



Pennsylvania

VFW DISTRICT 8



Commander's Philosophy

Our values are Service, Dedication and Integrity. Our mission is to serve our fellow Veterans, their families and our communities. *Service before self* means that we perform our duties with respect, regardless of the challenges we may endure and while relinquishing our personal stake in the outcome. We embrace a disciplined approach to rule-following, self-control, respect for authority and respect for the beliefs of others. We accomplish our mission through the *steadfast dedication and personal commitment* in the execution of our duties and responsibilities at the Post, District, Department and National levels. Our unwavering sense of loyalty to our mission and our people compels us to adopt a unified and determined purpose for all that we do in thought, word, and action. As we execute on our mission, we'll ensure that all our actions are firmly set to a foundation of uncompromising moral and ethical principles of integrity. Achieving mission success depends upon our ability to live out and *harmonize* these key leadership values each and every day.



John August Otte
District Commander

Guiding Principles

Well-Being

Your health and well-being are the top priority. We will personally support each other to achieve that top priority. We will invest time, effort and money for the foundation of this priority.

Serve Veterans and our members first

As the greatest combat veterans organization on the planet, our 123-year mission remains to ensure the care of Veterans and their families. Although service to the community and other civic and non-veteran organizations is important to our mission, they will never come before serving Veterans' needs.

Brilliant on the Basics

We will brilliantly execute the fundamental people programs of our business: Veterans Service and Support, Community Service, Youth Activities, Scholarships, Educational Outreach, Adopt-a-unit and Governance/oversight

District 8 Goals

- **Recruit and Retain** – We will work relentlessly to seek out new eligible members to bring into our ranks while ensuring our existing members feel welcomed, useful and fully engaged.
- **Post and District Fundraising** – Develop an aggressive and sustainable financial model to increase post and district income by 10%.
- **Mutual Support** – Actively attend, participate in and support each other's post events and activities.
- **Communication and Information** – We will Hyper-focus our communication and information dissemination efforts through an improved plan to increase the use of digital and social media
- **Increase Community service by 10%** - increase our engagement with our community partners through community and civic-related events
- **Integrate Our Auxiliary** – Treat our Auxiliary as true partners in our mission and consider them as "Force Multipliers" and include them in all we do.