

**VETERANS OF FOREIGNS WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

GENERAL ORDER #10

June 2016

(To be read or distributed at a regular Post meeting and filed)

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

First, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all the Teacher of the Year Award winners and the Scout of the Year Award winner and that were submitted by various Posts throughout our Department. Also, I would like to extend my deep appreciation to each of the program chairpersons and the VFW Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary for all their many hours of hard work and dedication toward the success of these programs. We enjoyed great program participation and the overall quality of our winners reflect another successful year. Well done!

Our Teacher of the Year (1st Place, Elementary School) is Megan Bellamy, submitted by Post 7288 (Calabash) in District 5; Teacher of the Year (1st Place, Middle School) is Rhonda Haney, submitted by Post 5202 (Waynesville) in District 17; and, Teacher of the Year (1st Place, High School) is Mia Drabick, submitted by Post 2740 (Durham) in District 6. Congratulations! We will honor these winners at our State Convention, during the Saturday Night Dinner Banquet, in their honor with their family members in attendance.

Our Scout of the Year is Daniel Kunath, submitted by Post 7383 (Cary) in District 7. Congratulations! We will honor the winner at our State Convention, during the Friday morning Joint Session, in his honor with his family members in attendance.

Second, I cannot stress the importance of forwarding your Post and District Election Reports to Department and National Headquarters **NLT (Wednesday) June 1, 2016!** District Commanders should make direct contact with your Post Commanders to make sure their credentials are in order. Are your inspections, audits, reports, and other yearly requirements all in order? If not, please get them done so you will have a vote at this year's Department Convention in June. Again, if you need assistance, just call. Your State Adjutant is only a phone call away. District Commanders, please check with all your Posts to make sure all are in good working order and preparing to get their credentials to the State Adjutant before the Department Convention. This is very important...as I would hate to see a Post disqualified from voting during our June Department Convention!

Third, As this year's VFW National Convention is in our state, we should walk on to the convention floor with our head held high because of our Department, and with all Posts and Districts achieving 100 percent in membership! We have less than one (1) month to do it. The Department is currently sitting at 98.20% with 23,840 Members. We need 435 Members to reach 100%. Our Department deserves to be at the top with the other All-American Departments. Post Commanders, Quartermasters, and especially Membership Chairs should stay focused on the Unpaid Membership Roster. Reach Out To Them...and Say: **"We value your membership in our organization and please attend our next Post event on..."** Remember, new members are the life blood of our veteran's service organization; and, we cannot continue to ignore bringing new members into our Post. The new member **YOU** sign up today, may serve in senior leadership positions for **YOUR POST** in a few years.

Fourth, by now, everyone should know what is required of their Post or district to be eligible for All-State/All-American honors. All Post and District Commanders should be reviewing the **All-State/All-American Membership Year Program** and track your progress toward the requirements. This program changes every year, so do not just assume you know all the requirements. **The All-State/All-American Membership Year requirement checklist are included in this general order for your review before the June 15th deadline!**

Congratulations to the following All-State Posts (as of June 1, 2016):

District 4: Post 7547 (Clinton); Post 9133 (Jacksonville)
District 5: Post 10226 (Oak Island); Post 10400 (Boiling Spring Lake)
District 6: Post 10607 (Burlington)
District 7: Post 7383 (Cary); Post 8466 (Wake Forest)
District 8: Post 670 (Fayetteville); Post 4542 (Spring Lake); Post 6018 (Fayetteville); Post 8969 (Lumberton); Post 10630 (Hope Mills)
District 9: Post 7318 (Southern Pines)
District 14: Post 5305 (Newton)
District 15: Post 7034 (Sparta)

On behalf of the senior leadership team, always know - **WE Work For You - "One Team, Serving Veterans."** Our State Headquarters and all the Line Officers and District Commanders are here to offer whatever assistance you need to make the Post, District, and Department successful throughout the year! Please feel free to contact any of us at the state level if you need guidance, assistance, or if you have any questions. May God continue to bless our troops, their families, and our great nation.

Yours in comradeship,
Jessie Bellflowers
State Commander

1. VFW NATIONAL NEWS: 2016 NATIONAL TEACHER AWARD WINNERS (RECIPIENTS TO BE HONORED DURING THE VFW'S 117TH NATIONAL CONVENTION)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) proudly announces the names of three teachers selected as national winners in its annual citizenship education contest. There are three categories of competition: elementary school (K-5), middle school (6-8) and high school (9-12).

Jessica Mosley, a fourth-grade teacher at Park Intermediate School in Weiser, Idaho, and a member of the United States Navy Reserve, was named the winner at the **elementary school level** for her ardent involvement in the school's annual Veterans Day assembly and commitment to teaching civic responsibility.

At the **middle school level**, Donna Kregelka, an eighth-grade social studies teacher at Chippewa Middle School in Okemos, Mich., was named the winner for her involvement in the school's Valentines for Veterans program, its annual Veterans Day assembly and her dedication to instilling a sense of patriotism in her student through education.

William Ellery, a history teacher at Carmel High School in Carmel, Ind., was selected at the **high school level** for his creation of the school's Veterans Day Convocation and Luncheon, and for his commitment to teaching his students the role of veterans in providing them with "the very freedoms under which they prosper."

