HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S. INC
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 5

Series 2026-2027 November 2026

(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 19 through 21, 2027, at the Lodge of Four Seasons, 315 Four Seasons Dr Lake Ozark, MO 65049. 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 agenda, which will be provided as we get closer to the meeting date. Room reservations can be made by calling the hotel at (573)-365-3000.

2. Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year deadlines are coming up. Please don't forget to get these in on time. If you have any questions please call Roger Floyd, VOD/PP Chairperson, 417-876-7617 or Billy Holt, Teacher Chairperson, 417-683-0765

3. Post and District Commanders are reminded that the Department pays the **cost of the meal only for the student to attend the Voice of Democracy banquet**. Meals for the parents and guests of the students must be arranged through Department Headquarters using the banquet form which will come out later, and paid for by the District or Post, depending on District by-laws or standing rules. The banquet form will be sent out separately sometime in November. The Posts/Districts will need to make the hotel arrangements for the students directly with the hotel by calling the hotel. You will need to have a credit card for the room reservation. **DO NOT SEND PAYMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR DISTRICT WINNER'S ROOM**. Please contact Angela at Department Headquarters at (573) 636-8761 if you have any questions.

4. 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 and qm@movfw.org, or mail a copy to 3401 Knipp Dr, Jefferson City, MO 65109.

5. Section 105 of the National By-Laws is clear on Members in Good Standing in the Post. Members that have not paid their 2026 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.

6. All Posts are required to file a Federal Income Tax return. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Posts may obtain forms 990EZ, 990 and/or 990T from any IRS Office, or online at http://www.irs.gov. Posts with a year end of 30 June must file with the IRS prior to 15 November 2026, (most posts have a year end of 30 June). **Failure to file will result in the loss of your tax-exempt status.**

7. All inspection reports should be mailed and or e-mailed directly to the Department Inspector, Richard Clowers, PO Box 553 Lampe MO 65681 or e-mailed to inspector@movfw.org, If a District Inspector wishes to claim mileage for travel in connection with the inspections, he/she must submit a voucher to the Department Inspector for approval.

8. 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.

9. The 2026-27 Membership Campaign is now underway. As of today, October 26, 2026, the Dept. of MO is at 90.87%. 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 to vfw.org for information.

10. "Department Early Bird Awards 2026-2027" and incentives are underway! Any Post Commander whose Post reaches 100% in their membership AND has a minimum of four (4) approved legislative reports under Legislative Advocacy on the Department Dashboard by Dec 31, 2026, will be entered in a drawing to attend the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. In addition, ALL Posts earning 100% in their membership by December 31, 2026, will receive unique Missouri Early Bird Pins for members and an Early Bird Flag Streamer. Any District Commander whose District reaches 100% in their membership by December 31, 2026, will be entered to attend the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington DC and receive an Early Bird State Shirt. See details on the Department webpage or in the 2026 Department Commanders/Quartermasters Handbook.

11. Recent changes on the National Retention and Reinstatement Policy, now allows more opportunities for recruiter credit and will increase membership towards division goals. Excerpt of message from our Commander-in-Chief, as follows: "This will give your Membership Teams and posts a greater opportunity to call on members. Typically, those members at 12-month, 1 day through 23 months, 30 days, don't get called because they don't count for either Retention or Reinstatement. Now this policy change makes it easier to distinguish those members because every member in 12 months or less counts as Retention and every member beyond 12 months counts as a Reinstate. This will allow for more opportunities to earn recruiter credit and also helps those posts as they move towards their division membership goal because New and Reinstates count towards that final goal percentage. This is retroactive to 01 JULY 2026, which was the start of the membership year. If any of these members have renewed since the program year began, they will count towards this program year. Our IT Department stated that it would take 2 weeks to have OMS updated so that a recruiter number can be entered, which means that it should be active either today or tomorrow. Let's get this information out ASAP so that everyone can start working on this. One Team, One Mission, Veteran's First! Cory L. Geisler"

12. If you have not ordered the 2027 edition of the VFW National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure from the VFW Store, please do so ASAP. You are required to have the latest addition on hand at your Post and District. An online version is acceptable if on the Post computer.

13. 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.

14. **REMINDER**: VMS donations will only be handled through the Dashboard moving forward. An email was sent out June 29, 2026, annotating this change and explaining the NEW donation page. All Posts have to do is click on the VMS donation tab on the Dashboard to donate. The link will point them to OMS. No more checks to the National Headquarters.

15. The following comrades have volunteered to be advocates for women veterans. Should a woman veteran want the assistance of an advocate, she may contact one of the comrades listed: Eric Sullivan 816-518-7025, Quincy Myrick 573-200-0428, Debb Halter 314-397-5662, Lynette Lewis 636-795-8268, Cerebia Epps 314-971-2572, Marilynn Archuleta 660-473-3223, or Pansy Kolb 573-406-7219.

16. 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 webmaster@movfw.org or Chris Weber at 314-288-9703 or asstwebmaster@movfw.org

17. **All Post are strongly encouraged to log onto the VFW Department of Missouri Webmail.** The Post account is post number @movfw.org; i.e.,postxxxx@movfw.org; Please see your predecessor for current password. Please do not change or reset the password, If the password needs to be reset, contact Ken Allison at 636-448-3061 or webmaster@movfw.org or Chris Weber at 314-288-9703 or asstwebmaster@movfw.org .

18. Article VII sec. 704 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures establishes the requirement for all Posts to establish and maintain a Relief Fund. Expenditures from the relief fund shall be as prescribed in sections 219 & 704 of the Manual of Procedures. Expenditures authorized include donations to Veteran Service, National Home, and support of the National Guard and their families. Audit Reports received at Dept Headquarters indicate that many Posts may not be meeting this requirement. All Posts are to review their accounting practices and ensure they are meeting this requirement.

19. Reminder for VFW Public Servant Awards, they are due to the Americanism Chairperson, Billy Holt by November 30, 2026, see page 76 in the Commander Handbook for the entry form. Billy will have them judged and sent to Department HQ by January 1, 2027.
Billy's info: americanismchrm@movfw.org, Phone: 417-683-0765
Mailing Address: HC 71 Box 306 Ava, MO 65608

20. These are the District Meetings scheduled for the month of November.

Dist.	DATE	POST	LOCATION/TIME	OFFICER	REMARKS
2	11/7/26	6280	Salem, 10 am	Past Dept CDR/Dept Recruiter DePontee	District Meeting
5	11/8/26	8100	Grandview, 12 pm	Dept CDR	District Meeting/Inspection
6	11/1/26	3118	Pleasant Hill, 12 pm	Sr Vice CDR.	District Meeting
7	11/7/26	2175	Nevada, 10 am	Dept Inspector	District Meeting/Inspection
8	11/1/26	3777	Festus 1 pm	Dept CDR.	District Meeting/Inspection
18	11/7/26	473	Cabool, 10 am	Jr Vice CDR	District Meeting/Inspection

Official:
Paul Petterson
Adjutant

By Order of:
Scott Huffman
Commander