



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

NOVEMBER 2018

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 5

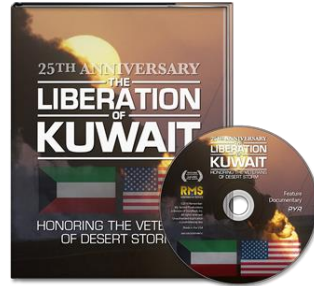
1. **GENERAL ORDERS:** Are to be read at the Post Meeting and posted in your Post.
2. Thank you to everyone for an outstanding Fall Conference! I am grateful to you for taking time out of your lives to support and enrich the VFW. Thank you hardly covers your generosity for the donations given by the VFW and Auxiliary for my Homeless Veterans project. A veteran who has experienced homelessness for years is getting an apartment this week, and some of your donations are helping him get started. I am humbled by your contributions and you have my sincerest gratitude for everything you do! Happy Thanksgiving, and please remember our military who may not be home for the holidays.
3. **MEMBERSHIP:** CONGRATULATIONS to the following Posts for obtaining 100% or better before October 1, 2018: **3rd District** - 5661 **7th District** - Post 9661 **10th District**- Post 5236, & 7083.

The Department is at 85.56% as of Oct. 30, 2018. We are in 5th -place in the Big Ten and 26th place out of 53 Departments in membership. I believe this is the year we make 100% so 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!

4. **The deadlines for both Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year are as follows:** (remember these submissions are part of becoming All-State)
 1. Midnight, October 31, Entries to the Post
 2. November 15, Completion of Post judging
 3. December 15, Completion of District judging
 4. January 10, Completion of Department judging
 5. January 15, District participation reports to Department Chairmen
 6. January 15, Department winners to National
 7. January 31, Department reports to National

5. **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOT'S PEN:** The point of contact for the Patriots Pen & Voice of Democracy programs is VFW Dept. Chairman Brad Whitmore, 3100 E. Titus Ave, Des Moines, IA 50320, 515-537-4355, whitmorecb@aol.com .
6. **TEACHER AWARD:** The point of contact for the Teacher of the Year programs is VFW Dept. Chairman Don Fisher, 505 Johnson St., Alta, IA 51102, (712)200-1761, cathyfisher1948@hotmail.com.
7. **ELECTION DAY:** November 6th is Election Day. Please study all the facts and examine each candidate as to what they are going to do for Veterans. This affects all of us so consider who you should vote for carefully.
8. **VETERANS DAY DINNER:** The annual Veterans Day dinner at the Meskwaki Casino Hotel in Tama, Iowa will be Veterans Day, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018, from 11 am until 2 pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
9. **"TOLLING OF THE BELL"** On November 11 at 11:00 a.m. local time...Americans everywhere and across the nation will toll bells in remembrance of those who served and those who sacrificed in the war that changed the world...
--Pledge to Participate at www.vfw1cc.org/bells (once you PLEDGE, they will send you updates and notices).
--Recruit others including organizations to pledge with you.
--Find out more and see the special landing page for information and RESOURCES.
10. **THANKSGIVING DAY:** Thursday, November 22, 2018 is Thanksgiving Day. Please remember home bound Veterans during this Holiday and visit veterans in your local nursing homes.
11. **VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER:** VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today. Additional information can be found in the 2018–19 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. Simply visit www.vfw.org and LOG IN (or create an account if you do not have one). After logging in, you'll be redirected to the "My VFW" page where you will click on VFW Training & Support and then Community Service, Youth Scholarships & Activities where you'll have access to the "CHAIRMAN MANUALS." Participate in this activity during the week of Veterans Day, which is part of "National Veterans Awareness" week, as designated by Congress. Find Pledge of Allegiance pencils and coloring books, plus other citizenship education tools at the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation>.
12. **2019 REVISED PODIUM EDITION - BY-LAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL:** The podium edition of the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, which reflect the amendments adopted by the 119th VFW National Convention, effective August 24, 2018, are in stock and can be purchased through the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22690> or you may order from the Store Catalog or by calling 1-833-839-8387. The cost is \$7.25 plus shipping.

13. **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 will be available to only Desert Storm Veterans. The Department Headquarters has several of these available. 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.

14. **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.

15. **ANNUAL MID- WINTER CONFERENCE:** The Forty-Seventh Annual Mid-Winter Conference will be at the Airport Holiday Inn, 6111 Fleur Drive, 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. 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.

16. **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.

17. **DEPARTMENT ROSTER BOOK:** If a Post, District or Department officer would like a hard copy they are available for \$5. The Roster book has been sent electronically this year and is password protected. The password to access the information was sent in a separate email.

18. **POST ASSESSMENT:** Invoices have been sent out. The Post Assessment for 2018 will be \$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 is Oct. 15, 2018.

19. **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.

20. **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.

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.

21. **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). 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.

22. **SUBSCRIPTION DUES CHANGES:** Subscription dues have changed to a “DMV” model which allows anyone who becomes a member or renews membership after July 1, 2018, to postpone expiration until the last day of their 12th month. For example, if a new member joins on July 5, or an existing member renews on July 5, 2018, their dues now expire on July 31, 2019.

The annual membership card (effective July 1, 2018) reflects the month and year dues expire. Current members that are in good standing as of July 1, 2018, have been extended through the last day of the month when their dues are scheduled to expire. Regardless of the month they renewed, as long as they were in good standing as of July 1, 2018, they now have until the end of the expiration month to renew their dues.

Members that are in good standing but have not renewed for the 2018/19 membership year will see the changes on their digital ID card reflecting the updated month and year when their dues expire. They will have the option to request an updated annual membership card with the change reflecting the expiration month and year.

The purpose of the changes to subscription dues to a “DMV” model was to streamline the process for both the Post and Department Quartermasters to track expiring annual members. No longer will Posts and Departments have to chase annual members’ dues on a daily basis; instead they can see a block of members during a specific month (one, two & three months out), allowing them to formulate a plan to collect dues at one time. This also makes it easier for the Sergeant at Arms to quickly see if a member is in good standing prior to a meeting.

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.

25. **VFW FLAG FUNDRAISER:** The **VFW Department of Iowa** has made an arrangement with Collinsflags.com, formerly known as CVS Flags, where our **posts** or **members** can purchase flags and flag related items at **wholesale prices**. Department Headquarters will receive a \$1.00 per flag contribution (excluding stick flags) for each flag purchased from Collins Flags through this program. Contributions from this program are used for our mission of supporting veterans.

You may phone your orders in if you prefer toll free 800-950-4061. (Be sure to identify yourself with the VFW IA).

You may order online from the Collins Flags website; www.collinsflags.com (Again, be sure to identify yourself with the VFW IA).

You may also click on the link for Collins Flags on the Department of Iowa website's homepage, www.vfwiowa.org. (Again, be sure to identify yourself with the VFW IA).

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. **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.**

29. **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.***

30. **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.

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. **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.

34. **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.

** Only one President (James Buchanan) served as an enlisted man in the military and did not go on to become an officer**

Happy Thanksgiving!

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)