Each teacher receives a \$1,000 award for their professional development and another \$1,000 for their school. In addition, all three teachers receive an all-expense-paid trip to Charlotte, N.C., where the awards will be presented during the 117th VFW National Convention, July 23-27.

“Next to parents, teachers are key to influencing students in becoming young civic-minded patriots who will perpetuate the values that have made this nation great,” said VFW National Commander John A. Biedrzycki Jr., a retired high school history teacher from Pittsburgh. “This year’s award recipients exemplify this responsibility by sharing their passion with students, and actively molding tomorrow’s leaders every day.”

Enacted in 1999, the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award recognizes three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and patriotism to their students. Recipients are selected from entries submitted by local VFW Posts in the U.S. and overseas areas. The entries detail a local teacher’s act of promoting civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism in the classroom.

2. VFW NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP PAY-OUT: The following information will be paid out on the *Life Membership Program* as approved by the National Council of Administration at its **February 29, 2016** meeting:

Plan A/B/C: A total payout of \$9.48 for each life member (\$3.16 to each Post, Department, and National).

Plan D: A total payout of \$10.74 for each life member (\$3.58 to each Post, Department, and National).

Plan E: A total payout of \$21.18 for each life member (\$7.06 to each Post, Department, and National).

3. VFW BUSINESS INFORMATION RELEASE: Reveling and/or sharing VFW Business to non-VFW Members is a direct violation of Article IX, Section 902(8) of the VFW National By-Laws. It is a violation 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; and, the result may include punishments from a reprimand to termination of membership in the VFW. Comrades should remember that all social media postings, for example, those on Facebook pages, are not private, and can be interpreted as a violation of Article IX.

4. VFW NATIONAL FLAG DAY: All VFW Posts are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, **June 14, 2016 (Tuesday)** and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible.

5. VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING INFORMATION: The 117th National Convention Housing is officially open. Housing reservation information is located on the convention website accessed through the main **VFW website at www.vfw.org**. The convention website also has excellent general convention information, including the registration form and links to other convention related information for the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina – **July 23 (Saturday) – July 27 (Wednesday), 2016** including a tentative schedule. The Department of North Carolina Hotel Assignment is the Omni Charlotte. You may contact Tyana Harry, Convention Services Manager - 704-414-4802 – tyana.harry@omnihotels.com - Omni Hotel Charlotte, 132 E. Trade Street, Charlotte, NC 28202 to discuss space for a hospitality room (if applicable to your needs). The special convention rates are available until **June 13, 2016** or until the block of rooms sells out. If you need to know the amenities for the hotel, the phone number is: **704-377-0400** www.omnihotels.com/Charlotte

6. VFW NATIONAL MEMORIAL MOTORCYCLE RIDE: 2016 Howard E. Vander Clute Jr. Memorial Motorcycle Ride. Welcome, riders one and all, to support our nation’s men and women in uniform and

honor the memory of Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. (Commander-in-Chief 1979-80, Adjutant General 1981-1995). All net proceeds of the ride will be donated to VFW Veterans and Military Support to benefit those in uniform and their families. The agenda for Saturday, July 23, 2016 is being prepared. Thank you to all who participated in your 2015 ride to Pittsburgh. You raised more than \$24,000 for U.S. troops and their families through our VFW Veterans and Military Support Program. You did that with just slightly more than 90 riders. This year, our goal is to double both the riders and the donation to Veterans and Military Support. This year's final stop is Charlotte, N.C. We are still finalizing the details of the rallying location and the check presentation location. To request additional information, including sign-up forms, please visit this [website](#) or contact Kris Harmer kharmer@vfw.org (816) 968-1117.

7. DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING VOLUNTEER POSITIONS FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION: Past State Commander and VFW National Convention Co-Chair and Past State Commander John "Jack" Goin is looking for anyone who would like to volunteer some time during our **July 2016 National Convention in Charlotte.**

The National Convention Chairmen are as follows:

- (1) Honorary Convention Co-Chairmen: Billy Ray Cameron
- (2) National Convention Co-Chairman: John "Jack" Goin
- (3) Medical-Health Fair Chairman: Chris Sikes -- None needed at this time
- (4) Meeting Halls and Signs Chairman: Bill Hertline -- Call to volunteer
- (5) Memorial Service Chairman: Jim Dyer -- Requires 6 volunteers for the service
- (6) Patriotic Celebration Chairman: Jim Young -- Call to volunteer
- (7) Registration Chairman: Lewis Hunt -- Requires 20 volunteers a day (you can volunteer for multiple days)
- (8) Transportation Chairman: Ernie Allis -- Requires 20 volunteers total, Need to have a good understanding of Charlotte Streets, and the ability to pass both a background check and driving check.

Some of the volunteers to certain committees will receive a stipend to help cover their food. If you have questions about specific committees reach out to the individual chairmen. Those that volunteer the committees will receive a stipend to help cover their food for the day \$20 for a full day, \$10 for a half day and \$5 for a quarter day.

Please contact Past State Commander John "Jack" Goin at (910) 579-7512, pastcdrgoin@vfwnc.com; or Past State Commander Ernie Allis at (704) 773-6588, pastcdrallis@vfwnc.com; or Comrade Lewis Hunt (704) 780-5979 or email webmaster@vfwnc.com or lewishunt@aol.com.

