

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

GENERAL ORDER #9

May 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 a hearty congratulations to all newly elected District and Post Officers for Membership Year 2016-2017. With this said, I would like to share some valuable advice that was given to me some years ago by Past All-State/All-American Post 10630 Commander Bryce H. Swindle. Commander Swindle shared the following comments: ***"To be successful and effective as a Post and/or District Officer, especially in a senior leadership position, you must have, in your procession the following documents: (1) a copy of your Post By-Laws; (2) a copy of your District By-Laws; (3) a copy of our Department By-Laws; and most of all, (4) a current copy of the VFW National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure Podium. Read, Understand, and Carry them to every meeting!!!"***

Second, I cannot stress the importance of forwarding your Post and District Election Reports to Department and National Headquarters! If your 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 Post Charter for failure to submit a properly completed Post Election Report to National Headquarters **NLT (Wednesday) June 1, 2016**. If your Post fails to comply with the Commander-in-Chief's directive, your Post will be suspended and not 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).

Third, 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!

Fourth, 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 two (2) months to do it. 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. The Department has qualified membership recruiters to help your Post recruit and we are more than willing to do that, but you have to let us know

you want our help. Roland Rochester is the Department Membership Chairman and an excellent National Recruiter. I encourage every Post to contact Roland, your District Commander or the Department Membership Team to set up a Membership Drive. The Department is currently sitting at 97.23% with 23,605 Members. We need 670 Members to reach 100%. Remember to **Retain, Recruit and Reinstate** members and every one of us is a recruiter.

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 1st deadline!**

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: VFW MEMBERS ATTENDING CANDIDATE RALLIES: VFW members cannot endorse a candidate but are encouraged to take part in the political process while wearing their caps. Please keep in mind you are representing not just the National organization or our state but all veterans everywhere.

In reference to the above paragraph:

You can say "I am a veteran and I support blank candidate."
You cannot say "I am a veteran and the VFW supports blank candidate."

VFW members come from all walks of life and are encouraged to participate in the political process. However our Congressional Charter and By-Laws do not preclude a member from wearing his or her cap to a political event.

While the veteran in the recent political rally was not wearing a VFW-specific cap, the physical action of the veteran is a legal issue, and as such, should be investigated by the appropriate local authorities."

2.VFW NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP NEWS: EXEMPLARY POST INFORMATION

A message from VFW National Membership: Could each Department look through all their posts and select one that stands out above the others? Please take into account membership, community service, and involvement with the community. This post would show a high level of motivation and dedication to the VFW's mission, vision, and values. Once a post has been identified, please email me back the post number. This will be used to compile a list and do some research moving forward. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Please contact Tara Arteaga at Email: tartega@vfw.org or call (816) 968-2788.

3. VFW NATIONAL NEWS: Wyndham Hotel Group Signs On As Newest VFW Member Benefit (Members can enjoy savings at 7,600 locations worldwide) — Looking for the best hotel discounts before booking your next trip? VFW members can now save up to 20%* off the best available rate with Wyndham Hotel Group's 14 different brands and 7,600 locations around the world. Browse all available member offers online to see how you can earn added travel deals on top of the best available rate. Simply login to www.vfw.org and look for Wyndham Hotel Group on the Travel Services page in the Member Benefits section.

With a casual atmosphere, thoughtful touches, and attentive, courteous service, these hotels and resorts provide an upscale, full-service brand with properties located in key vacation and business destinations across the world. Take advantage of the comfort and amenities you would expect in a world-class hotel, including beautifully appointed public areas, thoughtfully detailed guest rooms and distinct dining options. Business locations feature meeting spaces flexible for large and small events, as well as business and fitness centers. Many resorts also offer golf, tennis, beautiful beaches, spas and more!

VFW members may also take advantage of a line of business-oriented hotels, perfectly situated in key business, airport and suburban locations. Enjoy tasteful, intimate hotels with comfortable guest rooms that offer a wealth of thoughtful amenities. Every hotel provides casual dining options, inviting lobbies and cozy library lounges for reading or socializing. And of course, flexible meeting space that can accommodate a wide range of functions.

From simple ocean side ceremonies to dazzling ballroom receptions, VFW members & families will relish in unique destinations for an unforgettable wedding experience! With the support of a Wedding Professional, design your dream wedding down to the most thoughtful details, while taking advantage of exceptional services that ensure a memorable experience for you and your guests.

The celebration continues when you plan your honeymoon getaway. Whether you are looking for adventurous activities or a secluded, romantic hideaway, enjoy the endless opportunities for fun and relaxation. Begin planning your special day by browsing our unique wedding destinations or provide us with more information and we will match you with a hotel or resort that meets your personal needs.

Whatever your reason for travelling, the VFW Member Hotel Savings Program offers incredible hotel package deals. Whether you're booking a spontaneous weekend getaway or need to plan your next business venture, choose a package that fits your style, complete with added discounts and perks to elevate your trip. Find more information about our available packages online – available in a wide variety of locations across the U.S. Be sure to check these offers frequently, as new packages are added often.

Don't forget to make the most of your stay by becoming a Rewards Member that provides additional promotions, where you can earn extra bonus points to use toward free nights, resort vacations, and other money-saving perks. You can also redeem points for travel accessories, music downloads, and other great rewards just by being a Rewards Member. Find out how you can earn extra rewards and travel discounts online, or for those of you who may not be Rewards Members yet, you can join for free any time.

4. VFW NATIONAL AND TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY: As we done in years past, the VFW and Tractor Supply Company (TSC) are partnering again this year in honor of our nation's heroes. TSC is the largest farm and ranch store chain in the United States. VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries are encouraged to host events at TSC stores throughout the country on May 28, 2016, to honor veterans, showcase VFW patriotism and get the community involved. This year we are calling the event "Salute Our Troops".

These events may vary at each location, ranging from Buddy Poppy distribution, recruiting opportunities, hosting a Memorial Day event, BBQ's and any other fun activity.

Today's communication is merely asking for your assistance in maximizing participation for this year's event. The link provided http://tsceventpartners.com/salute_live.php is an easy site to register. I would ask you to share with all means necessary and get your Posts and Auxiliaries behind this event. This is an excellent opportunity for Posts and Auxiliaries to form a great relationship with their community and more importantly with a company that shares our same values and affinity with our nation's veterans.

The VFW and Tractor Supply Company (TSC) has enjoyed an excellent partnership over the years with your local community. It is noted that just about every weekend in the summer months are sacred; however,, if you could pledge just a couple of hours or help advertise this excellent community, partnership event at your local TSC, it would be most welcomed! If you have any questions about this years "Salute Our Troops" event please contact Lynn Rolf, VFW Programs Director at (816) 968-1116 or via email at lrolf@vfw.org. Thank you for your continued support of our VFW program and activities

5. 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).

6.VFW NATIONAL LOYALTY DAY/MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE: According to Section 233 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedures, each Post shall see that suitable arrangements are made for the observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Also, see that suitable grave markers, wreaths, and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased Veterans. Conduct Memorial Day services in the cemeteries in its locality if practicable. Don't forget Buddy Poppy Distribution events.

7.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

8.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.

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

I offered to help the other Chairman out in finding volunteers to assist with the activities at the convention. The goal is that we fill all of our positions with VFW Comrades so that we do not take away from the workforce of the VFW Auxiliary.

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

10. 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.

11.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.

12. VFW DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA SPECIAL ORDER 16-11, DATED APRIL 26, 2016: In accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, the Post 670 (Fayetteville) Suspension Order *is hereby removed* as the post operations are now in full compliance. The Post 670 Commander is Johnny Adams.

13.NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD EVENT: Our North Carolina National Guard has scheduled a 2016 Reconnect Survivor Event – "Honoring Those Who Served – Supporting the Families of the Fallen Heroes of the North Carolina National Guard, on May 20-22, 2016, at Courtyard Marriott, Brier Creek Inn in Raleigh, NC. POC is MSG Terry Thompson at terry.l.thompson16.mil@mail.mil.

14.JUNE STATE CONVENTION: Our June State Convention is next 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.**

15. 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).

16. POST ELECTION REPORTS: We are into May and Post Commanders are reminded that since Post Elections are complete (April --- per Section 217 of the National By-Laws) for all Post Officers (Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and Trustees) Post Election Reports must be completed and submitted to VFW National Headquarters.

If your Post Election Report is not filled out correctly and contains deficiencies know that under Section 211 of the National By-Laws, the Command-in-Chief maintains the authority to suspend and further revoke a Post Charter for failure to submit a properly completed Post Election Report to National Headquarters NLT (**Wednesday June 1, 2016**).

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).

Post Election Report forms were mailed to Post Quartermasters on February 19, 2016 with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) not later than June 1st. As soon as possible after the Post election, but within one (1) week, this form should be completed in its entirety and mailed in accordance with instructions on the election form. Instructions for completing the election form are included in the information packet received from National. 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 post officers to complete and submit or mail the election report form. Failure to submit the report will result in the Post being placed on suspension for failure to have elected post officers. Post must submit their election report form before June 1, 2016. If not, the Post will not be allowed to register and vote during the June State Convention...there are no exceptions to this order!

