

**HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S., INC
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 9**

Series 2020-2021

March, 2021

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

1. The 2021 Department Convention will be held at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, Missouri, June 10 – June 12, 2021. Hospitality room information will be mailed to District Quartermasters and posted on the Missouri web once we get closer to convention time. Due to COVID-19 we don't know what restrictions (if any) will be in effect Reservations for sleeping rooms are available. Currently, sleeping room reservations are restricted to a three (3) day stay and may be made by calling the hotel direct at 1-888-532-4338. Be sure to let them know you are with the VFW. Persons reserving three (3) days and later cancelling one (1) or two (2) will have the entire three (3) days cancelled. We do have an Overflow Hotel if Oasis is full or for anyone wanting to make a reservation for LESS than three (3) days, the hotel is: Holiday Inn & Suites of Springfield and can be reached at 417-865-8600.
2. **Deadline for receipt of Convention Book Ad's is May 1, 2020.** All Post and Districts are encouraged to give recognition to their officers by submitting an Ad for the Convention Book. Add cost are \$100 for Full Page and \$60 for Half Page. The book is being published in ½ size and in house. Please email or Fax Add request to Nicole @ Department HQ. Her email is hqnicole@movfw.org.
3. The 122nd National Convention will be held in Baltimore, MD. July 31 – August 5, 2021. Convention housing will officially open March 19, 2021. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at vfw.org/convention. The convention website will also have general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related information, including a tentative agenda.
4. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 222 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides that each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee. Posts are encouraged to register their Post delegate(s) online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that is being mailed to all Post. **Post Quartermasters, please send in the \$25.00 registration fee and register at least one (1) delegate as soon as you receive the registration forms. Don't wait until July to send in your delegate fee.**
5. Section 222 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure provides that delegates and alternates for the District Convention and meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post as of March 31.

6. Post Commanders are reminded that the annual election of Post Officers must be held during the month of April. Post officers shall be installed in their respective offices prior to the convening of the Department Convention. Newly installed officers do not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed at the State Convention. Post-Election Report Forms are being mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters **immediately following** the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1, 2021.

7. Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

8. Post and Districts are reminded that sections 216, 416 and 516 of the Manual of Procedures states in part: “-----officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the Adjutant. ----officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to office.”

3. It's likely that **membership has never been more important**. As of today, February 26th, the Department is at 92.91%. This is only a little over a percentage point increase from last month. We **MUST** work hard if we are going to reach our goal. The weather has opened up so please set up a group and schedule a time to call your continuous members and those Comrades whose membership has expired. It is vital that you do so. We need these members to carry out our mission, and we need their presence in our organization to fight for funding for our various programs that are vital for all Veterans. It is important that they remain with us. Due to COVID-19, our ability to recruit is severely limited. Therefore, **retention is recruitment**. With the Life Membership incentive currently being offered by Department, all continuous and expired 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.**

10. Prior to your monthly meeting, please review your All-State status and conduct your meeting so as to accomplish items to get your Post to that Honor. Please take a look at your Post Commander and Quartermaster Handbook & Post Membership Program 2020-2021 booklet to see what your Post needs to do. All State determination will be made from data collected by the Department Headquarters on May 1, 2021. **Note: Membership requirements this year are a post must meet their membership on May 1, 2020 by May 1, 2021 to qualify or meet all other All-State requirements by May 1, 2021 and meet their 2020 year ending membership by June 30, 2021.**

11. 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. As stated in the State Commander Expectations in the Post Commander & Quartermaster Handbook, it is expected that each post donates at a minimum of \$3.00 per member. Our Webmaster has made it easy to make your donation on-line. **Simply go to movfw.org; Click on Programs, scroll down to Donations, and “Click here to donate to the VSO”.**

13. State Commander Eric Sullivan and the line officers wish to congratulate all the posts that achieved 100% in membership to date. It's your efforts that will keep the VFW strong for the future.

14. Reminder to Post that have Bingo. Reasonable and necessary expenses incidental to the conduct of Bingo Games shall be paid out of the bingo account. Remaining proceeds must go to charity. You can access all the Rules and Regulations on <https://www.mgc.dps.mo.gov/>

15. 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.

16. The deadline for submitting bids for the 2024 Department Convention is March 15, 2021, as prescribed by the Department By-Laws. Any Post or group of Posts wishing to submit a bid should contact Department Headquarters for the Convention hotel requirements and coordination of the bid request.

17. The only District Meeting for the month of March 2021 is listed below. Weather forced the meeting scheduled in February.

DIST.	DATE	POST	LOCATION/TIME	OFFICER	REMARKS
7	3/6/21	2590	Carthage 10:30 am	Jr. Vice Cdr.	District Meeting

Official:

Donald L Hentges
Department Adjutant

By Order Of:

Eric Sullivan
Commander