8. VFW NATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN 2016-2017 PROGRAMS: Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the Membership Year 2016-2017 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teachers' Awards, "Buddy"® Poppy and National Military Services.

9. VFW NATIONAL VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN 2016-2017 THEMES: The Voice of Democracy theme is *"My Responsibility to America"* and the Patriot's Pen theme is *"The America I Believe In."* The VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay competitions are dedicated to encouraging a better understanding and appreciation for our great country and fostering patriotism among our nation's youth. Students are asked to submit an essay in response to a question or statement on a subject which prompts them to consider how American history and democratic ideals and principles apply to their lives.

This year's Voice of Democracy theme asks students to explain, "My Responsibility to America." The Voice of Democracy scholarship competition is an audio-essay competition open to students in grades 9-12. The national winner will receive the \$30,000, T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship Award.

The Patriot's Pen competition is open to students in grades 6-8. This year, students are asked to reflect on the statement, "The America I Believe In." The national winner will receive a \$5,000 award. Student participants are asked to submit their entry (along with a completed entry form) to their participating VFW Post. The deadline for student entries in both contests is November 1, 2016. For more information on the contests, visit www.vfw.org/Youth.

10. JUNE STATE CONVENTION: Our June State Convention is this month, starting on June 2, 2016 (Thursday afternoon), ending on June 5, 2016 (Sunday afternoon). Are you ready? Have you reserved your hotel room? The state convention will be held at the Embassy Suites, Raleigh – Durham/Research Triangle Hotel, 201 Harrison Oaks Boulevard, Cary, NC, 27513. The room rate is \$119.00 per night. There will be two business sessions, a joint session, committee and conference meetings, various training/workshop sessions, and most importantly, election of officers for Membership Year 2016-2017. If you have not made your reservation, please do so by contacting the **Embassy Suites Raleigh – Durham/Research Triangle Hotel at 919-677-1840 and use the VFW Code.**

During the June State Convention, we will formally recognize the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award winners (elementary, junior high, and high school teachers) at the Department level. As you know, beginning this year, the teacher of the year program year deadline dates changed at the National level. Also, we will formally recognize the Department Scout of the Year Award winner. We will honor these winners during our State Convention in their honor with their family in attendance. Please consider attending our conference as an overnight or weekend stay. Spending time with the senior leadership of our Department, our Districts, and our Posts is a great opportunity to learn from everyone. It is also a good opportunity for you to showcase some of your Post's outstanding community service projects. Please share your success with everyone during the conference! And, by popular demand, our Western Conference will continue to manage the Hospitality Room. **Also, the VFW National Representative is VFW Past Commander-in-Chief John W. Stroud from the Great State of Nevada.**

The Saturday Night Dinner Banquet Entertainment will be introduced by State Commander-elect Doug Blevins and State Auxiliary President-elect Joyce Preston. They will introduce the entertainment group **"Letters From Home" or also known as "America's Bombshell Duo."** They are a pair of energetic singers/dancers, while performing an exciting show with lots of audience participation. You can learn more about them at <http://lettersfromhomesingers.com>.

The menu for the Saturday Night Dinner Banquet is: Prime Rib Carving Station Served with Au Jus, Crab Stuffed Flounder with Scampi Butter, Roasted Fingerling Potatoes, Roasted Vegetables, Warm Rolls and Butter, Hot Tea and Iced Tea, Freshly Brewed Starbucks Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Water, and Chocolate Mousse Cake. An excellent chef's garden house salad will be pre-set at each table setting, with ten (10) setting per table. **The cost is \$45.00 per banquet ticket. Please reserve and purchase your banquet ticket by calling the Department Adjutant.**

11. JUNE STATE CONVENTION UNIFORM OF THE DAY: The uniform for our June State Convention Business Meetings and the Joint Session is: **Business Attire Coat and Tie, with VFW Hats.** The Saturday Night Banquet is: **Business Attire Coat and Tie, without VFW Hats. (NO jeans, shorts, T-shirts, Tank tops, or Half-shirts).**

12. DISTRICT AND POST ELECTION REPORTS: Now that all Districts and Posts have completed their respective elections of officers, now is the time to submit the District and Post Election Reports. If your District or Post Election Report is not filled out correctly and contains deficiencies know that under Section 211 of the National By-Laws, the Commander-in-Chief maintains the authority to suspend and further revoke a Charter for failure to submit a properly completed District or Post Election Report to National Headquarters **NLT (Wednesday) June 1, 2016.**

If you currently serve as an Out-Going or In-Coming District or Post Commander, ensure your respective election report has been submitted to National; and, Department has a record of the election report on the State Convention District and Post Credential Tracking Roster. The goal is to have ALL District and Post Election Reports for Membership Year 2016-2017 on file at Department Headquarters.

Per Section 213 of the National By-Laws, Posts that have not submitted a properly completed Post Election Report by **June 1, 2016**, are in arrears and shall be deprived of all representation in District, Department, and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustments of such deficiencies. Posts that have registered delegates for the Department and National Conventions will not receive credentials until the Post has satisfied their arrearage.

