



## **LOCAL 873 VETERAN'S COMMITTEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2025**

### **Veteran Committee Executive Member's**

**Chairman**  
Patrick Julian

**Vice Chairman**  
Joel Bolen

**Secretary**  
David Sherron

**Treasurer**  
Brandon Fulk

### **Chairman's Message**

Brothers and Sisters,

Our committee continues to grow in purpose, recognition, and impact. As we move into September, I want to thank everyone who continues to show up and represent Local 873 and our Veteran Committee with pride, especially through our volunteer efforts and veteran outreach.

This month, we proudly completed a second volunteer project with the Howard County Vietnam Veterans Organization—successfully installing a 200-amp panel and outdoor lighting to help power their annual reunion event. These weren't just tasks on a list—they were meaningful contributions to a cause larger than ourselves. And the recognition from the HCVVO was heartfelt, offering our volunteers both appreciation and access to their event.

### **Committee Updates**

We recently completed our second volunteer project with the Howard County Vietnam Veterans Organization (HCVVO). Six members of our committee stepped up to install a new 200-amp panel, install outdoor lighting for the newly constructed barns. This work will allow for safe operations during HCVVO's annual reunion, improving visibility and safety for vendors, veterans, and guests. As a token of appreciation, volunteers received a Veterans Committee hat and HCVVO gifted each Volunteer a free entry pass for the entirety of the reunion. Well done to all involved. Your work matters.

We're in active discussions with the IBEW Local 481 Veterans Committee about teaming up during the upcoming HCVVO Reunion (Sept 14–21). If this comes together, it will be a great chance to assist during the event, hang out and network with fellow IBEW veterans and strengthen ties between our locals. If you're interested in participating, please reach out to myself or Joel Bolen.

Starting this fall, Veterans Committee meetings will move to a quarterly schedule. After months of steady growth, successful volunteer projects, and relationship-building, we feel confident that the committee has strong momentum and structure in place. This change will give members more time between meetings to focus on completing action items and projects, a chance to rest, regroup, and avoid burnout and better alignment with major union events, holidays, and seasonal volunteer work. In the meantime, we'll continue sharing updates through newsletters, text/email chains, our facebook page and word of mouth at the hall. As always, if urgent matters arise or support is needed, don't hesitate to reach out to our executive members.

***Hoc Nos Defendemus   Semper Fidelis   Non Sibi Sed Patriae  
Semper Paratus   Aim High...Fly-Fight-Win   Semper Supra***



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### **Merchandise**

Local 873 Veteran Hats and Shirts: Available now at the hall. These are sold at cost by the Hall.  
Veteran Committee Coins and Hats: A Bulk order for hats are here; If you would like a hat, reach out to Patrick Julian or Joel Bolen. Reach out to Joel Bolen or Bill Percy for Veteran Committee Coins. All proceeds go toward supporting committee activities and veteran outreach.

### **Washington Watch**

In an effort to keep our veterans informed, we will be highlighting key legislation and policy changes each month that impact veterans, their benefits, and their families.

**2025 Claims Processing & Benefit Access Improvements:** The 2025 Federal Benefits Guide is now available online and in print. This comprehensive handbook covers everything from compensation and education benefits to mental health and home loans. The VA continues to expand access under the **PACT Act**, providing health care and disability support for toxic exposure, burn pits, and other service-related hazards.

**VA Budget Surpasses \$400 Billion in 2025:** Due to rising costs for mandated benefits and toxic exposure care, the VA's 2025 budget has exceeded \$400 billion, marking a significant increase from previous years.

### **Important Dates**

Vet Committee Meeting: October 27<sup>th</sup> 2025; 5:30 PM at the Red Dog.

HCVVO Reunion: September 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> 2025.

### **Phone Numbers/Emails**

Chairman-Patrick Julian: (260)330-5554; [patrickjulianjr@gmail.com](mailto:patrickjulianjr@gmail.com)

Veteran Coins-Bill Percy: [billpercy873@gmail.com](mailto:billpercy873@gmail.com)

### **Websites**

IBEW 873: [www.ibew873.com](http://www.ibew873.com)

### **Social Media**

Facebook: IBEW 873 Veteran's Committee

Members Only Page

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