

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

This year is starting a little late but know that a lot is happening. As I'm writing this, I'm preparing for School of Instruction. So there will be some overlap, but all the information is still good.

There are some key dates to be aware of:

- September 27th – Leavenworth Fall Leave Festival. This is a fantastic opportunity to come out and enjoy an enjoyable day (it's often very sunny) and you can pass out Buddy Poppies along the parade route. This is also an opportunity to share your patriotism and pass out flags and leaflets regarding flag etiquette.
- October 17th – National Home has a by-law amendment that is up for vote. You should have received an email with instructions on how to vote. If you have not received your email, please contact the National Home to ensure they have your correct email.
- December 31st – Last day to get a National Home lifetime membership at \$50.
- January 1st – All National Home lifetime memberships will be \$100.

There are a couple of new things we are trying this year at Department.

- Awards: Top Three Posts and Auxiliaries will be recognized at Department Convention.
 - Awards based on total Poppies ordered. First place Post \$15, First place Auxiliary \$15
Second place Post \$10, Second place Auxiliary \$10, and Third place Post \$5, Second place Auxiliary \$5.
- The year before last National Home came out with some new banks, and many of you purchased them. This year at the June Convention there will be a contest on how well you have decorated your bank to bring attention to the National Home. This will be done separately from the Buddy Poppy display and is open to both Post and Auxiliary. We will have some banks available for purchase at SIO and through out the year, please contact either Hardy Nettles or myself to make arrangements, price will be \$15.
- Joint Special Project this year at both the National and department level is to make improvements at the National Home to include a small convience store mainly with store equipment such as refrigerators, and freezers for food.
- I have some Buddy Poppy child pins for sale \$10 each. All proceeds will go back to the National Home.
- We are encouraging all Posts and Auxiliaries, when they make their donations to National Home, to send them via Department. The reason for this is that every May the Sr Vice Commander and Sr Vice President visit the National Home, and there is a parade where all the departments line up and hand over a check. For the past, several years the Department of Washington has been one of the leaders in handing over the largest checks. You will still get recognized by National Home of your donation.
- Congratulations to Auxiliary #2289 for winning the National Citation and \$25 for hosting the most outstanding activity and/or event to recognize or celebrate the VFW National Home's 100th birthday.

Sincerely, Christine Dougherty, cdbears_2000@yahoo.com, 206-406-0435

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PS, Here are some pictures of the pin, and of our Department Commander & President in front of Washington Cottage when they went out to visit the National Home.

