



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 9143 Cumming, Georgia



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9143, 1045 Dahlonega Hwy. Cumming, GA (770)887-9275 <http://vfwpost9143.com/>

Commander's Corner

Momentum builds momentum. We are coming off a pretty good run over the past six years; All-State several times and All-American several times, including both this past year. Although doing the programs and reporting them are important, that is really the easy part. We do what we should and report it regularly. The bigger hurdle is membership; new AND retention. While new members are often needed to replace members that leave the flock for whatever reason, and are always welcome, it's the keeping of the members we already have, and have a vested interest in, that deserve our attention as well. Getting 20 people out of a group of 100 to participate in something can be tough. That's 20%. But getting 20 out of 400, that's only 5%. If you maintain 20%, the work force is now 80. When I got elected in April, I set a goal; to reach 300 in membership. We have already reached that number. I guess we were closer than I thought. So, I have modified my goal...I'd like to see Post 9143 not only hit 330 (10% increase from 300), but also break 90% on retention. I know we can do it.

With the new VFW fiscal year upon us, so comes annual membership dues. While our Post did amazing and reached 118% in membership, retention was still lower than expected. Currently, because of the new year beginning, we are at 11%. I'd like to work on 15-20% each month, to get us closer to the magic 100% by January or February. Last year, John Kepler, Ryan Hubbard and myself worked a few hours on a few Sunday afternoons, at the post, contacting expired or about to expire annual members. This seemed to work pretty well. Recruiting and retention, although the focus of our Sr. Vice Commander, is not their sole responsibility, neither is it solely their responsibility. I am sure any assistance offered to make a few phone calls, or send a few emails, a couple times a month would be greatly appreciated and greatly beneficial to the Post.

The Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen scholarship themes are out. Our Post needs a chairman that can get to the schools and promote the programs, get the teachers and students excited about the programs, and follow up with the collection and judging of the entries. Please contact myself, or Sr. Vice Kepler if you are interested in heading this up or if you are interested in judging the entries. The themes are as follows;

Voice of Democracy: **My Responsibility to America**

Patriot's Pen: **The America I Believe In**

Together, as a team, we can succeed and continue to make Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 9143 one of the best in the country. To make that happen, we need to...

LEAN FORWARD, NEVER QUIT !!

In comradeship and faith,

David