



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

June 2019

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 12

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 99.50% as of May 29, 2019. We only need 76 members to be 100%. We are in 5th place in the Big Ten and 38th place out of 53 Departments in membership. We now need to focus on the goal of 100%! We have 69 Posts out of 127 that are 100% and 5 Districts that are over 100%!!!! The Department of Iowa has not been 100% in membership since 1999 and this is the year we make it. **I am extremely proud of the Department of Iowa VFW!!! It is because of the members, the Posts and the Districts that we are where we are today!!** Let's roll up our sleeves and keep up on our recruiting efforts and please, 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 to keep our benefits as well as advocate for new ones!!! Please... give your members 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 - 100.29:** Post 1565, 2537, 5166, & 6414 **District 2:** Post 1683, 5234, 8884, 9128, & 9722 **District 3:** Post 733, 839, 1623, 2208, 3896, 4069, 4561, 5661, 6607, & 6792 **District 4:** Post 526, 1655, 2308, 3932, & 4716 **District 5 - 104.19:** Post 674,738, 2060, 2099, 3519,4123, 8142, 8174, 9127, 9662, & 11517 **District 6 - 100.50:** Post 817, 1856,1899, 2504, 2642, 3930, 5060, & 9599 **District 7 - 101.25:** Post 737, 941, 2265, 3415, 7064, 7224, 8877, 9661, 9731, & 11355 **District 8:** Post 1750, 3328, 6129, & 6960 **District 9 - 100.80:** Post 508, 1725, 2440, 4117, 5981 & 7736 **District 10:** Post 2612, 4071, 4370, 5236, 5515, & 7083.

3. **COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S CHALLENGE:** The Commander-in-Chief has set out a new challenge for the month of May! At close of business on May 31, 2019, the top ten Posts in each Division that shows the highest number of New and Reinstated Members (measured from close of business 4/30 through close of business 5/31) will be entered into a drawing (one drawing per Division) for a .30-30 Henry Golden Boy Rifle.

4. **IOWA GRAND COOTIE CONVENTION:** The Iowa Grand Cootie Convention will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at the Airport Holiday Inn Conference Center, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, Iowa 50321. The Convention will begin at 10 am in the Ballroom South room.

5. **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.

6. **CONVENTION BANQUET:** A Social Mixer will begin at 6 pm in the Iowa BCDE room and the Banquet will begin at 7:00 PM on June 8, 2019. The cost of tickets is **\$37 per person**. A cash bar will be available for drinks during the Social Hour and until 9 pm during the banquet. A DJ will be playing your favorite songs from 6 pm to 11 pm.

Ticket orders need to be in to State Headquarters, 3601 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310, by **May 31, 2019**. Make checks payable to VFW Iowa. Use the order form at the end of the General Orders to order your tickets. No phone calls or emails will be accepted for banquet ticket reservations.

The State Convention Banquet will be a “M*A*S*H BASH THEME”. Everyone dress as your favorite M*A*S*H character and join us in celebrating a great year. Prizes for Best in character costume and Best overall costume!!



7. **ARREARAGES, DEFICIENCIES AND OMISSIONS:** **Section 213 of the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedures & Rituals** – Any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to District, Department and National for any fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

8. **REMINDER - IMPORTANT TASKS TO ACCOMPLISH BEFORE STATE CONVENTION:**

1) Post assessments and Convention registrations, State & National, have been paid. Make sure all payments have been remitted.

2) Ensure all Quarterly reports of audit are filed with the Department. Please file your Biennial Report with the Secretary of State's office.

3) Be sure your completely filled out Post & District election reports have been filed with National and the Department!

4) **Make sure the Department has your list of Delegates for the upcoming elections at State Convention.**

9. **CAMP DONATIONS:** If your Post or Auxiliary would like to donate to Camp Sunnyside and Camp Courageous bring your checks to VFW State Convention. They will be presented at the Joint Session on Friday June 7, 2019 starting at 1 pm in the Ballroom South.

10. **IOWA NATIONAL COUNCILMAN CANDIDATE:** The office of Iowa's National Councilman will begin a new term at the 2019 State Convention in Des Moines. The Councilman elected will serve a four year term (2020 to 2024).

11. **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, was sent to the registered agent of the Post. If the report was 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.

12. **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. **THIS IS OUR ONLY BIG FUND RAISER FOR THE DEPARTMENT...PLEASE SUPPORT IT AND SELL THOSE TICKETS!!!!**
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). Please bring all tickets, sold or unsold, along with monies to Convention to be turned in! WE HAVE ALMOST 1500 TICKETS STILL OUT!!!!!!!!!! PLEASE...EITHER SELL THEM OR TURN THEM BACK IN TO HQ TO SELL!!!

13. **ALL-STATE DISTRICT COMMANDER & DISTRICT QUARTERMASTER:** Congratulations to the following District for making the All-State team as of Guidon Day:

District 5, Commander Stuart Juarez, Post 738 Fairgrounds Post, Des Moines

Quartermaster Brad Whitmore, Post 9127 Beaverdale Post, Des Moines

14. **ALL-STATE POST COMMANDERS & POST QUARTERMASTERS:** Congratulations to the following Posts for making the All-State team as of Guidon Day:

Captain: Post 738, Des Moines, Commander Travis Holden, Quartermaster Jake Gruber

Post 1565, Muscatine, Commander Gary Ruffcorn, Quartermaster Vince Gaeta

Post 2060, Perry, Commander Ron Leber, Quartermaster Nathan Hoffman

Post 2099, Carlisle, Commander Frances Wilson, Quartermaster Krista Beck

Post 2208, Waverly, Commander Jeffrey Ryant, Quartermaster Charles Meier

Post 2440, Independence, Commander Roger Allen, Quartermaster Robert Hughes, Sr.

Post 2537, Tipton, Commander Denny Snow, Quartermaster Richard Peck

Post 3519, Knoxville, Commander Jake Beaver, Quartermaster David Ritchie

Post 8142, Winterset, Commander Stephen Chandler, Quartermaster Tim Pierce

Post 9127, Des Moines, Commander Bruce Charlet, Quartermaster Brad Whitmore

Post 9599, Jefferson, Commander James Wasson, Quartermaster Kenneth Arbuckle

Post 9662, Des Moines, Commander James Wettstad, Quartermaster Ron Koontz

15. **ALL-STATE POST COMMANDERS & POST QUARTERMASTERS:**

Congratulations to the following Post for making the All-State team **AFTER** Guidon Day and will receive their award at their Fall District Meeting:

Post 6414, Riverside, Commander Bret Frank, Quartermaster Steven Miller

16. **ELECTION REPORTS:** The Election Report of Post Officers for 2019 - 2020 year was to be sent in immediately following your April meeting. 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. You do not have to wait for the Officers to be installed to send in this Election Report, 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 so that we can have the 2019-2020 Roster Books printed.

17. **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.

18. **FLAG DAY:** All VFW Posts are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day Friday, June 14, 2019 and to conduct a ceremony/program.

19. **120th NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars 120th National Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida on July 20-24, 2019. 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.

20. **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!**

21. **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. **These reports are where we get All-State information verification from!!**

22. **GOLF TOURNAMENT:** On July 12, 2019 there will be a golf tournament sponsored by the Central Iowa Shelter & Services with all proceeds benefiting homeless veterans in Iowa. Please consider having a team or being a sponsor. See attached flyer for more information.

23. **STATE FAIR BOOTH SCHEDULE:** The State Fair Booth schedule is now available. Please call Department Headquarters at 515-255-2139 to place your name on the schedule if you would like to work the Fair Booth. The slots are first come first serve.
24. **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.
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. **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 the updated order form.
27. **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.
28. **'GREEN ALERT BILL', SF 64:** Attached is the 'Green Alert Bill', SF 64, which is a bipartisan bill in the Iowa legislation to establish a notification system for missing veterans. Please read. This is important for all veterans nationwide, and is being supported by several other states with success. This is similar to the Amber Alert for missing children, but for missing veterans. It is one way to circumvent suicide among veterans.
29. **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.**
30. **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.

31. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

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.

NEW **2019 VFW IOWA FALL POW WOW** will be Sept. 27 - 28, 2019 at the Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel, 1800 50th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50266. Room rates are \$108 plus tax. To reserve a room call 1-888-627-8043 and let them know you are with the VFW Fall Conference. The deadline to reserve a room is Sept. 6, 2019.

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.

2020

2020 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE will be Jan. 17 - 18, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321. The room rate is \$103 plus tax.

NEW **99TH ANNUAL VFW IOWA STATE CONVENTION ** will be June 4 - 7, 2020 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Des Moines Downtown. The room rate is \$114 plus tax, \$124 Triple and \$134 Quad, which includes a free hot breakfast with made to order pancake and omelet station and a free Happy Hour reception in the evening with light snacks and free alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Every sleeping room is a two-room suite with a private bedroom & separate living area that features a microwave, refrigerator, 2 televisions, and a pull-out queen sofa sleeper. The hotel is located in the Historic East Village.

I cannot begin to describe what this year has meant to me. It has not been without challenges, but it has been remarkable, unforgettable and most of all, one of the most extraordinary years of my life so far. To say thank you to everyone would be a short coming. But I do truly thank each member in the state of Iowa for what you do every day for fellow veterans. The staff at HQ, the District Cmdr.'s, the Post Cmdr.'s, the ones who selflessly take on positions (and most of the time multiple ones) at the Posts...all the members...you are the ones who keep this Department great!!! I have been humbled by your generosity to my Homeless Veteran project. This will be put to very good use here in Iowa! My counterpart in Auxiliary-Wilma Thurnau-Fickess, you are a treasure!! My Senior and Junior Vice Cmdr.'s Russ Saffell and Paul Arnold.... Your support was tremendous! My family...my husband Brad Whitmore, who supported me this year-I couldn't have done this without you! Everyone in the VFW and Auxiliary-you are now my families...thank you from the bottom and top of my heart! Pro Deo et Patria!!!

** The Air Force F-117 fighter uses aerodynamics discovered during research into how bumble bees fly**

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



BANQUET TICKET ORDER FORM

The State Convention Banquet will be a “**M*A*S*H BASH THEME**”. Everyone dress as your favorite M*A*S*H character and join us in celebrating a great year. Prizes for Best in character costume and Best overall costume!!

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A DJ will be playing your favorite songs from 6 pm to 11 pm.

Reservations need to be in to State Headquarters, 3601 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310, by **May 31, 2019**. Make checks payable to VFW Iowa. No phone calls or emails will be accepted for banquet ticket reservations.

HOW MANY WILL ATTEND _____ AMOUNT OF THE CHECK _____

NAME- _____

ADDRESS - _____

MENU:

Tossed Salad with Ranch Dressing

Roast Beef

Orange Glazed Carrots

Cream Cheese Potatoes

Fresh Baked Rolls with butter

Beverage

DESSERT: Mini Dessert Plate