

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

GENERAL ORDER 6

MAY 2015

1. Department Credit Card Capability: Effective 1 April 2012, the Department Headquarters has been able 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 is also present at all State-level meetings, beginning with the Annual State Convention in June 2015. VISA, Mastercard, and Discover Card will be accepted for payments for such items as registration fees, banquet tickets, buddy poppy orders, etc.

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. There is a copy of the 2015-16 Post Election Report attached to this General Order, and there is also a copy at our Department website at www.ncvfw.org, under "Tools," and then "Downloadable Forms." 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. You must elect at least a Commander, Sr Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, Quartermaster and three Trustees! Post Officers shall be installed into their respective offices at a regular or special meeting held prior to the Department Convention (4-7 June 2015), 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. Remember that if you use the National internet system to file your election report online (which is the easiest, most convenient way), send a copy to your District Commander. National will supply Department Headquarters with a copy of the report.**

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 April or 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 2015 at the time of the meeting.

4. State Convention: The 85th State Convention will be held in Greensboro at the Greensboro Embassy Suites Hotel, June 4-7 2014 with an outgoing Council of Administration meeting on Thursday, 5 June. The telephone number for reservations is 336-668-4535. In order to be reimbursed for hotel room expenses by Department, a Department-level officer or chairman must reside at the Embassy Suites Hotel only.

The Commander/President Installation Banquet will be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday night. Cost of the banquet is \$40.00 per person, which will cover the meal. Dress is coat and tie. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Department Headquarters or may be purchased at the Registration desk. \$15.00 Hospitality Room tickets will be available at the door to the Hospitality Room. A tentative schedule of the Convention is included with this General Order.

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 have been disseminated by snail mail to all concerned. District Commanders must insure that all Posts have access to the Delegate Credential packet. 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.

In order to vote at the Convention, posts must (1) NOT be in arrears to the Department Headquarters, to include having paid their Delegate credentials fee, (2) have all four audits on file at the Department Headquarters (June 13, Sept 13, Dec 13, and March 14), and (3) have an election report on file at the Department Headquarters.

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 Commander to the Department Adjutant immediately after your District meeting.

7. 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 1, 2014 at close of business. Buddy Poppy purchases, Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, Teacher of the Year, community service reporting, attendance at district meetings, and the Post Commander's affidavit, as well as membership, will determine the winners. Starting this year, a post must be awarded All State in order to be considered for All American at National.

8. National Convention: The 116th National convention will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, July 18-22, 2015. To make reservations, visit the VFW website at www.vfw.org or mail your reservation form to the address on the form or call the telephone number also located on the reservation form. North Carolina state headquarters will be at the Omni William Penn. Cost of rooms are \$175.00 plus tax for a one or two bed room. Comrades are cautioned that if they wish to attend the Southern Conference meeting, it is normally conducted on Saturday.

9. Buddy Poppy Campaign: Commanders on all levels should be well into organizing their 2015 Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Sales. Poppies are currently 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. Poppies themselves cannot be ordered from National Headquarters. Posts planning to distribute Poppies on Memorial Day must order now to insure they receive them in time.

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, Auxiliary members, and 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. "Guests" must have a member sponsor who stays in the facility with the guest, and the guest must be signed in.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. Department Phone number change. Department Adjutant: 919-828-5058
Department Admin Assistant: 919-307-8967

BY ORDER OF:

**John (Jack) Goin
STATE COMMANDER**

OFFICIAL:

John Blueher

**John Blueher
STATE ADJUTANT**