



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SEPTEMBER 2020

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 3

GENERAL ORDERS ARE TO BE READ AT THE POST MEETING AND POSTED IN YOUR POST.

1. **2020 VFW IOWA CONVENTION AWARDS/FALL POW WOW:** The State Convention Awards/Pow Wow Conference will be October 22 - 25, 2020 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Des Moines Downtown 101 E. Locust, Des Moines, IA 50309. We need everyone who can to attend as this will be Commander Russ and President Kathy's banquet and award presentations to include All State Posts.

All room reservations for June have been cancelled. You will need to make a new reservation for the new dates. 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.

You may book your reservation by calling 515-244-1700 and let them know you are with the VFW of Iowa to get the group rate. You may also click on the link below to reserve a room.

https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsecure3.hilton.com%2Fen_US%2Fes%2Freservation%2Fbook.htm%3FinputModule%3DHOTEL%26ctyhocn%3DDSDMDES%26groupCode%3DCESVFI%26arrival%3D20201022%26departure%3D20201025%26cid%3DDOM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink%26fromId%3DHILTONLINKDIRECT&data=02%7C01%7CDiana.Anderson%40atriumphospitality.com%7Cbc1a68a33e44220ff1b08d8282b8b06%7C2a940736346f4580951607fd1e7cc52d%7C0%7C0%7C637303514770705592&sdata=E57Fu04O0QP%2FqZLXo%2FXjoihpia3RGkDMsD8CISJ6lrk%3D&reserved=0 The deadline to get the group rate is **September 22, 2020.**

The hotel will provide valet parking with in and out privileges as an option for our guests. Hotel pricing is as follows: 0-4 hours is \$8.00; 4-8 hours is \$15.00 and **overnight is discounted at \$15.00** plus applicable

taxes. This is current pricing and is subject to change without notice.

There is also a city parking ramp located at 402 E. 2nd Street at \$10 overnight currently, Prevailing city rates will apply, will be available for your guest's parking needs.

2. **QUARTERMASTER BOND:** THE RATE UP TO AND INCLUDING \$25,000 IS \$5.00 PER THOUSAND. THE RATE FOR \$26,000 UP TO AND INCLUDING \$100,000 IS \$4 PER THOUSAND. THE RATE FOR \$101,000 AND UP IS \$3.00 PER THOUSAND. The application for the Quartermaster Surety Bond was sent out on July 7, 2020 along with a Post bonding information sheet for those not bonding with Department. The Bond is due before August 31, 2020. All bonds will expire on August 31, 2020.

3. **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES REPORT:** Please send all Community Activity Reports to the Community Activity Chairman Jerry Huffman (activities.iowavfw@gmail.com), PO Box 221, Dysart, IA 52224-0221. Only 1 combined report per Post and per Auxiliary will be accepted and is due the 15th of each month. Please use the form attached with these General Orders to report your activities.

4. **CHECKS SENT TO DEPARTMENT (STATE) HQ's:** When forwarding your checks to VFW State Headquarters, please make it payable 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.**

5. **INSPECTIONS:** District Commanders your attention is directed to Section 517 of the Manual of Procedure, which 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 Scott McDonald, 3644 W 4th St, Waterloo, IA 50701. Please send white copy only.**

6. **BIG TEN CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:** The 2020 Big Ten Conference will be Oct. 16 - 18, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North, 6500 Doubletree Ave, Columbus, Ohio, 43229. The room rates are \$102 plus tax. You may call 614-885-1885 to make reservations, make sure and ask for the VFW Big Ten Conference 2020 block. Room reservation cutoff date is Sept. 15, 2020. Registration fee is \$125.00 until Oct. 1, 2020. Late Registration is \$135.00 each. Registration packet is attached.

7. **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT DONATION:** Please support Eagle Scout Candidate, Lance Boicourt, from BSA Troop 43, with his Eagle Scout Project to build a memorial brick path, update the landscaping and refinish the deck at the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (V.F.W.,) State Headquarters of Iowa. You may donate by going to the VFW Iowa website at www.iowavfw.org and click on the donate button under the flyer of Lance's project or send a check payable to VFW Iowa at 3601 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310.

8. **VFW & AUXILIARY FALL 2020 DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

District 2 – 828 Davenport	Sat. Sept. 12, 2020	Darrell Blasberg, Past State Cmdr. Sandy Weldon, State President
District 3 – 839 Marshalltown	TBD	Russ Saffell, Past State Commander Sandy Weldon, State President
District 4 – 2237 Oskaloosa	Sat. Aug 29, 2020	Ron Leber, State Jr. Vice Cmdr Sandy Weldon, State President
District 5 – 9127 Des Moines	Sat. Oct. 10, 2020	Carol Whitmore, Natl Councilmember Sandy Weldon, State President
District 6 – 9599 Jefferson	Sat. Sept. 12, 2020	Russ Saffell, Past State Cmdr. Jen Saffell, Guard
District 7 – 941 Harlan	Sat. Aug. 29, 2020	Mike Braman, State Sr. Vice Cmdr. Jeanette Henry, State Jr Vice Pres.
District 8 – 6960 Rock Rapids	Sat. Sept. 12, 2020	Paul Arnold, State Commander Jeanette Henry, State Jr Vice Pres.
District 9 – Johnson’s Restaurant Johnson’s Restaurant, 916 High St NE, Elkader, 52043	Sat. Sept. 12, 2020	Ron Leber, State Jr. Vice Cmdr. Dru Novak, Chaplain
District 10 – 2541 Algona	Sat. Sept. 12, 2020	Mike Braman, State Sr. Vice Cmdr. Kathy McDonald, Chief of Staff.

9. **SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH:** Keep track of your family, friends and fellow comrades! Know the 5 signs....”Not feeling like yourself....feeling agitated....withdrawn....stopped caring about hygiene....feeling hopeless”. One suicide is one too many.

10. **PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11:** Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11th is designated as “Patriot Day.” The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States.

11. **POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY:** Friday, September 18, 2020 is POW/MIA Recognition Day. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure and a speech is available through VFW State Headquarters.

12. **2020-2021 VOD & PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES**: The 2020-2021 themes are:
Voice of Democracy Theme: Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?
Patriot's Pen Theme: What is Patriotism to Me?
13. **STATE COMMANDER PAUL ARNOLD'S MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM BOOK**: State Commander Arnold's Program book is now available. It was sent it in a separate email and is also be available on the VFW Iowa website at: <https://www.iowavfw.org/documents-and-forms>
14. **DEPARTMENT OF IOWA 100th ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE COIN**: The Department is selling a Challenge Coin for the 100th anniversary of the Department. The coins are \$10 each and all proceeds go to the Centennial Fund for the celebration of this monumental milestone.
15. **POST ASSESSMENT**: The Post Assessment for 2020 will be \$1.00 per member based on last year's Adjusted Membership total. If your Post achieved 100% or more in membership by June 30, 2020, your Post does not have to pay the Post assessment. This will be shown on the Status Report block. The deadline to pay your Post Assessment is Oct. 15, 2020.
16. **COPY OF 990 or 990-N TO STATE HQ**: In an effort to help Posts from losing their Nonprofit status, the State Commander is requiring **ALL POSTS** to send a copy of your 990 to State HQ when you file it. If you file the 990-N send a copy of the receipt showing that it has been **accepted** by the IRS. This is also a requirement from National HQ that all Departments are to have copies of all Posts 990's on file.
To get a copy of the receipt showing that the 990-N has been **accepted** by the IRS follow instructions below: You **WILL NOT** receive a confirmation e-mail that you filed Form 990-N, (the e-Postcard). To check the status of your electronic filing, log into the Form 990 Electronic Filing System (e-Postcard) and go to the "**Manage Form 990-N Submission**" page. You'll see the status for each Form 990-N you submitted - indicating whether your form was **accepted** or **rejected**. If rejected, click on the "Submission ID" link for additional details.
17. **OFFICERS, ELECTED AND APPOINTED**: Section 216 (c) - Post Officers, elected and appointed shall submit proof of eligibility for files to the Post Adjutant following their election or appointment and prior to their installation. Such proof of eligibility records shall be open to the Post Commander, Post Adjutant and Post Quartermaster. Post Officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility is in the files of the Post Adjutant. It is the responsibility of the elected and appointed Officer to obtain and submit this proof of eligibility. Section 414 (c) - District Officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the District Adjutant. **Additionally, District Commanders, District Senior Vice Commanders and District Junior Vice Commanders shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant.**
18. **DISTRICT OFFICER VACANCIES**: **4th District**: 1, 2, & 3 Year Trustees.

