



2018

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

JANUARY 2018

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 89.53% as of Dec. 27, 2017. We are in 4th place in the Big Ten and 18th place out of 53 Departments in membership.

Congratulations to the following Posts for achieving 100% or better: **District 2:** Post 4077, **District 4:** Post 3932, **District 5:** Post 738, **District 7:** Post 7224, **District 9:** Post 5139 & 5603 **District 10:** Post 642, 3533 & 5236.

3. **ANNUAL MID- WINTER CONFERENCE:** The Forty-Sixth Annual Mid-Winter Conference will be at the Airport Holiday Inn, 6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321. Room rates are \$99 plus tax a night. The deadline to reserve a room is Jan. 2, 2018. You may call 515-287-2400 to make your reservations. Be sure to let them know you are with the VFW to get the group rate.
4. **ANNUAL MID- WINTER LUNCHEON:** The cost of tickets for the Mid-Winter Luncheon will be \$27 per person. The meal will be: Thick Cut Roast Beef, Snowflake Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Brown Sugar Glazed Carrots & Pearl Onions, Fresh Baked Rolls and butter, Tossed Salad with Ranch Dressing, Cheesecake with Blueberry or Strawberry Topping and a beverage. 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 12, 2018.
5. **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 20, 2018.

6. **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.

7. **IOWA STATE FAIR BOOTH:** The signup sheet to work a shift at the Department Recruiting Booth at the 2018 State Fair will be available at the Mid-Winter Conference. Please see Fair Chairman Travis Holden to sign up. The State Fair is Aug. 9, 2018 - Aug. 19, 2018.

8. **DISTRICT MEETINGS:** In accordance with Section 218 of the National By-Laws, Post Commander or his or her designated representative shall attend all regular called District and Council Meetings.

9. **2017-2018 WINTER DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

District 1 – 5166 Wapello Sat. Jan. 6, 2018 Carol Whitmore, State Sr. Vice Commander
Sandy Weldon, Auxiliary Chaplain

District 2 – 3633 Maquoketa Sat. Jan. 6, 2018 Jake Gruber, State Commander
Charlene Schneider, Auxiliary President

District 3 – 6792 Nashua Sat. Jan. 13, 2018 Darrell Blasberg, National Councilman
Wilma Fickess, Aux. Sr. Vice President

District 4 – 526 Centerville Sat. Jan. 13, 2018 Carol Whitmore, State Sr. Vice Commander
Kathy McDonald, Aux. Jr. Vice President

District 6- 1899 Lake City Sat. Jan. 13, 2018 Travis Holden, Past State Commander
Mary Shortt, Auxiliary Guard

District 7 – 941 Harlan Sat. Jan. 13, 2018 Jake Gruber, State Commander
Harlan Vets Auditorium, Charlene Schneider, Auxiliary President

District 8 – 590 Sac City Sat. Jan. 13, 2018 Larry Winther, Past State Commander
Jeanette Henry, Auxiliary Conductress

District 9 – Elkader, IA Sat. Jan. 13, 2018 Russ Saffell, State Jr. Vice Commander
Johnson’s Restaurant, 916 High St NE, Elkader, 52043, Sandy Weldon, Auxiliary Chaplain

District 10 – 5240 Humboldt Sun. Jan. 7, 2018 Russ Saffell, State Jr. Vice Commander
Kathy McDonald, Aux. Jr. Vice President

10. **DEADLINE FOR IOWA VOICE ARTICLES:** The deadline for placing articles in the March 2018 issue of the Iowa Voice is Feb. 20, 2018. 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. **2018 VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL:** The Veterans Day on the Hill at the State Capitol will be January 17, 2018 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Please be there around 8:30 a.m. at the Rotunda. 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. **VFW IOWA DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS SIGN PROJECT:** The Department is raising funds to place a sign in front of the Headquarters Building. There is currently no sign in front of the building to let everyone know we are there. We hear “I never knew what this building was” when someone comes in for the first time a lot. We are asking Posts, Auxiliaries, or individuals to donate to this great cause. To donate, please send your check or money order to Department of Iowa Attn: Jerry Black, QM, 3601 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310 in the memo section please indicate “Sign Project”.

13. **ALL STATE DISTRICT COMMANDER & QUARTERMASTER:** The worksheet for All State District Commander & Quartermaster 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, 2018.

Districts wanting to be considered for All State must have their Election Report in by Guidon Day, May 10, 2018.

14. **ALL STATE POST COMMANDER & QUARTERMASTER:** The worksheet for All State Commander & Quartermaster 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, 2018.

Remember to make your donations .20 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, 2018.**

15. **COMMANDER’S SPECIAL PROJECT LAPEL PINS:**



Commander Gruber is continuing the Patriot’s Pen scholarship as his Special Project and has commissioned the above lapel pins be made. Donation of \$100 will get you a Gold Level support pin and \$50 will get you a Silver Level support lapel pin. VFW Posts or Districts donating \$250 to \$499 to the project will receive a Silver Level Supporter certificate. VFW Posts or Districts donating \$500 or more to the project will receive a Gold Level Supporter plaque.

16. **VFW DECAL LICENSE PLATE:** 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.

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

17. **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.**
18. **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 iavfwcars@gmail.com. Please use the new form when reporting your Post activities.
19. **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. 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.
20. **VFW NATIONAL HOME:** If you are making donations for Iowa Cottage at the VFW National Home, please make checks payable to **VFW Iowa and be sure it is earmarked for the Iowa Cottage.**
21. **GENERAL ORDERS:** In order to cut postage costs, General Orders will be sent via email. Please supply Headquarters with your Email address for receiving General Orders. Please send your email address, Post number and name to Headquarters at vfwiowa@qwestoffice.net and we will add you to the list.
22. **INSPECTIONS:** District Commanders your attention is directed to Section 517 of the Manual of Procedure, which 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.**
23. **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 or request one be sent to you by calling 515-255-2139. 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. **119th NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars 119th National Convention will be held in Kansas City, Missouri on July 21-25, 2018. Let's have a large turnout for Iowa as this Convention is not that far away.
25. **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 fw.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.

26. **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.***

27. **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.

28. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

2018 VFW Iowa Mid-Winter Conference will be Jan. 20 - 21, 2018 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr, Des Moines, IA 50321.

Department of Iowa 97th Annual State Convention will be June 7 - 10, 2018 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr, Des Moines, IA 50321. Room rates will be \$99 plus tax.

On behalf of all Department Officers, Staff and I, we want to wish everyone a joyous HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

By Order of:

Jake Gruber

Department Commander
VFW Department of Iowa

OFFICIAL: *Jerry Black*

State Adjutant-Quartermaster
VFW Department of Iowa
JG/jb



RETURN ORDER FORM WITH PAYMENT

ORDER FORM FOR LUNCHEON TICKETS
FOR 2018 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

The Luncheon is at 12:00 noon at the Airport Holiday Inn, 6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321, on January 20, 2018. 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 12, 2018. Make checks payable to VFW Iowa.

HOW MANY WILL ATTEND _____ AMOUNT OF THE CHECK _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(YOU MAY MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM)