



Iowa



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

MARCH 2019

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 9

1. **GENERAL ORDERS:** Are to be read at the Post Meeting and posted in your Post. There is important information in the General Orders, so please read!!!

2. **MEMBERSHIP:** The Department is at 95.35% as of Feb. 27, 2019. We are in 6th place in the Big Ten and 30th place out of 53 Departments in membership. We can't stop now; we now need to focus on the goal of 100%! We have 36 Posts out of 128 that are 100% and 4 Districts that are over 96%!!!! KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!! The Department of Iowa has not been 100% in membership since 1999 and I believe this is the year we make it. Let's roll up our sleeves and get busy on our recruiting efforts and do not forget the new members you signed up last year and get them to renew their membership. There is strength in numbers, and that is what we need on Capitol Hill!! Please... give them a call and invite them to your next meeting, let them know you still support them and care about them. When we ignore our members that is where we fail!

Congratulations to the following Posts for achieving 100% or better: **District 1:** Post 2537 **District 2:** Post 5234, 9128, & 9722 **District 3:** Post 733, 1623,5661, & 6792 **District 4:** Post 526, 1655, 2308, & 3932 **District 5:** Post 674,738, 2060, 3519, 4123, & 8142 **District 6:** Post 1899, 3930, & 5060 **District 7:** Post 737, 2265, 3415, 7224, 8877, 9661, & 9731 **District 8:** Post 3328 **District 9:** Post 1725, & 7736 **District 10:** Post 2612, 4071, 5236, 5515, & 7083.

3. **SCOUT OF THE YEAR:** The Department Scout of the Year Chairman is Stuart Juarez, 1125 Frazier Ave, Des Moines, IA 50315. The deadline for Scout of the Year award is as follows:
Entry to Post- March 1, 2019
Entry to Dept. – April 2, 2019
Entry to Nat'l – May 1, 2019

4. **2019 BIENNIAL REPORT:** This year Posts must file a biennial report with the Iowa Secretary of State's office. A **post card (or email if on file)** with the Corporation number and Pin Number, along with instructions you will need to file the report, will be sent to the registered agent of the Post. If the report is not filed by **April 1, 2019** the Post could be administratively dissolved and lose their Non-Profit status. Please ensure your registered agent is current.

5. **** CHANGE TO STATE CONVENTION DELEGATE STRENGTH:****

At the 119th National Convention in Kansas City, delegates voted to change the Manual of Procedure Section 222. Commanders please read and remember this at your April meeting. The Delegate Strength is now based on membership at the end of March not May. So if you want a lot of votes at State Convention be sure and get your membership to 100% or as close to it as you

can by the end of March. Delegate Strength is one for each thirty (30) members, or fraction thereof, **in good standing**.

Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in **April**. **Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31st.**

Delegates shall not be recognized at the National Convention unless they personally register their completed delegate card with the National Credentials Committee.

Posts instituted after delegate strength has been determined, but prior to convening date of the respective convention or district meeting, shall on the day of institution, elect one delegate and one alternate for each thirty names or fraction thereof according to the number of names listed on the charter application.

Post must submit the names of delegates and alternates to State Headquarters, along with \$5 convention fee, by **May 10, 2019**. Posts failing to submit their list of delegates and alternates, or pay the convention fee of \$5 per Post, shall be denied voting privileges at State Convention. The Delegate /Alternate sheet will be sent to all VFW Posts with the General Orders.

ARREARS. POSTS THAT ARE IN ARREARS. FOR ANY REASON, WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE AT STATE CONVENTION AND THEY CANNOT QUALIFY FOR ALL-STATE AWARDS. GET THIS TAKEN CARE OF NOW!!!!

6. **RESOLUTIONS:** Posts desiring to submit resolutions for consideration by their District prior to the convening of the State Convention, must present said resolution to their District in time for their Spring meeting, and upon approval by the Districts, copies of the resolution must reach State Headquarters in time to be prepared for the State Convention.

7. **DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE:** District Commanders please ensure that Department Headquarters receives your District Meeting Notice form so that we can plan on whom will be representing your meeting. This form will also give the Rep information on time and location. **This is your election meeting also!! Please choose thoughtfully!!!**

8. **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS:** The elected District officers shall be nominated and elected annually at the District Convention. Nomination, election and installation shall be in the manner prescribed in the Manual of Procedure.

