



**HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S., INC
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 10**

Series 2019-2020

April 2020

(To be read or distributed at regular Post Meeting and then filed)

Let me start out by saying these are very trying times in the VFW as it is in our Country and our World. Things are changing daily and in some cases by the hour. Some things in these General Orders may change as we get into April. You will be advised of these changes as decisions are made.

1. The 2020 Department Convention will be held at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, Missouri, June 4 – June 7, 2020. Hospitality room information will be mailed to District Quartermasters and posted on the Missouri web. Reservations for sleeping rooms become available on February 1. Currently, sleeping room reservations are restricted to a three (3) day stay and may be made by calling the hotel direct at 1-888-532-4338. Be sure to let them know you are with the VFW. Persons reserving three (3) days and later cancelling one (1) or two (2) will have the entire three (3) days cancelled. We do have an Overflow Hotel if Oasis is full or for anyone wanting to make a reservation for LESS than three (3) days, the hotel is: Holiday Inn & Suites of Springfield and can be reached at 417-865-8600. **(As of now the Convention is still on)**

2. Post and District Commanders should be reviewing the All-State program and know where you need to work to meet the requirements. **The program changes each year, so don't just assume you know the requirements.** Post All-State requirements are listed in the Post Commander and Quartermaster handbook. The District All-State program is listed in the District School of Instruction Manual handed out at the June School of Instruction. **To qualify, all requirements must be met and recorded at Department Headquarters by April 30.**

Note: Post All-State Membership requirements are: Meeting your May 1, 2019 + 1 membership by May 1, 2020. Program reporting requirements is (3) events recorded in each of the reporting categories. If a Post meets all requirements by May 1, 2020 but membership, but, reaches last year's (2019) ending membership total by June 30th, 2020, will be awarded the Post All-State Award at the Fall council Meeting.

3 Deadline for receipt of Convention Book Ad's is May 1, 2020. All Post and Districts are encouraged to give recognition to their officers by submitting an Ad for the Convention Book. Add cost are \$100 for Full Page and \$60 for Half Page. The book is being published in ½ size and in house. Please email or Fax Add request to Nicole @ Department HQ. Her email is hqnicole@movfw.org.

4. Post Commanders are reminded that the annual election of Post Officers must be held during the month of April. **(In accordance with the Commander-in-Chief's Executive Order #1, posts are encouraged but not mandated to hold their April elections. If a post feels that it can safely conduct its election, then please do so. However, if a post resides in an area where there is a stay-at-home order or its membership simply feels unsafe holding its election at this time, the current officers will remain in their office until such a time as it is safe for an election to be held.)**

Post officers shall be installed in their respective offices prior to the convening of the Department Convention. Newly installed officers do not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed at the State Convention. Post-Election Report Forms are being mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters **immediately following** the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1, 2020. **(If your Post is not having an election you will still need to submit an election report with the current officers. You can fill out a new one once election is held.)**

5. Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention. **(These District Convention will be held via ZOOM Meeting. District Commanders will coordinate time and necessary information with their Post)**

6. Post and Districts are reminded that sections 216, 416 and 516 of the Manual of Procedures states in part: "----officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the Adjutant. ----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 Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to office." **Officers being installed should be reminded, (if they are an annual member) that they must pay their 2021 dues prior to their annual subscription due date to hold their office for the year they are elected.**

7. Posts are reminded that their support and contributions to our Veteran Service Officer Program is vital. All Posts that have not made a donation are encouraged to do so now. As stated in the State Commander Expectations in the Post Commander & Quartermaster Handbook, it is expected that each post donates at a minimum of \$3.00 per member. Funding of this essential program should be a high priority at your Post. The State Commander asks Posts to be generous and donate from the heart. **Donation to the program is a requirement to qualify for All-State.**

8. All Posts should be making plans for a 2020 Spring Buddy Poppy drive. An order blank is located in the 2019-20 Post Commander and Quartermaster's Handbook. Poppies must be ordered through Department Headquarters and paid in advance. Poppies are shipped direct to you from the factory. **A minimum of six weeks should be allowed for receiving your shipment. Post need to order NOW for their Spring Poppy drive.**

9. Reno, Nevada is the host city to the 121st VFW National Convention, July 18-23, 2020. Convention housing reservation forms will be made available and additional 121st VFW National Convention information will be added to the National Website as it becomes available. Convention registration and related information will be mailed from National Headquarters to the Post. The Post is required to register at least one delegate. The Delegate fee for the 1st delegate will be \$25. A fee of \$10 is due for each additional delegate. **Post Quartermasters, please send in the \$25.00 registration fee and register at least one (1) delegate as soon as you receive the registration forms. Don't wait until July to send in your delegate fee.**

10 We need your help with the 2019-2020 Membership Campaign. As of today, March 25, the Department is at 93.13%. We need everyone's help at the District and Post level. Now is the time to be writing those letters, making phone calls. **With things the way they are right now we need to be calling our members to check on them anyway. What better time to tell them how important they are to the VFW and how much we need them as a member. If they are in a financial bind you can use your relief fund to help them with their dues.** All continuous members should pay their dues prior to the expiration date and be encouraged to purchase a life membership.

REMEMBER anyone joining as a Life Member or upgrades to a Life Member prior to June 30, 2020 will receive a check for \$45 from the Department Quartermaster Plus a \$50 credit to the VFW Store. Make sure to notify the State Quartermaster so he knows who to mail the check to.

11. State Commander Williams and the line officers wish to congratulate all the posts that achieved 100% in membership to date. It's your efforts that will keep the VFW strong for the future.

12 The Department Headquarters is operating with some employees working from home part of the time so if you call in and no one answers the phone, please leave a message. We will get back to you. Good luck to everyone. Please stay safe and help each other through these trying times because it is the right thing to do.

13. The following District Meetings for April and May are announced:

NOTE: Times may change due to ZOOM Schedule. District Commanders will notify you.

DIST	POST #	LOCATION	DATE	TIME	REMARKS
1	6278	Lawson	4/11/2020	11:00 am	District Convention
2	5608	St. James	4/18/2020	10:00 am	District Convention
3	10906	Gladstone	5/10/2020	1:00 pm	District Convention
5	8100	Grandview	5/3/2020	2:00 pm	District Convention
6	4052	Lexington	5/3/2020	1:30 p.m.	District Convention
7	4207	Monett	5/9/2020	10:00 a.m..	District Convention
8	6883	Boone Terre	5/3/2020	1:00 p.m.	District Convention
9	2180	Warrenton	4/19/2020	1:00 p.m.	District Convention
12	3500	Richmond Heights	5/20/2020	7;00 pm	District Convention
14	3404	Springfield	4/19/2020	1:30 pm	District Convention
15	6477	Poplar Bluff	4/19/2020	12:00 pm	District Convention
17	4822	Edina	4/19/2020		District Convention
18	1828	West Plains	4/4/2020	10:00 am	District Convention

Official:

By order of:

Donald L. Hentges
 Adjutant

Troy Williams
 Commander