

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

GENERAL ORDER NO. 6

JANUARY 2012

1. Winter Council of Administration meeting: The Winter Council of Administration Meeting will be held at the North Raleigh Hilton in Raleigh, February 3-5, 2012. There will be two business sessions, one on Friday, February 3, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and the second on Sunday, February 5, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Various committee meetings and training will be held Saturday morning with conference meetings set for Saturday afternoon. Make reservations by contacting the **North Raleigh Hilton, 3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27609, telephone (919) 872-2323**. Room rates are \$94 plus tax. Comrades are reminded that due to State By-Laws changes, no items can be introduced as new business unless those items have been advertised on the Department's website for at least 45 days. Council members wishing to introduce new business should send their proposal to the Department Headquarters as soon as possible.

2. Registration Fee at Council Meeting: In order to be more closely aligned with procedures at VFW National functions, State Commander Schoolcraft has determined that overall registration fees will be charged at the Council of Administration meetings and State Convention this year. The registration fee for the February council meeting is \$30 per person, payable in advance to VFWNC, P.O. Box 25337, Raleigh, NC 27611 or at the VFW Registration Desk. The registration fee will cover the food at the Friday evening Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen Banquet, the Department Hospitality Room on Friday and Saturday, and the goody bag with program booklet. All hospitality rooms, to include candidate rooms, will be closed from 6 pm to 9 pm Friday night during the Banquet. For those who do not wish to attend VFW social functions, they do not need to pay a registration fee. For those who wish to attend only certain social functions, the charge is \$20 for just the banquet and \$10 for just the Hospitality Room.

3. Endorsing Candidates for VFW Offices: Comrades acting as Department Representatives at District meetings are cautioned that they should not endorse any particular individual running for VFW office, unless they make it clear to all concerned that they are endorsing the person in their capacity as an individual comrade and not in their capacity as a Department Representative. Department Representatives are official stand-in's for the Department Commander, and must reflect the neutrality of his position as the Commander.

4. VOD and Patriot Pen program: In an effort to follow the lead of the VFW National organization, State Commander Schoolcraft has continued the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen programs at Department level this year. The top three VOD winners and their parents, and the top three Patriot Pen winners and their parents will visit Raleigh in the spring to meet the governor, visit the legislature, visit the NC Museum of History, and attend the VOD/Patriot Pen Banquet at the North Raleigh Hilton Hotel on Friday, February 3. Winners will receive their awards at their schools, where the VFW will

receive better and more widespread community publicity. The top three VOD/Patriot Pen winners will be awarded by Department line officers, while the 14 other VOD/Patriot Pen District winners will be awarded by their District Commander at the school. Awards will be conducted by Department and District representatives in coat and tie attire.

5. EMT/Firefighter/Law Enforcement Gold Medals: Those posts, through their district, who wish to submit nominees for the Department-level award of EMT of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year should submit them as soon as possible to Department Headquarters. Judging for these awards will be on Wednesday, 4 January. District level awards will not be awarded at a District Meeting, to include Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, Teacher of the Year, Law Enforcement Gold Medal, Firefighter Gold Medal, and Emergency Medical Technician Gold Medal. These awards will be presented at the winner's school or place of business.

6. Quartermaster Bond Information: The attention of all Post Officers is directed to Section 703 of the National Charter and By-Laws and Manual of Procedures, which requires that each accountable officer of the organization shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in the sum of at least equal the amount of funds and value of property for which, so far as can be anticipated, he may be accountable. The minimum Quartermaster Bond through Department Headquarters is \$3000.00. The fee for \$3000.00 is \$9.00. Additional coverage is available at \$3.00 per thousand under \$25,000 and \$2.50 per thousand above \$25,000. Bond forms were distributed to all District Commanders in June, and are on line at www.vfwnc.org. All quartermasters must be bonded immediately. There are no exceptions. If the Post Quartermaster does not have the required forms to order his Quartermaster Bond, he should immediately contact this headquarters at 919-828-5058 or at qm@nc.vfwwebmail.com or at P.O. Box 25337, Raleigh, NC 27611. It is the Post Commander's ultimate responsibility to make sure that the bond, once issued, remains in force by insuring that the Trustees accomplish complete and thorough audits of the Quartermaster and other bonded officials. Failure to bond the Post Quartermaster by 1 January 2012 will result in suspension of a post's charter. Those posts whose Canteen Managers, Bartenders, Bingo Managers, or Kitchen Managers are insured under the Employee Dishonesty Clause of their liability insurance policies must submit to Department Headquarters copies of the policy pages which reflect the insurance company name, the post name/number, the dollar amount of employee dishonesty coverage, the inclusive dates of coverage, and page explaining the coverage. Posts which have this coverage do not need to bond those employees with the Department. This type of insurance' Employee Dishonest Clause does not cover the Quartermaster or the Men's Auxiliary Treasurer, who must have a surety bond.