17. INSTALLATION OF POST OFFICERS: The Post Commander-elect will select the Installing Officer who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of the Post Commander. ***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).*** An officer-elect who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause may be installed at any regular or special meeting prior to the Department Convention. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant. Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year except that three trustees shall initially be elected for terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3) years and thereafter one (1) trustee shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years.

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.

18.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.***

19.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.

20.DISTRICT ELECTIONS: All Districts will hold a District Convention in April or May, not less than ten (10) days or more than sixty (60) days prior to the Department Convention for the purpose of electing District Officers and the transaction of District old and new business. District Commanders-elect are to insure all District Election Reports are properly filled out and submitted prior to the Department Convention. District officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the District Adjutant.

District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the District Commander, Quartermaster, and Adjutant prior to installation to office. District Commanders installed shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant prior to the convening of the June State Convention. ***District 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).***

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

21.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.

22.DISTRICT/POST INSPECTIONS: Post and Bingo Operations must be inspected **ONCE** and Canteens must be inspected **TWICE**, per year. Any significant deficiencies must be re-inspected to verify corrections. The District Commander and the Department Inspector will directly coordinate re-

inspections.

The following Posts **ARE NOT ELIGIBLE** for All-State/All-American honors and **NOT ALLOWED** to vote during the June State convention because:

Post Not Inspected:

District 7: Post 10225
District 10: Post 11533
District 13: Post 2423; 7775; 9488; 9736; and 9751
District 16: Post 891; 5206; 5483; 9116; 9157; 10349; and 10473

Post That Failed/Pending Inspection:

District 3: Post 4312; 6651
District 5: Post 9983
District 11: Post 1134; 8719; 11173
District 12: 3006
District 13: Post 4059
District 14: 2031
District 17: Post 7620; 9493

Post Canteen Not Inspected (Second Inspection):

District 3: 3702
District 4: 9161
District 13: 1160; 2423; 5464; 6724; 9337; 9488; 9811
District 15: 7031
District 16: 891; 5206; 9157
District 17: 12132

23.IMPORTANT DATES:

April 17 – May 29, 2016	Department District Conventions
May 1, 2016	Loyalty Day
May 5, 2016	National Day of Prayer
May 12 – 15, 2016	Senior Vice Commanders/Adjutants Training, Kansas City, MO
May 21, 2016	Armed Forces Day
May 30, 2016	Memorial Day
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

24.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.

25.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: 100.30%
District 7: 101.34%
District 8: 102.84% (First District in Department to reach 100 percent in membership!)
District 9: 103.13%

In addition to the above listed Department **(21)** Honor Post for achieving 100%+ in membership by February 1st... Congratulations to the following Department Post **(24)** 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 5: Post 10226 (Oak Island)
District 6: Post 10607 (Burlington); Post 10777 (Butner)
District 7: Post 6722 (Lillington); Post 10225 (Garner)
District 8: Post 4542 (Spring Lake); Post 6018 (Fayetteville); Post 8969 (Lumberton)
District 9: Post 2008 (Laurinburg); Post 7313 (Pittsboro)
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)

26.DISTRICT MEETINGS: District Commanders, along with their respective District VFW Auxiliary Presidents, will schedule their District Level Meetings between **April 17 – May 29, 2016**. Tentative District Meeting Dates:

District 1: April 24 (Sunday)	Time: 1 pm	Location: Post 6060 (Elizabeth City)
District 2: April 24 (Sunday)	Time: 1 pm	Location: Post 6088 (Washington)
District 3: April 30 (Saturday)	Time: 12 pm	Location: Post 4147 (Bailey)
District 4: May 15 (Sunday)	Time: 12 pm	Location: Post 8986 (Newport)
District 5: April 30 (Saturday)	Time: 10 am	Location: Post 10226 (Oak Island)
District 6: May 7 (Saturday)	Time: 12 pm	Location: Post 2740 (Durham)
District 7: April 23 (Saturday)	Time: 12 pm	Location: Post 7383 (Cary)
District 8: April 24 (Sunday)	Time: 1 pm	Location: Post 6018 (Fayetteville)
District 9: May 7 (Saturday)	Time: 12 pm	Location: Post 4203 (Rockingham)
District 10: May 7 (Saturday)	Time: 12 pm	Location: Post 8297 (Midway-Monroeton)
District 11: May 7 (Saturday)	Time: 12 pm	Location: Post 2019 (Mount Airy)
District 12: May 1 (Sunday)	Time: 1 pm	Location: Post 3006 (Salisbury)
District 13: May 15 (Sunday)	Time: 2 pm	Location: Post 9488 (Charlotte)
District 14: May 21 (Saturday)	Time: 11 am	Location: Post 2031 (Statesville)
District 15: April 24 (Sunday)	Time: 2:30 pm	Location: Post 7031 (Boone)
District 16: April 17 (Sunday)	Time: 1 pm	Location: Post 5206 (Hendersonville)
District 17: April 23 (Saturday)	Time: 11 am	Location: Post 6812 (Hayesville)

