



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

Series 2017 - 2018

December 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 in the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City on Friday, February 2, 2018, starting promptly at 7:30 p.m. (this is same as last year's start time). **The Council meeting was moved to Friday evening and a General session added on Saturday morning. Council members will give reports during the Friday evening session and Chairman Reports and guest speakers will be given time to report or speak during the Saturday General session.** All meetings are open to the membership and members are encouraged to attend. The highlight of the February meeting will be our annual Voice of Democracy Award Banquet. State winners in the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen programs will be honored. Workshops will be scheduled on Saturday afternoon. The tentative schedule of events and Banquet information are being sent out with this General Order and posted on the weblog when finalized.

2. **Deadline for receipt of Program Book Ad's for the February C of A is January 22, 2018.** All Post and Districts are encouraged to promote their post functions by submitting an Ad for the Program Book. Campaign Ads will be accepted. 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. The 2017-2018 Membership Campaign is off to a slow start. If the Department of Missouri is to enjoy a membership growth this year, a tremendous amount of work must be done. All unpaid 2018 members can assist in this endeavor by prompt payment of their 2018 dues. Dues notices are being sent out to continuous members ninety (90) days before expiration. **All paid-up continuous members, when subscription dues were implemented, have an anniversary date of December 31.** Now is the time to be writing those letters, making phone calls, and knocking on doors. All continuous members should pay their dues prior to the expiration date and be encouraged to purchase a life membership. **It's not the price they pay to be a member; it's the price they paid to be eligible for membership.**

4. Section 105 of the National By-Laws is clear on Members in Good Standing in the Post. Members that have not paid their 2018 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 2018 dues by their expiration date. There's no reason to delay until the last minute. (Early payment does not affect your anniversary date)**

5. All District Commanders should make every effort to conclude the inspection program prior to the end

of the year. Please be sure that you have had a District Inspection Form completed and turned in to the Department Inspector.

6. Congratulations go out to all of the Post Commanders, Quartermasters, and Membership Chairmen that have achieved 100% membership.

7. It is not too early to start looking at the All State competition. Please take a look at your Post Commander and Quartermaster Handbook & Post Membership Program 2017-2018 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, 2018. **Note: Membership requirements this year are you must exceed your membership on May 1, 2017 by one (1) member by May 1, 2018 to qualify and receive your All-State hats and plaques at the Convention.**

8. Quarterly Audit Reports are required to be submitted to Department Headquarters no later than the last day of the month following the quarter. Quarters end on June 30, 2017, September 30, 2017, December 31, 2017 and March 31, 2018. **Any post failing to submit a Quarterly Audit Report will not be allowed to vote at the upcoming State Convention to be held in June 2018.**

9. The Veteran Service Officer program is vital to our organization. Department funds the expenses of our Service Officer Program from department membership dues and donations from Posts, Auxiliaries and individuals. Without your donations, we cannot continue to provide the service we are now providing. **This program is what we are about.** Over one-third of the claims filed through the St. Louis VA Regional Office are filed by VFW Service Officers. Remember, they are employed by you, the VFW members in Missouri. They assist your members and Veterans in your community in obtaining vital VA pension and disability benefits. **!!PLEASE!! START YOUR DONATIONS!! NOW! and take pride in the work they are doing.**

10. Members who received a box of Christmas Cards, and have not remitted their donation are requested to make payment at an early date. **Proceeds from these donations are returned to the Departments.** The revenue derived from this program is vital to the operation of our organization this year. Please give the card program your cooperation.

11. District Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Chairpersons do not need to mail a copy of their report of Posts participating in the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen programs to Department Headquarters, only the Department Chairman. On-line reporting will be updated from the report submitted by the Department Chairman in mid January.

12. 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. DUPLICATION OF RESERVATIONS COULD POSSIBLY CAUSE**

DOUBLE DISBURSEMENT RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DISTRICT OR POST. Please contact Nicole at Department Headquarters if you have any questions.

13. The following District Meetings for the month of December are announced:

DIST	POST #	LOCATION	DATE	TIME	REPRESENTATIVE
12	3944	Overland/St. Ann	12-09-17	11:00 a.m.	State Commander

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

Official:
Chris Johnston
Adjutant

By Order of:
Ruben Armenta
Commander