

VFWRG Program 2019/2020

Department of Pennsylvania

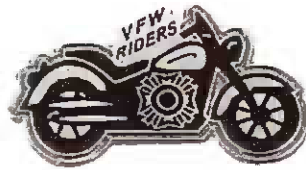
David A Dibelius, Chairman

2019/2020 Goal:

- Recruit
- Inspire
- Donate
- Experience

Recruiting involves a few things...

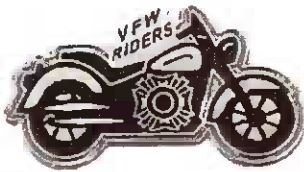
1. Spreading the word about the VFWRG across Pennsylvania. Our Mission is to promote the love and joy of motorcycling to the veteran community, and to encourage others to participate in the VFWRG
2. Taking the bold steps to start a VFWRG. This is not difficult to accomplish, and you WILL have support along the way.
3. Exploring recruiting opportunities.
 - a. One goal will be to establish an oversight within the department/Department Level Ride Group/Committee to allow groups to expand beyond the post, which will encourage riding and participants. It will also allow areas where there may not be a large riding population the opportunity to participate, and to be part of the VFWRG.



Inspire is exactly what it means. To inspire others to join and participate. The VFWRG allow members of the VFW, Auxiliary, and civilian population the chance to be a part of the groups. This is the **ONLY** program in the VFW that permits such participation. Yes, civilians are allowed to join a VFWRG. The National VFWRG Guidelines outline the limits of that membership, and does **NOT** constitute membership within the VFW itself. This program has the opportunity to grow in Pennsylvania, where we have one of the largest populations of motorcycle riders in the country. We also have the opportunity to expand the public's perception of the VFW in a positive way. The VFWRG does not promote alcohol, and exists to benefit and portray the VFW in a positive manner.

Inspiring others can help battle issues present in every generation of Veterans. Motorcycling has been proven to lessen anxiety and stressors of PTSD, and is in fact recognized as a form of therapeutic activity. Isn't this worth exploring to benefit our veterans?

Donate to the VMS Program! Every year, VFWRG's converge on the national convention to participate in the Howard Vander Clute Memorial Motorcycle Ride. While many members fly or drive to the National Convention, over 100 riders ride their motorcycles. Our Chairman has ridden to 3 of the last 5 years of conventions, including Kansas City in 2018. The state of Virginia collects and donates over \$15,000 per year by fund raising events and having posts/districts donate their VMS into the run. If even half of our posts within PA donated to VMS through the VFWRG program, we would be donating well over \$10,000 per year presented at the National Convention. This type of spotlight put PA back on the map as one of the top states in the organization. It creates PR and notoriety, and those types of things create better recruiting opportunities. **Our goal for fund-raising this year is in fact \$10,000**, which if raised, will be taken to the National Convention by our Chairman next year when he rides to Reno from Eastern PA. If our department, Districts, and Posts help raise the money, the Chairman will make sure National knows where it came from!



Experience the joy of riding. Experience the ability to help with this program. Not everybody rides, but everyone can participate. Post 1810 is a great example of how volunteers can help the VFW within this program. At the National Convention in Pittsburgh, their volunteers not only helped with executing the memorial ride, but they also coordinated rides to the Flight 93 Memorial as well as to local events...and many of these volunteers were NOT regular VFW, but supporting members at the time. Thanks to the VFWRG new guidelines and to merging the auxiliary, many supporting members internationally are now auxiliary or VFW member riders.

A ride goal for 2019/2020 is going to be a state-wide ride either to the flight 93 memorial, or to the 9/11 Memorial in NYC. Plans are in the works to raise money for both the VFW and for the 9/11 Victims Fund, recently reapproved in Washington. Watch for information from the Chairman on that one.

You may have questions on all of this, and that's ok. Our Chairman will do his best to make himself available. Unfortunately, He is away on Active Duty Deployment with the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserves, Army Reserves, and Navy Reserves in Eastern Kentucky on a Medical Mission, and will be returning home on August 12th. Please email him at PAvfwrider@comcast.net or contact his cell phone at 267-718-4475

This is the year PA can take the reigns on this program, but not without yur help and support!

Thanks again for all you do for our Veterans, the VFW, and our Country.

Dave Dibelius