

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

GENERAL ORDER 9

APRIL 2012

1. Final Membership Push: District and post commanders need to make one more big push for membership in 2011-2012. If each comrade in the state were to sign up only one new member, the department would double in size.

2. Post Elections: Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election, and installation of Post Officers. Quartermasters or Adjutants must complete and return the election forms to National Headquarters and Department Headquarters **immediately following** the election of Post Officers. If the Post Quartermaster did not receive the National packet, contact the Department Headquarters at 919-828-5058 or qm@nc.vfwwebmail.com in order to be sent another copy. There is also a copy at our Department website at www.ncvfw.org, under "Tools," and then "Downloadable Forms." In completing the "Report of Election of Post Officers" make sure all information (names, addresses, telephone numbers plus the area codes) has been correctly listed. Post Officers shall be installed into their respective offices at a regular or special meeting held prior to the Department Convention (14-17 June 2012), but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed. **Distribution of the report is 1 copy to post, 1 copy to district, 1 copy to department, and the original copy to National. Remember that if you use the National internet system to file your election report, to send a copy to your District Commander and to the Department Headquarters.**

3. District Elections: Each District will hold its annual District Convention (Spring Meeting) for the purpose of electing officers, on the date designated by the Department Commander. This date has been so designated as each District's normal May district meeting. Immediately following the District Convention, an election report listing the new officers must be made to Department Headquarters. Posts will elect delegates and alternates to the District Conventions at a regular meeting of the Post, held no later than thirty (30) days prior to the District Convention - one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing for 2012 at the time of the meeting. District Commanders and Adjutants will receive a packet from Department Headquarters detailing the number of delegate votes allotted to each post and the procedures to follow for a correct District election.

4. State Convention: The State Convention will be held in Raleigh at the North Raleigh Hilton Hotel, June 15-17 2012. The outgoing Council of Administration will also meet on Thursday afternoon, the 14th. The telephone number for reservations is 1-800-445-8667, and tell the reservations clerk you want code **WAR**. The hotel deadline date to insure that rooms are available is May 20. A reservation form is included in the Jan/Feb/March issue of *The VFW Leader* newspaper.

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 State Convention this year. The registration fee for the June Convention is \$35 per person, payable in advance to VFWNC, P.O. Box 25337, Raleigh, NC 27611 or at the VFW Registration Desk. It can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The registration fee will cover the food and entertainment at the Saturday evening Commander/President Installation Banquet, the Department Hospitality Room on Thursday, 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 Saturday 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 \$25 for just the banquet and \$10 for just the Hospitality Room. The theme for the Banquet and the Department Hospitality Room is "Hawaiian Luau," so attendees are encouraged to wear bright, tropical style clothing.

5. State Convention Delegate Fees: Attention is called to Article VIII, Section 4: "Each member of the Department (State) Convention entitled to vote shall pay a registration fee not to exceed \$3.00. Each Post shall pay a registration fee not to exceed \$3.00 for each Post delegate to the Department Convention." Delegate credential forms to the Department Convention will be mailed in early April to all Post Quartermasters according to the number of delegate votes to which they are entitled. Posts must register ALL delegates or the Posts may not vote any of them. Also, Posts must pay the Delegate Fees whether or not any delegates attend the Convention.

6. State Convention Resolutions: If your post wishes to change the Department By-Laws or the National By-Laws or to change VFW National policy, it must submit a Resolution detailing the desired change. Resolutions to be considered by the Department Convention must be submitted in triplicate (3 copies) through the District Commander to the Department Adjutant immediately after your District meeting.

7. National Convention: The 113th National Convention will be held in Reno, Nevada, from 21-25 July. To make a reservation, visit the VFW website at www.vfw.org or mail your reservation form to the address on the form or telephone the VFW Housing Bureau. A reservation form is included in the Jan/Feb/March issue of *The VFW Leader*. North Carolina state headquarters will be at the Silver Legacy Hotel10.

8. Flying Squadron District/Post Training: The Council of Administration has approved training for district and post/auxiliary level officers at the Eastern, Central, and Western Conferences of the Department of North Carolina. The training will occur at the following locations: Eastern Conference at Mt. Olive Post 9959 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, 4 August, Central Conference at the Department Headquarters in Raleigh from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, 11 August, and the Western Conference at Statesville Post 2031 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, 18 August. All District Commanders and Quartermasters and District Presidents and Treasurers are required to attend. District Commanders/Quartermasters and Presidents/Treasurers will receive driver reimbursement for up to two vehicles at \$.30/mile leaving from up to two central locations (since these officers frequently do not reside close to each other). Post Commanders and Quartermasters and Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers are strongly encouraged to attend, as this "Flying Squadron" training will be counted as their District's required School of Instruction. Posts with one or no Auxiliary will receive driver reimbursement for one vehicle at \$.30/mile from the post home or a central location, and posts with two Auxiliaries will receive driver reimbursement for up to two vehicles at \$.30/mile from the post home or a central location if both Auxiliaries attend. Other post and auxiliary officers are encouraged to attend. A schedule of classes will be published at a future date.

9. All-State Post Eligibility: North Carolina has been allotted a maximum of twenty-four (24) All-State Post Commanders and Quartermasters. These awards will be determined by the total membership as reported to Department Headquarters by the VFW National Headquarters computer statistics on May 15, 2012 at close of business. Buddy Poppy purchases, Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, Teacher of the Year, community service reporting, attendance at district meetings, and the Post Commander's affidavit, as well as membership, will determine the winners.

10. Loyalty Day Event: All Posts are urged to plan a Loyalty Day Observance on May 1.

11. Buddy Poppy Campaign: Commanders on all levels should be well into organizing their 2012 Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Sales. Poppies are currently available from Department Headquarters at \$109.00 per thousand with 500 as the minimum order. Commanders/Quartermasters are cautioned to use the current Buddy Poppy Order Form, and include \$6.00 shipping and handling. Poppy supplies, such as vests or collection cans, are no longer available from Department Headquarters. You need to order these directly from the Emblem & Supply catalog. Poppies themselves cannot be ordered from National Headquarters. Posts planning to distribute Poppies on Memorial Day must order now to insure they receive them in time.

12. 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, Auxiliary members, and guests. 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. "Guests" must have a member sponsor who stays in the facility with the guest, and the guest must be signed in.

13. Revealing VFW business to non-VFW personnel: All comrades are reminded that it is a violation of Article IX, Section 902(8) of the VFW National By-Laws to divulge any of the private business of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States with the intent or effect of embarrassing the Veterans of Foreign Wars or members thereof. Divulging the private business of the VFW may result in disciplinary action by the Department Commander, the result of which may include punishments from a reprimand to termination of membership in the VFW. Comrades should remember that social media postings, such as on Facebook, are not private, and can be interpreted as a violation of Article IX.

14. VFW National Publications Contest: VFW National Headquarters has announced they are now accepting submissions for the 2012 Annual Publications Contest. All District and Post publications (such as newsletters) will be categorized by organization membership size. There are 2 possible categories for NC Districts (medium and small), and 3 possible categories for NC Posts (large, medium, and small). Any or all issues published between 1 Jan 2011 and 31 Dec 2011 are eligible. Districts or Posts interested in competing at the National level must send the one best copy of their newsletter to Department Headquarters no later than 2 April 2012. The Department-level winner in each of the possible 5 categories will be forwarded to National for competition there.

15. State By-Laws: The current version of the state by-laws (8&1/2 x 11, annotated 2011) is available at department headquarters for \$2.50, which includes shipping.

16. National By-Laws: The 2011-12 version of the national by-laws and manual of procedure (with a black cover) is available at department headquarters for \$11.00, which includes shipping.

17. 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.

18. Fund-Raisers: Posts, Districts, and Conferences are reminded that, in accordance with the National By-Laws, they may only conduct fund-raisers within their geographical boundaries. Posts may conduct fund-raisers only in and around their post membership area. Districts may only conduct fund-raisers within the counties of their district. Conferences may only conduct fund-raisers within the counties of their districts. The Department may only conduct fund-raisers within the state of North Carolina.

19. Downloadable Online Forms: Many National and Department forms of interest to Post Quartermasters and Adjutants can now be found at the Department Website at www.vfwnc.org under the "Tools" tab.

20. Department Credit Card Capability: Effective 1 April 2012, the Department Headquarters will acquire the capability to accept credit cards for all types of payments. Comrades, Ladies, and Brothers will be able to telephone the Headquarters and pay for transactions with a post or personal credit card. This capability will also be present at all State-level meetings, beginning with the Annual State Convention in June 2012. VISA, Mastercard, and Discover Card will be accepted for payments for such items as military or veterans clothing, registration fees, banquet tickets, buddy poppy orders, etc.

21. Community Service Reporting: Posts are cautioned that Community Service Reporting for the 2012-2013 North Carolina Internet Reporting System begins on 1 May.

22. Roster changes: None at this time.

BY ORDER OF:

**JASON SCHOOLCRAFT
STATE COMMANDER**

OFFICIAL:

M. Bruce Edwards

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