



Phone: (217) 529- 6688  
Fax: (217) 546-3415

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)

*2019-2020 Series*  
**General Orders No. 2**  
*August 2020*

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Hal Roesch II from Hampton, Virginia, who was installed as the 112th Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 24, 2020, in Kansas City, Missouri.

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1**

July 29, 2020

Pursuant to Section 618(a)(4) and the National Council of Administration's July 27, 2020 concurrence for navigating the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 restrictions, the following mandate is hereby issued. This order applies to all levels of the organization and supersedes all other guidance that would otherwise conflict with conducting the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 restrictions.

**National:**

Pursuant to Section 618 (a)(5) of the National Bylaws, the Commander-in-Chief shall "insist that the business and activities of the organization are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance, or regulation or bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on this organization."

Therefore, the Commander-in-Chief at his judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include

**Departments:**

Pursuant to Section 518 (a)(1)(c) of the Manual of Procedure, Department Commanders shall "insist that Department business and activities are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on the Department, its members or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States."

Therefore, Department Commanders at their respective judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings and conventions electronically. conducting such required

**Districts:**

Pursuant to Section 418(a)(1)(d) of the Manual of Procedure, District Commanders shall “insist that District business and activities are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on the District, its members or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.”

Therefore, District Commanders at their respective judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings and conventions electronically.

**Posts:**

Pursuant to Section 218(a)(1)(c) of the Manual of Procedure, Post Commanders shall “insist that Post business and activities be conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment upon the Post, its members or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.”

Therefore, Post Commanders at their respective judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings electronically. meetings and conventions electronically.



---

By order of:  
Kevin C. Jones, Adjutant General  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



---

Official:  
Harold “Hal” Roesch II, Commander-in-Chief  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

**NOTICE TO ALL POST COMMANDERS AND OFFICERS**

Your attention is directed to the provisions of our National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, Section 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations – which states in part under Commander’s Duties and Obligations – “Assure that the Commander or their representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings and County Council meetings (if applicable).” Each State Commander is mandated to uphold the National By-Laws and this is just one small section that is being closely scrutinized by the National Organization. We appreciate the fact that Post Commanders may not always be available when District Meetings are scheduled; he/she can appoint any of his members to attend in his/her place.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION – SECTION 703 – BONDS**

We direct your attention to Section 703 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure regarding the bonding of officers. We quote in part from the Section 703: “Each officer

*accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these By-Laws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, he may be accountable.*

### **SECTION 709 – CONTROL OF UNITS**

We have had a few inquiries from VFW Posts considering the sale of their Post Homes. Please be reminded that Section 709 - Control of Units in the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure must be followed in its entirety.

*“In addition to other legal requirements under existing local laws or Department By-Laws, no Post, County Council, District, or any holding company or corporation subordinate thereto, shall purchase, sell or otherwise transfer title or any interest in any real estate unless written notice of such proposal has first been given to each member of said unit ten (10) days prior to such regular or special meeting at which the proposal is to be considered, and then only by two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval of those members present and voting at such regular or special meeting. In addition, at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting, notice shall be provided to the Department Commander who shall review any sale, purchase, transfer or encumbrance to determine whether such transaction serves the purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as prescribed in the Congressional Charter. Failure to comply with these provisions shall nullify said transaction.”*

### **PART 203 OF THE NATIONAL BY-LAWS IS QUOTED BELOW:**

**“Sec. 203 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees. Regular Meetings.** Posts shall hold at least one regular meeting each month. Failure to comply can result in immediate revocation of the Post Charter notwithstanding the provisions of Section 211 of the Manual of Procedure.”

Posts **MUST** meet each month. Those that do not comply with this by-law are subject to adverse action. Post and District Commanders are expected to insure compliance.

### **ARTICLE XII OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS BY-LAWS IS QUOTED BELOW:**

#### **“ARTICLE XII — Control of Department Purchases”**

No Department Officer, appointive or elective, or Department Committee Chairman or Department Committee member, is authorized to purchase goods or enter into any agreement, expressed or implied, written or oral, providing for or involving the expenditure of Department funds without prior written authorization based on a requisition bearing the signature of the Department Adjutant and the Department Quartermaster.”

### **SECTION 518 OF THE MANUAL OF PROCEDURE IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**(4) Quartermaster.** Among the duties of the Department Quartermaster, the Quartermaster shall:

- a. Qualify and secure a bond in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which the Quartermaster may be accountable in accordance with Section 703.
- b. Collect all monies due the Department and have charge of the funds, securities and **other property** of the Department, all of which shall be placed in their care. The Quartermaster shall be the accountable officer of the Department and the Treasurer of all committees handling funds.

c. Disburse funds as properly authorized by the Department using accepted banking practices. Unless otherwise provided for in Department By-Laws, all disbursements of Department funds shall bear the signature of the Quartermaster.....

j. Budget. Prepare a tentative balanced budget for the financial operations of the ensuing year. The budget once adopted by the Department Council of Administration shall be forwarded to the Adjutant General by November 1.

### **ALL-AMERICAN COMMANDERS FOR 2019-2020**

Congratulations to the 2019-2020 Commanders listed below who have earned "All American" status. They are:

Bobby Edwards, 10<sup>th</sup> District Commander

Kenneth Samborksi, Lakeland Memorial Post 2486-5

Dwane Lungren, Fox River Post 4600-5

Kenneth Wagner, Winthrop Harbor Post 7448-5

Krzysztof Okreglicki, Chenoa Post 8350-7

John Schmuck, Beardstown Post 1239-10

Bobby Edwards, Northenders Post 10302-10

Joseph May, Decatur Post 99-11

Charles Schneider, Taylorville Post 4495-11

Seth Floyd, Monticello Post 5346-11

Les Durov, Greenville Post 1337-12

Ryan Higginbotham, Olney Post 4226-13

Clarence Nail, Red Bud Post 6632-14

Jesus Huerta, Mascoutah Post 7682-14

Stanley Pelcha, Golconda Post 9227-15

Jon Beck, Tuscola Post 10009-17

James Singler, Plainfield Post 12059

James Patinka, Saint Charles Post 5036-19

Steven Bennier, West Chicago Post 6791-19

Michael Henkelman, Addison Post 7446-19

Robert Bailey, Montgomery Post 7452-19

### **2019 - 2020 ALL AMERICAN POSTS**

Congratulations to the 2019 - 2020 Posts listed below who made "All-American" status. They are:

LaFore Lock Post 755-10

Prospect Post 1337-4

Tri-City Evergreen Post 2298-5

Lakeland Memorial Post 2486-5

Olney Memorial Post 4226-13

Taylorville Post 4495-11

St. Charles Memorial Post 5036-19

Mascoutah Post 7682-14

Northenders Post 10302-10

## **RED, WHITE AND BLUE VETERANS SERVICE SUPPORTER PROGRAM**

Districts, Posts and Individuals can once again show their support for our Veterans Service programs through our Red, White and Blue Supporter Program. We have established three levels of Sponsorships – Red for those making donations of at least \$1,000; White for those making \$500 donations; and Blue for those making donations of \$250.

Individuals, Posts, Districts and Auxiliaries making donations in the above Supporter Levels will receive a beautiful plaque noting their level of support and signs noting donations will be displayed at the Mid-Winter Conference in February and our 100th annual State Convention in 2021.

## **AUGUST COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING (AUGUST 7-8, 2020)**

Sycamore Post 5768  
121 S. California St., Sycamore, IL 60178

*Due to the ongoing COVID-19 limitations, only the officers and directors who have been called in are expected to be in attendance for all sessions of the Council of Administration.*

The following are called in:

Cmdr. Laurie Emmer, Sr. Vice Robert Welch, Jr. Vice Bobby Edwards, Adj/QM - Dave Stout, Chaplain Ronald Meeks, Judge Advocate Jayson Hoffman, Surgeon Eugene Blackwell, Chief of Staff Maurice Bridges, Inspector Tim Timmer, District Commanders - Mike DeRoss, Steve MacInnes, Christine Pauley, Mark Miller, Barton Gutteridge, Peter Mosher, Chris Rush, Jim Carroll, Rick Hobbs, Tim O'Donnell, Ryan Higginbotham, Steve Eller, Gary Fravel, Keith Krull, Sean Conner, Paul Barclay, Brett Nila, PSC Brad Gould, Ntl. Council Member - Phil Maughan, News/Marketing Barb Wilson, Membership Director J.D. Spindler, Installing Officer George Cramer, Asst. Adj/QM Don Smithenry, Asst. Sergeant at Arms Roy Johnson, VOD Director Robert McCloud, Patriots Pen Director Dave Darte, Officer of the Day Sam Scaife Jr., Service Officer Derek Giffin, Asst. QM Lee Morgan, Foundation VP Gary Rod Thompson, Foundation President Gary Stork, Aid to State Cmdr. Duane Hisel, Americanism/Loyalty Day John Barrett, National Home Director Mike McGrath, State IT/Social Media Director Jonathan Cooper.

The committees being called into the August Council of Administration will meet on Friday, August 7, 2020 at following times: Foundation at 10:00 am, Veterans Service Office, Budget, Newspaper/Media Relations at 1:00 pm, Installation of Council Members at 2:45 pm, Council of Administration at 3:00 pm.

The Council of Administration will meet again on Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000 at 8:00 am. Committee Reports will be given, Certificates and Plaques will be given and Scout of the Year will be recognized.

Dress Council of Administration will be Business Casual. District Commanders and Members of the Council need to bring a coat and tie (males), Business Dress (females), for individual and group photos. District Commanders need to be on station no later than Friday, August 7 at 11:00 a.m.

All Committee Chairs are requested to have a printed or video report available for dissemination at the Council Meeting. Due to State Limitations on Public Gatherings, Not everyone is being called in.

### **STATE COMMANDER/PRESIDENT'S HOMECOMING**

The Homecoming Dinner for Commander-elect Laurie Emmer and President-elect Linda Armstrong will be held in November of 2020. Details will be forthcoming.

### **ANNUAL SERVICE OFFICER SEMINAR**

Date, Time and location are still to be decided.

[Veterans of Foreign Wars IL - Service Officer Seminar](#)

### **ILLINOIS DAY AT THE VFW NATIONAL HOME**

“Illinois Day” at the National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, has cancelled due to Covid-19.

### **STATE CONVENTION AD BOOK**

The State of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars has been given permission by members of the Council of Administration to sign a contract with Golden Rule, Inc. to sell advertising space in our Convention Program Book, 2020 Fall Program Book and the 2021 Voice of Democracy Program Book. Representatives of this company work throughout the State of Illinois to sell advertising; this is a legitimate advertising program and is not a donation. If anyone in your immediate area has a problem with any these representatives, contact Jim Alyea at 1-800-433-4680. The Sales Representatives have received a “Letter of Introduction” and should produce it if asked to do so. This is not a new program. We ask that you help promote this on behalf of the State of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars.

There is an organization “**Save Our Vets**”, that is selling ads and circulating around Illinois inferring that they are sanctioned by the VFW. **They are not!**

### **ILLINOIS VFW NEWS**

Photographs, news, and calendar items can be mailed to Editor Barbara Wilson 802 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Riverton, Illinois 62561. Any items can be sent via e-mail to [barb.wilson2@outlook.com](mailto:barb.wilson2@outlook.com). Pictures should be sent as a JPEG attachment. This is your newspaper, and we want your news items and pictures.

### **STATE CONVENTION FIRST PLACE POPPY DISPLAY WINNERS**

Due to COVID-19 the Poppy Display competition was cancelled.

OFFICIAL:



W. DAVE STOUT

State Adjutant-Quartermaster

BY ORDER OF



LAURIE EMMER

State Commander

### **Desk of Department Surgeon**

Hello Comrades,

As your Department Surgeon, I believe we can all agree that our greatest threat this season is the Corona Virus. We do not know how long this season will last, but until a vaccine becomes available and administered to our population, eliminating this threat will continue to be our number one priority. To navigate through this COVID-19 season, we must exercise wearing our mask, social distancing, avoiding large crowds and frequent washing hands.

Many of us still do not understand this virus but armed with more information about this virus helps us to better combat it. Following are tidbits of information with questions and answers centered on the Virus:

1. Why is the disease being called coronavirus disease 2019, COVID-19? On February 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, first identified in Wuhan China. The new name of this disease is coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19. In COVID-19, 'CO' stands for 'corona,' 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as "2019 novel coronavirus" or "2019-nCoV". (Corona – not the beer - Rather, the pathogen got its name due to the spiky crown (or corona in Latin) that you can see on its surface when you look at it underneath a microscope. There are many types of human coronaviruses including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans.

2. Is it okay to donate blood? In healthcare settings across the United States, donated blood is a lifesaving, essential part of caring for patients. The need for donated blood is constant, and blood centers are open and in urgent need of donations. CDC encourages people who are well to continue to donate blood if they are able, even if they are practicing social distancing because of COVID-19. CDC is supporting blood centers by providing recommendations that will keep donors and staff safe. Examples of these recommendations include spacing donor chairs 6 feet apart, thoroughly adhering to environmental cleaning practices, and encouraging donors to make donation appointments ahead of time.

3. What is community spread? Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected. Each health department determines community spread differently based on local conditions. To prevent the further spread of disease, COVID-19 contacts are encouraged to stay home and maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) from others until 14 days after their last exposure to a person with COVID-19. Contacts should monitor themselves by checking their temperature twice daily and watching for symptoms of COVID-19. Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

4. What is the difference between cleaning and disinfecting? Cleaning with soap and water removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. It lowers the risk of spreading infection. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces. By killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

5. What is contact tracing? Contact tracing is used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In general, contact tracing involves identifying people who have an infectious disease (cases) and their contacts (people who may have been exposed) and working with them to interrupt disease transmission. For COVID-19, this includes asking cases to isolate and contacts to quarantine at home voluntarily. Contact tracing for COVID-19 typically involves

- Interviewing people with COVID-19 to identify everyone with whom they had close contact during the time they may have been infectious,
- Notifying contacts of their potential exposure,
- Referring contacts for testing,
- Monitoring contacts for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and
- Connecting contacts with services they might need during the self-quarantine period.

The flu vaccine for 20-21 season should become available in August/September and it is advisable to get a flu shot. The optimal time to get vaccinated is in September/October to minimize the likelihood of reduced protection against the flu infection later in the flu season. Remember to get your flu shots because Flu + the Coronus Virus = Disaster. There is a high correlation that exercise + outside activities + Vitamin D will help your immune system fight off the virus.

Stay Safe

Eugene Blackwell,  
Department Surgeon