

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE US  
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 7**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

**1. Members in Good Standing Cut-Off Date:** Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars expired December 31, 2011 unless their 2012 dues are paid and reported to Department and National Headquarters. This is particularly important in the case of post officers. Section 105 states that "A member who has paid his current dues to December 31 is in good standing, and ceases to be in good standing on January 1<sup>st</sup> immediately following the year for which his dues were paid and shall remain in such status until his dues are paid for the current year." All post officers not in good standing must resign their positions. They may run for office again for the 2012-2013 election year in April, but would not assume that position until the date of the State Convention in June.

**2. Winter Council of Administration meeting:** The Winter Council of Administration Meeting will be held at the North Raleigh Hilton in Raleigh, February 3-5, 2012. There will be two business sessions, one on Friday, February 3, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and the second on Sunday, February 5, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Various committee meetings and training will be held Saturday morning with conference meetings set for Saturday afternoon. Make reservations by contacting the **North Raleigh Hilton, 3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27609, telephone (919) 872-2323**. Room rates are \$94 plus tax. Comrades are reminded that due to State By-Laws changes, no items can be introduced as new business unless those items have been advertised on the Department's website for at least 45 days. Council members wishing to introduce new business should send their proposal to the Department Headquarters as soon as possible.

**3. Registration Fee at Council Meeting:** In order to be more closely aligned with procedures at VFW National functions, State Commander Schoolcraft has determined that overall registration fees will be charged at the Council of Administration meetings and State Convention this year. The registration fee for the February council meeting is \$30 per person, payable in advance to VFWNC, P.O. Box 25337, Raleigh, NC 27611 or at the VFW Registration Desk. The registration fee will cover the food at the Friday evening Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen Banquet, the Department Hospitality Room on Friday and Saturday, and the goody bag with program booklet. All hospitality rooms, to include candidate rooms, will be closed from 7 pm to 9 pm Friday night during the Banquet. For those who do not wish to attend VFW social functions, they do not need to pay a registration fee. For those who wish to attend only certain social functions, the charge is \$20 for just the banquet and \$10 for just the Hospitality Room.

**4. Endorsing Candidates for VFW Offices:** Comrades acting as Department Representatives at District meetings are cautioned that they should not endorse any particular individual running for VFW office, unless they make it clear to all concerned that they are endorsing the person in their capacity as an individual comrade and not in their capacity as a Department Representative. Department Representatives are official stand-in's for the Department Commander, and must reflect the neutrality of his position as the Commander.

**5. VOD and Patriot Pen program:** In an effort to follow the lead of the VFW National organization, State Commander Schoolcraft has continued the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen programs at Department level this year. The top three VOD winners and their parents, and the top three Patriot Pen winners and their parents will visit Raleigh at the February CofA to visit the Capitol building, visit the legislature, visit the NC Museum of History, and attend the

VOD/Patriot Pen Banquet at the North Raleigh Hilton Hotel on Friday, February 3. Winners will receive their awards at their schools, where the VFW will receive better and more widespread community publicity. The top three VOD/Patriot Pen winners will be awarded by Department line officers (who may or may not be the District Commander), while the 14 other VOD/Patriot Pen District winners will be awarded by their District Commander at the school. Awards will be conducted by Department and District representatives in coat and tie attire. District winners will not be awarded District or Department prizes/plaques/certificates at District meetings.

**6. Men's Auxiliary:** The By-Laws of the Department of North Carolina permit posts to establish a Men's Auxiliary. Posts who wish to form a Men's Auxiliary must obtain instructions on forming such an auxiliary, a *Request For Charter Of A Men's Auxiliary* form, and Men's Auxiliary application forms from the Department Adjutant/ Quartermaster. They will hold a meeting, approve the formation of the auxiliary by the floor, and approve a set of post by-laws that includes procedures on how to form the auxiliary and any rules that apply to it, including dues. This set of by-laws and the completed charter application form will then be forwarded to the Department Headquarters by the Post Commander for further action. Any post utilizing "social members" or "honorary members" or any other type of illegal membership will be disciplined.

Apparently there is some confusion on eligibility for the Men's Auxiliary. Only the following persons are eligible for membership: husbands, widowers, fathers, grandfathers, sons, grandsons, brothers, and half-brothers of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the VFW itself. Note that the relative does not have to have been a comrade, but only has to have been eligible to be a comrade. Also note that service in any Armed Force does not make a person eligible for membership in the Men's Auxiliary.

**7. State and National By-Laws:** The new 2011-2012 version of the state by-laws (with a yellow cover) are available at department headquarters for \$2.00, which includes shipping. The new 2012 podium editions of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures (with a black cover) are also available at department headquarters. The cost is \$10.00, which includes shipping.

**8. Post Service Officer Guides:** The most recent National Post Service Officer Guide (2011-13 edition) is available for purchase from the department headquarters for the sum of \$10 per guide, which includes shipping.

**9. Visitors to Post Canteens:** Posts are under no obligation to serve any persons in their Canteen, except for their own Post comrades and auxiliary members. However, Article 16, Section 9 of the Department By-Laws points out that Posts may (if they wish) also admit other VFW members, armed forces members, bona fide guests, and Auxiliary members. The word "Auxiliary" in that Section now pertains to Men's Auxiliary members as well as Ladies Auxiliary members. If a post normally allows entry and service to visiting VFW comrades or Ladies Auxiliary sisters, they should also allow entry and service to visiting Men's Auxiliary members. In order to prove that a visitor is a member of the VFW or one of its Auxiliaries, he/she should be required to show a valid membership card.

**10. Transfer members vs New members:** Posts are reminded that members transferring from one post to another should be handled the same way as new members, as there is no guarantee that the transfer member is eligible for membership in the VFW. The member desiring to transfer should fill out a Membership Application Form and submit it to the post with his proof of eligibility. The Post Quartermaster submits to VFW National a copy of the Membership

Application Form, a VFW Annual/Life Member Change Request Form (MCR), and a copy of the VFW Post Direct Dues Transmittal Summary Form with check. The transferring member also completes a VFW Transfer Member Declaration (a small brown card), which declares he has no debt or obligations to his former post. The receiving Quartermaster retains that declaration for life. If the transferring member is a life member, his life member card must be turned in to the Quartermaster and submitted to National as well.

**11. VFW National Annual Publications Contest:** The VFW Publications Department has announced that it is now accepting submissions for VFW's 2012 National Publications Contest. All publications will be categorized by the membership size of the Department, District or Post they represent. One issue of any Post or District publication (such as a newsletter) is to be submitted to Department Headquarters no later than April 1. Only one post-level winner and one district-level winner for each size will be forwarded to National by Department. Issues published between Jan 1, 2011, and Dec 31, 2011, are eligible.

**12. Check-writing from Posts to Department:** Due to the change of the Department Headquarters computer accounting system from Peachtree to Quick Books, posts should prepare a separate check for each transaction sent to Department. For example, a Quartermaster Bond payment and a Canteen Fee payment should not be included on the same check. However, multiple payments for the same subject can be included on a single check, such as six Men's Auxiliary members dues being paid at one time.

**13. Roster Changes:**

\*District 1 section: The new quartermaster of Post 6060 is William Webb, 104 Robin Drive, South Mills, NC 27976, telephone 252-202-3381.

\*District 13 section: Post 5200 has consolidated with Post 9811, and should be removed from the roster.

\*District 14 section: The new commander of consolidated Post 9811 is Mike Yarbrow, 404 Meadow Lane, Kings Mountain 28086. The new quartermaster of the consolidated Post 9811 is Claude Pearson, 100 Myers Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

**BY ORDER OF:**

**JASON SCHOOLCRAFT  
STATE COMMANDER**

**OFFICIAL:**

*M. Bruce Edwards*

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