As of 20 December, the following posts do not have a valid Quartermaster Bond:

1957 Hickory	2574 Eden	2756 Thomasville
3702 Roanoke Rapids	4096 Norlina	5204 Forest City
6066 Nakina	6812 Hayesville	7314 Hamlet
9136 Mt. Holly	9158 Maxton	9751 Marshville
9850 Tarboro	10000 Hiddenite	10630 Hope Mills

NOTE: Districts 9 and 10 are not bonded. Failure to bond the District Quartermaster by 1 January will result in suspension of the district, and no Winter District meeting can be held until the bond is paid.

7. Canteen fees: Posts operating a Canteen as defined in the department by-laws and which have not done so should remit immediately to Department Headquarters the annual Canteen Fee of \$50.00 for the 2011-12 year. Those posts that do not submit this fee will be considered to be in arrears to the Department. **Failure to pay the Canteen Fee by 1 January 2012 will result in the closure of the post's canteen until the bill is paid.**

Posts which are operating a canteen without Department permission should immediately obtain such permission or risk closure and disciplinary action. As of 20 December 2011, the following posts had not paid their Canteen Fee:

1706 Lincolnton	2417 Henderson	
2908 Albemarle	4066 Shelby	5198 Canton
5305 Newton	6724 Paw Creek	7314 Hamlet
7339 Franklin	9899 Archdale	

8. Missing State Convention Delegate Fees: In accordance with Article VIII, Section 4, of the Department By-Laws, each post must pay a Convention registration fee of \$3.00 for each delegate and \$3.00 for the post commander. These fees must be paid whether the post attends the Convention or not. As of 20 December 2011 the following posts have not yet paid their 2011 Convention fees, and therefore are in arrears to the Department. **Failure to pay the 2011 State Convention Fee by 1 January 2012 will result in suspension of a post's charter.** Quartermasters should pay these fees to the Department Headquarters as soon as possible.

8969 Lumberton - \$6	9131 Salsibury - \$6	9136 Mt. Holly - \$6
9158 Maxton - \$6	9751 Marshville - \$6	10000 Hiddentite-\$6

9. Selling Real Estate: Attention is directed to Article VII, Section 709 of the National By-Laws, which reads in part: No Post shall purchase, sell or otherwise transfer title or any interest in real estate unless written notice of such proposal has first been given to each member of said unit and the Department Commander ten (10) days prior to such regular or special meeting at which the proposal is to be considered, and then only by two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval of the members present and voting at such regular or special meeting. The Department By-Laws extends the notification time to Department Headquarters to 30 days prior to such a sale. It is also considered a conflict of interest if any comrade or post officer involved in a VFW property sale makes any personal profit or income from that sale.

10. Transfer members vs New members: Posts are reminded that members transferring from one post to another should be handled the same way as new members, as there is no guarantee that the transfer member is eligible for membership in the VFW. The member desiring to transfer should fill out a Membership Application Form and submit it to the post with his proof of eligibility. The Post Quartermaster submits to VFW National a copy of the Membership Application Form, a VFW Annual/Life

Member Change Request Form (MCR), and a copy of the VFW Post Direct Dues Transmittal Summary Form with check. The transferring member also completes a VFW Transfer Member Declaration (a small brown card), which declares he has no debt or obligations to his former post. The receiving Quartermaster retains that declaration for life. If the transferring member is a life member, his life member card must be turned in to the Quartermaster and submitted to National as well.

