



The Swamp Fox



VFW Francis Marion Post 4667 Newsletter March 2008

Post Officers

Commander	Turk Johnson
Sr. Vice Commander	William Baldwin
Jr. Vice Commander	James Brown
Quartermaster	William Sword
Adjutant	Cecil Carter
Chaplain	Joe Ellis
Judge Advocate	J D Baldwin
Surgeon	John Long
Trustees	Cecil Carter
	Hugh Slagle
	Claude Heath



In This Issue

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 2 - Commanders Corner | 7 - Scholarships |
| 3 - Welcome to New Members | 8 - Post 4667 Members to Run For District 9 Positions |
| 3 - Taps | 8 - Post Nominating Committee |
| 3 - Rifle Squad and Funeral Detail | 9 - News from the Auxiliary |
| 4 - Donations | 10 -Bingo Workers – Thank You |
| 4- Voice of Democracy | 10 -Memorial Day Celebration |
| 6- Patriot’s Pen | 11 -Sam’s Club Membership |
| 7- Swamp Fox Available by Email | |



COMMANDERS CORNER

Greetings Fellow Comrades;

It does not seem possible this is the year 2008. We accomplished several things in 2007, and hopefully will have many accomplishments this year. Your support and suggestions are always appreciated. We could not be successful if it was not for each of you.

We had a very successful Christmas Party with everyone enjoying the entertainment and food. Especially the children enjoying our own Santa Claus, David Brooks.

The 9th District Meeting was held on Sunday, January 13th at our Post and I was happy to see each of you that attended. State Commander Jimmy Lee Wallace was our guest speaker. He spoke of the need to recruit new members as well as keeping all our members active.

I personally would like to see our membership at 100%. This goal is not out of our reach with a little help from each member. A list of the inactive continuous membership roster is available from Bill Sword, Quartermaster.

We were also honored to have Rebecca Pepin come and tell us of her book and to autograph the book, Faces of Freedom, for you. This is for a great cause. The proceeds go to the Wounded Warrior Project and Fisher House to help those wounded veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

We had officials from Sam's Club at our February meeting to discuss organization membership at a reduced cost. Even if you are already a member you can convert to the VFW membership card, which will save you at least \$10.00 a year. To qualify for this discount membership we need at least 50 people to participate and applications are at the Post. The deadline to sign up is March 10, 2008.

Plans are being made for our Second Memorial Day Celebration to be held on May 26, with the parade beginning at 10:00 AM. If you can help in anyway with this celebration or have any ideas to make it more of a success please do not hesitate to let us know.

It is time to start distributing scholarship applications to the schools. Should you know of a deserving senior that doesn't attend a local high school but would like to apply for one of our scholarships please let us know.

I would like to make you aware that David Brooks plans to run for Commander of 9th. District and Jim Haulsee will run for Senior Vice Commander. We need your support. Please make plans to attend our District Meeting in Pulaski on Sunday, May 4, 2008.

Let Bill Sword, Quartermaster, know if you can attend so lunch plans can be made. We ask for your prayers and continued support.

Commander Turk Johnson

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Marshall D. Clark

Kenneth D. Jackson

TAPS

It is with sincere sadness and regret that we report that the below comrades who have departed our ranks and gone before us to join that last great encampment of our Supreme Commander. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.

11-08-07	Harris, Claude E.	1041 Upper Poor Valley Rd.	Saltville	24370
11-14-07	Lockhart, Denision C.	5886 Lee Hwy	Atkins	24311
12-04-07	Cochran, Robert E. Sr.	175 Crestwood Dr.	Chilhowie	24319
12-03-07 (L)	Jones, Lonnie R.	131 Deerfield Ln.	Marion	24354
12-09-07 (L)	Martin, Raymond P.	752 Henry St.	Marion	24354
01-04-08 (L)	Buchanan, James. W.	105 Amherest Place	Goldsboro, NC	27534
01-04-08 (L)	Ross, Robert A.	1967 Hwy 16	Marion	24354
01-06-08 (L)	Kimberling, Arlis R.	209 Wentworth Ave.	Roanoke	24012
01-25-08	South, Jesse R.	PO Box 306	Saltville	24370
01-27-08 (L)	Graybeal, Kent. P	PO Box 511	Marion	24354
02-03-08	Hagy, Frederick G. Jr.	120 Staley St.	Marion	24354

RIFLE SQUAD AND FUNERAL DETAIL

From January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 the Rifle Squad and Funeral Detail has participated in 51 funerals (25 VFW members and 26 non-members), 14 Color Guard details, volunteered 1,613 man hours, and driven 14,936 miles.

We sincerely thank the members of the Rifle Squad and Funeral Detail for giving of their time to pay tribute to our fellow veterans who have honorably served their country. Regardless of weather conditions these fine men have always been there to honor those who have served.

(Member name/attendance for 2007)

Bill Baldwin	4	Major Bowen	43	Jimmy Coe	45
Richard Dolinger	7	Joe Ellis	20	Roy Gullion	3
James Haulsee	46	Claude Heath	1	Porter Heath	52
Robert Hill	7	Turk Johnson	13	Edward Kuhn	26
Cecil Pafford	45	Ed Pennington	17	Delmar Pennington	44
Ray Perrotta	16	Abe Slep	17	Charles Thomas	20
Benjamin Umbarger	33	Max Waak	27	Ed Hagy	4
Keith Hagy	2	Clayton Collins	4		

Also thanks to Marine Corps personnel Sgt. Kurlis, Sgt. Clark, and Cpl. Bond for helping with color guard events throughout the year.

DONATIONS

Salvation Army	Red Kettle Drive	\$1,000.00
Veterans Care Center	Salem VA Center	\$300.00
Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute	Christmas	\$300.00
Keystone Marion Youth Center	Donation	\$300.00
Marion Weekday Religious Education	Donation	\$600.00
Marion Little League	Buddy Poppy Sales	\$1,000.00

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Created in 1947, the Voice of Democracy (VOD) scholarship program is an audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12 that annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. The first-place winner, who competes with all the first-place VFW Department winners, receives a \$30,000 scholarship that is paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school.

Besides competing for the top scholarship prize, as well as other national scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$16,000, each Department's first-place winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Target.

The VOD program is endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals' contest criteria and is designed to foster patriotism by allowing students the opportunity to voice their opinion in a three to five minute essay based on an annual theme.

Historically, the theme is purposely kept broad in scope to allow the participant flexibility in interpretation to encourage originality. Since the VFW is a patriotic organization, the annual theme always will be related to patriotism. This year's theme was "My Role in Honoring American Veterans".

This year's school sponsors were the English Department at Marion Senior High School and the Social Studies Department at Chilhowie Senior High School and both received \$200.00.



Major Bowen has chaired the Voice of Democracy program for 20+ years.



Emi-Elizabeth Scott, Chilhowie Senior High, is presented a check for \$350.00 from Hugh Slagle for First Place

Elizabeth R. Rush, Chilhowie Senior High, is presented a check for \$225.00 from Hugh Slagle for Second Place.



Emily D. Roop, Marion Senior High School, is presented a check for \$125.00 from Hugh Slagle for Third Place.

PATRIOT'S PEN

The Patriot's Pen is sponsored, nationwide, by the VFW and gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy with the prospect of winning U.S. savings bonds. The top 43 national winners all receive at least a \$1,000 savings bond. The first-place award is currently a \$10,000 savings bond plus an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the winner and a parent or guardian.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by local VFW Posts. Post winners advance to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The one first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW National competition. The winner from each Department (state) then competes for the national prizes.

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible. VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2007-08 theme is "Why I Am an American Patriot."

Essays had to be between 300-400 typewritten words. The students must write their own essay and all essays should have be typewritten in English with no color.

First Place winner, Samuel Taylor (not available for picture) received a check for \$225.00.

This year's Patriot's Pen coordinators for the Post were John Long and Martha Long.



VFW Post 4667 Winners



John Long presents a check for \$125.00 to Erin McGrady, Second Place winner

John Long presents a check for \$75.00 to Chaney Hambrick, Third Place winner



SWAMP FOX NOW AVAILABLE BY EMAIL

Any post member that would prefer to receive the Swamp Fox by email and not a hard copy by U. S. Postal Service, please send an email to vfw4667.swampfox@embarqmail.com indicating your desire.

The Swamp Fox is also available for viewing at www.vfwpost4667.org.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications are now available through the school guidance counselors, by calling the VFW at 783-7971, or by downloading a copy from www.vfwpost4667.org.

POST 4667 MEMBERS TO RUN FOR DISTRICT 9 OFFICER POSITIONS

Our Post needs your support of Comrades David Brooks and Jim Haulsee for District 9 Commander and District 9 Senior Vice Commander, respectively, for the year 2008-2009. Nominations for these officer positions will take place at the next District meeting to be held in May at the Old Dominion VFW Post 1184 in Pulaski.

As our great organization moves forward we face many challenges. To meet these challenges our leadership positions must be filled with those dedicated members who are **willing and able to work with** the Posts in our District and the State Leadership.

Comrade David Brooks David is a Retired Master Trooper from the Virginia State Police and a Life Member of the VFW. Upon graduation from High School, David served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1971. David served in Korea for 14 months from 1969 to 1970, serving as a Military Police Patrolman, Patrol Supervision, Security Sergeant, Military Police Desk Sergeant, and Provo Marshal Investigator. Upon leaving the Army David joined the Virginia State Police in 1972 where he was assigned to the Richmond area until July 1976. David then transferred to Wythe County Headquarters where he remained until 1993. David then transferred to the Virginia State Police Academy in Richmond as an instructor at the K-9 school until 2006 when he retired from the State Police after completing a very prestigious career serving the people of Virginia.

David has a proven record of high leadership abilities and has proven to be *most capable of working to improve the VFW*. David readily volunteers many hours of his time to help with a wide variety of projects to improve the VFW.

Comrade Jim Haulsee is a Life Member of the VFW. Jim has served as Francis Marion Post 4667 Senior Vice Commander for eight years and as Post Commander for three years. Jim also served as District 9 Commander and Surgeon from 2003 to 2004. I'm sure a number of past Post Commanders can recall working with Jim, when he served as Commander District 9. He has a proven record of high leadership and dedication to the VFW. Locally Jim is very active in our Post's funeral detail and assists with our bingo fund raising just about every Saturday evening. Jim does not hesitate to volunteer for any project that will aid and improve the VFW.

POST NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee has been picked to find the officers to serve our Post for 2008/2009.

Any member that may desire to run for a Post officer position please contact the Post or any member of the nominating committee.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for anyone else desiring to run for an office.

NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

Greetings Sisters,

The year 2007 is now history and we are moving forward with plans for an exciting year.

Since the Auxiliary has started meeting on the first Thursday of each month at the same time as the Post we have been having from twenty to twenty-two members in attendance.

At the December monthly meeting we furnished desserts for the meeting that were enjoyed by all.

The Sisters helped in decorating the Post Building for Christmas and also, helped to serve and prepared the refreshments for this party that was enjoyed by the members and children.

Winners of the grocery raffle were Richard C. Long, Johnny Carter and Emma Baldwin. Thanks to all the Sisters that made this raffle a success.

John Long gave the Auxiliary a knife and coin set which we raffled during the month of December. The winner of the raffle of the knife and coin set was Cheryl Martin.

Our District Meeting was held on Sunday, January 13, 2008, with fifteen auxiliary members attending. Thanks to all for bringing gifts to raise money for the cancer drive. Ellen Stogsdill, State Auxiliary President, gave a very informative speech on duties and regulations for the Auxiliary.

Plans are underway for the Memorial Day Celebration and we are asking for volunteers.

Your faithful attendance and support at our monthly meeting is appreciated.
Respectfully yours - President - Cora Lee Catron

Notice!! Life Members of Ladies Auxiliary. Your cancer insurance of \$4.95 for the year 2008 is now due. Please remit to Lena Wyatt.



**Jo Ann Tolbert, President, District 9,
Ellen Stogsdill, President, State of
Virginia, and Cora Lee Catron,
President, Post 4667.**

District 9 meeting of 01/13/08.

BINGO WORKERS – THANK YOU

The below Post VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members volunteered their time to work Bingo between January 01, 2007 and December 31, 2007. Without their help there would be no donations to our community members.

Curtis Anderson	John Arthur	J.D. Baldwin	Bill Baldwin	Cecil Carter
John Crabtree	Bill Falke	Paul Gray	Jim Haulsee	Harold Headlee
Claude Heath	Bob Hill	Turk Johnson	Joe Lamie	John Long
John Null	Cecil Pafford	Roger Rowland	Don Sawyers	Abe Slemp
Bill Sword	John Thompson	Bob White	Ottie Wright	David Brooks
Paul Knecht	Robert Farmer	Roy McNeil	John Harmon	William Hale
Jim Parlier	Jim Owens	Ruby Brooks	Penny Johnson	Pat Baldwin
Martha Long	Wanda Owens	Cora Lee Catron		

SECOND ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

The Memorial Day committee has started planning for the second annual Memorial Day celebration to be held on Monday, May 26, 2008. The celebration will start at 10:00 AM with a parade through downtown Marion followed by a Memorial service at the VFW Post and then a community barbeque (free food, beverages, and snacks) also to be at the VFW Post.

Memorial Day is to observe and honor those brave men and women of our Armed Forces who have made the ultimate sacrifice by giving of their lives so that Freedom can prevail.

The parade is scheduled to start near the Blue Ridge Job Corps and end at the intersection by Food City and Rite Aid. This will be the same route taken by the Christmas parade.

Helen Richardson (Memorial Committee member) and Carole Rosenbaum are attempting to compile a booklet, for Memorial Day, on those Smyth County service members that were killed during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the War on Terrorism and the war in Iraq. If anyone has information that could help, please call Helen at 276-783-7456 or Carole at 276-783-5824.

During last year's celebrations if you drove through town and passed the County Courthouse, you probably noticed the flags and crosses that were placed on the courthouse lawn. Flags and crosses of deceased service members will again be placed around the Town of Marion during the Memorial Day period. If anyone is interested in purchasing a flag and cross, the application is available at the VFW Post home or it can be downloaded at www.vfwpost4667.org.



Any organization, individual, or civic group desiring to enter the parade can obtain an application by either calling the VFW Post at 276-783-7971 or downloading it from www.vfwpost4667.org.

The Memorial Day committee is also seeking additional members. Further if any community member, organization or civic group that would be interesting in helping, please contact either the VFW Post at 276-783-7971 or Turk Johnson at 276-686-5085.

SAM'S CLUB ADVANTAGE PLUS MEMBERSHIP OFFERED TO VFW POST 4667

Membership

If the Post gets 50 or more member's to sign up for membership, Sam's Club is offering members the **Advantage PLUS** membership for \$30.00. This membership normal cost is \$40.00.

What's in Club?

Sam's Club Memberships provide the opportunity to save on a complete line of products such as quality jewelry, designer goods, sunglasses, crystal and collectibles, high end electronics, floral, apparel, organic foods and choice meats.

In addition to affordable luxuries and exciting treasure hunt items, Members also enjoy services including—healthcare, business, financial and personal. Examples include health insurance, web site development and maintenance, cost effective merchant credit card processing solutions and auto, boat & RV and travel programs.

SAM'S CLUB Plus® Members Get More!

- **Two annual Membership Cards** - One for you and one for a household member over 18 years of age.
- **Full shopping privileges at over 500 Sam's Club locations nationwide for Home and Business**
For Home, jewelry, tools, domestic housewares books, pet supplies, tires, special seasonal merchandise and more.
For Business, office supplies, business furniture, vending items, janitorial/cleaning supplies, paper products, food service supplies, computers and more.
- **Regular Club Hours**
- **Shop online at samsclub.com**
- **Earn up to 2% cash back with Sam's Club® Discover®** - Sam's Club Discover Plus Members can earn up to 2% cash back on up to \$1 million in purchases made at Sam's Club and at over 4 million locations where the Discover Network is accepted. This includes purchases made at Wal-Mart®, at restaurants, for travel and entertainment and more.
- **Complimentary health and medical discount card - a \$105 value** - As a Sam's Club Plus Member you receive a health and medical discount card complimentary. The program, offered through HealthAllies - a UnitedHealth Group Company, provides you access to more than 250,000 physicians, dentists, practitioners and wellness facilities nationwide.
- **Hundreds of dollars in savings on additional services** - Sam's Club Plus Members also receive additional savings and value on business services, financial services and personal services such as travel.

If you are interested in signing up for a membership complete the below application and return it to Post 4667 (VFW, PO Box 767, Marion, VA 24354) by March 10th.



Al Diamond and Candy Anderson from Sam's Club were on hand to answer questions about membership.

Sam's Club® Group Membership Program

We are pleased to announce our partnership with Sam's Club® to bring you the benefits of Membership through their new Group Membership Program. By purchasing a Group Membership, we are offering you, our valued employees, a way to save on personal items for yourselves and your families. Already a Sam's Club Member? Our Group Membership enables us to renew your current Membership for 12 months under the Group Program rate!

Our Company has agreed to participate in Level 1 (50 – 999 employees at \$30 each)

As an added benefit, our company has agreed to pay \$0.00 towards the \$30 Membership fee.

In order for our Group Account to be set up, we need to submit a roster with our Group Participants' Membership Application information. Please let us know your interest in joining the Group by completing the attached Group Enrollment Form and returning to our Group Account Administrator by the date specified below.

Group Account Administrator Name: _____

Phone / e-mail: _____ **Date Due:** _____

Sam's Club Group Membership Program Interest and Enrollment Form

Group Company Name:

YES, I would like to participate

NO, I would not like to participate

Employee Information:

Existing Sam's Club Member? Y/N	If Existing Advantage Primary, fill in last 9 digits of current Membership # (as appears on card)	First Name	Last Name	Telephone # (xxx) xxx-xxxx	
Address 1	Address 2	City	ST	Zip Code	Email Address

*\$30 Reduced Membership Rate applies for Groups with minimum 50 - 999 employees. \$25 Reduced Membership Rate applies to Groups with minimum 1,000 or more employees. All Membership is subject to Sam's Club Rules, and Sam's Club reserves the right to accept, refuse, or revoke Membership without cause. This flyer is for informational purposes only and any alteration of the content is prohibited and may result in refusal or revocation of Membership. Please visit samsclub.com or the Member Services Desk at your local Sam's Club for the full Conditions and Privileges of Membership.

VFW Post 4667 meets the first Thursday of each month at our Post Home on Goolsby Street. Our fellowship and meal begins at 6:15 PM with the business meeting starting at 7:00 PM. All members are encouraged to attend meetings to learn about the VFW, keep informed on local veteran's affairs, learn how we can help our community, and enjoy fellowship.

The Swamp Fox is published in March, July, and December. We welcome letters or recommended articles to be included. Letters and/or articles must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number for verification purposes. Due to space limitations, letters should be brief and pertain to VFW activities, military news, or items of interest to veterans. Address letters to: FRANCIS MARION POST 4667, Attn: Editor - Swamp Fox, P.O. Box 767, Marion, VA 24354 or email to: vfw4667.swampfox@embarqmail.com.

The Swamp Fox is available at: www.vfwpost4667.org. Comrade John Harmon maintains the Post web site. All comments or recommendation pertaining to the site should be addressed to john.harmon@jharmon.com

FRANCIS MARION POST 4667

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Inc.
P.O. Box 767
Marion, VA 24354
276-783-7971

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 23
Marion, VA 24354

POST NEWSLETTER	THE SWAMP FOX	MARCH 2008
-----------------	----------------------	------------