

Did You Know?

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That in the last six months as Service Officer I have attended three District Revitalization programs? The first one was held in Franklin Park, a northwestern suburb of Chicago. The second one took place in the inner city on the south side of Chicago and the third was at Morton Grove just north of the windy city. Each day of these events either I or my coworker, Terry James, would be available to answer questions on the various VA benefit programs. Fellow Legionnaires who were calling members to suggest transferring from Post 2910 to a local Post mentioned our availability and if interested their name and telephone numbers were passed to us. We then called back within 24 hours and assisted them. Those who went into the field knocking on doors also let the veterans know we were available and their names and phone numbers were also passed along to us for follow up. All of these events were successful in that many 2910 and expired members were transferred. From my perspective as a Service Officer we also met with some good results. Here are just a few examples.

1. A veteran was told by the government that his DD 214 was burnt up in a fire in St. Louis. We were able to get him a replacement copy from other sources. He will consider paying his lapsed dues.
2. The VA hospital denied a veteran enrollment because her net worth was too high. This was in 2011. We advised her that the VA hospital no longer counts net worth and she got enrolled. She also paid her lapsed dues.
3. A veteran was denied compensation for Agent Orange related diabetes back in 1983. He was unaware that the law was changed in the 1990's. I started a claim and he should be getting a favorable decision. He was already a member but signed up a friend as a new one.
4. A female veteran rated 70% service-connected was unaware of the new state law which eliminates property taxes. I advised her how to file for that. Oh yeah, she transferred into a local post from the 2910 list AND bought a PUFL.
5. A veteran was retiring to Florida and thought his Veterans Administration home loan benefits were only good one time. I set him straight and he will probably use it again down in that state.
6. A veteran didn't know that she could have "veteran" status placed on her Illinois drivers' license. She was given the procedures to follow and the documents needed. She will be visiting her local Secretary of State office next week.

7. A veteran was out of work for over a year and thought he was too old to still use his veterans' school benefits. As an Illinois veteran he was completely unaware of the Illinois Veterans Grant. He will start checking out a local state school and may return to college this summer semester.

These are just a few examples of our success. If your district is planning on having a revitalization project in the near future be sure you have your district or division service officer available for a few hours each day. It is really a very valuable membership tool.

Strength and growth in membership comes only through continuous effort and struggle.