



**HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S., INC
GENERAL ORDERS NO 11**

Series 2016 - 2017

May 2017

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

1. The 2017 Department Convention will be held at the Ramada Oasis, Springfield, Missouri, June 8 – June 11, 2017. Hospitality room information will be mailed to District Quartermasters and posted on the Missouri web. Reservations for sleeping rooms become available on February 1. 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 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 2, 2017.** All Post and Districts are encouraged to give recognition to their officers by submitting an Ad for the Convention Book. A letter detailing the size Ads accepted, price and deadline is being sent with these General Orders. The book is being published in ½ size and in house. Cost of Ads have been reduced.

3. Delegates to the Department Convention are elected at a meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department Convention; one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or a fraction thereof in good standing in the Post. All membership reports processed in National Headquarters on May 1, 2017, will be considered in determining delegate strength. The delegate fee is required whether or not someone from the post will be attending the Department Convention as prescribed in Article IX, Section 2 of the Department By-Laws. Posts will receive notification of delegate dues owed prior to June 1. **Failure to pay delegate fees will result in your post not being allowed to vote at the Department Convention.**

Note: Per section 222 – Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions – (b) “Delegates elected under this section shall not be considered instructed and may exercise full authority in the duty to be performed.”

4. By-Law changes to be considered at the Department Convention must be distributed thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. All proposed amendments to the Department Bylaws which are to be considered by the 2017 Department Convention are being submitted with this Month's General Orders. Resolutions will not be published, but should have been submitted to the Department Adjutant no later than April 15th. No resolutions have been submitted.

5. All Districts will hold a District Convention not less than ten (10) or more than sixty (60) days prior to the Department Convention for the purpose of electing District Officers and the transaction of District business. Blank Reports of Election will be mailed to the incumbent District Commanders prior to the Convention by Department HQ. District officers, elected and

appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the District Adjutant. **District 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 District Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to office, (Manual sec. 417).** District Commanders installed shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant prior to the convening of the State Convention.

6. Delegates and alternates to the District Convention are elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District Convention at which District Officers are to be elected; one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or a fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of election.

7. Post Commanders are reminded that nominations for Post Officers should have occurred in March and the annual election of Post Officers must take place during April. The Post Commander-elect will select **the installing officer who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of Post Commander.** Post Officers shall be installed in their respective offices prior to the convening of the Department Convention. Newly installed District and Post Officers do not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed on June 10, 2017. As soon as officers have been elected, the Post Commander-elect should select his Installing Officer. **Post officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the Post Adjutant. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed by the Commander, Quartermaster and Adjutant, (Manual Sec. 216). Officers being installed should be reminded, (if they are an annual member) that they must pay their 2018 dues prior to their annual subscription due date to hold their office for the year they were elected.**

8. National Headquarters should have mailed the Report of Election of Post Officers to each Post Quartermaster on record prior to March 1. As soon as possible after the Post election, but within one (1) week, this form should be completed in its entirety and mailed in accordance with instructions on the form. Instructions for completing the form are included in the information packet received from National. Completed election reports should be submitted to National HQ, and print a copy for your files. Election reports may be completed and submitted on-line on the National OMS site. **DO NOT wait until after the installation to complete and submit or mail this form.** Failure to submit the report results in the Post being placed on suspension for failure to have officers. **Post failing to submit their report of election before June 1, 2017 will not be allowed to register and vote at the June State Convention. If you submitted the paper form, MAKE SURE YOU MAIL A COPY TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS. Reports entered on line automatically create a copy for Department Headquarters.**

9. New Orleans, LA is the host city to the 117th VFW National Convention, July 22-26, 2017. Convention housing reservation forms will be made available and additional 117th VFW National Convention information will be added to the National Website as it becomes available. Convention registration and related information will be mailed from National Headquarters to the Post. The Post is required to register at least one delegate. The Delegate fee for the 1st delegate will be \$25. A fee of \$10 is due for each additional delegate. **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.**

10. Post and District Commanders should be reviewing the All-State program and know where you need to work to meet the requirements. **The program changes each year, so don't just assume you know the requirements.** Post All-State requirements are listed in the Post Commander and Quartermaster handbook. The District All-State program is listed in the District School of Instruction Manual handed out at the May School of Instruction. **To qualify, all requirements must have been met and recorded at Department Headquarters by April 30. Post meeting all requirements on May 1 will be awarded at the State Convention. Post meeting all requirements with the exception of membership may qualify by meeting their yearend goal. These will be awarded at the Fall C of A.**

11. All Posts should be making plans for a 2017 Spring Buddy Poppy Drive. An order blank is located in the Post Commander and Quartermaster's Handbook that should have been received by each Post Commander & Quartermaster last August. Poppies must be ordered through Department Headquarters and paid in advance. Poppies are shipped direct to you from the factory. **A minimum of eight weeks should be allowed for receiving your shipment.**

12. The following District Conventions for the month of are announced:

DIST	POST #	LOCATION	DATE	TIME	Representative
2	3168	Buckhorn	05-06-17	11:30 a.m.	None
3	7158	Cameron (Veterans Home)	05-07-17	12:00 noon	None
5	1000	Independence	05-07-17	2:00 p.m.	None
6	4347	Drexel	05-07-17	1:30 p.m.	None
7	2590	Carthage	05-07-17	12:30 p.m.	None
8	5896	Farmington	05-07-17	1:00 p.m.	None
12	4105	Florissant	05-08-17	7:00 p.m.	None

13. The following appointments are announced for the 2017 Department Convention:

STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

James Thorpe, Chairman
 Paul Frampton, Member
 Jessie Jones, Member

BY LAWS / RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Ruben Armenta, Chairman
 Lance Kellogg, Member
 Nancy Cowan, Member

Official:
 Jessie Jones
 Adjutant

By Order of:
 Christopher Johnston
 Commander