



**To: Department Leadership**

**From: Shirlee Frias-VFW National Home District 10 Trustee**

**Re: National Home Trustee Report-September 2024**

**Please share this communication with your respective Chairmen and/or members by sending in monthly mailing!**

**Join the FACEBOOK Group at [District 10-VFW National Home](#)  
**Join the FACEBOOK 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Group at  
**[VFW National Home 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration 2025](#)******

**Greeting All Life Members of the National Home,**

Welcome to the 2024-2025 VFW/VFWA year. I am excited for a wonderful year representing the VFW National Home as your District 10 Trustee. I am even more excited to celebrate the National Homes 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday starting in January 2025. Please let me know if you need any talking points or other items of promotion for the home and/or the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

- I will be visiting the Department of Kansas' Midwinter January 10-12, 2025.
- I plan to visit the Department of Texas' Midwinter in January of 2025 as well.
- I plan to attend the Luau Fundraiser for Post/Auxiliary 7835 in Granbury, TX the first week in March (tentative)

**ACTION ITEM:**

**Please have your Department Quartermaster/Treasurer send in an updated "deceased list" to Sue Alverson at the National Home. We would like to remove those who have passed on, so they are not receiving email/mail.**

**DISTRICT 10 NEWS**

- **Please have your department consider purchasing a Centennial Brick in honor of the National Homes 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. They are \$500 each and will be placed in the Centennial Garden. It is limited to 1000 bricks. You can also purchase these bricks individually, through our districts, etc. This is for VFW/VFWA/MOC/MOCA.**
- **DID YOU KNOW-You can look up a brick you purchased or was purchased in your name? Go to the NH website and to the tab that has the bricks. Hit Control F**

**and you can search by name. You will then know where that brick is placed on campus.**

### **Executive Director-Mike Wilson**

- Paving and striping are done.
- Record breaking year for both convention and Ohio/Michigan Weekend.
- The Pollett House is coming along nicely. It should be walk-through ready by October.

### **Programs-Angie Harkins**

- 34 houses occupied.
- Miranda (UofM intern) finished her program with the National Home and graduated on August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- 16 kids enrolled at the EEC. Will have 2 more in the coming weeks.
- Received a \$10,000 Stem Grant from Trans Canada to upgrade the computer and science lab.
- Laura taught the Heroes to Hives program to the new class for two months.
- One of our 4H bunnies had babies (7) and was not able to participate in the fair. She will be shown next year, and we are currently finding loving families for the baby bunnies.
- EEC received a class pet. You guessed it, a baby bunny. The kids are very excited and will take great care of it.
- We had an amazing summer full of a lot of fun events and now are kids are back to school.

### **Marketing & Development-Sue Alverson**

- Virtual House tours are in process and will be on the website soon for all to view. First two are Arizona and Illinois 2.
- Donations received at National Convention \$76,911
- Donations: OH & MI State Days/VFW Riders Day
  - Ohio Day \$235,591
  - Michigan Day \$11,961
  - VFW Riders Day \$12,860
- Beginning to organizing the “Corey Spencer Alumni Circle” design committee.
- Charity Navigator notified the Home that it has received a 4-star rating for the second consecutive year. This third-party endorsement is used on solicitation pieces to let donors know we are an organization they can trust and that we meet or exceed best practices and industry standards for charity accountability, finances, fundraising practices, donor privacy, and follow leadership and organizational culture best practice.
- Donations
  - 12 Recurring Gift donors (Home Front Hero) added
  - 306 Centennial Life Memberships added in July & August

- 45 Centennial Bricks added in July & August

### **Welcome Center-Lisa Mahan**

- VFW Riders/End of summer party event.
- Preparation of the Welcome Center/Apparel store. Set up of three stores in the Welcome Center.
- Literally hundreds of Life Member Certificates/ Centennial Life Member Certificates mailed. Also Mailed 1200 plaques in one day.
- Preparation for the Café' event. Setting up 4 check- out stations and three stores.
- Preparation for the Golf events. Towels, golf balls, souvenirs etc.
- New pictures placed in the frame of our new Trustees.
- Online sales have increased! Please check out all of the items online

### **Facilities Report- Rick Stiver**

- Road Paving project is complete.
- The water softener project is complete.
- Pollett house is very close to being completed.
- Electric Distribution Infrastructure is 90% complete. Only two more transformers to do.
- Hired a new Facilities Coordinator.
- Completed new roofs in Arizona, New Hampshire, Nevada homes.
- Installed two new whole house generators on California 1 and 2
- Brown house is purchased and will be ready for our guests.
- Michigan / Ohio day, VFW Riders was a success.
- Started the Centennial Garden project

### **Social Media/Historian-Meghan Mitchell**

- In August we had our Ohio & Michigan Days, VFW Rider's Day.
- August showed a total of 25 visitations from the communities all over the country.
- There have been a lot of planning meetings regarding upcoming events. We have CAFÉ, our Annual Golf Outing, the Judd-A-Thon in Naperville, Illinois and Indiana days all planned in September.
- Continued work on Facebook pages.

### **IT-Jesse Foster**

- Server Upgrade project has been completed. Trimmed the number down to 5 Active servers and all upgraded to Windows Server 2022.
- Have been busy planning and reviewing what needs to be done to accomplish a partial or full move to Share Point for documents/file storage.

**Finance Department-Lynn Hagerman**

- Working with Executive Director & Directors on staying on budget.

Warm Regards,

**Shirlee Frias**

VFW National Home Trustee, District 10

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