11. Change to Department By-Laws Concerning Canteens: The 81st Department Convention in June 2011 approved the following change to the Department By-Laws, Article XVI, Section 5: It now reads *“Hours during which the Canteen shall remain open must be prescribed in the Canteen By-Laws. All activities will cease at a time to be in accord with local and state laws. Every Post Canteen shall be closed to members of the Post during every Post meeting, and to members of the District during the Joint and Comrades’ portions of the District meeting hosted by that Post. Similarly, every Post Canteen shall be closed to members of the Auxiliary during every Auxiliary meeting, and to Auxiliary members of the District during the Joint and Auxiliary portions of the District meeting hosted by that Post.”*

12. Check-writing from Posts to Department: Due to the change of the Department Headquarters computer accounting system from Peachtree to Quick Books, posts should prepare a separate check for each transaction sent to Department. For example, a Quartermaster Bond payment and a Canteen Fee payment should not be included on the same check. However, multiple payments for the same subject can be included on a single check, such as six Men's Auxiliary members dues being paid at one time.

13. New State By-Laws: 2011-2012 Department (State) By-Laws (paper version) are available for purchase from the department headquarters for the sum of \$2.00 per booklet, which includes postage. The State By-Laws are also available on a disk, which includes the by-laws, all department forms, the complete state directory roster, and all other department pamphlets. It is available from department headquarters for the sum of \$5.00, which includes postage.

14. New National By-Laws: 2011-2012 National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure (Podium Edition) is now available for sale at Department Headquarters. They have a black cover. The cost is \$10 per book, which includes postage.

15. Post Service Officer Guides: The most recent National Post Service Officer Guide (2011 edition) is available for purchase from the department headquarters for the sum of \$10 per guide, which includes postage.

16. Men’s Auxiliary: The By-Laws of the Department of North Carolina permit posts to establish a Men’s Auxiliary. Posts who wish to form a Men’s Auxiliary must obtain instructions on forming such an auxiliary, a *Request For Charter Of A Men’s Auxiliary* form, and Men’s Auxiliary application forms from the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster. They will hold a meeting, approve the formation of the auxiliary by the floor, and approve a set of post by-laws that includes procedures on how to form the auxiliary and any rules that apply to it, including dues. This set of by-laws and the

completed charter application form will then be forwarded to the Department Headquarters by the Post Commander for further action. Any post utilizing “social members” or “honorary members” or any other type of illegal membership will be disciplined.

Apparently there is some confusion on eligibility for the Men’s Auxiliary. Only the following persons are eligible for membership: husbands, widowers, fathers, grandfathers, sons, grandsons, brothers, and half-brothers of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the VFW itself. Note that the relative does not have to have been a comrade, but only has to have been eligible to be a comrade. Also note that service in any Armed Force does not make a person eligible for membership in the Men’s Auxiliary.

17. Roster Changes:

*Department Officers Section: Assistant National Guard Program Coordinator and Chairman of the SheServes Committee, Frances Crawford's, new address is 403 Whaley Road, Raeford, 28376.

*District 5 Section: The new Quartermaster of Post 8866 is Dellis “Tony” Griser, 2527 Bacon Bluff St. SW, Supply, NC 28462. Telephone 910-846-2133.

*District 5 Section: The new Quartermaster of Post 9408 is Anthony Vlach, 1177 Greensview Circle, Leland, 28451. Telephone 910-200-7810.

*District 6 Section: Post 2740 changed its meeting night from Wednesday to Thursday.

*District 12 Section: The new Commander of District 12 is William Smith at 612 Redah Avenue, Locust, 28097. The new Quartermaster of District 12 is Ivan Ward at 2706 Ash Avenue, Kannapolis, 28023, telephone 704-993-7842.

BY ORDER OF:

**JASON SCHOOLCRAFT
STATE COMMANDER**

OFFICIAL:

M. Bruce Edwards

**M. BRUCE EDWARDS
STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER**