



Iowa



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

January 2019

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 7

1. **GENERAL ORDERS:** Are to be read at the Post Meeting and posted in your Post.
2. **MEMBERSHIP:** The Department is at 92.31% as of Dec. 27, 2018. We are in 5th place in the Big Ten and 26th place out of 53 Departments in membership. I want to thank everyone for their hard work in getting us to the 92% before Jan. 1, 2019 benchmark that Commander in Chief Lawrence set. We can't stop now; we now need to focus on the goal of 100%! The Department of Iowa has not been 100% in membership since 1999 and I believe this is the year we make it. We have all but 1 District at 90% or better and 3 Districts that are over 94%! **AWESOME JOB!!!!** Let's roll up our sleeves and get busy on our recruiting efforts and do not forget the new members you signed up last year and get them 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. When we ignore our members that is where we fail!

Congratulations to the following Posts for achieving 100% or better: **District 1:** Post 2537
District 3: Post 5661 **District 4:** Post 2308, 3932 **District 5:** Post 674,738, & 8142 **District 6:**
 Post 1899, 3930, 5060 **District 7:** Post 737, 2265, 8877, 9661, 9731 **District 9:** Post 1725
District 10: Post 5236, & 7083.

3. **ANNUAL MID- WINTER CONFERENCE:** The Forty-Seventh Annual Mid-Winter Conference will be Jan. 18-20, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321. Room rates are \$101 plus tax a night. The deadline to reserve a room is Jan. 2, 2019. You may call 515-287-2400 to make your reservations. We will have National Senior Vice Commander William "Doc" Schmitz as our representative. It is not often we have had the National CDR and SVC back to back in Iowa, so come and support our conference!!! Be sure to let them know you are with the VFW to get the group rate. **Remember this is when we acknowledge our VOD and Patriot Pen winners.**
4. **ANNUAL MID- WINTER LUNCHEON:** The cost of tickets for the Mid-Winter Luncheon will be \$27 per person. The meal will be: Tossed Salad with Ranch Dressing, Baked Pork Loin with Honey Brown Sugar Glaze, Red Skinned Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans Almandine, Fresh Baked Rolls, and a beverage. The Dessert will be Tiramisu. Please send order form on the last page of the General Orders, along with payment, to VFW Iowa Headquarters, 3601 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310. **Deadline for orders is January 11, 2019.**

5. **SERVICE OFFICER CLASS TO BE GIVEN AT MID-WINTER:** There will be a Service Officer Class at the Mid-Winter Conference. We encourage all Post Service Officers to attend the Service Officer class so they will be better prepared to answer questions.

6. **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOT'S PEN:** District Commanders, District Auxiliary Presidents and/or District Voice Democracy Chairmen, if your District winner placed in the Top 3, you are requested to be at the First Floor Lobby in order to greet your respective District VOD/Patriot's Pen Winner and escort them to Iowa A Room. Winners and their guests will be seated with District Commander and District President at their assigned table for the Luncheon. District winners must be at the Hotel no later than 11:15 A.M. Saturday January 19, 2019.

7. **DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Since there was very little feedback about the Department Christmas party, it was decided between the Auxiliary and the Department to have a Christmas party in the hospitality room at the Mid-Winter convention.

Ho Ho Ho ~~ If you haven't put away your Holiday clothes yet put them on one more time and join in the fun! Jr Vice's Paul and Sandy will be your host for the evening (or part of it).

Come celebrate with us at the Hospitality Room Saturday evening. If you want to share in a gift exchange please bring a gift around \$15.00. Of course we will be having a game or 2 that evening too. Since we are all "Family" we will be playing "VFW FAMILY FEUD" (Sandy's rules)! More about the game that evening. So District Presidents and District Commanders get together and create a team or 2 consisting of 4 people from your district.

8. **2019 BIENNIAL REPORT:** This year Posts must file a biennial report with the Iowa Secretary of State's office. A **post card (or 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, 2019** the Post could be administratively dissolved and lose their Non-Profit status. Please ensure your registered agent is current.

9. **2018-2019 WINTER DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

District 1 – 2537 Tipton	Sat. Jan. 12, 2019	Tom Watters, Past State Commander Sandy Weldon, Auxiliary Jr. Vice President
District 2 – 6174 Eldridge	Sat. Jan. 12, 2019	Paul Arnold, State Jr. Vice Commander Dru Novak, Auxiliary Guard
District 4 – 526 Centerville	Sat. Jan. 12, 2019	Jake Gruber, Past State Commander Mary Shortt, Auxiliary Conductress
District 7 – 941 Harlan Harlan Vets Auditorium,	Sat. Jan. 12, 2019	Danny White, Past State Commander Wilma Thurnau-Fickess, Auxiliary President
District 8 – 3159 Spencer 15 East 21st St, Spencer, IA 51301	Sat. Jan. 12, 2019	Carol Whitmore, State Commander Kathy McDonald, Aux. Sr. Vice President
District 9 – Elkader, IA Johnson's Restaurant, 916 High St NE, Elkader, 52043,	Sat. Jan. 12, 2019	George Goebel, Past State Commander Jeanette Henry, Auxiliary Chaplain
District 10 – 2541 Algona	Sat. Jan. 5, 2019	Carol Whitmore, State Commander Wilma Thurnau-Fickess, Auxiliary President

10. **DEADLINE FOR IOWA VOICE ARTICLES:** The deadline for placing articles in the March 2019 issue of the Iowa Voice is Feb. 20, 2019. Department officers, don't forget to send in your article for the Voice. If sending a photo, please email it to iowavfwvoice@aol.com in jpeg format. Please indicate who is in the photo and the event it was taken at.

