

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9143

No one does more for Veterans



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

Commanders Corner Article

5/10/2022

The VFW's reporting year ends on June 26, 2022. Janita Mastin, the incoming Commander has very good plans and progressive ideas that will take the Post into the future. Since Commander-elect's nomination and acceptance to be the next Post Commander, we have had committee and planning sessions to pass along the present Post operations, concerns, issues and recommendations.

Over the past two weeks, we, as a collected group and voice. There has been necessary updates and changes that will put the Post in a positive manner and better span of control. These updates/changes were necessary to meet the U.S. Federal tax laws, VFW National, District, and Post rules and regulations. That being said, changes/updates had been made to the organizational charts, positions' roles and responsibilities, Chair positions, and titles. The Officers and Committees are working together over the next two months with the Commander-elect to create a smooth transition.

I am taking a moment to discuss, "rumors". Recently, during the special house committee, Adjutant/Commander-elect commented about how "rampant" rumors are within our Post. The rumors must stop! As a reminder, rumors are defined as, *an unofficial interesting story or piece of news that might be true or invented, and quickly spreads from person to person. (Cambridge Dictionary)*. Janita is very particular about the spreading of rumors. She had indicated those rumors need to stop. Please contact one of the Officers if you have questions and would like to discuss our updates and changes to the Post's operations.

There has been a new Chair position created called the "Post's Special Events Coordinator". This position had been created to streamline scheduling, coordination, and accountability for events at the Post. Please see, Janita Mastin, for details and if you are interested in applying to this position.

As we continue to streamline the many positions and re-title positions the "House Maintenance" person is now titled "Post Property Manager." This person will be responsible for the Post's property and facilities' grounds upkeep, facilities maintenance, and other necessary repairs/updates. There will be several other positions to support the maintenance of the Post's property. These positions will report, coordinate and communicate with the Post's Property Manager.

During the VFW's Year 2021-2022, I accomplished the goals that I set out to accomplish, addressed several major issues, over-came challenges and obstacles, and remained transparent in my actions. These are some of the accomplishments made during this year:

- Addressed Comrades complaints, concerns, and issues regarding the up-keep of the Post's kitchen;
- Post's storage building – removal of all unnecessary items and clean up; coordination with the Crappy Group of the removal of their items from the Post's property;
- Post's electronic sign project completion;

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- Met all of the Post's scholarship requirements as indicated in the Georgia Department Commander's handbook'
- As a post, completed all requirements in Dept. of Georgia Commanders handbook
- Supported the communities' parades – Cumming's Christmas and Independence Day parades.

As a result of all of the hard work and support of the current Post's staff we achieved and met all of the requirements for "All State" award. As of May 6, 2022, Post 9143 made the "first cut" to be selected as 1 of 17 out of 102 Posts selected in the first round and two districts. This is truly an honor and I couldn't have done this without all of the Post's Officers. Thank you!

As I wrap up my 40 years of service as a Fire Fighter, 25 years with the City of Alpharetta Department of Public Safety. I am looking into retirement and relocation. Along the way I joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars and had served in many roles as:

- Begin in 2007 as a Post Trustee and Safety Committee Chairperson
- Served on many committees in the post and as Jr. Vice Commander since 2008
- District Chair position starting as Jr. Vice Commander since 2010 and working my way to Sr. Vice to present, and stepping down this year.
- Department Safety Chair since 2012 to present, stepping down this year.
- Served on several VFW investigating committees for the Department of GA VFW
- Led Post activities to include: Turkey Shoot and scholarship programs coordinator and judge; coordinated Buddy Poppy drives; cooked and served at Memorial Day Post breakfast and Thanksgiving events, and as a BINGO staff member.

I had the opportunity to serve under the outstanding leadership of the Post's past Commanders Donald Hughes, Richard Knight, and David Hopkins, Jr.

- Former Commander Hughes had received several awards for "All State" and "All American" and who had received the title of "Mr. VFW" where I had served as his Jr. Vice Commander.
- Former Commander Richard Knight, where I had served as Jr. Vice Commander
- Former Commander David Hopkins' an "All State" and "All American" award recipient, leadership where I served as the Sr. Vice Commander.

As is served and supported the VFW's mission which is *to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.* These honorable times intertwined with my service as a Fire Fighter. I cherish all of the memories, times, and friendship that I had made along the way.

I am now ready to move into a new and exciting chapter of my life. I look forward to retiring from the Fire Service, marrying my finance, and eventually moving to South Carolina to support my parents. Kathleen and I have family in the area so we will return from time to time to visit.

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Finally, there is much work to be done here at the Post. I am asking please come out and get with me and the commander elect along with the staff to volunteer for positions. Your interest and support are and will never be taken for granted. We appreciate any amount of time and talents to support the Post's Comrades, Veterans, and Community. We can't do it without our precious volunteers. You mean the world to us and need more of you to keep the Post open and programs available in support of Veterans camaraderie, as advocates on behalf of all veterans, and to give back to our military and communities.

Post 9143 has an awesome volunteer program where the more points you earn through volunteerism of the Post, Veterans, military members and their families' rewards grow to pay for your membership life & legacy life levels and items to purchase at the VFW Store.

Again, I want to say thank you for electing me and allowing me to represent you as the Commander this past year and I hope I met and exceeded your expectations.

Sincerely,

John A. Kepler, Commander

