



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

Series 2023-2024

February 2024

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

1. The Winter Council of Administration Meeting and Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year Banquet will be held on February 9 and 10, 2024, at Stoney Creek Hotel, 2601 S. Providence Road, Columbia, MO. All members of the Council, as well as Committee and Chairpersons, should make every effort to attend and be prepared to report in accordance with the attached agenda. Room reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 573 442-6400.
2. The 2024 Department Convention will be held at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, Missouri, June 6 – June 9, 2024. Reservations for sleeping rooms become available on February 12. 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.
3. 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.**
4. 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.**
5. 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 donations must be made on line @ vfw.org.
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 "Certificate of Insurance" on file for your Post, or it has expired. 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 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. Section 105 of the National By-Laws is clear on Members in Good Standing in the Post. Members that have not paid their 2024 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 and Quartermasters are encouraged to check their rosters and make sure their officers renew on time. We currently have 12 Posts with at least one (1) Officer's Dues Expiring prior to March 1, 2024.**

9. The Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Scholarship program needs your support. Department needs Posts, Districts, and Auxiliaries to donate to cover these scholarships. Besides helping the kids, there are some good incentives to donate. Please see attached flyer.

10. The 2023-24 Membership Campaign is now underway. As of today, January 31, 2024 the Dept. of MO is at 91.66%. Now is the time to start calling your Annual Members to check on them and urge them to renew as soon as possible. National Headquarters runs a membership incentive monthly. Watch your email or go on vfw.org for information.

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 2027 Department Convention is March 15, 2024, 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. All Posts should be using the Online Reporting Portal. If you have any member that cannot log on or have any questions or problems, please call Ken Allison at 636 448-3061 or Randall Craig at 573 312-3777. Or email Ken at webmaster@movfw.org or Randall at asstwebmaster@movfw.org.

14. **All Post are strongly encouraged to log onto the VFW Department of Missouri Webmail.** The Post account is post (your post #) @movfw.org; i.e., postxxxx@movfw.org; Please see your predecessor for current password. You can then change the password to whatever you want. Access to webmail is through the State website, www.movfw.org. Go to the top task bar and click on LOGIN and then click on Webmail. You will see in the middle “change email password”. Once this is completed, go back to the Webmail login screen, and go to Check Your Email. Enter your email address and password on the next screen. You should be in your emails. If you have any issues, please contact Ken Allison at 636-448-3061.

15. These are the District Meetings scheduled for the month of February

Dist.	DATE	POST	LOCATION/TIME	OFFICER	REMARKS
2	2/17/24	2654	Moberly, 11 am	Jr. Vice Cdr.	District Meeting
6	2/4/24	8220	Belton 12 pm	Asst. C of S	District Meeting
7	2/17/24	2590	Carthage 10 am	Sr. Vice Cdr	VOD/PP District Meeting
8	2/4/24	2593	Maxville, 12 pm	Sr. Vice Cdr	VOD/PP District Meeting
12	2/17/24	6274	Ballwin, 12 pm	Commander	District Meeting
18	2/17/24	5993	Ava, 10 am	Surgeon	District Meeting

Official:
 Donald L. Hentges
 Adjutant

By Order of:
 Charles Williams
 Commander