

A Message from State Judge Advocate Frank McGovern ...

Dear Comrades:

All real property (real estate) of a VFW Post should be vested in title on the deed recorded in the public records of your respective County in the name of the VFW Post. Any liquor license that a Post has should be held in the name of the Post Canteen or Home Association. There should be a written lease from the VFW Post, as lessor, to the VFW Canteen or Home Association, as lessee. To that end, all Posts should review their records to ensure that their Post's real estate is vested in title in the name of your VFW Post.

If the real estate to your Post is vested in title and recorded in the County Recorder of Deeds Office in the name of your Post's Canteen or Home Association, please transfer the real estate into the name of your VFW Post. There are transfer taxes involved with this conveyance of property between entities, normally two percent of the assessed value of the real property, since this deed transfer would be for nominal consideration (\$1.00 deed). Incurring this cost now is a small price to pay to ensure the strength of our organization for future generations.

In addition, all Post's should ensure that their Post By-Laws and Canteen or Home Association By-Laws are updated in accordance with the Post and Canteen or Home Association By-Laws as shown on the Department of Pennsylvania, Veterans of Foreign Wars website.

Remember, VFW By-laws require that "any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or [on] behalf of a Post..., shall be at all times under the direct control of the Post .... and all funds derived there from shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post... All money, property or assets of any kind or nature, as well as all books and records, owned, held or used by any any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or [on] behalf of a Post..., shall be the property of such Post..., and must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster.." Section 709 By-laws as amended July 25, 2012, effective August 24, 2012

Thank you to all of you for all you do for the VFW. Let's ensure the VFW remains the premier veterans' organization by continuing to do right things right. The Department's Headquarters staff and I are here to assist with any questions or comments regarding implementation of the above.