letters of outrage out about this budget. No details are needed. Just explain to our two Senators and your local member of Congress that this VA budget and the proposals it contains are an insult to all who have taken up arms to defend this country and freedom and to those still serving. No petitions, no pre-written letters. Have envelopes or post cards with the appropriate address on them, postage, if possible and simply state that you object to the budget and that it must be changed. Please do this for the VFW, do this for your fellow veterans; but most importantly, do it for those who still serve our nation.

Our recent Legislative Conference has been called, by misinformed members, a disaster. While we would have liked more than a single member of the Assembly to attend our trip to the hill, it was far from a disaster. We presented our message to the Honorable Paul A. Tokasz, the Assembly Majority leader. I am sure that he will spread our message for the VFW. Vice Chairman Cliff Lockwood and I visited several key legislators that included long conversations with Senator Larking and his people and Assemblyman Roy J. McDonald. Assemblyman McDonald is a new member of the Assembly Legislative Committee. Both are friends of ours, and we can look to both of them for support. There was also an excellent number of Senators, Assemblymen and staffers who attended our evening cocktail reception. I apologize for the faulty communication between us and the Assembly and Senate members. We are in the process of reviewing how we notify them and our membership for future legislative conferences.

Jim Wilson of Schenectady sent me an interesting article that may be put another wrinkle in our annual trip to the hill.

New rules in the Assembly will require that members be present to vote on the floor. In the past members who had checked in with the clerk could register a yes vote in advance; only those voting no had to be present. New rules would end this practice. Many Assembly members used this time to meet with constituents. Also, they are going to start meeting on Tuesdays, a day reserved in the past for committee meetings and constituent meetings. We will have to monitor this issue to gauge how it will impact on our Legislative Conference.

Also, please not that I am asking those of you who will travel to Washington for the National Legislative conference to make it a point to visit with your elected officials. It is with great sorrow I announce that I will not be able to attend to fulfill my duties as your Legislative Chairman and a member of the National Legislative committee. I have just begun my student teaching assignment in preparation of securing teaching credentials. The Monday and Tuesday of that conference, I am being observed in the classroom. Please accept my apology and please help me pick up the slack by visiting your Congressional offices.



P.S.C. Karl Rohde and P.S.C. Ben Thompson put the arm on an alleged Birthday Boy.

State Surgeon

Robert E. Barnhart

Disaster Relief Fund Update

Florida Hurricane Relief

As of January 28th, 2005, the response to my letters to all Posts, County Councils and Districts appealing to donation for the Hurricanes in Florida has yielded \$8,045.00. Our committee of myself, Commander Jim Vinsonhaler, and State Adjutant Art Koch was in contact with the Department of Florida to decipher how to distribute these funds. It was decided that we forward the proceeds directly to the Department of Florida because they have an established committee for the sole purpose of distribution of donations received.

At the Department Legislative Conference on January 9th, I presented a check in the amount of \$5,500 (total that was received as of that date) to our Past National Commander Jack Carney, who is from the State of Florida and who delivered it to the Department of Florida office. We continued to receive funds after that date to the tune of approximately

\$2,500.00. This amount was forward to the Department of Florida on January 28th.

I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Department officers to thank all of you for your response to this cause.

Preservation of the Disaster Relief Fund

I hope that you will continue to contribute to this fund to build up a reserve for any future situations so that we are immediately prepared to assist those who are desperately in need. You can clip out the Donation Form below to send in with your payment. And, don't forget to include this in your next Community Activities Report!

Thanks, again, for your anticipated support!

Please send your donation to: VFW State Headquarters, Dept. of New York, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204 and earmark your check "disaster relief fund".

Judge Advocate

Philip C. Schiffman



Philip C. Schiffman
Judge Advocate

Judge Advocate's Ruling on the Right of a Member to Examine

seconded that you be permitted to examine the Post Quartermaster's books and records, and set forth your reason for making this request to wit: whether funds of the Post which are being paid to the Post Quartermaster are being taxed, and the sums withheld for taxes are being paid to the proper taxing authorities.

If your motion passes on the floor, and you are denied access to the books and records of the Quartermaster, you may advise the membership of the Post that they are in violation of Federal and State laws, and that even though the Post maybe incorporated, each individual member of the post will be personally liable to the taxing authority for any tax funds owed to the Federal and State Governments. You might want to consider, in view of the above, your liability regarding payment of such taxes.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to communicate with my office.

Yours in comradeship,
Philip C. Schiffman, PSC
Judge Advocate
Department of New York
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Dear Comrade,

I want to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated January 18, 2005 and which arrived in my office on January 21, 2005.

You requested that I make a ruling on the following question: Is a member in good standing permitted to examine the books, records and/or documents of the Post Quartermaster?

Our National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure make no provision for the right of a member in good standing of a Post to examine the Post Quartermaster's books, records and/or documents. I know of no precedent by way of custom and usage that might convey a right of this kind of a Post member.

You indicate in your letter that you have made a request to examine the Post Quartermaster's books, but that it has fallen on deaf ears. It is suggested that at your next regular Post meeting, you make a motion and have it



Don't forget OTI if you want to learn more about rules and regulations.



L-R: Past Commander-in-Chief Jack Carney, Surgeon Robert E. Barnhart, Commander James Vinsonhaler – Commander is accepting a Disaster Relief check for \$5,500.

Thanks for Your Support

Bob Barnhart, our State Surgeon, would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to all those who supported him by purchasing "Big Bee Raffle" tickets for his advancement. The drawing was held on January 9th, at the Department Legislative Conference in Albany. The following were winners:

Name, City	Ticket Seller
\$25.00 Winners	
1. T. William Bossidy, Palmetto, FL	Jim Longendyke
2. Eileen Comfort, Port Jervis, NY	Charlie Flieger
3. Ken O'Keefe, Breezy Point, NY	Ed Madson
4. Mick Santivenere, Poughkeepsie, NY	Bob Barnhart
5. Fred Black, Staten Island, NY	Bob Barnhart
6. Jack Carney, P.N.C., Melbourne, FL	Jim Longendyke
7. Margaret Daley, New Paltz, NY	Karen Barnhart
8. Norma Hartkopf, Pennellville, NY	Jim Fields
9. Karl Conly, Pomona, NY	Mike Drucker
10. V.F.W. Post 4947, Wurtsboro, NY	Post 4947
11. Christine Goddard, Long Island, NY	Ed Madson
12. Bruce Paley, Kingston, NY	Jim Longendyke
13. Fred Smith, Newburgh, NY	Bob Barnhart
14. Ralph McCumber, Ruby, NY	Bob Barnhart
15. Harold Burke, Jr., Schenectady, NY	Harold Burke, Jr.
16. Jerrie Cacossa, Newburgh, NY	Mike Drucker
17. Jim Jerkowski, Tillson, NY	Bob Barnhart
18. F. H. Turner, Holland Patent, NY	F. H. Turner
19. Joe Turco, Rosendale, NY	Bob Barnhart
20. Ralph McCumber, Ruby, NY	Bob Barnhart
21. Joe Mangam, Newburgh, NY	Ed Madson
22. George Clark, Stone Ridge, NY	V.F.W. Post 686
23. Ed Madson, Wallkill, NY	V.F.W. Post 962
24. Jim Barden, Phoenicia, NY	Paul Cutrone
25. Howard Holanchock, Tillson, NY	Bob Barnhart
\$50.00 Winner	
1. Ed Madson, Wallkill, NY	V.F.W. Post 962
\$75.00 Winner	
1. Phyllis Thomas, Balston Spa, NY	Dist. 3 Cmdr. Joe Brooks
\$100.00 Winners	
1. Ron Mironchick, New Paltz, NY	V.F.W. Post 8645
2. Tom Ronayne, Greenlawn, NY	Geo Clarke
\$200.00 Winner	
1. Fred Black, Staten Island, NY	Bob Barnhart
\$1,000 Winner	
1. D. Colleran, Newburgh, NY	Ed Madson



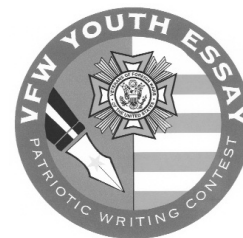
Quartermaster Jim Longendyke spins the "Big Bee Raffle" wheel in support of Bob Barnhart, Surgeon's advancement.

Patriot's Pen Contest Winners

Michael Spellman, Department Chairman, Patriot's Pen Contest

The following are the winners for the Patriot's Pen Contest at the Department level and how they finished. If you have any questions, you can call me at 315-736-2456.

1st Place – \$500.00 Bethany Rawleigh Post #2674 Watkins Glen Southern Tier Co. Council District #5	4th Place – \$100.00 Emily Hoffman Post #6394 Syosset Nassau Co. Council District #2	4th Place – \$100.00 Sarah Risley Post #5005 Geneseo Western NY Co. Council District #7
2nd Place – \$300.00 Nicholas Burton Post #9588 Monticello Sullivan Co. Council District #2	4th Place – \$100.00 Catherine Shampine Post #6338 Gouverneur St. Lawrence Co. Council District #4	4th Place – \$100.00 David Fiorito Post #412 Chili Monroe Co. Council District #8
3rd Place – \$200.00 Maureen Mahoney Post #2475 Glen Falls Hud-Mohawk Co. Council District #3	4th Place – \$100.00 Victoria Silliman Post #8647 Mayville Chautauqua Co. Council District #6	



Department Patriot's Pen Participation Report Summary

Department of New York

Participation Totals:

50 Posts, 30 Auxiliaries, 3,537 Students, 146 Post Winners Advanced, 8 Districts and 8 Auxiliaries, 3 County Councils and 3 Auxiliaries

Actual Amount of money awarded to participating students:

Posts	\$8,719.00
Districts	\$1,800.00
County Councils	\$425.00

Department Awards:

First Place	\$500.00
Second Place	\$300.00
Third Place	\$200.00
Other	\$500.00

Additional Expenses associated with Patriot's Pen Program:

Posts	\$2,355.00
Districts	\$620.00
County Councils	\$0.00
Department	\$200.00
Other	\$0.00

Total Savings Bonds \$12,444.00

Total Additional Expenses \$3,155.00

Add Total Savings Bonds (column left) and Total Additional Expenses (column right) for **Grand Total – \$15,599.00.**



At every gathering of the Department, religious services are provided by Chaplain Rev. Edward R. P. Kane. Oh yes, he's still in the Army!

Department of New York Voice of Democracy Winners (2004-2005)

The Voice of Democracy **First Place** winner is **Matthew G. Warren** from Frewsburg, New York. He is sixteen years old and a sophomore at Frewsburg Central School. He was sponsored by the John W. Tiffany VFW Post No. 53, Jamestown, in District Six. Matthew will be going to Washington, D.C. in March to compete at the VFW National level.

This year's **Second Place** position goes to **Matthew A. Welsch** from Fairport, New York (Perinton Memorial Post No. 8495, Fairport, in District Eight) and **Third Place** is held by **Paul W. Bisso** from Morrisonville, New York (Edward and Moses Wells Post No. 125, Plattsburgh, in District Four).

The Runner-ups are:

Ashley Teatum: Staten Island, NY (Sgt. Michael J. Lagetti Post No. 2159, Rosebank, District Two)

Daniela G. Bruzzi: Hicksville, NY (William M. Gouse, Jr. Post No. 3211, Hicksville, District One)

Lindsay H. Gillard: Fulton, NY (Fulton Post No. 569, Fulton, District Five)

Christopher G. Scheer: Ancram, NY (Copake Post No. 7955, Copake, District Three)

Kristina M. Conroy: Arcade, NY (Hendershot-Manness Post No. 374, Arcade, District Seven)

Congratulations to all of you,

Michael W. Webster

State Youth Development & Scholarship Chairman

(Voice of Democracy)

Billie LeBlanc

Ladies Auxiliary Patriotic Art/Voice of Democracy Chairman



Posts That Have Donated to the POW/MIA Fund

Thank you, Vincent Esposito, POW/MIA Chairman

Posts	Amount	Posts	Amount
248	\$50.00	6811	\$25.00
5465	\$50.00	325	\$25.00
357	\$50.00	1434	\$25.00
7337	\$50.00	400	\$25.00
6001	\$50.00	5558	\$25.00
420	\$50.00	260	\$25.00
2782	\$50.00	9217	\$25.00
1400	\$75.00	2064	\$25.00
7228	\$100.00	8858	\$25.00
4915	\$100.00	William Kelly	\$25.00
153	\$100.00	John Santora	\$25.00
3064	\$100.00	John Scherer	\$20.00
2246	\$100.00	Vin Norverino	\$20.00
4787	\$150.00	273	\$10.00
2813	\$200.00	103	\$10.00
375	\$250.00	John Lamonica	\$10.00
3025	\$25.00	7795	\$10.00
5942	\$25.00	1305	\$10.00
487	\$25.00	Grattan	\$5.00
628	\$25.00	Frank Stark	\$5.00

Biography of Matthew Warren

Hello! I am Matthew Warren. I am sixteen years old and a sophomore at Frewsburg Central School in Frewsburg, New York. Some of my hobbies include, drama and theater club, singing, acting, writing, reading, using the computer, playing video games, baking cookies, and watching shows on the Food Network channel. I am active in a Saturday morning bowling league at Jamestown Bowling Company in Jamestown, New York. I recently was nominated and chosen as the Art/Music student of the month from Chautauqua County for the month of October. I also placed first in New York State for the annual Optimist Club oratorical competition last year. Over the past two years, I have been taking voice lessons privately and entered in NYSSMA solo singing exhibitions, receiving 27 out of 28 points two years ago, and 26 out of 28 points last year, placing in the outstanding category. For the past six years, I have been on the Frewsburg stage in musical productions such as Professor Harold Hill in a variety of musical numbers, and recently the Bishop in "Anything Goes". I am also the editor of our local school newspaper, The Bear Facts. For the past four years, I have worked backstage for the Robert H. Jackson Elementary School's Drama Club productions and have enjoyed it greatly.



Matthew Warren
Department VOD Winner

Bowling Chairman

Wilbur A. Gray

The opening ceremony for the 42nd Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars State Bowling Tournament will be held at Sunset Bowl in Geneva on Saturday, April 23rd, at 9:45 a.m. Following the ceremony, all bowlers will start their double and singles events at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Also, each Saturday of the tournament, April 30th and May 7th, these times are in effect.

The team events will be held on each Sunday, April 24th, May 1st and May 8th, times will be at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. You must report to the lanes at least 45 minutes before receiving your assigned lanes. You must be a paid member to be able to bowl.

Your host, the Waterloo Memorial Post 6433 and its Ladies Auxiliary, has planned a fun-filled weekend for all bowlers and guests. If you have any questions, you may call (315) 789-9815.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilbur A. Gray



Post #395 – St. James – Adopted Infantry Unit Company B of the 1/69th serving in Iraq. Post members celebrate while remembering their adopted unit. The Christmas Party – L to R in foreground: Service Officer Jim Burke, Tom Finn (blue jacket), Ralph Snak, Colin Jupp, and Jerry Reardon, (red sweater), Commander, AMVETS Post 55.

Buddy Poppy 2005 Mid-Winter Conference Report

Veterans Day purchase of Buddy Poppies has been very rewarding. Your Buddy Poppy acquisition to the completion of 2004 has surpassed 205,500, which is 26,000 over the identical period last year. Goal of 700,000 requires Memorial Day orders to exceed 594,500 or 73%.

Based on last year's totals, we continue additional purchases even with a Buddy Poppy increase of \$15.00 to \$130.00 per thousand.

Buddy Poppy program is the most important within the Veterans of Foreign Wars community. With proper execution, your post will be able to care for the needs of your Post members as well as your entire community. Proceeds are designed to assist your Welfare Fund exclusively. Therefore, every Post in the Department of New York should consider purchasing a minimum of 500 Buddy Poppies.

All Buddy Poppy purchases must be processed through the Department of New York VFW in order to receive proper credit from National. Assistance from each Post will help attain 700,000 Buddy Poppies by June 2005. This goal is attainable. Memorial Day orders will be processed quickly if ordered prior to conclusion of January 2005.

This concludes Buddy Poppy 2005 Mid-Winter Conference Report.

Yours in Comradeship,
Fred P. Schwally



Boy Scout Report

From Benjamin Singer
Post and Queens County Chairman

What makes this day different from all other Tuesdays? December 14th, 2004, the Hilton Hotel in N.Y.C. had the 2004 Eagle Scout Hall of Fame induction. That is the difference. Eagle Scouts from all over were invited. The affair was on the third floor. The cocktail reception of cheese and wine was great. On one side of the room, the Greater N.Y. Councils, Boy Scouts of America had displays set up for each of the five boroughs of Queens.

As you walked around Eagle Scouts recalled last years' affair with fond memories.

At the precise time of 6:30 P.M., dinner and awards presentation began. This affair went like clockwork. During the meal, they had a slide show of the honorees. Thomas S. Bain, Managing Director of Black Rock, Inc.; Kevin R. Hackett, Chief Operation Officer of Rockerfellow Group Development Corporation; Ted Gamble, Managing Director of Prescott Group, Inc.; Peter D. Norris, Former EVP and Chief Investment Officer AXA Financial, Inc.

I was one of 500 Eagle Scouts in attendance. Hon. John C. Whitehead requested all of the Eagle Scouts to stand. Five hundred Eagle Scouts stood. The only persons that were not Eagle Scouts were the waiters. Then Mr. Whitehead asked all eagle Scouts that became Eagles in 2000 to 2004 to sit down. He asked the same question and went back to 1929. I sat down for 1946. After I sat down, we still had two Eagle Scouts standing. They were in the nineties. Everyone applauded when each group sat down. Part of the ceremony, we saw pictures of Ten Mile River Scout Camps. Like everything else, our Scout Camps are getting older. We need to replace and repair on a grand scale.

It was suggested that we leave the Boy Scouts something in our wills. Every Eagle Scout received an Eagle Scout Directory, from the Greater N.Y. Council, Boy Scouts of America, Empire State Building, 350 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10118

Thank you,
Benjamin Singer

P.S. I wore my VFW Cap with pride during the opening ceremonies, Post 4787.

We are pleased to announce the new location of the Buffalo VFW Regional Office.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
130 S. Elmwood Avenue – Suite 626
Buffalo, New York 14202-2484
Phone (716) 857-3348
Fax (716) 857-3484

Connie Williams
Claims Consultant
vfwille@vba.va.gov



Post Department Commander Harold Burke, Jr., making his rounds of some of the State Service Office personnel. Looks like a tough job to me, "Doc".

ECHO TAPS Honors Between Two National Cemeteries

On Saturday, May 21, 2005, there will be an attempt to connect two National Cemeteries together with a line of brass players performing TAPS.

This attempt will involve 600 or more players to form an audible connection between Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira, New York, and Bath National Cemetery in Bath, New York, a distance of 41 miles.

By playing the most recognizable musical symbol of our American Military – TAPS, we will HONOR and REMEMBER all Veterans and build a common bond among the community, the family and the American Soldier.

Our goals are 1) play a tribute to honor our active military personnel, our living veterans and those who have already marched through Heaven's Gate, 2) raise awareness of our National Cemeteries and the need for live buglers to play TAPS at military funerals, 3) create a new generation of buglers and recruit individuals to play TAPS for our deceased veterans as part of their final honors and 4) establish a world record for the number of brass instruments players playing TAPS – in an echo format – between two points.

Any individual or group can participate as a performer as long as they can actually play TAPS. Non-musical individuals or groups can participate as volunteers. Please check out our website at www.echotaps.org to see how you and/or your group can become a part of this history-making event.

Bugles Across America is one of our key sponsors and individuals from 15 states and as far away as California, are participating in this magnificent event. However, we still need your support. As you can imagine, an event of this magnitude requires many hours of organizations, hundreds of buglers, volunteers, and of course, financial backing. We encourage you to check out our website to see how you can help.

You, your band, drum corps, or organizations are invited to be a part of this event as a player, volunteer, spectator or financial supporter. Additional details are available at:

Website: www.echotaps.org
E-mail: Echotaps2@Wmconnect.com
Phone: 607-937-5619

Les Hampton
Chairperson – ECHO TAPS

CASH CASH CASH CASH CASH CASH CASH

Service Officers Raffle 2005

Dear Comrades, Sisters and Friends:

The Gold Chevron Ball Raffle Committee will, once again, sponsor our State Service Officers Raffle for the benefit of our State Service Officers with a Spectacular Cash Raffle with a total of \$1,300 cash prizes that will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2005, at our Gold Chevron Ball located in Syracuse, New York.

If everyone will sell the Raffle Tickets, we will once again have a very successful raffle, but we need your support. Last year, thanks to all of you, we made over \$10,000, which was an all-time high for the raffle; and I know that with your support, once again, we can do even better this year. Just look at these prizes:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st Prize – \$500.00 Cash | 5th Prize – \$100.00 Cash |
| 2nd Prize – \$300.00 Cash | 6th Prize – \$50.00 Cash |
| 3rd Prize – \$200.00 Cash | 7th Prize – \$50.00 Cash |
| 4th Prize – \$100.00 Cash | |

Once again, this year the Raffle Committee is offering a Special Deal for anyone selling 100 Raffle Tickets. A \$25.00 Cash Rebate. The Raffle Tickets are based on six (6) for \$5.00; therefore, you will receive 120 Raffle Tickets and all we want is \$100.00; and you will receive a \$25.00 rebate. There will also be two (2) \$50.00 Cash Drawings for all 100 Ticket Sellers Only.

If anyone is interested in selling some extra tickets for this worthy cause, please contact us at 845-331-1785 or e-mail us at TeamJimma@aol.com. Our Raffle Committee hopes that everyone will contact us, and we will send you extra tickets immediately!

Please make all checks payable to Dept. of New York VFW and return them in the envelope for ticket returns. State Commander Jim Vinsonhaler will present a Special Award of \$100.00 Cash to the Top Ticket Seller for the 2005 State Service Officers Raffle.

Drawing Saturday, April 16, 2005 at the Gold Chevron Ball.
Raffle Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Good luck and thanks.

Sincerely yours in comradeship,
Jim and Mary Longendyke
Bob Barnhart, George Clarke, Eddie Hedin

Squeakies Scrambles 65 years 1998 turned into VFW Children's Home Scrambles 1999 by VFW Post 2883, Newark, New York, earned \$1,300.00 in 1999; 2000-\$14,00.00; 2001-\$1,500.00; 2002-\$3,100.00 and \$1,600.00 and \$1,500 for No. 2 Home to replace rugs and furniture, which had not been done in 20 years.

2003-\$3,400.00, \$1,900 and \$1,500.00 No. 2 Home finished the job and did their ice cream parlor. Two thousand and four was a good turnout-\$3,800.0 for the Children Tournament 2005, July 30, 2005, had 36 teams 2004, expect the same or more.

John Coffee, Jr.
Commander of Post 1231, Canton New York and Golfer teeing off at 10 for our \$5,000 hole-in-ones.



Four pretty faces and two guys – Surgeon Robert Barnhart (center) shows off his Hospitality Room at the Legislative Conference to Past Commander-in-Chief Jack Carney.



