



**HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS OF THE U.S., INC
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 2**

Series 17 – 18

August 2017

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

1. The next meeting of the Council of Administration will be held on October 7, 2017 at Camden on the Lake at the Lake of the Ozarks, beginning at 8:00 a.m. 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. Room reservations must be made through the hotel by calling 573-365-5620. A room rate of \$95.00 (plus tax) has been given to the VFW. Please be sure to tell the reservationist that you are with the *VFW group* to receive this rate. A testimonial banquet will be held Saturday evening in honor of the State Commander and State President. Cost of a ticket is \$27 dollars. To reserve your ticket, please submit the Attached form to Department Headquarters no later than September 19.
2. The annual trip to the National Home for Children will be 27 - 29 October. **We are asking every post to provide a tentative headcount to the National Home Chairman so she can reserve a block of hotel rooms.** The cost to participate is \$195 per person. Typically, posts have paid for the cost of their commander and guest to go on the trip. We're asking that you would continue this tradition. This is an important and enduring program supported by the VFW. Deadline to sign-up is 1 October. For further information, contact Marilyn Archuleta at 660-473-3223 or e-mail: natlhomechrm@mo.vfwwebmail.com.
3. The 2017 Big 10 Conference will be hosted by the Department of Minnesota on October 13-15, at the Marriot Airport, 2020 American Blvd, Bloomington, MN 55425I. Room rates are \$109.00 per night, plus tax. Group rate will be available until September 15, 2017. Advance registration is \$115.00 per person and is good through October 1, 2017. The late registration fee is \$125.00. Those wishing to attend should contact Department Headquarters for information on registration and events. Big 10 registration and hotel registration forms are attachments to this General Order.
4. Several Posts still have Officer Vacancies. Post needs to correct this deficiency immediately and submit a revised election report to National. Be sure your officers maintain their dues and remain a member in good standing through-out their term. Officers removed for failure to pay dues may not serve in any office for the remainder of the Administrative year. Headquarters and we will enter it for you.
5. All posts are required to file a Federal Income Tax return. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Posts may obtain forms 990EZ, 990 and/or 990T from any IRS Office, or online at <http://www.irs.gov>. Posts with a year end of 30 June must file with the IRS prior to 15 November 2016. If your gross income (from all sources) is less than \$50,000.00 per year, you will file the form 990N online from now on. Go online to the IRS site, <http://www.ephcard.form99.org/> and follow the three (3) steps to sign up and file.

6. Article VII sec. 704 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures establishes the requirement for all Posts to establish and maintain a Relief Fund. Expenditures from the relief fund shall be as prescribed in section 704 of the Manual of Procedures. Expenditures authorized include donations to Veteran Service, National Home, and support of the National Guard and their families. Audit Reports received at Department Headquarters indicate that many Posts may not be meeting this requirement. All Posts are to review their accounting practices and ensure they are meeting this requirement.

7. The 2018 Membership Campaign is now underway. All 2017 members are urged to renew as soon as possible. All-state Program Posts membership goals for the 2017-2018 year is to meet your 100% membership as of May 1, 2017 plus one (1) new or reinstate member or your year-ending , adjusted, membership for 2017 by June 1, 2018 and having met all program other requirement by April 30.

8. The National By-Laws and the Missouri All-State Program require the Post Commander or a Post Representative attend all meetings called by the District Commander. Post Commanders should familiarize themselves with Article II sec. 218 – Officers: Duties and Obligations and ensure they are meeting their obligations.

9. **PROGRAM IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF FUNDS** - Reminder to Posts and Districts: The Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Scholarship program needs your support. If your District, Post or Auxiliary would like to (co)sponsor a scholarship, please forward \$500.00 to Department Headquarters prior to September 10, 2017. Payments will be accepted in full amount or monthly installments. Scholarships will be paid out over a five year period to district winners. Scholarship sponsor's name(s) will be listed in the banquet program each year.

10. As of today, 7/17/17, these Posts have not turned in an election report and are on suspension: 741, Excelsior Springs, District 3; 4539, Eolia Memorial Post, District 17 and 8177, Clarence Post, District 17. Immediate action is required.

11. Several Post Officers have not paid their annual dues and are to be removed from their elected positions and cannot serve in any position during the 2017/2018 VFW Year. A new member in good standing must be elected at their next Post meeting. The list was emailed earlier in July. District Commanders should take immediate action.

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

14. The following District meetings are announced for the month of August.

DIST	POST #	LOCATION	DATE	TIME	REPRESENTATIVE
5	5789	Lee's Summit	08-06-17	SOI 1000, Mtg 1:00 PM	Sr Vice Cdr
6	4367	Slater	08-06-17	0930 SOI, 1:00 PM Mtg	State Commander
7	534	Joplin	08-13-17	12:30 PM	Surgeon
8	6883	Bonne Terre	08-13-17	12:00 SOI	Sr Vice Cdr
12	6274	Ballwin	08-05-17	10:00 AM	Surgeon
18	4107	Lebanon	08-05-17	10:00 AM	Jr Vice Cdr

Official:
Bob Wonnell
Department Adjutant

By Order of
Ruben Armenta
Commander