

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

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 7

FEBRUARY 2014

1. Members in Good Standing Cut-Off Date: Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars expired December 31, 2013 unless their 2014 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 1st 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 have been relieved of their positions by the National Commander-in-Chief. They may run for office again for the 2014-2015 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 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, Conference meetings, and training will be held Saturday. 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.

3. 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 at the hotel 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).

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: Department 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 District Commanders as the Department Commander's representative. Awards will be conducted by Department and District representatives in coat and tie attire. District winners will not be awarded Department prizes/plaques/certificates at District meetings. At the February Council banquet, the top three VOD winners will receive a medal and a jacket, and will receive their Department plaque and scholarship pledge at their school. The other 14 VOD runners-up will receive a medal, jacket, and Department certificate at the banquet. The top three PP winners will receive a medal and a backpack at the banquet and their Department plaque and check at their school, and the other 14 PP runners-up will receive a Department certificate from the District.

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.

As with VFW comrades, Men's Auxiliary members who have not paid their 2014 dues are not allowed to utilize post facilities, such as the post canteen. Nor may they be signed in as guests.

7. 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 or Conference Chairman at that time. At this time, there is no District 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.

8. State and National By-Laws: The new 2013-2014 version of the state by-laws is available at department headquarters for \$2.50, which includes shipping, or is FREE online at www.vfwnc.org. The new 2014 podium editions of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures (with a black cover) are also available at department headquarters. The cost is \$11.00, 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. 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 on the Department’s website at www.vfwnc.org.

12. Compliance with the Department Canteen Operations SOP: All posts are reminded that they must be in strict compliance with the Department Canteen Operations SOP. All posts found not to be in compliance at the time of their first canteen inspection in 2014-15 will have their canteens closed until they are in compliance. It is strongly recommended that posts begin complying with the SOP as soon as possible to be ready for the first inspection.

13. Roster Changes:

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

*Page 13: The new quartermaster of Post 7288 is William McCormick at 610 Sunset Lakes Blvd SW, Sunset Beach, NC 28468. Telephone 910-579-6149.

*Page 20: The new quartermaster of Post 10225 is Robert Wendell at 106 Saddle Ridge Ct, Garner, NC 27529. Telephone 919-661-0287.

BY ORDER OF:

**ERNEST ALLIS
STATE COMMANDER**

OFFICIAL:

M. Bruce Edwards

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