

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

**GENERAL ORDER NO. 5**

**DECEMBER 2013**

**1. Posts To Be Suspended:** The following posts, despite repeated warnings and the intervention of their District Commanders, have failed to live up to their financial responsibilities and will be suspended on 15 December 2013 if the bills are not paid:

\*4312 for no Quartermaster bond and failure to pay their \$9 2013 State Convention delegate fee.

\*9983 for no Quartermaster bond.

\*5464 for no Quartermaster bond.

\*5204 for failure to pay their \$15 State Convention delegate fee.

\*5362 for failure to pay their \$50 canteen fee.

\*5198 for failure to pay their \$12 2013 State Convention delegate fee.

\*9493 for failure to pay their \$6 2013 State Convention delegate fee.

**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 7-9, 2014. There will be two business sessions, one on Friday, February 7, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and the second on Sunday, February 9, beginning at 10:00 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 \$115 plus tax. There are also 2-bedroom suites available at the co-owned **Homewood Suites** for \$182. 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.

**3. Social Fee at Council Meeting:** There will not be a combined social fee at the February Council meeting. Separate tickets for the hospitality room on Friday and Saturday nights and the Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen Banquet on Saturday night will be sold. If an individual does not desire to visit the hospitality room at all but wishes to go to the Banquet, the cost is \$25 per person. If an individual desires to visit the hospitality room but not the Banquet, the cost is \$10 per person. So, the most that any individual would pay would be \$35. All hospitality rooms will be closed from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Saturday night for the Banquet. If an individual does not desire any social events, there is no fee. Attendees may purchase one or both tickets in advance from the State Headquarters, or may purchase them at the hotel (if any remain). District Commanders and District Presidents are expected to attend the Banquet, and march in with their District VOD winner. Dress for the Banquet is formal (tuxedo/coat & tie for males, gown/cocktail dress/pantsuit for Ladies). District Commanders and Presidents are expected to attend the Banquet and escort their District winners into the room.

**4. National Dues Increase:** The VFW National Convention floor passed a \$10 dues increase for all continuous, reinstated, and new members at the convention in Louisville in July 2013. The increase will take effect on 1 January 2014, the same date that the Subscription Dues system will take effect. Posts do not need to take any action to increase their dues. This will be accomplished automatically by National. (For example, if post dues are now \$30 per year, they will automatically become \$40 per year on 1 January.). So, also beginning on 1 January, post quartermasters will submit \$31.25 to National as National and Department's share, as opposed to \$21.25.

**5. Reminder of 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."*

**6. 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).

**7. Trustee Reports of Audit Errors:** Post Commanders and Quartermasters are cautioned that many incorrect audits are being received at Department Headquarters, although considerable progress has been made during the past year. The most common error is still 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. Incorrect audits are being returned by Dept. Hqs to the post quartermaster for correction.

**8. 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. Remember that these figures will increase to \$31.25 effective 1 January 2014.

**9. VOD and Patriot Pen program:** State Commander Allis 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.

**10. 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.

**11. New State By-Laws:** 2013-2014 Department (State) By-Laws (paper version) are available for purchase from the department headquarters for the sum of \$2.50 per booklet, which includes postage. The State By-Laws are also available for FREE online at [www.vfwnc.org](http://www.vfwnc.org), then Tools.

**12. New National By-Laws:** 2013-2014 National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure (Podium Edition) is available for sale at Department Headquarters. They have a black cover. The cost is \$11 per book, which includes postage.

**13. Post Service Officer Guides:** The most recent National Post Service Officer Guide (2013 edition) is available for purchase from the department headquarters for the sum of \$11 per guide, which includes postage.

**14. 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, which is available online at [www.vfwnc.org](http://www.vfwnc.org).

**15. 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 National Military Services (NMS) Chairman Bill Greene, Assistant NMS Chairman Billy Ray Brown, or National Guard Coordinator Frances Crawford purchasing the food and supplies and obtaining the receipts.

**BY ORDER OF:**

**ERNEST ALLIS  
STATE COMMANDER**

**OFFICIAL:**

*M. Bruce Edwards*

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

**NOTE: THIS GENERAL ORDER CAN BE VIEWED AT THE  
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA'S WEBSITE AT  
[www.vfwnc.org](http://www.vfwnc.org).**