

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

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 10

MAY 2012

1. Final Membership Push: District and post commanders need to make one more big push for membership in 2011-2012. If each comrade in the state were to sign up only one new member, the department would double in size.

2. Post Elections: Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election, and installation of Post Officers. Quartermasters or Adjutants must complete and return the election forms to National Headquarters and Department Headquarters **immediately following** the election of Post Officers. If the Post Quartermaster did not receive the National packet, contact the Department Headquarters at 919-828-5058 or qm@nc.vfwwebmail.com in order to be sent another copy. In completing the "Report of Election of Post Officers" make sure all information (names, addresses, telephone numbers plus the area codes) has been correctly listed. Post Officers shall be installed into their respective offices at a regular or special meeting held prior to the Department Convention (14-17 June 2012), but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed. **Distribution of the report is 1 copy to post, 1 copy to district, 1 copy to department, and the original copy to National. If completed online, National and Department will automatically receive a copy, the Post still needs to send one to District.**

3. District Elections: Each District will hold its annual District Convention (Spring Meeting) for the purpose of electing officers, on the date designated by the Department Commander. This date has been so designated as each District's normal May district meeting. Immediately following the District Convention, an election report listing the new officers must be made to Department Headquarters. Posts will elect delegates and alternates to the District Conventions at a regular meeting of the Post, held no later than thirty (30) days prior to the District Convention - one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing for 2012 at the time of the meeting. District Commanders and Adjutants have been sent a packet from Department Headquarters detailing the number of delegate votes allotted to each post and the procedures to follow for a correct District election.

4. State Convention: The State Convention will be held in Raleigh at the North Raleigh Hilton Hotel, June 14-17 2012. The outgoing Council of Administration will also meet on Thursday afternoon, the 14th. The telephone number for reservations is 1-800-445-8667, and tell the reservations clerk you want code WAR. The hotel deadline date to insure that rooms are available is May 15. There will be no dance at the convention, but there will be an Installation Banquet with a **Luau theme**, and a combined Department/Conferences large hospitality room. Social prices, if desired, are \$35 for a goody bag with banquet ticket and hospitality room entrance bracelet, or \$25 for just a banquet ticket, or \$10 for just a hospitality room entrance lei. Participants may purchase these items in advance from Department at 917 New Bern Avenue, Raleigh, 27601, or purchase them at Registration (if any are left available). The

Department will accept cash, checks, or credit cards. Both the Banquet and the Hospitality Rooms will be decorated with a Luau theme, and the Banquet will feature Hawaiian dancers. All participants are encouraged to wear tropical shirts or dresses to the Banquet and Hospitality Room. Participants may bring their own, and there will be luau shirts on sale at the Department VFW Store at Registration. Luau shirts from the Department range in cost from \$22.00 to \$28.95 depending on size. If participants wish to view the shirts, they may do so at www.lavfwnc.org.

5. State Convention Delegate Fees: Attention is called to Article VIII, Section 4: "Each member of the Department (State) Convention entitled to vote shall pay a registration fee not to exceed \$3.00. Each Post shall pay a registration fee not to exceed \$3.00 for each Post delegate to the Department Convention." Delegate credential forms to the Department Convention were mailed in early April to all Post Quartermasters according to the number of delegate votes to which they are entitled. Posts must register ALL delegates or the Posts may not vote any of them. Also, Posts must pay the Delegate Fees whether or not any delegates attend the Convention. Posts are cautioned that if they are in arrears to the Department, or have not turned in to Department at least the Jan-Feb-Mar 2012 Trustee Report of Audit, they will not be able to vote at the Department Convention.

6. State Convention Resolutions: If your post wishes to change the Department By-Laws or the National By-Laws or to change VFW National policy, it must submit a Resolution detailing the desired change. Resolutions to be considered by the Department Convention must be submitted in triplicate (3 copies) through the District Convention/Commander to the Department Adjutant at least twenty (20) days prior to the Convention (ie 26 May 2012).

