



Iowa



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

May 2019

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 11

1. **GENERAL ORDERS:** Are to be read at the Post Meeting and posted in your Post. There is important information in the General Orders, so please read!!!

2. **MEMBERSHIP:** The Department is at 98.23% as of April 30, 2019. We are in 6th place in the Big Ten and 35th place out of 53 Departments in membership. We now need to focus on the goal of 100%! We have 60 Posts out of 128 that are 100% and 4 Districts that are over 99%, 2 of which are over 100%!!!! We need 270 to be 100%. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!! The Department of Iowa has not been 100% in membership since 1999 and I believe this is the year we make it. **I am extremely proud of the Department of Iowa VFW!!! It is because of the members, the Posts and the Districts that we are where we are today!!** Let's roll up our sleeves and keep up on our recruiting efforts and please, do not forget the new members you signed up last year and get them to renew their membership. There is strength in numbers, and that is what we need on Capitol Hill to keep our benefits as well as advocate for new ones!!! Please... give your members 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 Districts & Posts for achieving 100% or better: **District 1:** Post 1565, 2537, & 5166 **District 2:** Post 5234, 8884, 9128, & 9722 **District 3:** Post 733, 839, 1623, 3896, 4069, 4561, 5661, 6607, & 6792 **District 4:** Post 526, 1655, 2308, 3932, & 4716 **District 5 (102.14%):** Post 674,738, 2060, 2099, 3519,4123, 8142, 8174, 9127, 9662, & 11517 **District 6:** Post 817, 1856,1899, 3930, 5060, & 9599 **District 7 (100%):** Post 737, 941, 2265, 3415, 7064, 7224, 8877, 9661, 9731, & 11355 **District 8:** Post 3328, 6129, & 6960 **District 9:** Post 1725, 2440, 4117, & 7736 **District 10:** Post 2612, 4071, 5236, 5515, & 7083.

3. **COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S CHALLENGE:** The Commander-in-Chief has set out a new challenge for the month of May! At close of business on May 31, 2019, the top ten Posts in each Division that shows the highest number of New and Reinstated Members (measured from close of business 4/30 through close of business 5/31) will be entered into a drawing (one drawing per Division) for a .30-30 Henry Golden Boy Rifle.

The VFW is pushing ever closer to that goal of breaking 100% in membership, and National HQ wants to show their appreciation via this incentive for those Posts who are out there to **MAKE IT HAPPEN!**

4. **IOWA GRAND COOTIE CONVENTION:** The Iowa Grand Cootie Convention will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at the Airport Holiday Inn Conference Center, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, Iowa 50321. The Convention will begin at 10 am in the Ballroom South room.

5. **2019 STATE CONVENTION:** The 98th Annual Iowa State Convention will be June 6 thru June 9, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321.

Room rates are \$103 plus tax. Please call 515-287-2400 to reserve your room. Be sure to mention you are with VFW Department of Iowa Convention. The cutoff date for this rate is May 16, 2019. If you are on the VFW Council of Administration let me know which room to book for you, King or Double Queen.

6. **CONVENTION BANQUET:** A Social Mixer will begin at 6 pm in the Iowa BCDE room and the Banquet will begin at 7:00 PM on June 8, 2019. The cost of tickets is **\$37 per person**. A cash bar will be available for drinks during the Social Hour and until 10 pm during the banquet. A DJ will be playing your favorite songs from 6 pm to 11 pm.

Ticket orders need to be in to State Headquarters, 3601 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310, by **May 31, 2019**. Make checks payable to VFW Iowa. Use the order form at the end of the General Orders to order your tickets. No phone calls or emails will be accepted for banquet ticket reservations.

The State Convention Banquet will be a “M*A*S*H BASH THEME”. Everyone dress as your favorite M*A*S*H character and join us in celebrating a great year. Prizes for Best in character costume and Best overall costume!!

7. **ARREARAGES, DEFICIENCIES AND OMISSIONS:** **Section 213 of the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedures & Rituals** – Any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to District, Department and National for any fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

8. **REMINDER - IMPORTANT TASKS TO ACCOMPLISH BEFORE STATE CONVENTION:**

1) Ensure Hospital, Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Disaster Fund, & National Home contributions, Post assessments and Convention registrations, State & National, have been paid. Make sure all payments have been remitted and poppies ordered (for All-State).

2) Ensure all Quarterly reports of audit are filed with the Department.

3) Be sure your completely filled out Post & District election reports have been filed with National and the Department!

4) **Make sure the Department has your list of Delegates for the upcoming elections at State Convention** and send in All-State application if you’re eligible, **by 2 May!**

9. **CAMP DONATIONS:** If your Post or Auxiliary would like to donate to Camp Sunnyside and Camp Courageous bring your checks to VFW State Convention. They will be presented at the Joint Session on Friday June 7, 2019 starting at 1 pm in the Ballroom South.

10. **CONVENTION T-SHIRTS:** State Convention T-Shirts are being sold at \$18.00 per shirt and look like the photo below – At the bottom of the t-shirt & AUX will be added so that it reads “VFW & AUX”. The T-shirts are large sized so please order accordingly. All shirts will be delivered on Thursday evening and Friday morning at the Convention (to be worn Thursday). All shirts are to be paid for when ordered and the last order date is May 16th. The theme for the banquet is also M*A*S*H B*A*S*H and there will be a prize for the ‘BEST CHARACTER COSTUME’ and “BEST OVERALL COSTUME”. If you have any questions please contact the Department Headquarters at 515-255-2139.



11. **STATE CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES:** Post must submit the names of delegates and alternates to State Headquarters, along with \$5 convention fee, by **May 10, 2019**. 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.

12. **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, was sent to the registered agent of the Post. If the report was 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.

13. **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.

14. **SCOUT OF THE YEAR WINNER:** The Department of Iowa winner of the VFW Scout of the Year was Isaac White of Burlington, Iowa. Congratulations Isaac and we wish you luck at the National level.

15. **NEW ELECTION REPORT FORM AND NATIONAL CONVENTION FORM:** At the 119th National Convention in Kansas City the delegates voted to change section 216 to read as follows. **You do not have to elect nor does the Commander have to appoint a Surgeon or Judge Advocate if not required by your Post By-Laws.**

Sec. 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

- (a) The Post shall elect the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and three Trustees.
- (b) The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant and Service Officer.
- (c) The Post may elect or the Post Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day and/or Guard if required by Post By-Laws.
- (d) The Post Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Post or as may be required by Post By-Laws.

Your current Post Quartermaster should have received this new report form from National along with the new National Convention Registration Form for your Post.

16. **ELECTION REPORTS:** The Election Report of Post Officers for 2019 - 2020 year is to be sent in immediately following your April meeting. If your Report of Election is not received in Department Headquarters by 1 June 2019, 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. You do not have to wait for the Officers to be installed to send in this Election Report, 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, 2019 so that we can have the 2019-2020 Roster Books printed.

17. **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS:**

Pursuant to **Section 403 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure**, District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.

Sec. 416 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

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. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the District Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to office. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited, the office declared vacant and the eligibility qualifications of such officer shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National Bylaws.

18. **2018-2019 SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

District 1 – 3949 Iowa City,	Sat. May 4, 2019	Carol Whitmore, State Commander Jeanette Henry, Aux. Chaplain
District 8 – 3328 Remsen,	Sat. May 4, 2019	Paul Arnold, State Jr. Vice Commander Wilma Thurnau-Fickess, Aux. President
District 10 – 2541 Algona,	Sat. May. 18, 2019	Russ Saffell, State Sr. Vice Commander Jeanette Henry, Aux. Chaplain

19. **MILITARY ORDER OF COOTIES 9TH DISTRICT 5-STATE 70TH POW WOW:**

June 14th 15th & 16th 2019, Airport Holiday Inn Des Moines, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321, PH 515-287-2400. Room rate \$104 + Tax Group Rate - Hotel reservations must be received by May 31st 2019. Send Registration Form attached to General Orders & Checks Payable to MOC #1 and mail to: VFW Post 738, Attn: Stuart Juarez, 2801 Dean Ave, Des Moines, Iowa 50317. Registration requested by April 30, 2019.

20. **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 (2020 to 2024).
21. **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 were signed for and given to District Commanders at the Mid-Winter Conference to distribute to Posts. **THIS IS OUR ONLY BIG FUND RAISER FOR THE DEPARTMENT...PLEASE SUPPORT IT AND SELL THOSE TICKETS!!!! Remember tickets can be sold to anyone not just VFW members. If you receive a check, have it made out to VFW Iowa-please send it to HQ to be cashed so people don't have 6 month old checks waiting to be cashed. (See attached flyer).**
22. **120th NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars 120th National Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida on July 20-24, 2019. Please go to www.vfw.org, click on "Media & Events" and scroll to the bottom and click on "Events", click on "National Convention". There you will find all the information on this year's National Convention as well as a link to reserve your hotel room.
23. **REGISTRATION -- V.F.W. NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The Post Adjutant or Quartermaster should have received the Registration packet in the mail. Posts are urged to register delegates electronically on the Online Membership System. In accordance with the requirements of Section 222 of the National Bylaws, which mandates each Post to register at least one delegate to the V.F.W. National Convention. Register a Delegate now for \$25.00. If you are mailing it do not mail the forms to the Department; it should be mailed to the address on the form. **GET THIS DONE NOW!**
24. **STATE FAIR BOOTH SCHEDULE:** The State Fair Booth schedule is now available. Please call Department Headquarters at 515-255-2139 to place your name on the schedule if you would like to work the Fair Booth. The slots are first come first serve.
25. **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.
26. **LOYALTY DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE:** Section 223 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased veterans. . **Loyalty Day** is May 1, 2019 and **Memorial Day** is May 27, 2019. Let's honor our fallen comrades respectfully and make these a meaningful observance!!!

While Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2019 is not an official VFW recognition day, thank a fellow veteran for their sacrifice.

27. **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.**

28. **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. **These reports are where we get All-State information verification from!!**

29. **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.

30. **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.*** Please use the updated order form.

31. **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.

32. **'GREEN ALERT BILL', SF 64:** Attached is the 'Green Alert Bill', SF 64, which is a bipartisan bill in the Iowa legislation to establish a notification system for missing veterans. Please read. This is important for all veterans nationwide, and is being supported by several other states with success. This is similar to the Amber Alert for missing children, but for missing veterans. It is one way to circumvent suicide among veterans.

33. **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.**

34. **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.

35. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

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.

120TH VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION will be held in Orlando, FL on July 20 - 24, 2019. The room rates are \$99 single/double, \$119 for triple and \$139 for quad plus tax.

NEW **2019 VFW IOWA FALL POW WOW** will be Sept. 27 - 28, 2019 at the Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel, 1800 50th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50266. Room rates are \$108 plus tax. To reserve a room call 1-888-627-8043 and let them know you are with the VFW Fall Conference. The deadline to reserve a room is Sept. 6, 2019.

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.

2020 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE will be Jan. 17 - 18, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321. The room rate is \$103 plus tax.

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

** The U.S Army was in charge of exploring and mapping America. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was an all Army affair. Army officers were the first Americans to see such landmarks as Pike's Peak and the Grand Canyon **

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



BANQUET TICKET ORDER FORM

The State Convention Banquet will be a “**M*A*S*H BASH THEME**”. Everyone dress as your favorite M*A*S*H character and join us in celebrating a great year. Prizes for Best in character costume and Best overall costume!!

A Social Mixer will begin at 6 pm in the Iowa BCDE room and the Banquet will begin at 7:00 PM on June 8, 2019. The cost of tickets is **\$37 per person**. A cash bar will be available for drinks during the Social Hour and until 10 pm during the banquet.

A DJ will be playing your favorite songs from 6 pm to 11 pm.

Reservations need to be in to State Headquarters, 3601 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310, by **May 31, 2019**. Make checks payable to VFW Iowa. No phone calls or emails will be accepted for banquet ticket reservations.

HOW MANY WILL ATTEND _____ AMOUNT OF THE CHECK _____

NAME- _____

ADDRESS - _____

(you may make copies of this form)

MENU:

Tossed Salad with Ranch Dressing

Roast Beef

Orange Glazed Carrots

Cream Cheese Potatoes

Fresh Baked Rolls with butter

Beverage

DESSERT: Mini Dessert Plate