

**HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S., INC
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 6**

Series 2020-2021

December 2020

(To be read or distributed at a regular Post meeting and filed)

1. The Winter Council of Administration and Voice of Democracy Banquet will be held on January 29 - 31, 2021, at Marriott St. Louis Airport. Room rate is \$98 per night. Reservations can be made by calling the Hotel at (314) 423-9700 or online <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1602098770807&key=GRP&app=resvlink> All members of the Council, as well as Committees and Chairpersons, should make every effort to attend and be prepared to report in accordance with the agenda, which will be provided prior to the meeting. A Banquet Ticket Form for the Voice of Democracy Banquet is attached. **(At this time the C of A is still on but we are monitoring the COVID situation closely and may have to cancel completely or restrict attendance so watch your email for updates)**

2. Post and District Commanders are reminded that the Department pays the **cost of the meal only for the student to attend the Voice of Democracy banquet.** Meals and lodging for the parents and guests of the student must be arranged through Department Headquarters and paid for by the District or Post, depending on District by-laws or standing rules. A special form to make rooming and meal arrangements for students, their families, and guests will be distributed by the Voice of Democracy Chairman. **It is important that this form be used and returned to Department Headquarters by the date indicated on the form. Credit card information must be included to hold the room. If the hotel doesn't receive a District or Post check at the event, the room will be charged to the credit card listed on the form. DO NOT SEND PAYMENT TO DEPARTMENT FOR DISTRICT WINNER'S ROOM. Please do not make room reservations for the district winner outside the special form explained above. A block of rooms has been set aside for this purpose.** Please contact Nicole at Department Headquarters if you have any questions.

3. All District Commanders should strive to complete their Post Visits by December 31. Post visit reports should be sent to Department Headquarters immediately following such visits. It's important that you visit the Post early in the year and give them encouragement and offer to assist them in problems they may be having.

4. All District Commanders should strive to complete their Post Inspections by December 31. All inspection reports should be mailed directly to the Department Inspector, Paul Frampton. His address is: 12855 NW Oakside Crt, Platte City, MO. 64079.

5. ***The attention of Post Commanders and District Commanders and inspecting officers:*** Is directed to section 703 of the National By-Laws - Bonds. Each accountable officer of this organization shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. Liquid assets are defined as cash on hand or in the bank and other negotiable instruments readily convertible into cash.

6. **Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year:** District Chairs should send a summary report along with the winning Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms to the Department Chair by December 28th. Program entry forms can be downloaded (copied) from the VFW website: <http://www.movfw.org>. The Program Chairman is Quincy Myrick (ppenyouthchrm@movfw.org). Entries for the Teachers Awards are due to the Department Chairman by December 15th. Adam St. Pierre is the Chairman (americanismchrm@movfw.org).
Reminder to submit correct forms with all entries!

7. Section 105 of the National By-Laws is clear on Members in Good Standing in the Post. Members that have not paid their 2021 dues by their expiration date are not in good standing until the dues are paid. Section 220 of the National By-Laws states, "Any elective Post Officer removed by the Department Commander, by reason of failure to pay current dues ---shall not be eligible to serve in any Post office in the same administrative year in which the officer is removed." **Post Commanders shall ensure that all their Post Officers have paid their 2021 dues by their expiration date. There's no reason to delay until the last minute. Post Officers failing to pay their 2021 dues by their expiration date will be removed from office and aren't allowed to serve in any office for the remainder of the administrative year. Post Commanders and Quartermasters are encouraged to check their rosters and make sure their officers renew on time.**

8. The Missouri Veteran Service Officer Program is vital to our organization. Donations from Posts, Auxiliaries, and individuals on a continuing basis are critical to this program. Without your donations, we cannot continue to provide the service we are now providing to Veterans and their Families. This program is what we are about. The VFW Service Officers are here to assist our members and Veterans in your community in obtaining vital health care and VA benefits. Commanders at all levels should encourage donations from your Post and District.

9. The **Partners in Veterans Service** Program was established to allow individual members to contribute monthly to the VSO Program. A copy of the brochure is attached. The money the Department of Missouri receives from the Missouri Veterans Commission Grant Program is not guaranteed. The monies we normally receive were cut severely this year and will likely be cut even more next year due to the effects of COVID. To keep our Service Officer Program strong and sustainable for the future we need your help. Please print the attached brochure and distribute to you members and ask them to help. Numerous members have been assisted by the State Veteran Service Officers in their endeavor to establish disability compensation. NOW is the time to give back!! **If you don't have access to printer please call Nicole at Dept Headquarters to request some color brochures.**

10. **Attention of Commanders at all Levels:** Is directed to action of the National Council of Administration prohibiting the wearing of VFW sport caps and/or western style caps at VFW meetings in place of the regulation cap of the VFW official uniform as set forth in sections 803 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. This prohibition is in accordance with previous directives of Commanders-in-Chief that it is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit the wearing of other than the official VFW cap at VFW meetings.

11. Anyone requesting a Department Officer to attend a function must submit a **written request** to the State Adjutant at the Department Headquarters at least 30 days prior to the date of the function.

12. The 2021 Membership Campaign is off and running. If the Department of Missouri is to enjoy a membership growth this year, a tremendous amount of work must be done. All unpaid 2020 members can assist in this endeavor by prompt payment of their 2021 dues. Now is the time to be writing those letters, making phone calls and knocking on doors. With the Life Membership incentive currently being offered by Department, all continuous members should be encouraged to purchase a Life Membership. **REMEMBER** anyone joining as a Life Member or upgrades to a Life Member prior to June 30, 2021 will receive a check for \$45 from the Department Quartermaster. **Post Quartermaster's, you must email the State Quartermaster when someone converts to Life Member so he knows to mail the check.** Having a good Veterans Service Information event in December is a great opportunity to meet and assist eligible veterans in applying for their VA benefits and welcome new Veterans into the Post. **It's not the price they pay to be a member; it's the price they paid to be eligible for membership.**

13. Proceeds from the Raffle of the Savage rifle are to be used for the 2022 National Convention in Kansas City. The Department of Missouri is the Guest Sponsor so it will require lots of Planning and Money on our part, so we're trying to raise some of the funds now. Jr Vice Commander Royce Kelb has a list of all the ticket serial numbers and who they were passed out to. All funds or requests for additional tickets are to be mailed to Comrade Kelb at PO Box 103, Lincoln, MO 65338. That way he can account for which tickets have been sold or returned. All proceeds will be turned over to the Department Quartermaster.

14. **REMEMBER December 7th is Pearl Harbor Day**

15. The following District Meeting for the month of December 2020 is announced:

DIST.	DATE	POST	LOCATION/TIME	OFFICER	REMARKS
12	12/19/20	3944	Overland 11 am	Commander	Dist Mtg/Banquet

16. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to each and every member.

Official:

Donald L Hentges
Department Adjutant

By Order Of:

Eric Sullivan
Commander