District August/September Meetings: According to State Senior-Vice Commander Doug Blevins, District Commanders, along with their respective District VFW Auxiliary Presidents, will schedule their District Level Meetings between **August 20 – September 11, 2016; and, September 24-25, 2016. (September 16-18: Department Level Golf Tournament). Note: During the District Conventions,**

Department Reps are to record the next District Meeting date, time, and location and submit to the Department Adjutant. District Election of Officers for 2016-2017 will occur during the District Convention.

27. 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.

28. DEPARTMENT RESOLUTIONS: It is the time of year to begin thinking about any changes you would like to see concerning the operation of the VFW at both the Department and National levels. All changes must be presented in the form of a resolution and be submitted to the Department for consideration at the June Department Convention. Resolutions for the Department By-Laws **must be submitted to the State Adjutant NLT MAY 15, 2016** and shall be typewritten in order for the By-Laws Committee to review and publish them prior to the State Convention. You either can e-mail them or sent them USPS to the State Adjutant's office.

29. VFW BUSINESS: 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.

30. POST COMMANDERS: Loyalty Day and Memorial Day Observance: Section 223 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Officers should use that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.

31. 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!

32.NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS LEGISLATIVE DAY: This year, North Carolina Veterans Legislative Day is on May 11, 2016 (Wednesday). This day is OUR DAY to speak directly with state legislators. In addition, there is a scheduled Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative event honoring all those who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 and who work in the Legislative Building in any capacity. The event starts at 8 am and if you are attending, please inform our State Adjutant.

33.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.

34.DEPARTMENT TRAVEL EXPENSE FORMS: All Department officers using travel expense forms for travel reimbursement are cautioned that they must have them arrive at Department Headquarters **NO LATER THAN MAY 27, 2016 (Friday)** if they wish to be paid for travel expenses incurred during the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year.

35.DEPARTMENT ROSTER CHANGE: Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant, Nichole Waters, 917 New Bern Ave., Raleigh, NC 27611, Business Phone: 919-828-5058, Email: deptsec@vfwnc.com

36.DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS OFFICE: The Department Headquarters office will be closed on May 30, 2016 (Monday) for Memorial Day.

Closing Note: Please review all contact information in this General Order and report any corrections to the State Adjutant for updating in General Order 10 (June 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 Zinkjevich
State Adjutant
Department of North Carolina

**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Department of North Carolina
State Membership Program Guide Checklist 2015 – 2016**

State Membership Program: The State Membership Year ends **June 1, 2016**, unless otherwise notified. In order to qualify for All-State Membership Awards, the District/Post must meet its assigned objectives on or before **June 1, 2016**. **All-State:** The Membership Year for All-State: **July 1, 2015 – June 1, 2016**.

All-State Post Information:

Post Number: _____ District Number: _____ State Division: _____

Post Commander Name (Print): _____

Cap Size: _____ Life Member: _____(Y/N)

Post Quartermaster Name (Print): _____

Cap Size: _____ Life Member: _____(Y/N)

All-State General Rules and Requirements: The following is a checklist of requirements the Post must complete **on or before June 1, 2016** to receive All-State Award recognition for the State Membership Program Year 2015 – 2016:

1. _____(Y/N) Did the Post meet 100% Membership **and** finish in the above designated top post(s) of each division on or before **June 1, 2016**?
2. _____(Y/N) Did the Post submit at least one (1) Voice of Democracy student entry nomination to District _____ for judging?
3. _____(Y/N) Did the Post submit at least one (1) Patriot Pen student entry nomination to District _____ for judging?
4. _____(Y/N) Did the Post submit at least one (1) Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year (any level, K-5, 6-8, 9-12) entry nomination to District _____ for judging?
5. _____(Y/N) Is the Post Quartermaster bonded in the correct monetary amount?
6. _____(Y/N) Was the Post inspected and pass the inspection? Were all Canteen/Bingo inspections successfully completed? _____(Y/N or N/A).
7. _____(Y/N) Did the Post Commander attend each District Meeting **and** District Level School of Instruction, or have an authorized post line officer attend?
8. _____(Y/N) Were all Post Audit Reports submitted through the District Commander to State Headquarters as required by Section 218 of the National By-Laws?

9. _____ (Y/N) Did the Post submit a Buddy Poppy purchase order with a minimum of 5 poppies per member using **June 30, 2015** post membership numbers?

10. _____ (Y/N) Did the Post conduct at **least two (2)** membership recruitment events?

11. _____ (Y/N) Does the Post have an appointed Post Service Officer?

12. _____ (Y/N) Did the Post make a **minimum donation of \$25.00 donation** to the Veterans Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. (VFW NC Foundation)?

13. _____ (Y/N) Did the Post submit a Community Activities Report on the Internet On-Line Reporting System (Department Website) at least once during the first half of the year (**July – December 2015**) and once during the second half of the year (**January – May 2016**).

14. _____ (Y/N) Did the Post submit a Post Election Report of Post Officers for Membership Year 2016-2017?

As District _____ Commander, I have personally verified all of the above stated All-State requirements and respectfully submit Post _____ for consideration as an VFW NC All-State Post for Membership Year 2015-2016.

District _____ Commander Name (Print): _____

District Commander Signature/Date: _____

Verified by the State Adjutant/Date: _____

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Department of North Carolina
State Membership Program Guide Checklist 2015 – 2016

State Membership Program: The State Membership Year ends **June 1, 2016**, unless otherwise notified. In order to qualify for All-State Membership Awards, the District/Post must meet its assigned objectives on or before **June 1, 2016**. **All-State:** The Membership Year for All-State: **July 1, 2015 – June 1, 2016**.

All-State District Information:

District Number: _____

District Commander Name (Print): _____

Cap Size: _____ Life Member: _____ (Y/N)

District Quartermaster Name (Print): _____

Cap Size: _____ Life Member: _____ (Y/N)

All-State General Rules and Requirements: The following is a checklist of requirements the District must complete on or before **June 1, 2016** to receive All-State Award recognition for the State Membership Program Year 2015 – 2016:

1. _____ (Y/N) Did the District meet 100% Membership on or before **June 1, 2016**?
2. _____ (Y/N) Did the District submit at least one (1) Voice of Democracy student entry nomination to Department for judging?
3. _____ (Y/N) Did the District submit at least one (1) Patriot Pen student entry nomination to Department for judging?
4. _____ (Y/N) Did the District submit at least one (1) Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year (any level, K-5, 6-8, 9-12) entry nomination to Department for judging?
5. _____ (Y/N) Is the District Quartermaster bonded in the correct monetary amount?
6. _____ (Y/N) Are all Post Quartermasters in the District bonded in the correct monetary amount?
7. _____ (Y/N) Was the District inspected and pass the inspection?
8. _____ (Y/N) Were all Posts in the District inspected and pass the inspection? Were all Canteen/Bingo inspections successfully completed? _____ (Y/N or N/A).
9. _____ (Y/N) Did the District Commander attend each District Meeting and Department Level School of Instruction, or have an authorized post line officer attend?

10. _____(Y/N) Did the District conduct a District School of Instruction prior to or during its first District Meeting. (The State Representative will document the SOI on the District Inspection Report).
11. _____(Y/N) Were all District Audit Reports submitted through the District Commander to State Headquarters as required by Section 218 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure?
12. _____(Y/N) Were all Post Audit Reports in the District submitted through the District Commander to State Headquarters as required by Section 218 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure?
13. _____(Y/N) Did all Posts in the District submit a Buddy Poppy purchase order with a minimum of 5 poppies per member using **June 30, 2015** post membership numbers?
14. _____(Y/N) Did the District conduct **at least two (2)** membership recruitment events?
15. _____(Y/N) Does the District have an appointed Post Service Officer?
16. _____(Y/N) Did the District make a **minimum of \$25.00 donation** to the Veterans Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. (VFW NC Foundation)?
17. _____(Y/N) Did all Posts in the District submit a Community Activities Report on the Internet On-Line Reporting System (Department Website) at least once during the first half of the year (**July – December 2015**) and once during the second half of the year (**January – May 2016**)?
18. _____(Y/N) Did all Posts, including the District, submit a Post or District Election Report of Post or District Officers for 2016-2017?

As District _____ Commander, I have personally verified all of the above stated All-State requirements and respectfully submit District _____ for consideration as a VFW NC All-State District for Membership Year 2015-2016.

District _____ Commander Name (Print): _____

District Commander Signature/Date: _____

Verified by the State Adjutant/Date: _____

**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

Special Note: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.***