

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

GENERAL ORDER NO. 3

OCTOBER 2012

1. Fall Council of Administration meeting: The Fall Council of Administration meeting will be held at the North Raleigh Hilton in Raleigh, 5-7 October, 2012. There will be two business sessions, one on Friday beginning at 3:00 p.m. and the second on Sunday, beginning at 10:00 a.m. There will also be committee meetings and various training sessions all day Saturday. The State Commander/State President's joint Homecoming will be held on Friday night, and the Buddy Poppy King & Queen Reception with professional entertainment on Saturday night. The National Representative scheduled to attend is Past National Commander-in-Chief Jim Mueller of Missouri. Make reservations by contacting the **North Raleigh Hilton, 3415 Old Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 28609, telephone 919-872-2323.**

2. Registration Fee at Council Meeting: The registration fee for the October council meeting is \$25 per person, payable in advance or at the registration desk. The registration fee will cover the hospitality room (in the Commander's parlor) on Thursday night, hospitality room on Friday night, the Buddy Poppy King & Queen Reception and the hospitality room on Saturday night, a goody bag, and the program booklet. If an individual does not desire to visit the hospitality room at all, but wishes to go to the Reception, the cost is \$20 per person. If an individual desires to visit the hospitality room, but not the Reception, the cost is \$10 per person. All hospitality rooms will be closed from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Saturday night for the Reception, but a pay bar will be open. If an individual does not desire any social events, there is no fee. The State Commander's/State President's Homecoming on Friday night is part of the hospitality room fee.

3. Canteen fees: Posts operating a Canteen as defined in the department by-laws and which have not done so should remit immediately to Department Headquarters the annual Canteen Fee of \$50.00 for the 2012-13 year. Those posts that do not submit this fee will be considered to be in arrears to the Department. Posts which are operating a canteen without Department permission should immediately obtain such permission or risk closure and disciplinary action.

4. Quartermaster Bonds Due: The attention of all Post Officers is directed to Section 709 of the National Charter and By-Laws and Manual of Procedures, which requires that each accountable officer of the organization shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in the sum of at least equal the amount of funds and value of property for which, so far as can be anticipated, he may be accountable. The minimum Quartermaster Bond through Department Headquarters is \$3000.00. The fee for \$3000.00 is \$9.00. Bond forms were distributed to all District Commanders at the State Convention in June, and are online at www.vfwnc.org, "Tools," "Downloadable Forms." **All quartermasters must be bonded immediately. There are no exceptions.** It is the Post Commander's ultimate responsibility to make sure that the bond, once issued, remains in force by

insuring that the Trustees accomplish complete and thorough audits of the Quartermaster and other bonded officials. Those posts whose Canteen Managers, Bartenders, Bingo Managers, or Kitchen Managers are insured under the Employee Dishonesty Clause of their liability insurance policies must submit to Department Headquarters copies of the policy pages which reflect the insurance company name, the post name/number, the dollar amount of employee dishonesty coverage, the inclusive dates of coverage, and page explaining the coverage. Posts which have this coverage do not need to bond those employees with the Department. This type of insurance' Employee Dishonest Clause does not cover the Quartermaster or the Men's Auxiliary Treasurer, who must have surety bonds.

5. State Convention fees: In accordance with Article VIII, Section 4, of the Department By-Laws, each post must pay a Convention registration fee of \$3.00 for each delegate and \$3.00 for the post commander. These fees must be paid whether the post attends the Convention or not. The following posts have not yet paid their 2012 state convention fees as of 17 September, and therefore are in arrears to the Department. Quartermasters should pay these fees to the Department Headquarters as soon as possible. Continued failure to pay these fees will result in post charter suspension in the future on 1 January 2013.

3702 Roanoke Rapids-\$9	4024 Mocksville-\$9	4312 Seaboard-\$9
6064 Tabor City-\$9	9116 Columbus-\$6	9136 Mt. Holly-\$6
9751 Marshville-\$9	9850 Tarboro-\$9	10000 Hiddenite-\$9
10222 Murphy-\$6	12025 St Pauls-\$9	

6. Sale of Post Property: Attention is directed to Article VII, Section 709 of the National By-Laws, which reads in part: No Post shall purchase, sell or otherwise transfer title or any interest in real estate unless written notice of such proposal has first been given to each member of said unit and the Department Commander 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 the members present and voting at such regular or special meeting. The Department By-Laws extends the notification time to Department Headquarters to 30 days prior to such a sale.

7. Alcoholic Beverages in Posts: All Post Commanders will take action as deemed necessary to eliminate any drinking of any alcoholic beverages in the meetings or meeting halls when canteen patrons should be in the duly constituted meetings, as required by Section 5, Article XVI of the Department By-Laws. All comrades drinking in a canteen at the start of or during a meeting will be ordered to either leave or attend the meeting- there are no other choices of action. Any reported violations of this order will be severely dealt with under the punitive provisions of the VFW National By-Laws, to include mandatory closure of the canteen for an indefinite period. This practice by some Posts not only violates our ritual, but also discredits the honored memory of our fallen comrades and is contrary to the moral ethics based upon long and distinguished records of this organization. All District Commanders are hereby charged with the responsibility of the enforcement of this order, and the duty of reporting violations thereof to the

Department Commander.

8. Change to Department By-Laws Concerning Canteens: The 81st Department Convention in June 2011 approved the following change to the Department By-Laws, Article XVI, Section 5: It now reads *“Hours during which the Canteen shall remain open must be prescribed in the Canteen By-Laws. All activities will cease at a time to be in accord with local and state laws. Every Post Canteen shall be closed to members of the Post during every Post meeting, and to members of the District during the Joint and Comrades’ portions of the District meeting hosted by that Post. Similarly, every Post Canteen shall be closed to members of the Auxiliary during every Auxiliary meeting, and to Auxiliary members of the District during the Joint and Auxiliary portions of the District meeting hosted by that Post.*

9. VOD and Patriot Pen program: State Commander Briggs has determined that the following Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen program policies will apply: the 17 District VOD winners and their parents, and the top three Patriot Pen winners and their parents will be invited to the Winter Conference/Council of Administration meeting in February at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro. Winners will receive recognition at the meeting, but their awards at their schools, where the VFW will receive better and more widespread community publicity. District or Department awards will not be awarded at a post, district, or department meetings. The top three VOD and Patriot Pen winners will be awarded by Department line officers, while the 14 other VOD and Patriot Pen District winners will be awarded by their District Commander at the school.

10. Men’s Auxiliary Members at Meetings: Post and District Commanders are cautioned that Men’s Auxiliary members may attend the Joint Sessions of meetings along with the Ladies and the Comrades, but may not attend the Comrades’ business sessions, unless invited by the Post or District Commander at that time. At this time, there is no District, Department, or National representation of Men’s Auxiliary members, and National has no plans to implement any.

11. VFW National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure: The 2013 National By-Laws Podium Edition will be printed by National in October, and will be available from this headquarters for purchase shortly thereafter. Cost will be \$11, which includes postage. These may be ordered now.

12. Post Service Officer Guides: The most recent National Post Service Officer Guide (2011 edition) is available for purchase from the department headquarters for the sum of \$11 per guide, which includes postage.

13. Trustee Audit Form Colors: Posts and Districts are informed that there are no more blue and yellow colored Trustee Report of Audit forms. Any color, including white, can be used. The downloadable form is found at the Department website at www.vfwnc.org, then click on Tools, then click on Downloadable Forms. Trustee audits may be sent to the Department Headquarters by mail, or faxed to 919-261-6771, or emailed as an attachment to qm@nc.vfwwebmail.com.

14. Trustee Reports of Audit Errors: Post Commanders and Quartermasters are cautioned that many incorrect audits are being received at Department Headquarters. The most common error is that quartermasters are not insuring that the dollar figure in Block 15 of the Trustee's Report of Audit matches exactly the total dollar figure in Block 17. Usually, this is occurring because funds such as savings accounts, bonds, or CD's are not being listed on Line 8, but are listed in Block 17. All funds of any kind, to include cash, checking accounts, savings accounts, bonds, stocks, and CD's must be listed in both the Funds block (items 1-9) and in the Reconciliation of Fund Balances (Block 17). This is the only way that trustees can accurately view the disposition of all funds entrusted to the quartermaster. Effective with the July-August-September audit, incorrect audits will be returned by Dept. Hqs to the post quartermaster for correction.

15. Rosters:

*On page 1 of the Department Officers' section, the new District 5 Commander is Christopher Sikes, 700 Ridgecrest Lane, Rocky Point, NC 28457. Phone 910-352-6156. This information should also be changed at the top of page 12.

*On page 3 of the Department Officers' section, the new Membership Chairman for the East is Gregory Stafford. His information is on page 1 as the District 1 Cdr.

*On page 4 of the Department Officers' section, the correct email for State Service Officer Cleo Summers is cleophus.summers2@va.gov.

*On page 17, Commander Fred Smith's of Post 7316 correct telephone number is 336-541-1521.

*On page 36, the new Commander of Post 2908 is Mary Shannon Pendegraph, 32802 Austin Road, New London, NC 28127. Phone 704--984-1369.

*On page 42, Post 9736 Commander Robert Dixon's new address is 8503 Heron Glen Drive, Charlotte, NC 28269.

BY ORDER OF:

**TED BRIGGS
STATE COMMANDER**

OFFICIAL:

M. Bruce Edwards

**M. BRUCE EDWARDS
STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER**