

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

GENERAL ORDER NO. 6

JANUARY 2014

1. Winter Council of Administration meeting: The Winter Council of Administration Meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites hotel at 204-201 Centreport Drive in Greensboro, February 7-9, 2014. There will be two business sessions, one on Friday, February 7, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and the second on Sunday, February 9, beginning at 10:00 a.m. District Commanders only have a session with the State Senior Vice Commander at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. The Joint Session, various committee meetings and training will be held Saturday morning with conference meetings set for Saturday afternoon. Make reservations by contacting the **Embassy Suites at 336-668-4535**. Room rates are \$115 plus tax. There are also 2-bedroom suites available at the co-owned **Homewood Suites** for \$182. 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.

2. Social Fee at Council Meeting: There will not be a combined social fee at the February Council meeting. Separate tickets for the hospitality room on Friday and Saturday nights and the Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen Banquet on Saturday night will be sold. If an individual does not desire to visit the hospitality room at all but wishes to go to the Banquet, the cost is \$25 per person. If an individual desires to visit the hospitality room but not the Banquet, the cost is \$10 per person. So, the most that any individual would pay would be \$35. All hospitality rooms will be closed from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Saturday night for the Banquet. If an individual does not desire any social events, there is no fee. Attendees may purchase their Banquet tickets in advance from the State Headquarters, or may purchase them at the hotel (if any remain). Hospitality Room tickets will be sold only at the Hospitality Room door. District Commanders and District Presidents are expected to attend the Banquet, and march in with their District VOD winner. Dress for the Banquet is formal (tuxedo/coat & tie for males, gown/cocktail dress/pantsuit for Ladies).

3. National Dues Increase: The VFW National Convention floor passed a \$10 dues increase for all continuous, reinstated, and new members at the convention in Louisville in July 2013. The increase will take effect on 1 January 2014, the same date that the Subscription Dues system will take effect. Posts do not need to take any action to increase their dues. This will be accomplished automatically by National. (For example, if post dues are now \$30 per year, they will automatically become \$40 per year on 1 January.). So, also beginning on 1 January, post quartermasters will submit \$31.25 to National as National and Department's share, as opposed to \$21.25.

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.

5. EMT/Firefighter/Law Enforcement Gold Medals: Those posts, through their district, who wish to submit nominees for the Department-level award of EMT of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year should submit them as soon as possible to Department Headquarters. Department level judging for these awards will be on Monday, 6 January. District level awards will not be awarded at a District Meeting, to include Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, Teacher of the Year, Law Enforcement Gold Medal, Firefighter Gold Medal, and Emergency Medical Technician Gold Medal. These awards will be presented at the winner's school, place of business, or city government function.

6. Selling Real Estate: 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. It is also considered a conflict of interest if any comrade or post officer involved in a VFW property sale makes any personal profit or income from that sale.

7. 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. It is unfortunately true that some posts are not as zealous as others in insuring that a veteran is indeed eligible for 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.

8. 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." This means, for example, that if a comrade is in the post canteen and a post meeting is starting, he must either attend the meeting (with no alcohol in hand) or leave the building.

9. 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.

10. Note on Annual (Continuous) Dues: If a comrade pays his dues through the Post Quartermaster, the Quartermaster should send \$21.25 (\$31.25 beginning 1 January) to VFW National Headquarters and keep the difference between the \$21.25 (or \$31.25) and whatever the post dues are. Half of the difference will be placed in the Post General Fund and half into the Post Dues Reserve Fund. If a comrade pays his dues using his direct dues deposit form that he gets in the mail from National, he will pay the entire post dues amount to National. National will then deduct \$31.25 from that amount, and remit the remainder back to the Post Quartermaster using ACH electronic money transfer only. Paper checks will no longer be issued to the post by National. Again, whenever a post receives money from National in an ACH electronic transfer (which the post quartermaster will see on his monthly bank statement), half of the ACH deposit goes to the Post General Fund and half goes to the Post Dues Reserve Fund.

11. VOD and Patriot Pen program: State Commander Allis 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 or their representative, while the 14 other VOD and Patriot Pen District winners will be awarded by their District Commander at the school.

12. 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 permitted 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. Starting with this Winter Conference/Council of

Administration meeting, the Men's Auxiliary State Advisory Council will have its own schedule and responsibilities.

13. How to Start A 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 his own service in any Armed Force does not make a person eligible for membership in the Men's Auxiliary.

14. New State By-Laws: 2013-2014 Department (State) By-Laws (paper version) are available for purchase from the department headquarters for the sum of \$2.50 per booklet, which includes postage. The State By-Laws are also available for FREE online at www.vfwnc.org, then Tools.

15. New National By-Laws: 2013-2014 National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure (Podium Edition) is available for sale at Department Headquarters. They have a black cover. The cost is \$11 per book, which includes postage.

16. Post Service Officer Guides: The most recent National Post Service Officer Guide (2013 edition) is available for purchase from the department headquarters for the sum of \$11 per guide, which includes postage.

17. Post members mentoring requirements: Post Commanders are reminded that in order to achieve All State status in 2013-2014, the Post Commander will need to submit to Department Headquarters a form stating that all new and reinstated post members were personally contacted at least once during the year by telephone or in person by a post comrade/mentor, and invited to a meeting or post event. This form is to be found in the 2013-2014 Department Membership Program book, which is available online at www.vfwnc.org.

18. Military Assistance Program (MAP) events: MAP events, such as pre-deployment

and post-deployment celebrations, are no longer allowed to be catered. In order for a MAP event to take place, the post concerned must adopt the unit using the Adopt-A-Unit program through the Department Headquarters. The post will then supply the comrades, sisters and brothers to man the event for cooking, serving, and recruiting. The Department Headquarters will pay for the event, with either National Military Services (NMS) Chairman Bill Greene, Assistant NMS Chairman Billy Ray Brown, or National Guard Coordinator Frances Crawford purchasing the food and supplies and obtaining the receipts. Of course, posts may pay for the items themselves if they have sufficient funds.

19. Changes to Post Meeting Dates/Places: Posts are reminded that Department Headquarters must be informed prior to any change in the normal post meeting dates or places.

20. Roster Changes:

*Page 1: The new quartermaster of Post 6060 is Monica Sandridge at 135 Billets Bridge Rd, Camden 27921. Telephone 315-783-3760.

*Page 8: The new quartermaster of Post 2514 is Dan Brosnan at 1822 Park Avenue, New Bern, 28560.

*Page 18: The correct telephone number for District 7 Quartermaster Larry Watkins is 919-902-0736.

*Page 19: The new quartermaster of Post 9103 is Richard Alexander at 119 Ruby Clara Lane, Spring Lake 28390. Telephone 910-495-0545.

*Page 29: The new quartermaster of Post 8297 is Phil Randall at 106 College Lane, Reidsville 27320. Telephone 336-342-0630.

*Page 33: The new commander of Post 5352 is Billie Bailey at 2230 Fosterdale W. Lane, Kernersville, 27284. Telephone 336-608-4325.

*Page 42: The new commander of Post 9811 is Dennis Edwards at 704 Craig St, Cherryville, 28021. Telephone 704-435-3121.

BY ORDER OF:

**ERNEST ALLIS
STATE COMMANDER**

OFFICIAL:

M. Bruce Edwards

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