If your Post fails to comply with the Commander-in-Chief's directive, your Post will be suspended and not be allowed to vote during the State Convention. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** In order to ensure the accuracy of Post Election Reports, our Department Headquarters is advising every Post to strongly file their report using the VFW National Online Membership System (OMS). Completed election reports should be submitted to National Headquarters, your District Commander, the Department Adjutant, and print a copy for your files. Election reports should be completed and submitted on-line on the National OMS website.

DO NOT wait until after the installation of District and Post officers to complete and submit or mail the election report form. Failure to submit the report will result in the District or Post being placed on suspension for failure to have elected district or post officers. All Districts and Posts must submit their election report before June 1, 2016. If not, the District or Post will not be allowed to register and vote during the June State Convention...there are no exceptions to this order!

District and Post Officers shall be installed in their respective offices prior to the convening of the Department Convention, but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed on June 4, 2016 (Saturday).

Post officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the Post Adjutant. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed by the Post Commander, Quartermaster, and Adjutant, (Manual Section 216). Officers being installed should be reminded, (if they are an annual member) that they must pay their 2017 membership dues prior to their annual subscription due date to hold their office for the year they were elected.

13. POST DELEGATES TO THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION: Posts shall elect delegates and alternates to the Department Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department convention. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election. ***All membership reports processed at National Headquarters prior on or before May 1, 2016 will be considered in determining delegate strength for total delegates.***

14. POST DELEGATES TO THE VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a national convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register on-line by going to www.vfw.org.

15. VFW NC STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT: The VFW NC State *"The Billy Ray Cameron Open"* Golf Tournament will be played the weekend of September 16-18, 2016 and hosted by Post 5631 (Stanley McLeod), 1500 Veterans Way, Sanford, NC. The golf tournament weekend event directly supports the Billy Ray Cameron/Otis T. Brown Scholarship Fund.

The Golf Tournament will be played at the Sanford Golf Course which is right down the road from the Post. Bobby Brewer, a member of the Post 5631 Men's Auxiliary, is running the event for the Post. Bobby has been outstanding in securing the dates, hotels, and entertainment for the event. For example, a reception on Friday Night, with lunch on the course during both Saturday and Sunday, and Saturday Night entertainment.

Post 5631 is challenging each Department District and Post to donate money to *"The Billy Ray Cameron Open"* Golf Tournament. All proceeds will be turned over to the VFW, Department of North Carolina, in support of the Billy Ray Cameron/Otis T. Brown Scholarship Fund. In fact, Post 5631 has already donated \$1,000.00 to get the week-end event up and running. And, District 9 will be making a donation of \$100.00 to the event as well. Bobby will have a table at the June State Convention with entry forms along with shirts and hats for sale. For more information, entry information, and of course...monetary donations, please contact Bobby Brewer at (919) 770-1887 or email at vfwgolf@windstream.net.

16. IMPORTANT DATES:

June 2 – 5, 2016	Department Convention, Cary, NC
July 23 – 27, 2016	National Convention, Charlotte, NC
August 18 – 21, 2016	Junior Vice Commanders/Quartermasters Training, Kansas City, MO
September 9-11, 2016	National C-I-C Homecoming, Louisville, KY
September 12 – 15, 2016	Fall (2016) Legislative Committee Meeting, Washington, DC
October 7 – 9, 2016	Department Fall Council of Administration Conference, Cary, NC
October 27 – 29, 2016	Southern Conference, Rogers, AR
November 11, 2016	Veterans Day
February 26 – March 2, 2017	Winter (2017) Legislative Committee Meeting, Washington, DC
July 22 – 26, 2017	National Convention, New Orleans, LA

September 11 – 14, 2017 Fall (2017) Legislative Committee Meeting, Washington, DC
July 21 – 25, 2018 National Convention, Kansas, City, MO
July 20 – 24, 2019 National Convention, Orlando, FL
July 18 – 22, 2020 National Convention, Reno, NV

17.ALL-STATE/ALL-AMERICAN MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM: The Department Membership Program, with both State and National All-State and All-American requirements, is published on the Department website and each District Commander has a copy. If any Post needs a copy, please contact your District Commander, Department Adjutant, or just call/email the State Membership Chair Roland Rochester at (910) 709-8023, Email: rolandrochester@ymail.com.

18.DEPARTMENT HONOR POST/ALL-STATE: Congratulations to the following Department (21) Honor Post for achieving 100%+ in membership by February 1st for the Membership Year 2015 – 2016. Currently, these posts are eligible for All-State Honors:

District 1: Post 7312 (Sunbury); Post 10659 (Columbia)
District 2: Post 9841 (Snow Hill)
District 4: Post 7547 (Clinton)
District 5: Post 8062 (Elizabethtown)
District 7: Post 5886 (Smithfield); Post 8466 (Wake Forest); Post 6767 (Dunn); Post 5955 (Selma); and Post 6983 (Angier)
District 8: Post 10630 (Hope Mills); Post 670 (Fayetteville)
District 9: Post 7318 (Southern Pines); Post 10403 (Wadesboro)
District 10: Post 11533 (Greensboro)
District 11: Post 11173 (Walnut Cove)
District 12: Post 9134 (Rockwell)
District 14: Post 4066 (Shelby)
District 15: Post 7034 (Sparta)
District 16: Post 10473 (Bat Cave)
District 17: Post 8635 (Robbinsville)

Congratulations to the following four (4) Department Districts for achieving 100%+ in membership for the Membership Year 2015 – 2016. Currently, these districts are eligible for All-State Honors:

District 6: 103.51%
District 7: 102.56%
District 8: 104.20% (First District in Department to reach 100 percent in membership!)
District 9: 103.69%

In addition to the above listed Department (21) Honor Post for achieving 100%+ in membership by February 1st...Congratulations to the following Department Post (33) for achieving 100%+ in membership for the Membership Year 2015 – 2016. Currently these posts are eligible for All-State Honors:

District 1: Post 10950 (Nags Head)
District 2: Post 2771 (Kinston); Post 7032 (Greenville)
District 3: Post 3702 (Roanoke Rapids); Post 4096 (Norlina)
District 4: Post 2514 (New Bern); Post 9133 (Jacksonville)
District 5: Post 10226 (Oak Island); Post 10400 (Boiling Spring Lake)
District 6: Post 10607 (Burlington); Post 10777 (Butner)

District 7: Post 6722 (Lillington); Post 7383 (Cary); Post 10001 (Raleigh); Post 10225 (Garner)
District 8: Post 10 (Raeford); Post 4542 (Spring Lake); Post 6018 (Fayetteville); Post 8969 (Lumberton)
District 9: Post 2008 (Laurinburg); Post 5631 (Sanford); Post 7313 (Pittsboro)
District 10: Post 2087 (Greensboro)
District 11: Post 10346 (Hamptonville)
District 12: Post 6480 (Concord)
District 13: Post 6724 (Paw Creek); Post 9736 (Croft)
District 14: Post 5305 (Newton)
District 15: Post 4286 (Newland)
District 17: Post 6812 (Hayesville); Post 7339 (Franklin); Post 9493 (Tuckasegee); Post 12132 (Maggie Valley)

19. POST MEN'S AUXILIARIES: There are **15 Post Men's Auxiliaries** that have not paid any membership dues in at least 2 years counting 2015-2016, which clearly states they do not exist anymore and if that's the case, they need to turn in their Charter or get caught up on their dues before **June 1, 2016**. There may be a decision forthcoming at the VFW National Convention as to the forward direction regarding the future of the Post Men's Auxiliaries. However, for the **15 Post Men's Auxiliaries** who not submitted their membership dues, they need to get caught up or send in your Charters before **June 1, 2016**, or your Charters will become revoked.

20. POST CANTEN FEES: Posts operating a Canteen as defined in the Department By-laws should remit to Department Headquarters the annual **Canteen Fee of \$50.00** for FY 2016-2017 **NLT 1 August 2016**. Those posts that do not submit this fee will be considered to be in arrears to the department, and their canteens will be closed until payment is made. Posts which are operating a canteen without department permission should immediately obtain such permission or risk closure and disciplinary action.

21. DISTRICT/POST QUARTERMASTER BOND: District/Post Quartermasters are reminded that they must be bonded no later than **31 August 2016** for all liquid assets of the post or district (checking, savings, CDs, stocks and bonds, etc). Property values are not included. The application for the VFW Officers Bond is from **1 September 2016 – 31 August 2017**. Each district/post must send in all bond requests to Department Headquarters, for all required positions in the district/post at the same time with the right amount on the check. Ensure the bond amount requested is high enough to include a possible increase in valuation. This will prevent a re-purchase of a new board after inspection. Also, please add \$5.00 to the total amount of the amount for shipping and handling costs.

SPECIAL NOTE: If the post has post insurance that has a dishonesty clause, canteen bartenders **DO NOT** need to be bonded by Talliman Insurance Agency. The dishonesty clause will be verified during the canteen inspection.

One of the most important communications you, as a District or Post Commander, will receive during the year concerns the bond of your District or Post. Section 703 of the National By-Laws requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an Indemnity Company as surety and the By-Laws places the responsibility for adequate bonding upon the District or Post Commander. In any professional business, it is customary to bond any officer handling funds.

22. DISTRICT/POST TRUSTEE AUDITS: The books and records of the District/Post Quartermaster must be audited at least **QUARTERLY** by the District/Post Trustees. This required action will comply with Section 218 of the National Manual of Procedures. The District/Post Quartermaster should welcome a "through audit" for his/her own protection!

District/Post Quarterly Audit Periods/Dates:

Period: 1 Jan – 31 March	DUE TO DIST CDR: 1 MAY	DUE TO DEPARTMENT: 15 MAY
Period: 1 April – 30 June	DUE TO DIST CDR: 1 AUG	DUE TO DEPARTMENT: 15 AUG
Period: 1 July – 30 Sept	DUE TO DIST CDR: 1 NOV	DUE TO DEPARTMENT: 15 NOV
Period: 1 Oct – 31 Dec	DUE TO DIST CDR: 1 FEB	DUE TO DEPARTMENT: 15 FEB

23. WORKER'S COMPENSATION: Posts are reminded that, according to North Carolina state law, they must pay for Workman Compensation if they have **3 or more legal employees, full time or part time, for example, a canteen manager, bartenders, kitchen manager and staff, etc.** However, Posts should seriously consider maintaining a liability policy even if they only have one or two employees. In fact, according to the Industrial Commission of North Carolina, the Post must have a Workman's Compensation Policy. If the Post fails to have a policy and are inspected by a North Carolina Industrial Commission Agent, the Post will be held responsible which includes civil and criminal citations. The maintenance of a Workman's Compensation policy 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. For more information, please go to www.ic.nc.gov or call the Industrial Commission at 919-807-2501.

The Department Headquarters uses New River Insurance located in Sparta, NC. Michael Hamm (336-372-2100) is our representative and is available to work with Posts to construct a Workman's Compensation Policy; and, and will forward the policy certificate directly to the Industrial Commission office, if needed.

24. VFW NC PTSD TOWN HALL MEETING: The Vietnam Veterans of America, NC State Council, will be presenting a PTSD Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, June 11, 2016, 11:00 AM-6:00 PM at AB Tech College, Asheville Campus, Mission Health/AB Tech Conference Center, Asheville, NC. This will be the first PTSD Town Hall Meeting the Vietnam Veterans of America, NC State Council will be hosting in North Carolina. The Vietnam Veterans of America, NC State Council are hoping for the same kind of support from VFW, Department of North Carolina, that they had for their Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings.

The goal of the Town Hall Meeting is to educate those Veterans who were exposed to traumatic events while in the military and its effects on the individual and family members. All military Veterans, regardless of they currently serve on active duty or not, and their family members are invited to attend the PTSD Town Hall Meeting.

Information tables from various Federal, State, County and community based organizations, will be available at the event. A event flyer, with directions and the press release for the event, were included in a Department email. Please do not hesitate to contact Allan Perkal, Vietnam Veterans of America, NC State Council, at (808) 383-7877, regarding any questions you might have about the Town Hall Meeting.

25. DEPARTMENT LEADER: As we close out this general order, the following message is from the Department Leader Team: The Spring Issue of The **VFW LEADER** is now available for viewing on the Department Web Site. Please pass this information along to your members so they may access it at their convenience. We hope you enjoy the Spring issue of The Leader as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you! The Spring issue is published and printed copies will be distributed to posts, at the Department Convention and at the National Convention. To see the electronic version please go to vfwnc.com and click on **Leader**.

The Department Leader Team is collecting District/Posts (Comrades/Ladies Auxiliary/Men's Auxiliary) articles and pictures for the next Department Leader Issue. Please email all Department Leader articles and pictures directly to: editor@vfwnc.com; or pao@vfwnc.com.

We distributed the Spring issue both electronically and in limited print copy. At the last Council of Administration Conference, all District Commanders received three copies of the magazine for each post in their district to distribute. We would like to have feedback on how that distribution worked, any suggestions/recommendations for the distribution of the Spring issue, and any other comments on the magazine in general. See You at Our June State Convention!

26. DISTRICT COMMANDERS/POST COMMANDERS: All District and Post Commanders are to ensure their respective election reports are accurately completed with all of the elected and appointed officers and forwarded to National and Department Headquarters immediately after Post elections and District conventions. This action will facilitate the preparation of the 2016-2017 Department Directory. Attention to incoming District/Post Officers is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure which outlines the duties of various District/Post Officers.

27. DEPARTMENT ELECTION REPORT AND OFFICER ROSTER: Department Election Report and Officer Roster must be filled out by the Department Adjutant and submitted to the National Office of the Adjutant General no later than the day (**Monday, June 6, 2016**) following the close of the Department Convention.

28. VFW NATIONAL LEADERSHIP REFERENCE GUIDE: Attention Post Commanders and Quartermasters: The VFW Leadership Reference Guide is now available online at the National VFW website (www.vfw.org). You will have to create an account and log-on as a VFW member to be able to view or print it.

In an effort to better serve the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, National has created "VFW Training and Support," where you will find training material relating to Membership Recruiting and Retention; Community Service, Youth Scholarships and Activities; Media and Public Relations; Post Service Officers; Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates; and Veterans & Military Support. To utilize these valuable training guides, videos, forms and templates, please login at www.vfw.org, proceed to "My VFW" and click the link "VFW Training and Support." The online "Document Repository" will be maintained as a system of managing documents utilized primarily by Department Officers and members of the National Council of Administration.

VFW Posts, Districts, and Departments are the heart of the VFW organization. From members to officers, you each play a vital role in the success and future of the VFW. On the VFW National Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates website, you will find tips and insight into VFW officer responsibilities, VFW traditions and protocol. Whether you need training videos on conducting VFW Post meetings or guidelines and manuals to help you understand your duties as a Post member, Post officer, the website is your "one-stop-shop" to access the tools and resources designed to ensure you succeed in your VFW position. For example,

(a). Training Videos and Webinars: Conducting VFW Post Meetings; Election Reports; Post By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation; and Challenging a VFW Member's Eligibility.

(b). Training Guides and Standard Operating procedures (SOP's): Amendments & Resolutions Manual; Guide to Protocol, to include Cross of Malta and Logo Usage; Men's auxiliary and VFW Riders Guideline SOP; and Ceremonial Rifles.

(c). Training the Trainer: Inspector Training—Training that creates successful inspections and inspectors; Leading Your Organization—Establish priorities and create an effective action plan with an excellent Trainer PowerPoint presentation.

(d). National Membership Program: Elected and Appointed Officer Specific Materials; Quartermaster Guides; Chaplains Handbook; and Trustees Guide to Proper Audit.

(e). Our VFW organization has remained focused on building an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. From recruiting training guides to Post Service Officer training videos, the VFW Training and Support section on the VFW National Training and Support website has many tools and resources designed to assist you in helping lead the VFW organization well into the future.

29. DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING SESSION: State Service Officer Cleo Summers will conduct the Service Officer Training/Workshop Session during our June State Convention on June 3, 2016 (Friday), from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, in the Embassy Suites (Cary) Mendenhall Room. If a District or Post does not have a “trained” service officer, they should send him/her to this training workshop session and consider paying their hotel room and/or travel (mileage) expenses.

30. DEPARTMENT JUNE STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEES: The following comrades were appointed by the Department Commander in **General Order 1 (July 2015)** to serve on June 2-5, 2016 State Convention Committees. These comrades are entitled to hotel and/or travel (mileage) expenses.

BUDGET COMMITTEE (9 members): ***Kenneth Sellers, Chairman*** (1920); John “Jack” Goin (7288); Ernest Allis (9488); Douglas Blevins (7034); Greg Stafford (6060); James Roberson (7383); Dustin Thompson (5206); Gene Kent (7034); Chris Sikes (2573) . *This entire committee meets at the Department Convention, Fall and Winter CoAs, and all special meetings.*

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE (5 members): ***James Goins, Chairman*** (9811); Victor Letourneant (9960); James Young (5206); J. Dean Harris (4286); Thomas Person (6018). *This entire committee meets at the Department Convention.*

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (4 members): ***Jason Schoolcraft, Chairman*** (8013); Roland Rochester (6018); William “Bill” Greene (10630); Roland Rochester (6018) . *This entire committee meets at the Department Convention.*

COLOR GUARD (6 members): ***William Hertline, Captain*** (7288); Rose Quasebarth (7032); Juan Cantu (2771); Calvin Norton (9488); John Harry (10); Andrea Williams (6018). *This entire committee meets at the Department Convention, Fall and Winter CoAs.*

GOLF COMMITTEE (3 members): ***Gene Kent, Chairman*** (7034); Allen Payne (2031); Jack Campbell (2423). *This entire committee meets at the Department Convention, Fall and Winter CoAs.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE (6 members): ***James Goins, Chairman*** (9811); Glendale Young (8073); Carmen Sadler (9337); Roland Rochester (6018); Mary McClinnahan (10); James Eason (2057); and Men’s Auxiliary members. *This entire committee meets at the Department Convention, Fall and Winter CoAs.*

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE (7 members): ***John Shelander, Chairman*** (670), Jim Young (5206); Dustin Thompson (5206); Lewis Hunt (9488); Greg Stafford (6060); Anthony Hall (10403); Chris Sikes (2573). *This entire committee meets at the Department Convention, Fall and Winter CoAs.*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (5 members): Roland Rochester, Chairman (6018); William "Bill" Greene (10630); E. H. "Buzz" Griggs (10607); Alex Vanderheide (1142); Joe Stanley (2573). *This entire committee meets at the Department Convention, Fall and Winter CoAs.*

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE (3 members): Elree Smith, Chairman (10999); Gene Kent (7034); Lewis Hunt (9488). *This entire committee meets at the Department Convention.*

RULES COMMITTEE (3 members): Jimmie Outlaw, Chairman; Arthur Shull (2843); John Shelander (670). *This entire committee will meet at the Department Convention, Fall and Winter CoAs when necessary.*

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS (5 members): William "Bill" Greene, Chairman (10630); Roland Rochester (6018); Marvin Fiel (9133); Eric Cantu (2771); J.T. White (2514). *This entire committee meets at the Department Convention, Fall and Winter CoAs when necessary.*

31.DISTRICT COMMANDERS OFFICER TRAINING WORKSHOP SESSION. There will be a District Commanders Officer Training Workshop Session (School of Instruction) on **June 5 2016 (Sunday), starting at 8:30 am until completed, in the Embassy Suites (Cary) Pinehurst Room. This training workshop session is ONLY open to District Commanders and Department Officers.** All phases of VFW Post and District operations will be discussed during this training session including new program initiatives and By-Law changes that affect every VFW Post statewide. Topics will include, but not limited to: Commanders Open Seminar; Membership/Recruiting; Core Program Handouts; Bonds; Audits; Inspections; Department Website and On-Line Reporting; Disciplinary Actions; Post Fundraising, etc..

Closing Note: I would like to extend a hearty congratulations to all newly elected District and Post Officers for Membership Year 2016-2017.

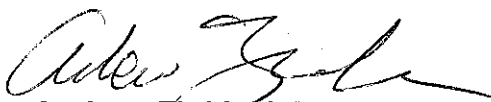
Closing Note: Please review all contact information in this General Order and report any corrections to the State Adjutant for updating in General Order 1 (July 2016). If you would like some information to be included in the next general order, please forward this information to the State Adjutant.