An officer elected and assuming the duties of office shall continue to hold office for the period for which elected and until a successor assumes the duties of the office unless the office is declared vacant under the provisions of Sections 416 or 420 of these bylaws. An officer or committee member must remain in good standing in a Post in the District, otherwise they forfeit the office and the office shall be vacated.

9. **2018-2019 SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

District 1 – 3949 Iowa City, Sat. May 4, 2019 Carol Whitmore, State Commander
Jeanette Henry, Aux. Chaplain

District 2 – 8884 Vinton, Sat. April 13, 2019 Paul Arnold, State Jr. Vice Commander
Kathy McDonald, Aux. Sr. Vice President

District 3 – 4069 Alta Vista,	Sat. April 13, 2019	Darrell Blasberg, National Councilman Dru Novak, Aux. Guard
District 4 – 775 Ottumwa,	Sat. April 13, 2019	Jake Gruber, Past State Commander Wilma Thurnau-Fickess, Aux. President
District 5 – 3519 Knoxville,	Sat. April 27, 2019	Carol Whitmore, State Commander Wilma Thurnau-Fickess, Aux. President
District 6- 9599 Jefferson,	Sat. April 20, 2019	Russ Saffell, State Sr. Vice Commander Kathy McDonald, Aux. Sr. Vice President
District 7 – 941 Harlan,	Sat. April 6, 2019	Jake Gruber, Past State Commander Mary Shortt, Aux. Conductress
District 8 – 3328 Remsen,	Sat. May 4, 2019	Carol Whitmore, State Commander Wilma Thurnau-Fickess, Aux. President
District 9 – Elkader, Johnson’s Restaurant,916 High St NE, Elkader, 52043	Sat. April 27, 2019	Paul Arnold, State Jr. Vice Commander Sandy Weldon, Aux. Jr. Vice President
District 10 – 2541 Algona,	Sat. May. 11, 2019	Russ Saffell, State Sr. Vice Commander Jeanette Henry, Aux. Chaplain

10. **DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER RAFFLE:** The Department of Iowa is raffling off a 2018 Ford Escape S plus tax, title and license or a \$15,000 cash option. Tickets are \$20 each and the drawing will take place at the State Convention Banquet June 8, 2019 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, Iowa. Tickets were signed for and given to District Commanders at the Mid-Winter Conference to distribute to Posts. **Remember tickets can be sold to anyone not just VFW members. If you receive a check, have it made out to VFW Iowa-please send it to HQ to be cashed so people don’t have 6 month old checks waiting to be cashed. (See attached flyer).**

11. **IOWA NATIONAL COUNCILMAN CANDIDATE:** The office of Iowa’s National Councilman will begin a new term at the 2018 State Convention in Des Moines. The Councilman elected will serve a four year term (2020 to 2024). If you are interested in running for the office of National Councilman, the Department will place an ad in the Iowa Voice announcing your candidacy.

12. **2019 STATE CONVENTION:** The 98th Annual Iowa State Convention will be June 6 thru June 9, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr, Des Moines, IA 50321. Room rates are \$103 plus tax. Please call 515-287-2400 to reserve your room. Be sure to mention you are with VFW Department of Iowa Convention. The cutoff date for this rate is May 16, 2019. If you are on the VFW Council of Administration let me know which room to book for you, King or Double Queen.

13. **CONVENTION T-SHIRTS:** State Convention T-Shirts are being sold at \$18.00 per shirt and look like the photo below – At the bottom of the t-shirt & AUX will be added so that it reads “VFW & AUX”. The T-shirts are large sized so please order accordingly. All shirts will be delivered on Thursday evening and Friday morning at the Convention. All shirts are to be paid for when ordered and the last order date is May 16th. The theme for the banquet is also M*A*S*H B*A*S*H and there will be a prize for the ‘BEST CHARACTER COSTUME’ and ‘BEST OVERALL COSTUME’. If you have any questions please contact the Department Headquarters at 515-255-2139.



14. **REMOVAL OF UNPAID POST OFFICERS:** Post Officers whose membership dues expired will now be removed from office and cannot hold an elected position until the following year. Please send a new Election Report with the new officers information to Headquarters ASAP.

Remember with the subscription dues process, not every member's dues expired on Dec. 31, 2018. Post Quartermasters need to check the unpaid list regularly to ensure Post Officers dues are paid on time.

15. **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF POST OFFICERS:** Nominations for Post Officers for the 2020 membership year are to be made at the March meeting, with nominations to be held open until the election is called at the April meeting. Section 217 of our National Bylaws provides in detail the procedures for Nomination, Election, Installation and Terms of Office. Please read over Section 217 in the Manual of Procedures, under Election, which states: **"Post officers shall be elected in April."**

16. **ELECTION REPORTS:** Be sure that the Election Report of Post Officers for 2019 - 2020 year is sent in immediately following your April meeting. Your current Post Quartermaster will receive this Report Form from National along with the National Convention Registration Form for your Post. If your Report of Election is not received in Department Headquarters by 1 June 2019, your Post Charter may be suspended by National Headquarters and the Department Commander can recommend that your Post Charter be revoked for failure to submit a **properly completed** Post Election Report. Now is the time to line up your officers for the 2019-2020 year. You do not have to wait for the Officers to be installed to send in this Election Report, send it in as soon as last call and election is made at your April meeting. Make 3 copies of the **PROPERLY COMPLETED REPORT**, keep one copy, and send 1 copy to the District Commander and one copy to Department Adjutant/Quartermaster by Guidon Day, May 10, 2019 so that we can have the 2019-2020 Roster Books printed.

17. **VFW NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE:** The annual VFW National Legislative Service Conference will be held in Washington, D.C., March 2 - 7, 2019.

18. **120th NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars 120th National Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida on July 20-24, 2019. Housing and registration is now open. Please go to www.vfw.org, click on "Media & Events" and scroll to the bottom and click on "Events", click on "National Convention". There you will find all the information on this year's National Convention as well as a link to reserve your hotel room.

19. **REGISTRATION -- V.F.W. NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The Post Adjutant or Quartermaster should have received the Registration packet in the mail. Posts are urged to register delegates electronically on the Online Membership System. In accordance with the

requirements of Section 222 of the National Bylaws, which mandates each Post to register at least one delegate to the V.F.W. National Convention. Register a Delegate now for \$25.00. If you are mailing it do not mail the forms to the Department; it should be mailed to the address on the form. **GET THIS DONE NOW!**

20. **MILITARY ORDER OF COOTIES 9TH DISTRICT 5-STATE 70TH POW WOW:**

June 14th 15th & 16th 2019, Airport Holiday Inn Des Moines, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321, PH 515-287-2400. Room rate \$104 + Tax Group Rate - Hotel reservations must be received by May 31st 2019. Send Registration Form attached to General Orders & Checks Payable to MOC #1 and mail to: VFW Post 738, Attn: Stuart Juarez, 2801 Dean Ave, Des Moines, Iowa 50317. Registration requested by April 30, 2019.

21. **REMINDER:** State Commander Carol Whitmore's special project this year is helping homeless veterans. Please send your donations to VFW Iowa, 3601 Beaver Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310. Please put in memo section that it is for "Commander's Special Project". Donations will be used to help homeless veterans, shelters and the Stand Downs. Attached is a flyer for the Cedar Rapids veterans Stand Down for this coming Fall.

22. **INSPECTIONS:** District Commanders your attention is directed to Section 517 of the Manual of Procedure, states that each Post shall be inspected at least once during the year. Please make sure all the Posts in your District are inspected and report them in a timely manner rather than accumulating reports for 100% mailing. Please send completed Reports to **State Inspector Travis Holden, 2307 Richland Dr., Des Moines, IA 50317. Please send white copy only.**

23. **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES REPORT:** Please send all Community Activity Reports to the Community Activity Chairman Rick Martin (rickmartin412@aol.com), 412 Nilsen Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. Only 1 report per Post and per Auxiliary will be accepted and is due the eighth of each month.

24. **RECRUITING EVENT:** We have been invited to the Flower, Lawn and Garden Show 15-17 March, 2019 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds with a free booth. If you would like to come and work/recruit at this event, please contact HQ. The Theme for this year's event is "Flower Power", with respect to Woodstock's 50th anniversary.

25. **VFW DECAL LICENSE PLATE:** Information regarding this decal, including a photo and the contact information, is now available at

<https://iowadot.gov/mvd/vehicleregistration/vehicleregistration/decals>.

You may now purchase the decals from the Department of Iowa Headquarters at a cost of **\$20** for 2 decals (**one for front and one for rear license plate**) and will then take the decals to your local county tag office and purchase the decal license plate.

26. **IOWA STATE FAIR BOOTH:** We are asking Posts or individuals to donate to this great cause. For the posts or auxiliaries willing to donate, please send your checks to Department of Iowa Attn: Jerry Black, QM, 3601 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310. Any donation will be greatly appreciated and help to defer the cost of the booth. Even though we may get some money from National, it is not a guarantee every year, so please continue to donate!

We are the only Veterans Organization there and it is great public relations and lets everyone know that "**No One Does More For Veterans**" than the VFW.

27. **VFW DEPARTMENT OF IOWA BRICK FUNDRAISER:** Join us in becoming a part of our history & help us raise money for the VFW Department of Iowa. Your engraved brick purchase can be a lasting memorial for a family member or friend, used to advertise your business name, or used to list your family's name as a donor. The bricks are \$50 each and you may find the form on the VFW Iowa website at www.vfwiowa.org. The bricks will be placed from the side walk to the flag poles and around the flag pole area in front of the VFW Iowa Headquarters building. The order will be placed by placed by 4 Mar 2019, so get your order in!!

28. **CHAIN OF COMMAND:** Use your chain of command. If there are issues at your Posts, start with the Post Commander, then District Commander, then Department Commander.

29. **BUDDY POPPIES:** Place your orders **EARLY, AT LEAST 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR DISTRIBUTION DATE.** Every Post should be able to receive donations for at least 1,000 Poppies, which is also a requirement for All State Award. Buddy Poppy prices for 500 poppies are \$72.50 and 1,000 are \$145. Many Posts are not sending their orders in early enough to receive them prior to their scheduled date. ***GET THEM IN AT LEAST 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR DISTRIBUTION DATE.*** Please use updated form attached.

30. **CHECKS SENT TO DEPARTMENT (STATE) HQ's:** When forwarding your checks to VFW State Headquarters, please make it out to "VFW Iowa" and indicate what the check is to be used for: Hospital Fund, VOD Fund, Disaster Fund, etc. in the **MEMO section at the bottom left of the check.**

31. **VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAM:** For questions or concerns about connecting with Iowa Military Units, Adopt A Unit, Uplink Phone Calling, Unmet Needs (soldier/military assistance), Post Donor Cards, and MAP Grants for your Post/Auxiliary, contact **VMSP Chairman Pat Stark** at vfw.patstark@gmail.com or **641-780-9929**. Please consider making a donation to Veterans & Military Support Program today.

Regarding Operation Uplink, contact Uplink Chairman Pat Stark if you request a phone card for a hospitalized veteran who is in any hospital or nursing home other than one of the VAMF's.

32. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

MARCH COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION will be March 23, 2019 at 10 am at Beaverdale Post 9127, 4029 Urbandale Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310. ***NEW***

98TH ANNUAL VFW IOWA STATE CONVENTION will be June 6 - 9, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321. The room rate is \$103 plus tax.

120TH VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION will be held in Orlando, FL on July 20 - 24, 2019. The room rates are \$99 single/double, \$119 for triple and \$139 for quad plus tax.

2019 BIG TEN CONFERENCE will be Oct. 18-20, 2019 at the Doubletree by Hilton, Omaha Downtown, 1616 Dodge St, Omaha, NE 68102. Room rates are \$119 plus tax. The deadline to reserve your room is Sept. 16, 2019.

Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work you do every day for the VFW!!!!

PLEASE BE SAFE IN THE COLD...CHECK ON YOUR FRIENDS!!!!

** The Marine Corps motto “Semper Fidelis was adopted in 1883 as the official motto. It is Latin for “always faithful” **

Communication is the key!!

By Order of:

Carol L. Whitmore

Department Commander
VFW Department of Iowa

OFFICIAL: *Jerry Black*

State Adjutant-Quartermaster
VFW Department of Iowa
CW/jb


Happy
St. Patrick's Day

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