11. **2019 VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL:** The Veterans Day on the Hill at the State Capitol will be January 23, 2019 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Please be there around 8:30 a.m. at the Rotunda. There will be a VFW table this year. Start getting your people together to come to the State Capitol on that day to talk with your Representative concerning veteran's issues. The more veterans we have at the State Capitol on that day, the better chance we have on getting things passed for veterans. **We encourage members from all Posts to participate.**

12. **DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER RAFFLE:** The Department of Iowa is raffling off a 2018 Ford Escape S plus tax, title and license or a \$15,000 cash option. Tickets are \$20 each and the drawing will take place at the State Convention Banquet June 8, 2019 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, Iowa. Tickets will be signed for and distributed to Post Commanders and District Commanders at the Mid-Winter Conference. **Remember tickets can be sold to anyone not just VFW members.**

13. **IOWA NATIONAL COUNCILMAN CANDIDATE:** The office of Iowa's National Councilman will begin a new term at the 2018 State Convention in Des Moines. The Councilman elected will serve a four year term (2019 to 2023). If you are interested in running for the office of National Councilman, the Department will place an ad in the Iowa Voice announcing your candidacy.

14. **DESERT STORM BOOKS:** Recently, this office has received 47 books called "The Liberation of Kuwait" Honoring the Veterans of Desert Storm. The books also include the feature-length documentary the "Liberation of Kuwait" on DVD.



This book is available to only Desert Storm Veterans. Please send proof of service in Desert Storm (DD 214 or orders showing dates served in Desert Storm or award of Southwest Asia Service Medal) to get your copy. Books will be first come first served as the numbers of books are limited.

15. **REMINDER:** State Commander Carol Whitmore's special project this year is helping homeless veterans. Please send your donations to VFW Iowa, 3601 Beaver Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310. Please put in memo section that it is for "Commander's Special Project". Donations will be used to help homeless veterans, shelters and the Stand Downs. You may also bring donations to the Mid-Winter Conference. **Please give a heads up to HQ or the Commander if you plan to bring to Mid-Winter, so a trailer can be arranged.**

16. **ALL STATE DISTRICT COMMANDER & QUARTERMASTER:** The worksheet for All State District Commander & Quartermaster & the requirements have been sent along with this copy of the General Orders. Please be sure to fill it out COMPLETELY and include Commander & Quartermaster Hat size, if they are first time winners, and if they are a Life Member or Gold Legacy Life member and return to Headquarters prior to May 2, 2019.

Districts wanting to be considered for All State must have their Election Report in by Guidon Day, May 10, 2019.

17. **ALL STATE POST COMMANDER & QUARTERMASTER:** The worksheet for All State Commander & Quartermaster & the requirements has been sent along with this copy of the General Orders. Please be sure to fill it out COMPLETELY and include Commander & Quartermaster Hat size, if they are first time winners, and if they are a Life Member or Gold Legacy Life member and return to Headquarters prior to May 2, 2019.

Remember to make your donations .30 cents per member to Patriots Pen, .50 cents per member to VOD, .50 cents per member to Dept. Hospital Fund, a minimum of \$50 to the Dept. Disaster Fund and a minimum of \$50 to the National Home. **Posts wanting to be considered for All State must have their Election Report in by Guidon Day, May 10, 2019.**

18. **POST ASSESSMENT:** Invoices have been sent out. The Post Assessment for 2018 is \$1.00 per member based on last year's Adjusted Membership total. If your Post achieved 100% in membership by June 30, 2018, your Post does not have to pay the Post assessment. This will be shown on the Status Report block as 100%. The deadline to pay your Post Assessment was Oct. 15, 2018.

19. **INSPECTIONS:** District Commanders your attention is directed to Section 517 of the Manual of Procedure, states that each Post shall be inspected at least once during the year. Please make sure all the Posts in your District are inspected and report them in a timely manner rather than accumulating reports for 100% mailing. Please send completed Reports to **State Inspector Travis Holden, 2307 Richland Dr., Des Moines, IA 50317. Please send white copy only.**

20. **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES REPORT:** Please send all Community Activity Reports to the Community Activity Chairman Rick Martin (rickmartin412@aol.com), 412 Nilsen Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. Only 1 report per Post and per Auxiliary will be accepted and is due the eighth of each month.

21. **IOWA STATE FAIR BOOTH:** We are asking Posts or individuals to donate to this great cause. For the 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. Even though we may get some money from National, it is not a guarantee every year, so please continue to donate!

We are the only Veterans Organization there and it is great public relations and lets everyone know that **"No One Does More For Veterans"** than the VFW.

22. **CHECKS SENT TO DEPARTMENT (STATE) HQ's:** When forwarding your checks to VFW State Headquarters, please make it out to **"VFW Iowa"** and indicate what the check is to be used for: Hospital Fund, VOD Fund, Disaster Fund, etc. in the **MEMO section at the bottom left of the check.**

23. **VFW DECAL LICENSE PLATE:** Information regarding this decal, including a photo and the contact information, is now available at <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/vehicleregistration/vehicleregistration/decals>.

You may now purchase the decals from the Department of Iowa Headquarters at a cost of **\$20** for 2 decals (**one for front and one for rear license plate**) and will then take the decals to your local county tag office and purchase the decal license plate. An order form for the decals will be sent with these General Orders.

24. **VFW DEPARTMENT OF IOWA BRICK FUNDRAISER:** 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 you may 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.

**PLEASE...LET'S GET THIS FUNDRAISER TO 101 TO GET THE FREE SHIPPING!!!!
WE ARE AT 91...DO IT FOR YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS OR COMEMORATION OF ANYONE!!!**

25. **CHAIN OF COMMAND:** Use your chain of command. If there are issues at your Posts, start with the Post Commander, then District Commander, then Department Commander.

26. **FORMS 990 & 990T:** Attention of Post Quartermasters is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990 T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.

If your Post has a yearly gross income of \$50,000 or more, you are **REQUIRED** to file an IRS form 990 each year. All income must be accounted for when filing of a 990 is required; this includes dues, dinners, bingo, raffles, or other income of the Post.

If you operate a Post Canteen and/or Post dinners open to the public then you must report Post income from non-members on a 990T form if your income from other than members exceeds \$1,000, this is considered as unrelated income and you are liable for taxes. If you are in doubt you are urged to contact a professional tax person.

27. **FORM 990N:** Posts whose gross income is less than \$50,000 are **REQUIRED** to file an electronic notice, form 990N, also known as an E-Postcard with the IRS annually. The website is <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/epostcard/>. If you have any questions, please visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov/eo. If you cannot find the information you need, you may call the IRS toll free number at 877-829-5500.

28. **BUDDY POPPIES:** Place your orders **EARLY, AT LEAST 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR DISTRIBUTION DATE.** 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.***

29. **DEFECTIVE BUDDY POPPIES:** For adjustment purposes, it is necessary to report all quality problems and shortages concerning the buddy poppies to Quentin Carroll (816) 968-1155 or BuddyPoppy@vfw.org, 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.

30. **VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAM:** 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.

31. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

2019 VFW IOWA MID-WINTER CONFERENCE will be Jan. 18-20, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321. Room rates will be \$101 plus tax. Please call 515-287-2400 to reserve your room. The cutoff date for room rate is Jan.2, 2019.

98TH ANNUAL VFW IOWA STATE CONVENTION will be June 6 - 9, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321. The room rate is \$103 plus tax.

2019 VFW IOWA FALL POW WOW will be Oct. 4-6, 2019 at the Ramada Des Moines Airport, 1810 Army Post Rd, Des Moines, IA 50315. The room rate is \$98.99 plus tax.

2019 BIG TEN CONFERENCE will be Oct. 18-20, 2019 at the Doubletree by Hilton, Omaha Downtown, 1616 Dodge St, Omaha, NE 68102. Room rates are \$119 plus tax. The deadline to reserve your room is Sept. 16, 2019.

Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work you do every day for the VFW!!!!

** The Navy's bell-bottom trousers are commonly believed to be introduced in 1817 to permit men to roll them above the knee when washing down the decks and to make it easier to remove them in a hurry when forced to abandon ship or when washed overboard. In addition, the trousers may be used as a life preserver by knotting the legs and swinging them over your head to fill the legs with air **



***On behalf of all Department Officers,
Staff and I, we want to wish everyone
a Happy New Year!!!!***



Communication is the key!!

By Order of:

Carol L. Whitmore

Department Commander
VFW Department of Iowa

OFFICIAL: *Jerry Black*

State Adjutant-Quartermaster
VFW Department of Iowa
CW/jb

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN ORDER FORM WITH PAYMENT

ORDER FORM FOR LUNCHEON TICKETS
FOR 2019 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

The Luncheon is at 12:00 noon at the Airport Holiday Inn, 6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321, on January 19, 2019. The cost will be **\$27 per person**. Reservations need to be in to VFW Iowa Headquarters, 3601 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310, by January 11, 2019. Make checks payable to VFW Iowa.

HOW MANY WILL ATTEND _____ AMOUNT OF THE CHECK _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(YOU MAY MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM)