





VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

MARCH 2017 GENERAL ORDERS No. 9

- 1. **GENERAL ORDERS** are to be read at the Post Meeting and posted in your Post.
- 2. **2017 BIENNIAL REPORT:** This year Posts must file a biennial report with the Iowa Secretary of State's office. A **post card** or an **email**, if on file, with the Corporation number and Pin Number, along with instructions you will need to file the report, will be sent to the registered agent of the Post. If the report is not filed by **April 1, 2017** the Post could be administratively dissolved and lose their Non-Profit status. Please ensure your registered agent is current. This has nothing to do with the 990 or 990N, it is about your incorporation with the Secretary of State's office.
- 3. **2017 STATE CONVENTION:** The 96th Annual Iowa State Convention will be June 1 thru June 4, 2017 at the Ramada & Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, 205 West 4th St, Waterloo, Iowa 50701.

Please call 319-233-7560 to reserve your room. Be sure to mention you are with VFW Department of Iowa Convention. The single room rates are \$95.99 a night plus tax. The cutoff date for this rate is May 11, 2017.

THE STATE CONVENTION BANQUET WILL BE A "WESTERN THEME" Everyone put on your best cowboy outfit, boots and your ten gallon hat and join us in celebrating a great year.

4. **STATE CONVENTION:** Post Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than 30 days prior to the State Convention, and one (1) delegate and alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the post at the time of the election or as the Department (State) Bylaws may provide. This will be strictly enforced at the State Convention. Post must submit the names of delegates and alternates to State Headquarters, along with \$5 convention fee, by **April 21, 2017.** Posts failing to submit their list of delegates and alternates, or pay the convention fee of \$5 per Post, shall be denied voting privileges at State Convention. The Delegate /Alternate sheet will be sent to all VFW Posts with the General Orders.

ARREARS, POSTS THAT ARE IN ARREARS, FOR ANY REASON, WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE AT STATE CONVENTION AND THEY CANNOT OUALIFY FOR ALL-STATE AWARDS.

5. **SCOUT OF THE YEAR:** The Department Scout of the Year Chairman is Stuart Juarez, 1125 Frazier Ave, Des Moines, IA 50315. The deadline for Scout of the Year award is as follows

Entry to Post- March 1, 2017 Entry to Dept. – April 2, 2017 Entry to Nat'l – May 1, 2017

6. **TEACHER OF THE YEAR:** The Department Techer of the Year Chairman is Don Fisher, 505 Johnson St, Alta, IA 51102.

February 28, Completion of Post judging

March 15, Completion of District judging

March 30, Completion of Department judging

April 1, District participation reports due to Department Chairmen

April 5, Department winners due to National

April 15, Department reports due to National

7. <u>MEMBERSHIP</u>: CONGRATULATIONS to the following Posts for obtaining 100% or better before March 1, 2017: 1st District - Post 2537 2nd District - Post 788, 6174, & 8883 3rd District - 5661 4th District - Post 2308 5th District - Post 2060 & 5242 6th District - Post 3930 7th District - Post 2694, 7064, 7224 & 9661 8th District - Post 1750 & 3328 9th District - Post 1503 10th District - Post 5236.

The Department is at 92.25% as of March 1, 2017. We are in 7^{th} -place in the Big Ten and $21^{\underline{st}}$ place out of 53 Departments in membership. Let's make this the year we make 100%.

- 8. **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING:** We need to continue our recruiting efforts. Set up a recruiting booth or conduct a door knocking or phone campaign and get members to renew their membership. Give them a call and invite them to your next meeting, let them know you still support them and care about them. Use the unpaid lists to get members back into the VFW. If you need a copy of this list let us know and we will get it to you. Together we can make 100%.
- 9. <u>"POT O' GOLD" MEMBER DRAWING</u>: Three (3) winners will be drawn and accompany the Commander-in-Chief on an all-expense paid trip to Ireland (Fall 2017) along with their spouse or guest.

For any new/reinstated member recruited between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017:

You will receive one (1) chance for every five (5) new/reinstated members recruited.

You will receive ten (10) chances for every increment of 25 new/reinstated members recruited.

Attention Post and District Commanders: You will receive ten (10) chances in recognition of 85%+ Post and District retention.

10. **STATE FAIR BOOTH DONATIONS:** The Department is in need of donations for the Fair Booth. Individuals, Posts, or Auxiliaries willing to donate, please send your checks to Department of Iowa, Attn: Jerry Black, QM, 3601 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310. Any donation will be greatly appreciated and help to defer the cost of the booth.

- 11. **STATE FAIR BOOTH SCHEDULE:** The State Fair Booth schedule is now available. Please call Fair Chairman Travis Holden at 515-729-4797 to place your name on the schedule if you would like to work the Fair Booth. The slots are first come first serve.
- 12. **RESOLUTIONS:** Posts desiring to submit resolutions for consideration by their District prior to the convening of the State Convention, must present said resolution to their District in time for their Spring meeting, and upon approval by the Districts, copies of the resolution must reach State Headquarters in time to be prepared for the State Convention.
- 13. **<u>DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE</u>**: District Commanders please ensure that Department Headquarters receives your District Meeting Notice form so that the Rep has the information on time and location of your meeting.

14. **DISTRICT MEETINGS**:

District 1 – 1565 Muscatine,	Sat. Apr. 22, 2017	Jake Gruber, Dept. Sr. Vice Cmdr. Kathy McDonald, Dept Aux. Chaplain
District 2 – 788 Cedar Rapids,	Sat. Apr. 29, 2017	Travis Holden, Past Dept. Cmdr. Sandy Weldon, Dept. Conductress
District 3 – 4868 Clear Lake,	Sat. Apr. 8, 2017	Jake Gruber, Dept. Sr. Vice Cmdr. Donna Sorensen, Dept. President
District 4 – 775 Ottumwa,	Sat. Apr. 29, 2017	Tom Watters, Dept. Commander Wilma Fickess, Dept. Jr. Vice Pres
District 5 – 738 Des Moines, 2801 Dean Ave, Des Moines, IA 50	Sat. May 13, 2017 317	Tom Watters, Dept. Commander Sandy Weldon, Dept. Conductress
District 6- 817 Boone,	Sat. Apr. 29, 2017	Carol Whitmore, Dept. Jr. Vice Cmdr Donna Sorensen, Dept. President
District 7 – 8998 Villisca,	Sat. May 6, 2017	Tom Watters, Dept. Commander Donna Sorensen, Dept. President
District 8 – 7373 Sibley,	Sat. May 6, 2017	Carol Whitmore, Dept. Jr. Vice Cmdr Wilma Fickess, Dept. Jr. Vice Pres.
District 9 – Elkader,	Sat. Apr. 29, 2017	Jake Gruber, Dept. Sr. Vice Cmdr. Char Schneider, Dept. Sr. Vice Pres.
District 10 – 5515 Garner,	Sun. May 7, 2017	Carol Whitmore, Dept. Jr. Vice Cmdr Kathy McDonald, Dept Aux. Chaplain

15. <u>DISTRICT CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES</u>: Post Delegates and Alternates to District Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than 30 days prior to the District Convention. One Delegate and one Alternate are to be elected for each 15 members or a fraction thereof. (Section 222 National Bylaws) District Commanders are reminded to use strict observance of these Bylaws.

- 16. **DISTRICT ELECTION REPORT:** District Commanders and Adjutants, your attention is directed to Section 413 of the National By-Laws which requires ALL DISTRICTS to submit a properly completed "District Election Report" to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention. You are also requested to submit a copy of your 2017-2018 District Election Report to VFW State Headquarters no later than May 20, 2017. Please ensure all chairman positions are filled before sending in the election report.
- 17. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF POST OFFICERS: Nominations for Post Officers for the 2018 membership year are to be made at the March meeting, with nominations to be held open until the election is called at the April meeting. Section 217 of our National Bylaws provides in detail the procedures for Nomination, Election, Installation and Terms of Office. Please read over Section 217 in the Manual of Procedures, under Election, which states: "Post officers shall be elected in April.
- 18. OFFICERS, ELECTED AND APPOINTED: Section 216 (c) Post Officers, elected and appointed shall submit proof of eligibility for files to the Post Adjutant following their election or appointment and prior to their installation. Such proof of eligibility records shall be open to the Post Commander, Post Adjutant and Post Quartermaster. Post Officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility is in the files of the Post Adjutant. It is the responsibility of the elected and appointed Officer to obtain and submit this proof of eligibility. Section 414 (c) District Officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the District Adjutant.

 Additionally, District Commanders, District Senior Vice Commanders and District Junior Vice Commanders shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant.
- 19. **APPOINTED OFFICERS:** At the 114th National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the delegates voted to make the **Surgeon** and **Judge Advocate**, appointed positions to help small Posts in completing their Election Report. These officers are now able to hold two positions on your Election Report. The exception being the Adjutant cannot be a Trustee.
- 20. **ELECTION REPORTS:** Be sure that the Election Report of Post Officers for 2017 -2018 year is sent in immediately following your April meeting. Your current Post Quartermaster will receive this Report Form from National along with the National Convention Registration Form for your Post. If your Report of Election is not received in Department Headquarters by 1 June 2017, your Post Charter may be suspended by National Headquarters and the Department Commander can recommend that your Post Charter be revoked for failure to submit a **properly completed** Post Election Report. Now is the time to line up your officers for the 2017-2018 year. You do not have to wait for the Officers to be installed to send in this Election Report, send it in as soon as last call and election is made at your April meeting. Make 3 copies of the **PROPERLY COMPLETED REPORT**, keep one copy, and send 1 copy to the District Commander and one copy to Department Adjutant/Quartermaster by Guidon Day, May 10, 2017 so that we can have the 2017-2018 Roster Books printed.
- 21. <u>118th NATIONAL CONVENTION</u>: The Veterans of Foreign Wars 118th National Convention will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 22 26, 2017. Reservations can now be made on the VFW National Headquarters website www.vfw.org, click on "News &

Publications" scroll to the bottom of the page and click on events, click on National Convention. You will also find lots of information about this year's National Convention.

22. <u>VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAM</u>: For questions or concerns about connecting with Iowa Military Units, Adopt A Unit, Uplink Phone Calling, Unmet Needs (soldier/military assistance), Post Donor Cards, and MAP Grants for your Post/Auxiliary, contact **VMSP Chairman Pat Stark** at vfw.patstark@gmail.com or 641-780-9929. Please consider making a donation to Veterans & Military Support Program today.

Regarding Operation Uplink, contact Uplink Chairman Pat Stark if you request a phone card for a hospitalized veteran who is in any hospital or nursing home other than one of the VAMF's.

- 23. <u>VFW DEPARTMENT OF IOWA BRICK FUNDRAISER</u>: Join us in becoming a part of our history & help us raise money for the VFW Department of Iowa. Your engraved brick purchase can be a lasting memorial for a family member or friend, used to advertise your business name, or used to list your family's name as a donor. The bricks are \$50 each and an order form will be sent with these General Orders. You may also find the form on the VFW Iowa website at www.vfwiowa.org. The bricks will be placed from the side walk to the flag poles and around the flag pole area in front of the VFW Iowa Headquarters building.
- 24. **HOSPITAL PIN BLANKET FUNDRAISER**: The Department of Iowa VFW is raising money for the Hospital Fund!



- This custom knit blanket is made from 100% acrylic, so it is machine washable and dryable. In fact, the more you wash it, the softer it gets!
- Blankets are a roomy 63"X63" so they make an excellent cover up during those early cold spring games/events and it comes packaged in a vinyl zipper case, so it's easy to carry from place to place.
- Blankets are \$45.00 each.
- Add \$5.00 for shipping and handling if you wish it to be mailed to you or pick it up at a State Meeting.
- Send Payment and Order Form to: Paul Arnold 2102 7th St, Harlan, IA 51537 Questions contact Paul Arnold @ 712-579-4522 or email guns_66@yahoo.com

When we receive 50 order forms we will place an order.

25. **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES REPORT:** Send all Community Activity Reports to Chairman, Danny L. White, 1309 SE University Ave., #207, Waukee, Iowa 50263, PH# 515-

369-9096, or email <u>iavfwcars@gmail.com</u>. Please use the new form when reporting your Post activities.

26. <u>BUDDY POPPIES</u>: Place your orders <u>EARLY</u>, <u>AT LEAST 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE</u> <u>OF YOUR DISTRIBUTION DATE</u>. Every Post should be able to receive donations for at least 1,000 Poppies, which is also a requirement for All State Award. Buddy Poppy prices for 500 poppies are \$72.50 and 1,000 are \$145.

Many Posts are not sending their orders in early enough to receive them prior to their scheduled date. *GET THEM IN AT LEAST 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR DISTRIBUTION DATE.*

27. **<u>DEFECTIVE BUDDY POPPIES</u>**: For adjustment purposes, it is necessary to report all quality problems and shortages concerning the buddy poppies to Quentin Carroll (816) 968-1155 or <u>qcarroll@vfw.org</u>, in the VFW Programs Department, within 30 days of receiving the order. After receiving your poppy order, you will need to check it as soon as possible for defective poppies and any shortages. After 30 days, no adjustments will be made.

If a Post fails to report that they haven't received their Buddy Poppy order within 90 days from the date of the invoice to their Department Headquarters, they will not be replaced.

28. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Cootie Mid-Winter will be March 11, 2017 at Post 738 at 10 am. The Post is located at 2801 Dean Ave, Des Moines, IA 50317. ***NEW***

March Council of Administration will be March 18, 2017 at 10 am at Beaverdale Post 9127, 4029 Urbandale Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310. ***NEW***

Department of Iowa 96th Annual State Convention will be June 1 − 4, 2017 at the 5 Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, 205 W. 4th St, Waterloo, IA 50701. Room rates at the Ramada Inn are \$95.99 plus tax. Please call 319-233-7560 to reserve your room.

118th VFW National Convention will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 22 - 26, 2017.

2017 Big Ten Conference will be October 13-15, 2017 at the Minneapolis Marriott Airport Hotel, 2020 American Blvd., Bloomington, MN 55425. Room Rates will be \$109 plus tax.

By Order of:

Department Commander

VFW Department of Iowa

OFFICIAL: *Jerry Black*State Adjutant-Quartermaster
VFW Department of Iowa
TW/jb