7. National Convention: The 113th National Convention will be held in Reno, Nevada, from 21 to 26 July 2012. To make a reservation, visit the VFW website at www.vfw.org or mail your reservation form to the address on the form or telephone the VFW Housing Bureau. A reservation form was included in the last issue of the *VFW Leader*, or you can contact the headquarters for further information. North Carolina state headquarters will be at the Silver Legacy Hotel.

8. All-State Post Eligibility: North Carolina has been allotted a maximum of twenty-four (24) All-State Post Commanders and Quartermasters. These awards will be determined by the total membership as reported to Department Headquarters by the VFW National Headquarters computer statistics on May 15, 2012 at close of business. Buddy Poppy sales, Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, Teacher of the Year, community service reporting, National Military Services donations, attendance at district meetings, and a Post Commander's mentorship certification, as well as membership itself, will determine the winners.

9. District Commanders' Credentials: District Commanders will insure that a copy of their VFW proof of eligibility is on file with the State Adjutant/Quartermaster prior to their installation on 16 June.

10. Visitors to Post Canteens: Posts are under no obligation to serve any persons in their Canteen, except for their own Post comrades and auxiliary members. However, Article 16, Section 9 of the Department By-Laws points out that Posts may (if they wish) also admit other VFW members, armed forces members, other Auxiliary members, and members' bona fide guests. The word "Auxiliary" in

that Section now pertains to Men's Auxiliary members as well as Ladies Auxiliary members. If a post normally allows entry and service to visiting VFW comrades or Ladies Auxiliary sisters, they should also allow entry and service to visiting Men's Auxiliary members. In order to prove that a visitor is a member of the VFW or one of its Auxiliaries, he/she should be required to show a valid membership card. All posts are cautioned that the admittance of "social" or "associate" members to a canteen is strictly illegal under any circumstances, and can result in the temporary or permanent closure of a canteen.

11. Buddy Poppy Campaign: Commanders on all levels should be well into organizing their 2012 Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Sales. Poppies are available from Department Headquarters at \$109.00 per thousand with 100 as the minimum order. Commanders/Quartermasters are cautioned to use the current Buddy Poppy Order Form, and include \$6.00 shipping and handling. Poppy supplies, such as vests or collection cans, are no longer available from Department Headquarters. You need to order these directly from the Emblem & Supply catalog. Poppies cannot be ordered from National Headquarters.

12. Revealing VFW business to non-VFW personnel: All comrades are reminded that it is a violation of Article IX, Section 902(8) of the VFW National By-Laws to divulge any of the private business of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States with the intent or effect of embarrassing the Veterans of Foreign Wars or members thereof. Divulging the private business of the VFW may result in disciplinary action by the Department Commander, the result of which may include punishments from a reprimand to termination of membership in the VFW.

13. State By-Laws: The current version of the state by-laws (8&1/2 x 11) is available at department headquarters for \$2.50, which includes shipping.

14. National By-Laws: The 2011-12 version of the national by-laws and manual of procedure (with a black cover) is available at department headquarters for \$11.00, which includes shipping.

15. 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.

16. Fund-Raisers: Posts, Districts, and Conferences are reminded that, in accordance with the National By-Laws, they may only conduct fund-raisers within their geographical boundaries. Posts may conduct fund-raisers only in and around their post membership area. Districts may only conduct fund-raisers within the counties of their district. Conferences may only conduct fund-raisers within the counties of their districts. The Department may only conduct fund-raisers within the state of North Carolina.

17. Service Officer Class: State Service Officer Cleo Summers will once again teach his day and a half class for Post Service Officers at the State Convention in Raleigh on 15 and 16 June. If a post does

not have a trained service officer, they should send a comrade to this class and consider paying his hotel and mileage costs. The current 2011-2012 Service Officer Manual is available at the Department Headquarters now for \$11.00, which includes shipping, and will be available for purchase at the State Convention site as well.

18. Downloadable Online Forms: Many National and Department forms of interest to Post Quartermasters and Adjutants can now be found at the Department Website at www.vfwnc.org under the “Tools” tab.