19. **POST OFFICER VACANCIES:** **7th District:** Post 737 & 9731, **10th District:** Post 2541.

20. **ELECTION REPORTS:** There are Posts that have not sent their Election Reports into the Department Headquarters as of this date, **8th District:** Post 580 **9th District:** Post 6637 **10th District:** Post 4244, & 5236. Please get these sent in so that we can get the Department Roster book printed.

Department Headquarters must receive the Election Report in order to complete the Roster book for 2020-2021.

21. **BUDDY POPPIES:** National Headquarters is experiencing delays in the production of Buddy® Poppies. COVID-19 has had a severe impact on the assembly facilities, resulting in a low supply of fully assembled poppies. Please continue to submit your orders while we actively work toward fulfilling your requests. All orders will be processed in the order in which they are received, but fulfillment may be significantly delayed.

This is a difficult time for everyone and we're working hard to adapt to this new reality. Please watch for further updates. We appreciate your patience and will do our best to ship your orders as quickly as possible.

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. The requirement for All State Award is 500 Poppies. 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.***

22. **VFW DECAL LICENSE PLATE:** 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. An order form for the decals can be found at www.vfwiowa.org.

Information regarding this decal, including a photo and the contact information, is now available at <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/vehicleregistration/vehicleregistration/decals>.

23. **GENERAL ORDERS EMAIL:** General Orders will be sent via Email. Please send your e-mail address to Department Headquarters at vfwiowa@qwestoffice.net if you have not done so and wish to receive them. Post Commanders and Quartermasters please ensure we have your email address on file.

24. **COMMANDERS CHALLENGE:** The first Post and the first Auxiliary that achieves 100% in membership will receive a \$100 gift certificate for the VFW Store. As well see attached flyer for other Commanders Challenge's that are now in place.

25. **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 Co-Chairman Todd Jacobus** at todd.jacobus@gmail.com or **515-240-0387**, or **VMSP Co-Chairman Pat Stark** at vfw.patstark@gmail.com or **641-780-9929**, or. 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.

26. **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.

27. **DIMES FOR VETS:** We are continuing the Dimes for Vets and the proceeds to go for the Service Office for the Dept of Iowa.

28. **HISTORICAL MEMORABILIA:** If any Post/Aux has any memorabilia of OUR dept that could be displayed at the Centennial Convention can you please get the information to the Dept HQ so that we can plan accordingly.

29. **UPDATED DD-214 AND AWARDS:** If you would like to get your DD-214 Updated and all Awards that were awarded to you or the units you were attached to, go to VA and fill out the form SF-180. Under the middle section in the other category make sure fill in all medals and ribbons. There are several that have been issued to units after you have transferred or gotten out. This is a **ONE** time issue. Any questions please contact me.

30. **BY-LAWS:** Districts and Posts need to look at when you last updated your by-laws. If it has been more than 5 years. You need to look at them and update them. Then send 3 signed original copies to Headquarters for review so we can get them to National for approval.

31. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

****NEW** STATE CONVENTION AWARDS/POW WOW CONFERENCE** will be October 22 - 25, 2020 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Des Moines Downtown, 101 E. Locust, Des Moines, IA 50309. The room rate is \$114 plus tax, \$124 Triple and \$134 Quad. The hotel is located in the Historic East Village.

2020 BIG TEN CONFERENCE will be Oct. 16 - 18, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North, 6500 Doubletree Ave, Columbus, Ohio, 43229. The room rates are \$102 plus tax.

2021 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE will be Jan. 15 - 16, 2021 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321. The room rate is \$104 plus tax.

"Members Make the Team"

By Order of:

Paul Arnold

Department Commander
VFW Department of Iowa

OFFICIAL: *Jerry Black*
State Adjutant-Quartermaster
VFW Department of Iowa
PA/jb

