

**HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S., INC  
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 7**

Series 2020-2021

January, 2021

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

1. The Winter Council of Administration and Voice of Democracy Banquet scheduled for January 29 - 31, 2021, at Marriott St. Louis Airport **HAS BEEN CANCELLED** due to COVID. Instead, the Council will meet at VFW Post 1003 in St Martins on January 30, 2021. **In order to comply with local guidelines on social distancing only Council members and invited guest will be allowed in the building.** Chairman are asked to submit their reports to Nicole at Department Headquarters no later than Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> so they can be compiled and given to the Council at the meeting. The C of A Meeting is tentatively scheduled to start at noon. A ZOOM Meeting will be set up for those who of you who want to sit in. Meeting details and Agenda will be sent out as we get closer to the date.
2. Unfortunately we will not be able to have a Voice of Democracy Banquet this year. We intend to recognize and honor our VOD, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year winners at the Department Convention in June. Awards for the District Winners will be given to District Commanders at the C of A.
3. Section 105 of the National By-Laws is clear on Members in Good Standing in the Post. Members that have not paid their 2021 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 2021 dues by their expiration date. There's no reason to delay until the last minute. Post Officers failing to pay their 2021 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.**
4. It's likely that **membership has never been more important.** Please review your membership roster and call your continuous members to ensure that they remain with us. Due to COVID-19, our ability to recruit is severely limited. Therefore, **retention is recruitment.** Set up a group and schedule a time to call your continuous members and those Comrades whose membership has expired. It is vital that you do so. We need these members to carry out our mission, and we need their presence in our organization to fight for funding for our various programs that are vital for all Veterans. With the Life Membership incentive currently being offered by Department, all continues and expired members should be encouraged to purchase a Life Membership. **REMEMBER** anyone joining as a Life Member or upgrades to a Life Member prior to June 30, 2021 will receive a check for \$45 from the Department Quartermaster. **Post Quartermaster's, you must email the State Quartermaster when someone converts to Life Member so he knows to mail the check.**

5. Prior to your monthly meeting, please review your All-State status and conduct your meeting so as to accomplish items to get your Post to that Honor. Please take a look at your Post Commander and Quartermaster Handbook & Post Membership Program 2020-2021 booklet to see what your Post needs to do. All State determination will be made from data collected by the Department Headquarters on May 1, 2021. **Note: Membership requirements this year are a post must meet their membership on May 1, 2020 by May 1, 2021 to qualify or meet all other All-State requirements by May 1, 2021 and meet their 2020 year ending membership by June 30, 2021.**

6. The Missouri 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 to Veterans and their Families. This program is what we are about. The VFW Service Officers are here to assist our members and Veterans in your community in obtaining vital health care and VA benefits. Commanders at all levels should encourage donations from your Post and District. Our Webmaster has made it easy to make your donation on-line. **Simply go to [movfw.org](http://movfw.org); Click on Programs, scroll down to Donations, and “Click here to donate to the VSO”.**

7. The **Partners in Veterans Service** Program was established to allow individual members to contribute monthly to the VSO Program. A copy of the brochure is attached. The money the Department of Missouri receives from the Missouri Veterans Commission Grant Program is not guaranteed. The monies we normally receive were cut severely this year and will likely be cut even more next year due to the effects of COVID. To keep our Service Officer Program strong and sustainable for the future we need your help. Please print the attached brochure and distribute to you members and ask them to help. Numerous members have been assisted by the State Veteran Service Officers in their endeavor to establish disability compensation. NOW is the time to give back!! **If you don't have access to printer please call Nicole at Dept Headquarters to request some color brochures. Or you can donate on-line by simply going to [movfw.org](http://movfw.org); Click on Programs, scroll down to Donations, and “Click here to donate to the VSO”.**

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

9. Quarterly Audit Report's for last quarter are due to Department Headquarters no later than January 31, 2021. **Per sec. 218 (11) b. it's the duty of the Trustee's to conduct the audit and submit the Trustee Report of the Audit to the Department Quartermaster. Any post failing to submit a Quarterly Audit Report will not be allowed to vote at the upcoming State Convention to be held in June 2021.**

10. Anyone requesting a Department Officer to attend a function must submit a **written request** to the State Adjutant at the Department Headquarters at least 30 days prior to the date of the function.

11. Proceeds from the Raffle of the Savage rifle are to be used for the 2022 National Convention in Kansas City. The Department of Missouri is the Guest Sponsor so it will require lots of Planning and Money on our part, so we're trying to raise some of the funds now. Jr Vice Commander Royce Kelb has a list of all the ticket serial numbers and who they were passed out to. All funds or requests for additional tickets are to be mailed to Comrade Kelb at PO Box 103, Lincoln, MO 65338. That way he can account for which tickets have been sold or returned. All proceeds will be turned over to the Department Quartermaster.

12. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, VFW Posts have been severely impacted in their ability to cover operating expenses through conventional means such as canteen sales and fundraising events. To address the challenge, in August 2020 the VFW Foundation earmarked \$680,000 for the VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant (PPRG). Eligible Posts that own or lease their own Post Homes may apply for a grant of up to \$2,500. There is still money available so the criteria has been revised. Please see attached brochure.

13. The following District Meetings for the month of January 2021 are announced:

<b>DIST.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>POST</b>	<b>LOCATION/TIME</b>	<b>OFFICER</b>	<b>REMARKS</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>1/9/21</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>Chillicothe, 11 am</b>	<b>Jr. Vice Cdr.</b>	<b>District Meeting</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>1/23/21</b>	<b>8045</b>	<b>Argyle, 10 am</b>	<b>Sr. Vice Cdr.</b>	<b>District Meeting</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>1/10/21</b>	<b>10906</b>	<b>Gladstone, 1pm</b>	<b>Jr. Vice Cdr.</b>	<b>District Meeting</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>1/10/21</b>	<b>3987</b>	<b>Sullivan 12pm</b>	<b>Commander</b>	<b>District Meeting</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>1/17/21</b>	<b>3404</b>	<b>Springfield 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Commander</b>	<b>District Meeting</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>1/17/21</b>	<b>3174</b>	<b>Sikeston-12pm</b>	<b>Jr. Vice Cdr.</b>	<b>District Meeting</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>1/17/21</b>	<b>2446</b>	<b>Hannibal 1 pm</b>	<b>Sr. Vice Cdr.</b>	<b>District Meeting</b>

14. State Commander Sullivan, the Line Officers and Headquarters Staff wish you all a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year.

Official:

Donald L Hentges  
Department Adjutant

By Order Of:

Eric Sullivan  
Commander