

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE US
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 7

FEBRUARY 2013

1. Members in Good Standing Cut-Off Date: Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars expired December 31, 2012 unless their 2013 dues are paid and reported to Department and National Headquarters. This is particularly important in the case of post officers. Section 105 states that “A member who has paid his current dues to December 31 is in good standing, and ceases to be in good standing on January 1st immediately following the year for which his dues were paid and shall remain in such status until his dues are paid for the current year.” All post officers not in good standing have been relieved of their positions by the National Commander-in-Chief. They may run for office again for the 2013-2014 election year in April, but would not assume that position until the date of the State Convention in June.

2. 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 was 10 January, but rooms may still be available.** 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.

3. 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).

4. 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.

5. VOD and Patriot Pen program: Department and District 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 District Commanders as the Department Commander's representative. Awards will be conducted by Department and District representatives in coat and tie attire. District winners will not be awarded District or Department prizes/plaques/certificates at District meetings. At the February Council banquet, the top three VOD winners will receive a medal and a jacket, and will receive their plaque and scholarship pledge at their school. The other 14 VOD runners-up will receive a medal, jacket, and certificate at the banquet. The top three PP winners will receive a medal and a backpack at the banquet and their plaque and check at their school, and the other 14 PP runners-up will receive a certificate at their school.

6. 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.

7. State and National By-Laws: The new 2012-2013 version of the state by-laws is available at department headquarters for \$2.50, which includes shipping, or is FREE online at www.vfwno.org. The new 2013 podium editions of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures (with a green cover) are also available at department headquarters. The cost is \$11.00, which includes shipping.

8. 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, bona fide guests, and Auxiliary members. 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.

9. 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.

10. VFW National Annual Publications Contest: The VFW Publications Department has announced that it is now accepting submissions for VFW's 2013 National Publications Contest. All publications will be categorized by the membership size of the Department, District or Post they represent. One issue of any Post or District publication (such as a newsletter) is to be submitted to Department Headquarters no later than April 1. Only one post-level winner and one district-level winner for each size will be forwarded to National by Department. Issues published between Jan 1, 2012, and Dec 31, 2012, are eligible.

11. 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.

12. Sweepstakes Machines: All sweepstakes machines are currently to be rendered inoperable in all posts until further notice. Posts will be notified of any changes in the North Carolina sweepstakes laws as soon as the Department's lawyer advises us. Posts which do not make their machines inoperable will have their canteen closed for the good of the order, in accordance with Article XVI of the Department By-Laws.

13. Compliance with the Department Canteen Operations SOP: All posts will be in strict compliance with the Department Canteen Operations SOP no later than the State Convention in June 2013. All posts found not to be in compliance at the time of their first canteen inspection in 2013-14 will have their canteens closed until they are in compliance. It is strongly recommended that posts begin complying with the SOP as soon as possible to be ready for the first inspection.

14. Quarterly Trustee Reports of Audit: Posts are warned that I have given District Commanders the authority to relieve a Post Commander who is inspected and cannot produce a current Trustee Report of Audit on the post's finances.

15. Roster Changes:

*Page 1: District 9 Commander Anthony Hall's correct telephone number is 704-294-5798.

*Page 13: Nakina Post 6066 has been consolidated with Whiteville Post 8073, and no longer exists separately.

*Page 14: The new Commander of consolidated Post 8073 is Marrell Freeman, 420 Farmers Union Road, Clarkton, NC 28433, telephone 910-770-3833.

*Page 24: Post 10630 Commander Bob Proulx's correct telephone number is 910-425-7884.

*Page 27: Post 10403 meets at the Hampton B. Allen Library, 120 S. Greene Street, Wadesboro.

BY ORDER OF:

**TED BRIGGS
STATE**

**COMMANDER
OFFICIAL:**

M. Bruce Edwards

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