By Order Of:



Jessie Bellflowers
State Commander
Department of North Carolina

Official:



Andrew Zinkievich
State Adjutant
Department of North Carolina

**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Department of North Carolina
86th Annual State Convention Program Agenda Schedule**

June 2, 2016 (Thursday)

1:00-4:00	Convention Registration/Banquet Ticket Sales	Registry Room
2:00-2:30	Credentials Committee Meeting	Crescent Boardroom
2:30-3:30	VFW NC Foundation Board Meeting	Crescent Boardroom
4:00-6:00	Outgoing Council of Administration Business Meeting	Blowing Rock Main Room
6:00-12:00	Hospitality Room	Hope and Biltmore Rooms

June 3, 2016 (Friday)

6:30-9:00	Individual Breakfast	Hotel Breakfast Area
7:30-8:30	VFW/Aux Officers Meeting (invitation only)	Crescent Boardroom
9:00-5:00	Convention Registration/Banquet Ticket Sales	Registry Room
9:00-10:00	VFW & Auxiliary Joint Meeting (Memorial Service)	Blowing Rock Main Room
10:00-4:00	Service Officer Training/Workshop Session	Mendenhall Room
10:00-11:00	Department Rules Committee Meeting	Crescent Boardroom
10:00-11:00	Men's Auxiliary Meeting	Pinehurst Room
10:00-12:00	IT/Website Committee Meeting/Training Session	Tanglewood Room
11:00-12:00	Department Resolutions Committee Meeting	Pinehurst Room
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Hope and Biltmore Rooms
12:00-1:00	Department By-Laws Committee Meeting	Pinehurst Room
12:00-1:00	Membership Training/Workshop Session	Tanglewood Room
1:00-2:00	Golf Committee Meeting	Crescent Boardroom
1:00-2:00	Quartermaster/Trustee Training Session	Tanglewood Room
1:00-2:00	Post Commander's Training Session	Pinehurst Room
2:00-3:00	Long Range Planning Committee Meeting	Pinehurst Room
3:00-4:00	Budget Committee Meeting	Pinehurst Room
4:00-5:00	Eastern Conference Meeting	Pinehurst Room
4:00-5:00	Central Conference Meeting	Tanglewood Room
4:00-5:00	Western Conference Meeting	Mendenhall Room
5:00-12:00	Hospitality Room	Hope and Biltmore Rooms

June 4, 2016 (Saturday)

6:30-9:00	Individual Breakfast	Hotel Breakfast Area
8:00-8:45	Past/Current/Incoming District Commanders Meeting	Hope and Biltmore Rooms
8:00-8:45	Past Department Commanders Meeting	Crescent Boardroom
9:00-11:00	Outgoing Council of Administration Business Meeting	Blowing Rock Main Room
11:00-12:30	Lunch	Hope and Biltmore Rooms
12:30-3:00	Elections and Installations	Blowing Rock Main Room
<u>Special Note:</u>The VFW and Auxiliary will conduct a Joint Installation of Officers		
3:15- 5:30	Incoming Council of Administration Business Meeting	Blowing Rock Main Room
7:00-9:00	Banquet (Formal)	Blowing Rock & Side Rooms

June 5, 2016 (Sunday)

6:30-9:00	Individual Breakfast	Hotel Breakfast Area
8:30-12:00	District Commander's Leadership Training Session	Pinehurst Room
9:00-12:00	Departure--Submit Expense/Travel Forms	Registry

Saturday Night Dinner Banquet Program Agenda Schedule
June 4th, 2016
Dress: Formal (Coat and Tie)

Entrance of the Head Table	National Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Barringer
Pledge of Allegiance	National Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Barringer
Invocation and Meal Prayer	State Chaplain Jim Dyer
Head Table (Short) Introductions	State Commander Jessie Bellflowers State Auxiliary President Fran Redfield
Dinner	All
Introduction of "Letters from Home" Group	State Commander-elect Doug Blevins State Auxiliary President-elect Joyce Preston
Teacher of the Year Presentations	State Commander Jessie Bellflowers
Introduction of VFW National Auxiliary Representative	State Auxiliary President Fran Redfield
Introduction of VFW National Representative	State Commander Jessie Bellflowers
Introduction of State Auxiliary President-elect	State Auxiliary President Fran Redfield
Introduction of family and special guest	State Auxiliary President Joyce Preston
Introduction of State Commander-elect	State Commander Jessie Bellflowers
Introduction of family and special guest	State Commander Doug Blevins
Presentation of Past State Commander's Pin	State Commander Doug Blevins
Closing Comments	State Commander Doug Blevins State Auxiliary President Joyce Preston
Benediction	State Auxiliary Chaplain

Special Note: Saturday Night Dinner Banquet Entertainment will be introduced by State Commander-elect Doug Blevins and State Auxiliary President-elect Joyce Preston. They will introduce the entertainment group ***"Letters From Home" or also known as "America's Bombshell Duo"***. They are a pair of energetic singers/dancers, while performing an exciting show with lots of audience participation. You can learn more about them at <http://lettersfromhomesingers.com>.

Special Note: The menu for the Saturday Night Dinner Banquet is: Prime Rib Carving Station Served with Au Jus, Crab Stuffed Flounder with Scampi Butter, Roasted Fingerling Potatoes, Roasted Vegetables, Warm Rolls and Butter, Hot Tea and Iced Tea, Freshly Brewed Starbucks Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Water, and Chocolate Mousse Cake. An excellent chef's garden house salad will be pre-set at each table setting, with ten (10) setting per table. ***The cost is \$45.00 per banquet ticket. Please reserve and purchase your banquet ticket by calling the Department Adjutant.***