



**HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S. INC
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 8**

Series 2022-2023

February, 2023

(To be read or distributed at a regular Post meeting and filed)

1. The 2023 Department Convention will be held at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, Missouri, June 8 – June 11, 2023. 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 or clicking the link on the attached flyer. 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.

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.** District and Post All-State requirements are listed in the District/Post Commander handbook. **To qualify, all requirements, except membership goal, must be met and recorded at Department Headquarters by April 30.**

Note: Post All-State Membership requirements have changed. As announced at the Council Meeting on January 28, 2023 you must Meet your July 1, 2022 membership + 1 by June 30, 2023 to qualify for All-State. All Post that meets all requirements by May 1 will receive All-State Honors at the State Convention in June. If membership requirement is met after May 1, 2023, they will be awarded the Post All-State Award at the Fall Council Meeting.

3. Section 105 of the National By-Laws is clear on Members in Good Standing in the Post. Members that have not paid their 2023 dues by their expiration date are not in good standing until the dues are paid. Section 220 of the National By-Laws states, "Any elective Post Officer removed by the Department Commander, by reason of failure to pay current dues ---shall not be eligible to serve in any Post office in the same administrative year in which the officer is removed." **Post Commanders shall ensure that all their Post Officers have paid their 2023 dues by their expiration date. There's no reason to delay until the last minute. Post Officers failing to pay their 2023 dues by their expiration date will be removed from office and aren't allowed to serve in any office for the remainder of the administrative year. Post Commanders and Quartermasters are encouraged to check their rosters and make sure their officers renew on time. We currently have 8 Post with at least one (1) Officer's Dues Expiring prior to March 1, 2023.**

4. If your Post has not made a donation to the Veterans Service Officer Program or the Veteran and Military Support Program, please do so ASAP. These are requirements for your Post to earn All-State. **REMEMBER:** VSO checks must be mailed to Department HQs and VMS checks must be mailed to National HQs as stated in your Commander Handbook.

5. The Mid-West Women Veterans Association will be holding their annual women veteran event on April 14-15, 2023. This is a free event and is not limited to only women but is geared toward the unique issues women veterans face. Please see attached flyer for mor information.

6 I want to call your attention to the following section of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Any Post not in compliance is subject to suspension.

Sec. 709 - Control of Units - "Any Post owning and/or operating, directly or by reason of a holding company or other entity substantially controlled by the Post or its members, a canteen, clubroom or other facility available to members or guests must maintain general liability insurance, including, if necessary or appropriate, liquor liability insurance. **Such insurance must be of a type and amount sufficient to protect the Post and must name, as additional insured's, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Department in which such Post is located. Post shall ensure policies purchased include these additional insured statements.**

If the Liability and Dram Insurance Blocks on the State Dashboard are **RED** it means we do not have a current "Certificate of Insurance" on file for your Post. Please forward a copy, or have your agent send a copy, to Department ASAP. You can mail to 3401 Knipp Dr. Jefferson City, MO. 65109 or email to adj@movfw.org or hqangela@vfwmo.org.

7. Posts are reminded that **ALL** Officer Changes must be reported to National and Department. You can email a copy of the Officer Change Form to me at adj@movfw.org or Fax a copy to 1-573-636-2664 or mail a copy to: 3401 Knipp Dr, Jefferson City, MO 65109.

8 As of today, January 31, 2023 the Dept. of MO. is at 94.36% in Membership. We are ahead of where we normally are at this time but need to keep working hard on membership. Royce has approximately \$3000 left in the Hospitality Room Fund and to keep the momentum going the Commander has announced a membership incentive. Any Post that is already at 100% or greater on January 30, 2023 will have one (1) ticket in a drawing for cash. If you are already at 100% starting the week of January 30th you will get (1) more ticket for each full percent you go up. Every Monday we will look at Memstats. If your Post reached 100% the prior week you will have (1) ticket to be entered. If your Post went up an additional 1% after reaching the prior week you will receive another entry. Ten (10) entries will be drawn for around \$300 each after the All-State Ceremony at the State Convention. So, keep working on membership. You're Post could win more than once.

Congratulations go out to all of the Post Commanders, Quartermasters, and Membership Chairmen that have achieved 100% membership to date.

9. Reminder to Posts and Districts: The Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Scholarship program needs your support. In order to continue to give scholarships to our District winners we need to build up our scholarship fund. Commander Kelb has initiated an incentive for Post that make a donation (**no donation is too small**) to this cause. Please forward your donation to

Department Headquarters with VOD/PP Scholarship noted in memo section of the check. See attached sheet for incentive details.

10. The Veteran Service Officer Program is vital to our organization. Donations from Posts, Auxiliaries, and individuals on a continuing basis are critical to this program. Without your donations, we cannot continue to provide the service we are now providing and this program is what we are about. Remember, our Service Officers are employed by you, the VFW members in Missouri to assist your members and Veterans in your community in obtaining vital health care and VA benefits. **The State Commander's expectation is that every Post donate a minimum of \$3.00 per member.**

11. Anyone requesting a Department Officer to attend a function must submit a **written request** to Department Headquarters at least 30 days prior to the date of the function. An e-mail to the Adjutant at adj@movfw.org is acceptable.

12. The deadline for submitting bids for the 2026 Department Convention is March 15, 2023, as prescribed by the Department By-Laws. Any Post or group of Posts wishing to submit a bid should contact Department Headquarters for the Convention hotel requirements and coordination of the bid request.

13. These are the District Meetings scheduled in the month of February 2023

DIST.	DATE	POST	LOCATION/TIME	OFFICER	REMARKS
6	2/12/23	4288	Corder 12 pm	Commander	District Meeting
7	2/11/23	2590	Carthage 10 am	Commander	VOD/PP District Meeting
8	2/5/23	5896	Farmington, 1 pm	Commander	VOD/PP District Meeting
12	2/11/23	3500	Richmond Hts. 12 pm	Jr. Vice	District Meeting
18	2/18/23	473	Cabool, 10 am	Commander	District Meeting

Official:
Donald L. Hentges
Adjutant

By Order of:
Royce Kelb
Commander