Post 2472 Kenmore – presented a check for the Canteen Fund in the sum of \$1,000.00. L-R: Clayton Burden, Junior Vice; Charles Catalina, Service Officer; Michael Finnegan, Director of the Buffalo VA Hospital; Dominic Lorigo, Quartermaster and Walter Jansen, Adjutant.



Vincent Siesta receives a very large Certificate of Appreciation for many years of dedicated service to the Department of New York – (L-R): Harold Burke, Jr., P.D.C.; Vincent Siesta, State Senior Photographer; Commander James Vinsonhaler, and Past Commander-in-Chief Jack Carney.



L-R: Commander James Vinsonhaler, Past Commander-in-Chief Jack Carney, Nunzio Motla, Post #37 (95-years-old), and Mike Pascal, Membership Vice Chairman.



Commander's Hospitality Room – (Center) Junior Vice President Christine Merriweather has possibly found a pearl or something in the snacks.



Membership in attendance at one of the many Committee meetings.



Commander James Vinsonhaler addresses the Albany Legislators while the other three wait their turn – (L-R): Auxiliary President Terry McGarr, Commander Jim Vinsonhaler, Past Commander-in-Chief Jack Carney, and Past Commander in Chief Paul Spera.



Post #395 – St. James – Comrade Ralph Snak marches with (L to R) Smithtown Highway Superintendent Daniel Donnelly, State Senator John Flanagan, Congressman Timothy Bishop, and Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick.



1955 Front Line Ambulance (Korea Era)

Shown standing on the left of the vehicle is Alden Memorial Post 7967 Commander William Suszka. Standing on the left is James Cooper, who recently acquired the vehicle. The vehicle is in excellent condition and Mr. Cooper has graciously offered to provide the vehicle for use in parades and other veterans' functions. This picture should evoke many memories of veterans that have had occasion to be transported in this type of vehicle during their military service. Submitted by Post 7967 Quartermaster Clarence Buob.



Christmas Morning 2004

Lawrence T. Smith, Jr., 7th District Commander of the VFW from Post 9000 Corfu, NY is shown giving a check to Kate Martin Voluntary Service Specialist at the VA Hospital in Batavia, NY. The money was raised by the 7th District VFW to help the patients at the VA hospital. At left is Zane Caskey of VFW from Post 202 Holley, NY. He has been Santa Claus at the VA Hospital in Batavia, NY on Christmas morning for 17 years!



POST #9592 LEVITTOWN



Details of Plan E. Life Membership:

- A. Will require a Bylaw Amendment for implementation. Departments will be requested to approve National By-law change at their conventions. They can then submit as a National By-law Change.
- B. Will be promoted and administered in the same manner as the existing Life Membership Plan, through dues notice and other marketing.
- C. Will have higher fees so that payout can be larger.
- D. Will have an automatic escalator based on an index to periodically increase fees and payouts based on inflation (i.e. every three years).
- E. Professional actuaries (Palmer & Cay Actuarial Consultants) will establish the new fee schedule based on the following factors:
 1. Desired payout of \$27.00 (\$9.00 for Post, Department, and National)
 2. Assumption rate (assumed annual interest rate) of 6.5%.
 3. Life expectancy of VFW Life Members.
- F. Preliminarily, Palmer and Cay Actuarial consultants have projected the fees and will be:

Proposed LM Plan E Fees

Present Fees		Projected Fees	
Thru age 30	\$245	Thru age 30	\$425
Age 31-40	235	Age 31-40	410
Age 41-50	215	Age 41-50	375
Age 51-60	195	Age 51-60	335
Age 61-70	165	Age 61-70	290
Age 71-80	125	Age 71-80	225
Age 81+	85	Age 81+	170



Post #3211 — Hicksville — Welcome Home Party for the 800th Military Brigade — L-R Brig. General William Terpeluk, Commander; Commander William Walden, Post 3211; and George Lang, Medal of Honor recipient-Vietnam.



Post #3211 — Hicksville — Wives and family members serve the soldiers and their families of the 800th Military Police Brigade.