



**STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Phone: (217) 529- 6688  
Fax: (217) 529-5347

P.O. Box 13206  
Springfield, IL 62791-3206

E-mail: [vfwil@vfwil.org](mailto:vfwil@vfwil.org)  
Website: [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org)

**General Orders No. 3**  
**September 2020**

**All correspondence, invitations, and etc addressed to  
State Commander Laurie Emmer should be mailed to  
P.O. Box 13206, Springfield, IL 62791-3206**

**FALL PROGRAM BOOK**

In November 2020, we will publish our Fall Program book - A Century and Beyond. The 2020 Fall Program book will pay tribute to our past leadership, both VFW and Auxiliary, our Posts, and most importantly our membership. We want to highlight our Past State Commanders and Auxiliary Presents, and our current leadership; Posts, organized by oldest to newest, with information about each Post (namesakes, date of charter, their history); and our membership sharing their story of their military service, and their VFW Service. Deadline to submit ads and veteran profiles is Oct. 1.

**ATTENTION QUARTERMASTERS, COMMANDERS AND TRUSTEES!**

Per Section 218-Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligation of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure – trustees shall “within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, properly audit the books and records of the Post Quartermaster, Post Adjutant, and any activity, club room, holding company or unit sponsored, **conducted or operated by, for or on behalf** of the Post and submit a Post Trustee’s Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector”. Included in the General Orders is a list of those Posts that have yet to submit Trustees Reports of Audit. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact this Headquarters.

Furthermore under part 218 of the Manual of Procedure, Commanders are to insure the audit report is properly completed: “Assure that the Post Trustees have examined the books and records of the Post and prepared the Post Trustees Quarterly Report of Audit no later than the end of the month following the last day of each quarterly period”.

Election Reports: National can suspend your charter for failure to submit an Election Report for the current year 2020/2021, if you don’t have one on file please submit to National by September 20, 2020.

Sale or Disposition of Post Property - per Section 212 - In all cases of surrender, revocation or forfeiture of a charter, title to all real and personal property shall immediately pass to the Department who shall take possession and control for disposition as directed by the Department Council of Administration for the purposes set forth in the Congressional Charter. In addition, the books and records of the Post shall be recovered by the Department. In the case of surrender or forfeiture of a charter, the Department Council of Administration in the case of trust funds or trust property or both, shall carry out the intent and purpose of such a trust to the extent of such funds or property, or both.

## **DISTRICT MEETINGS**

*Your attention is directed to the provisions of our National By-Laws & Manual of Procedure, Section 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations, which states in part under **Commander's Duties**: Assure that the Commander or their representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings and County Council meetings (if applicable).*

### **SECTION 702 OF THE NATIONAL BY-LAWS IS QUOTED BELOW:**

#### **Sec. 702 - Politics.**

No officer or member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall in any manner use the Veterans of Foreign Wars for partisan politics and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any meetings nor shall any nominations, recommendations or endorsements for political office be made, provided this shall not apply to discussion of policies of any organization that seeks to alter our present form of government by force, violence or other unlawful means.

Participation in activities supporting or opposing legislation or administration of laws for veteran's welfare or relating to other matters pertaining to the purposes of the organization shall be permitted. Such participation shall be consistent with the legislative and welfare programs and policies approved by the National Convention.

No Post, County Council, District or Department shall participate in a labor dispute, either on behalf of labor or management. No member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall wear the VFW uniform or VFW cap in any plant or picket line or meeting of employees where a labor dispute arises.

### **ATTENTION DISTRICT OFFICERS:**

District Meetings are meant to be a school of instruction. District Commanders must make sure instruction is taking place at their meetings. Training is very important to the success of our organization; without it we lose members and Posts. The national web site, [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), contains a great wealth of information that can be used in schools of instruction. Use these materials and more to cause your attendees at District Meetings to leave the meeting knowing more than they did when they arrived. Department representatives are available, from time to time, to provide training at District Meetings or at Schools of Instruction called outside of the normal District Meeting Schedule. Should more than one District decide to join together for a school of instruction a Department Representative is almost sure to attend if invited.

### **PART 103 OF THE MANUAL OF PROCEDURE IS QUOTED BELOW:**

Please take note that ALL new members must be approved by the current Post Membership prior to them becoming members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Additionally, prior to voting to accept the applicant the Post Reviewing Committee should determine eligibility.

#### **Sec. 103 - Election.**

**Applications.** After the applicant has filled out the application card, it should be provided to the Post Adjutant or Quartermaster, together with the dues (and admission fee, if applicable). A receipt shall be given to the applicant.

An applicant may be recommended after eligibility has been fully determined by the Post Reviewing Committee. With respect to a Department Member-at-Large, the National Organization and/or the Department Headquarters will be responsible for eligibility determination. The original application of every member will be retained on file with the Adjutant.

**Balloting on Applications.** Before voting on the application during a Post meeting, the Commander shall allow the members present an opportunity to state their objections, if any, to the admission of the applicant. Unless one member present shall request a written ballot, **a vote shall be taken and a majority of the votes cast shall decide acceptance or rejection of the application.**

### **DEPARTMENT ROSTER**

At the time of printing the 2020-2021 Department Roster, many election reports had not been received. That is why a lot of Post information has been omitted.

### **APPLICATION FOR BOND**

This is a reminder that the application for Post Officer's Bond is available on our State of Illinois Website by going to [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org). Go to "Log In" and click on "Report Entry" on the drop down menu. You will need to Log in on this page by entering the following: username is your Post Number and your password is your District Number. After you have logged in scroll down and click on "Bond Application". Fill it out and hit "Submit". **All bonds not renewed expire on August 31, 2020.**

The bond is issued in the name of the office covered, not in the name of the person holding the office. **Important!** Too many of our Posts do not keep an accurate set of books; it is very important to keep good records, *especially with regard to your pull tab operation, bingo, etc.* This could make the difference between having a claim approved or rejected if you do not keep a good accounting of your funds. If you are ever audited by the Internal Revenue Service, and you can't produce an accurate, up to date accounting of your monies, you are going to be in serious trouble. Make sure your cash is accounted for on your ledger and your audit report! Remember, Employee Dishonesty Bonds do NOT bond officers or directors of the Post

### **BIG TEN CONFERENCE**

The fall meeting of the Big Ten Conference is scheduled for October 16-18, 2020 and will be hosted this year by the Department of Ohio at the Crown Plaza Columbus North Worthington, 6500 Doubletree Ave., Columbus Ohio. To make reservations, please call [\(614\) 885-1885](tel:6148851885) and select Option #2 to receive the discounted group rate of \$102 +tax. Be sure to ask for the VFW Big Ten Conference 2020 Block when making reservations.

DO NOT MAKE MULTIPLE RESERVATIONS UNDER ONE NAME - Everyone needs to make their own reservations. *Deadline for reservations is September 15th, 2020.*

### **REGISTRATION AT STATE CONVENTION**

All Post Commanders are reminded that *every Post* must register at least one delegate to the annual State Convention in accordance with *ARTICLE V, Section 8 of the Department By-Laws*. If your Post has not registered a delegate to the 2020-2021 State Convention, please forward your check in the amount of \$17.00 to the State Adjutant-Quartermaster earmarked *2017-2018 State Convention Registration Fee*. Posts failing to comply with this requirement shall be considered delinquent.

### **PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020**

Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11 is designated as *Patriot Day*. The President requests the flag of the United States be flown at half-staff – *sunrise to sunset* – and a moment of silence be observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 due to terrorists attacks on the United States. You can find a Patriot's Day Speech on the National VFW website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Once you sign in, click on the tab for "Patriotic Holiday Speeches".

**NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020**

Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. You can find a POW/MIA Recognition Day Speech on the National VFW website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) . Once you sign in, click on the tab for “Patriotic Holiday Speeches”.

**BUDDY POPPY**

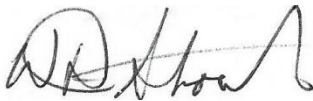
From Kevin Jones at National: We are experiencing delays in the production of Buddy® Poppies. COVID-19 has had a severe impact on the assembly facilities, resulting in a low supply of fully assembled poppies. Please continue to submit your orders while we actively work toward fulfilling your requests. All orders will be processed in the order in which they are received, but fulfillment may be significantly delayed. This is a difficult time for everyone and we're working hard to adapt to this new reality. Please watch for further updates, and feel free to send inquiries to our program administrators at [buddypoppy@vfw.org](mailto:buddypoppy@vfw.org). We appreciate your patience and will do our best to ship your orders as quickly as possible.

During the National Council's meeting this past weekend, one council member asked if COVID-19 has disrupted the poppy production. The national officers and staff on the call thought not but the AG said they would check into it. It is clear production has been affected. As you may know, there are only four VA facilities around the country that still encourage their veterans to assemble poppies and they need to work at it year around to meet the demand. Conventional wisdom assumes that many if not most posts have a large supply of poppies since poppy distribution around Memorial Day was not allowed in many areas this year. I realize it is a long time before Memorial Day but the posts that will need more poppies by then should be encouraged to place their orders now so they are higher on the priority list. That would also apply to the order our department headquarters will need by next spring.

**COMMANDER'S COMMENTS**

The constant fluctuation in the Rules for Assembly caused by COVID-19, makes it imperative at all levels for continuing our Wellness/Buddy Checks. It has been difficult - having to cancel Post, District and even Departments meetings - ie Annual Convention. Staying in touch with our membership by using all means available, is critical while we strive to continue in our mission of Veterans Service. Working together, as always, is the key to success. This situation will become a thing of the past at some point, and we must be ready to adapt to now or modified means of accomplishing our mission. One thing is certain and that is “Change Will Happen”. How we deal with it is what is going to matter.

OFFICIAL:



Warren D. Stout  
State Adjutant-Quartermaster

BY ORDER OF:



Laurie Emmer  
State Commander