

**RESOLUTION B-1**

**TO AMEND DEPARTMENT BY-LAWS  
ARTICLE XIV – CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

Amend Article XIV – Convention Committee –by Deleting Section 3 in its entirety.

**Proposed by the State Commander, and State Quartermaster, Department of Illinois.**

ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONVENTION \_\_\_\_\_  
Department of Illinois, VFW, June 14-15, 2019, Springfield, Illinois.

ATTEST:

OFFICIAL:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL A. DEROSS  
State Adjutant-Quartermaster

\_\_\_\_\_  
DONALD S. BOYER  
State Commander

**RESOLUTION B-2**

**TO AMEND DEPARTMENT BY-LAWS  
ARTICLE XIV – CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

Amend Article XIV – Convention Committee –by Deleting Section 4 in its entirety and replacing with the following:

“The Convention Committee, subject to the approval of the Council of Administration, shall select the annual Convention site within the boundaries of the Department of Illinois, but not to exceed Five (5) years in advance of the next annual Convention date.”

**Proposed by the State Commander, and State Quartermaster, Department of Illinois.**

ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONVENTION \_\_\_\_\_  
Department of Illinois, VFW, June 14-15, 2019, Springfield, Illinois.

ATTEST:

OFFICIAL:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL A. DEROSS  
State Adjutant-Quartermaster

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DONALD S. BOYER  
State Commander

**RESOLUTION B-3**

**TO AMEND DEPARTMENT BY-LAWS  
ARTICLE VII – REVENUES**

Delete Article VII, Section I – Per Capita Tax Paragraph **b** in its entirety.

**Proposed by the State Commander and Quartermaster, Department of Illinois**

ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONVENTION \_\_\_\_\_  
Department of Illinois, VFW, June 14-15, 2019, Springfield, Illinois.

ATTEST:

OFFICIAL:

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MICHAEL A. DEROSS  
State Adjutant-Quartermaster

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DONALD S. BOYER  
State Commander

**RESOLUTION B-4**

**TO AMEND DEPARTMENT BY-LAWS  
ARTICLE XXI – NOTICE**

Add Article XXII – Real Property to read as follows:

**ARTICLE XXII – Real Property**

“Any purchase, sale, transfer of title of any interest any real estate, lease (as a lessor or lessee), or encumbrance upon the title of any real estate must be approved by a 2/3 vote the Department Council of Administration.”

**Proposed by the State Commander, State Jr. Vice Commander and State Quartermaster, Department of Illinois**

ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONVENTION \_\_\_\_\_  
Department of Illinois, VFW, June 14-15, 2019, Springfield, Illinois.

ATTEST:

OFFICIAL:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL A. DEROSS  
State Adjutant-Quartermaster

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DONALD S. BOYER  
State Commander

**RESOLUTION B-5**

**TO AMEND DEPARTMENT BY-LAWS  
ARTICLE V – CONVENTION**

Amend Article V Section 5 – Installation of Department Officers –by Deleting Section 5 in its entirety and replacing with the following:

**Article V Section 5, Election, Appointment and Installation of Department Officers**

The Department will elect a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Surgeon and Chaplain at the Department Convention. The Department Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Chief of Staff, Inspector and Service Officer at the Department Convention. Additionally, the Department Commander may appoint such chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Department or as may be required by Department Bylaws. The appointment of all salaried officers shall be made subject to the confirmation of a majority vote of the Department Council of Administration. The Officers thus elected and/or appointed shall be installed before the adjournment of the Department Convention at which they were elected or appointed. An officer who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause shall be installed at any succeeding regular or special meeting of a unit of the organization, within sixty (60) days of the date of installation. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant. Department officers shall take office at the close of the Department Convention.

**Proposed by the State Commander, and State Quartermaster, Department of Illinois.**

ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONVENTION \_\_\_\_\_  
Department of Illinois, VFW, June 14-15, 2019, Springfield, Illinois.

ATTEST:

OFFICIAL:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL A. DEROSS  
State Adjutant-Quartermaster

\_\_\_\_\_  
DONALD S. BOYER  
State Commander

WHEREAS: The Eagle Staff, considered the first flag of the Americas, represents the stature and honor of a particular Native American tribe or tribes; it commonly looks like a shepherd’s staff, wrapped in either otter skin or buffalo skin, and featuring eagle feathers; pre-dating colonization, the Eagle Staff was the indicator of a tribe’s accomplishments in battle and the integrity and honor of its people; today, it is used to represent tribal communities, Native American and First Nation organizations, or a member of an honor society or a service veteran; and

WHEREAS: The Eagle Staff represents tribal sovereignty, unity, and tradition, and reflects the honor bestowed upon an individual , tribal organization, or tribal elder, the Eagle Staff is typically carried by Native American veterans of the United States Armed Forces; native Americans have served in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnicity across all branches of the military; and

WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is a proud legacy of the native American people, it is the embodiment of the warrior and of enduring fortitude which together have enabled the tribes to survive policies intended to extinguish their race and culture; and

WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is adorned with eagle feathers symbolizing the remembrance of fallen warriors; because eagles and eagle features are highly revered and federally protected, only a few federal agencies and enrolled native people may carry them; the eagle feather is the highest award that can be given by a tribe to its people; and

WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is recognized by all native American tribes, First Nations, and other Native American organizations; the Eagle Staff is welcomed into all communities, including Native American and First Nation communities, with a flag song or victory song and is always presented ahead of any other flag; and

WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is formally recognized by all branches of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Canadian Department of National Defence; and

WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is recognized and honored by the national Congress of American Indians, the Illinois Secretary of Veterans’ Advisory Council and the McCormick Foundation Veterans Program; and

WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is honored at Chicago Blackhawks games during the playing of the National Anthem; and

Be it RESOLVED that, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Illinois recognizes the Eagle Staff as the first flag of the sovereign Native American tribal nations and the First Nations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, is committed to cooperate with tribes, inter-governmental tribes, and Native American organizations, including Native American Veterans organizations to encourage programs promoting cultural education of the significance of the Eagle Staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, is committed to inclusiveness for all native Americans, the traditions and symbolism of the Eagle Staff, and that we encourage all units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to incorporate these principles into their policies and practices.

Submitted by: Donald Boyer, Commander

ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONVENTION \_\_\_\_\_  
Department of Illinois, VFW, June 14-15, 2019, Springfield, Illinois.

ATTEST:

OFFICIAL:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL A. DEROSS  
State Adjutant-Quartermaster

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DONALD S. BOYER  
State Commander