

Hope all Post are doing well in these challenging times we all are being forced to endure. Post have succeeded through their anxiety and found that doing business through the internet is easy and secure. Now the next trial for these Posts, if they haven't already, is to conduct membership online.

We have now entered into the 2021 membership year and we are presently in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Department and our division of membership. I have reviewed the list of cleared Post and found that 3 Post have not cleared. One Post, Post 2019, has just been newly chartered. Ada Post 185 has responded and was given direction to proceed and confident their membership cards will be forthcoming. Waynesfield Post 395 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Post that hasn't responded. Perhaps our District Commander and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice can look into this matter so all Post will be cleared. These Post will not receive membership cards until Department receives their Post Officer Forms and their Post Consolidated Report. The Post Officer Forms must be filled out even if the officers are staying in positions.

Department News: A resolution is on the horizon that will benefit our Post in small communities that are struggling to sustain department membership requirements. On December 5, 2020, the DEC will be presented Resolution 21-02 to revise the Department Constitution and By-laws, Article IX, Section 2, requesting the level of membership requirement amended from 25 to 15. A study of the 528 Post in the Department disclosed that 25 Post may lose their charter if this resolution is turned down. 2<sup>nd</sup> District is well aware of the outcome as we closed Cairo Post 133 this year for this reason.

I will be sending out soon information on a new Department 888 membership engagement program. This program is being formed to eliminate the Department 888 membership and move them to a nearby Post. Each Post in our district will need to declare the acceptance of 888 Membership at National for this program to succeed.

National News: **Congress passes bill to provide additional funds to veterans' treatment courts.** Today, there are 561 VTCs and other Veteran-focused courts across America and VJO(veteran justice outreach) personnel at every VA medical center. Although VA does not provide funding directly to VTCs, VA supports VTCs through the participation of its VJO specialists as members of VTC treatment teams and through the health care services it provides many Veteran participants. This month, the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act of 2019 (HR 886), which already passed through the House of Representatives and Senate, has been moved to the President's desk to be signed into law. This legislation creates a program through the Department of Justice that would provide funding and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal governments that have existing VTCs or are interested in starting one in their community.

Next District Conference will be held at Fort Recovery Post 345, September 13, 2020, 09:00.  
District Executive meeting will be at 08:45. Please make arrangement to send a representative from each Post to the conference.

Kent Long, Adjutant  
2<sup>nd</sup> District