

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

**GENERAL ORDER NO. 6**

**JANUARY 2013**

**1. Winter Council of Administration meeting:** The Winter Council of Administration Meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites hotel at 204-201 Centreport Drive in Greensboro, February 1-3, 2013. There will be two business sessions, one on Friday, February 1, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and the second on Sunday, February 3, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Joint Session, various committee meetings and training will be held Saturday morning with conference meetings set for Saturday afternoon. Make reservations by contacting the **Embassy Suites at 336-668-4535**. Room rates are \$112 plus tax. There are also 2-bedroom suites available at the co-owned **Homewood Suites** for \$179. The Reservation Code is **VFW**. **The cut-off date for hotel reservations is 10 January.** 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. **All 17 Voice of Democracy** District winners with their parents will attend the CofA, and the top 3 District winners of the Patriots' Pen competition.

**2. Registration Fee at Council Meeting:** In order to be more closely aligned with procedures at VFW National functions, State Commander Briggs 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 \$35 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 Saturday 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 7 pm to 9 pm Saturday 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 \$25 for just the banquet and \$10 for just the Hospitality Room. The VOD/PP Banquet is **Formal attire** (tuxedo if you have one, coat and tie if you don't).

**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. 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 are on line at [www.vfwnc.org](http://www.vfwnc.org) then at Tools tab, then at Downloadable Forms tab. All quartermasters must be bonded immediately. There are no exceptions. 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 2013 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 17 December, the following posts do not have a valid Quartermaster Bond:

|                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2756 Thomasville | 4066 Shelby      | 5204 Forest City |
| 7930 Raeford     | 9136 Mt Holly    | 9736 Croft       |
| 9751 Marshville  | 9850 Tarboro     | 10000 Hiddenite  |
| 10607 Burlington | 10940 Mt. Gilead |                  |

**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. Department level judging for these awards will be on Monday, 7 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. 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 17 December 2012 the following posts have not yet paid their 2012 Convention fees, and therefore are in arrears to the Department. **Failure to pay the 2012 State Convention Fee by 1 January 2013 will result in suspension of a post's charter.** Quartermasters should pay these fees to the Department Headquarters as soon as possible.

|                       |                     |                      |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 4024 Mocksville - \$9 | 9116 Columbus - \$6 | 9136 Mt. Holly - \$6 |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|

9751 Marshville - \$9

9850 Tarboro - \$9

10000 Hiddenite - \$9

**7. 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.

**8. 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.

**9. Change to Department By-Laws Concerning Canteens:** The 81<sup>st</sup> 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.”*

**10. Trustee Audit Form Colors:** Posts and Districts are informed that there are no more blue and yellow colored Trustee Report of Audit forms. Any color, including white, can be used. The downloadable form is found at the Department website at [www.vfwnc.org](http://www.vfwnc.org), then click on Tools, then click on Downloadable Forms. Trustee audits may be sent to the Department Headquarters by mail, or faxed to 919-261-6771, or emailed as an attachment to [qm@nc.vfwwebmail.com](mailto:qm@nc.vfwwebmail.com).

**11. Trustee Reports of Audit Errors:** Post Commanders and Quartermasters are cautioned that many incorrect audits are being received at Department Headquarters. The

most common error is that quartermasters are not insuring that the dollar figure in Block 15 of the Trustee's Report of Audit matches exactly the total dollar figure in Block 17. Usually, this is occurring because funds such as savings accounts, bonds, or CD's are not being listed on Line 8, but are listed in Block 17. All funds of any kind, to include cash, checking accounts, savings accounts, bonds, stocks, and CD's must be listed in both the Funds block (items 1-9) and in the Reconciliation of Fund Balances (Block 17). This is the only way that trustees can accurately view the disposition of all funds entrusted to the quartermaster. Effective with the July-August-September 2012 audit, incorrect audits are being returned by Dept. Hqs to the post quartermaster for correction.

**12. Note on Annual (Continuous) Dues:** If a comrade pays his dues through the Post Quartermaster, the Quartermaster should send \$21.25 to VFW National Headquarters and keep the difference between the \$21.25 and whatever the post dues are. If a comrade pays his dues using his direct dues deposit form that he gets in the mail from National, he will pay the entire post dues amount to National. National will then deduct \$21.25 from that amount, and remit the remainder back to the Post Quartermaster using ACH electronic money transfer only. Paper checks will no longer be issued to the post by National.

**13. VOD and Patriot Pen program:** State Commander Briggs has determined that the following Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen program policies will apply: the 17 District VOD winners and their parents, and the top three Patriot Pen winners and their parents will be invited to the Winter Conference/Council of Administration meeting in February at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro. Winners will receive recognition at the meeting, but their awards at their schools, where the VFW will receive better and more widespread community publicity. District or Department awards will not be awarded at a post, district, or department meetings. The top three VOD and Patriot Pen winners will be awarded by Department line officers, while the 14 other VOD and Patriot Pen District winners will be awarded by their District Commander at the school.

**14. Men's Auxiliary Members at Meetings:** Post and District Commanders are cautioned that Men's Auxiliary members may attend the Joint Sessions of meetings along with the Ladies and the Comrades, but may not attend the Comrades' business sessions, unless permitted by the Post or District Commander at that time. At this time, there is no District, Department, or National representation of Men's Auxiliary members, and National has no plans to implement any.

**15. New National By-Laws:** 2012-2013 National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure (Podium Edition) is now available for sale at Department Headquarters. They have a green cover. The cost is \$11 per book, which includes postage.

**16. 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 \$11 per guide, which includes postage.

**17. Post members mentoring requirements:** Post Commanders are reminded that in order to achieve All State status in 2012-2013, the Post Commander will need to submit to Department Headquarters a form stating that all new and reinstated post members were personally contacted at least once during the year by telephone or in person by a post comrade/mentor, and invited to a meeting or post event. This form is to be found in the 2012-2013 Department Membership Program book on the Department's website at [www.vfwnc.org](http://www.vfwnc.org).

**18. Military Assistance Program (MAP) events:** MAP events, such as pre-deployment and post-deployment celebrations, are no longer allowed to be catered. In order for a MAP event to take place, the post concerned must adopt the unit using the Adopt-A-Unit program through the Department Headquarters. The post will then supply the comrades, sisters and brothers to man the event for cooking, serving, and recruiting. The Department Headquarters will pay for the event, with either MAP Chairman Jim Clark, National MAP Committee Member Roland Rochester, or National Guard Coordinator Frances Crawford purchasing the food and supplies and obtaining the receipts.

**19. 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.

**20. Changes to Post Meeting Dates/Places:** Posts are reminded that Department Headquarters must be informed prior to any change in the normal post meeting dates or places.

**21. Roster Changes:**

\*Page 4 of Department Officers: David Hamel is added as a Scouting Coordinator Assistant and a member of the Department's Scouting Team. His personal data is the same as POW/MIA Coordinator.

\*Page 14: The new quartermaster of Post 9983 is Joe Faney, 106 Kiskadee Court, Hampstead, NC 28443, 973-229-3204.

\*Page 19: The new commander of Post 7383 is Andrew Zinkievich, 104 Southampton Drive, Knightdale, NC 27545, 808-294-9162.

\*Page 48: The new quartermaster of Post 7034 is Charles Hornung, 61 Sleep Hollow Lane, Sparta, NC 28675.

**BY ORDER OF:**

**TED BRIGGS  
STATE COMMANDER**

**OFFICIAL:**

*M. Bruce Edwards*

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