19. DEPARTMENT COMBINED VFW/LADIES AUXILIARY ROSTER: THE 2012-2013 ROSTER WILL BE PRINTED NO LATER THAN JUNE 8; THEREFORE, PLEASE HAVE ALL POST ELECTION REPORTS IN NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND STATE HEADQUARTERS BEFORE JUNE 1st EVEN THOUGH THE OFFICERS ARE THE SAME AS LAST YEAR. ANY POST THAT CHANGES ANNUAL DUES, MEETING NIGHTS OR MAKES ANY OTHER CHANGES SHOULD NOTIFY DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS "IMMEDIATELY" BEFORE WE PRINT THE ROSTER

20. Flying Squadron District/Post Training: The Council of Administration has approved training for district and post/auxiliary level officers at the Eastern, Central, and Western Conferences of the Department of North Carolina. The training will occur at the following locations: Eastern Conference at Mt. Olive Post 9959 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, 4 August, Central Conference at an undetermined location from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, 11 August, and the Western Conference at Statesville Post 2031 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, 18 August. All District Commanders and Quartermasters and District Presidents and Treasurers are required to attend. District Commanders/Quartermasters and Presidents/Treasurers will receive driver reimbursement for up to two vehicles at \$.30/mile leaving from up to two central locations (since these officers frequently do not reside close to each other). Post Commanders and Quartermasters and Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers are strongly encouraged to attend, as this “Flying Squadron” training will be counted as their District’s required School of Instruction. Posts with one or no Auxiliary will receive driver reimbursement for one vehicle at \$.30/mile from the post home or a central location, and posts with two Auxiliaries will receive driver reimbursement for up to two vehicles at \$.30/mile from the post home or a central location if both Auxiliaries attend. Other post and auxiliary officers are encouraged to attend. A schedule of classes will be published at a future date.

21. Department Credit Card Capability: Effective 1 April 2012, the Department Headquarters has acquired the capability to accept credit cards for all types of payments. Comrades, Ladies, and Brothers are able to telephone the Headquarters and pay for transactions with a post or personal credit card. This capability will also be present at all State-level meetings, beginning with the Annual State Convention in June 2012. VISA, Mastercard, and Discover Card will be accepted for payments for such items as military or veterans clothing, registration fees, banquet tickets, buddy poppy orders, etc.

22. Community Service Reporting: Posts are cautioned that Community Service Reporting for the 2012-2013 North Carolina Internet Reporting System begins on 1 May.

23. Explanation of Life Member 12-month payment plan: There has apparently been some confusion at the post level about the VFW's National 12-month payment plan for Life Membership. The plan works as follows: the comrade decides to become a Life Member and wants to pay in installments. The 24-month plan is no longer available. The comrade will submit his application to change from Continuous member to Life Member to the Post Quartermaster with a payment of \$35. The Post Quartermaster will submit the application and funds to National. The \$35 payment is a processing fee and will not count against the total amount of Life Member payments. National will accept the \$35 and the application and will bill the comrade directly for 11 months, with the amount each month being 1/11th of the total fee for the member's age. The comrade will remain a continuous member until all payments are complete, at which time he will be designated as a Life Member.

24. Workman's Compensation: Posts are not required to maintain a Workman's Compensation insurance policy in the state of North Carolina unless it employs at least three people, such as canteen manager, bartenders, kitchen manager, etc. However, posts should consider maintaining such a policy even if they have only one or two employees. Most post liability policies, to include the VFW's Lockton Risk Services, do not cover employees under the Liability portion of the policy. That means that if the employee is injured while performing duties as an employee or as the result of being employed at the post, the post is not covered for the employee's medical expenses or if the employee subsequently sues. Visitors to the post or officers of the post are covered by the Liability insurance. The maintenance of a Workman's Compensation policy (which can be obtained through Lockton) will cover the employee's medical expenses and lost wages, which is the first defense against the post spending large amounts of its own money on the employee's behalf. Costs of such a policy begin at \$300-\$500 annually, and increase depending on the post's total gross wages for one year. A policy for two employees would therefore cost less than a policy for five employees.

25. Roster changes: None.

BY ORDER OF:

**JASON SCHOOLCRAFT
STATE COMMANDER**

OFFICIAL:

M. Bruce Edwards

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