

Department of New Mexico

Veterans of Foreign Wars

General Order #3:

August 5, 2023

- Department General Orders are to be read and discussed at the next Post/District meeting and filed for reference.
- **Membership:** We have started the year off strong, but we cannot slow down. The Challenge from the Command in Chief is for us to reach 102%. The Commander-in-Chief has filmed a video to promote this Challenge! You can find it here - https://youtu.be/ITe_yMFZUVc
- **Mandatory:** National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures Article II Section 218 (a)(1)k requires you (the Post Commander) or any other top 3 representative to attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings.
- **Quartermaster Bonds:** are due in August each year. The bond covers from September 1 – August 31. It is the duty of the Post Commander to ensure the Post is properly bonded.
- **All Officers:** are reminded that Sec. 218 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures state that you must transfer to their successor, without delay, all books, records, papers, monies, securities, and other property of the Post in their possession or under their control.
- **Commanders – All Levels:** Your attention is directed to the action of the National Council of Administration prohibiting the wearing of baseball type caps and/or western style hats at all VFW meetings. **The lightweight tan cap has been approved for wear.**
- **Commanders:** you are reminded that any member barred from a Post for violation of Bylaws and/or conduct unbecoming will be allowed to attend all regular scheduled or special called post membership meetings. They may arrive fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled meeting and must leave Post property immediately following the close of the meeting. They may not purchase any type beverages and entering the property at any other time will be subject to arrest for trespassing on VFW property.
- **Alcoholic Beverages:** the presence, dispensing and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings is prohibited. See Article X Sec. 1001 paragraph 25 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures.
- **Disposal of Post property:** Article VII Sec. 709 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures require any Post desiring to sell or mortgage its property must give notice of the meeting to consider the sale or mortgage to each member of the Post and to the Department Commander ten (10) days prior to the meeting and the Department Commander must approve. The sale or mortgage must be approved by two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at the meeting.
- **Commanders:** You are requested to ensure all members realize and understand that any conduct unbecoming during Department Conferences and Conventions are subject to the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures. Any complaints of the contracted hotel will be directed to the Department Convention Committee Chairman or the Department

Adjutant. The Convention Committee Chairman will report any complaints to the contracted hotel management. Any member or participant of Department Conferences or Conventions going directly to the contracted hotel staff is not conducive to the Good of the Order and will not be tolerated.

- **Congratulations:** to our 2022 – 2023 All-State and All-American Commanders.
- **All State Team:** The Department Commander will select an All-State Team based on the performance of each individual Post. Prerequisites are listed in the 2023 – 2024 Department guide. It is every Commander's responsibility to know the requirements and the points that are available. You must do your Programs; being 102% in membership will not be enough.
- **Relief Fund:** A relief fund will be established and maintained by the Posts. In this fund shall be credited the net proceeds of the distribution of Buddy Poppies and such other monies as may be solicited or donated for veteran's relief purposes. See Sec 219 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures.
- **Buddy Poppy Program:** Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Just as "They Gave, Will you?" is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of Buddy Poppies. Remember to order your Buddy Poppies a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. The Buddy Poppy order form can be found on the Department Website vfwnm.org. They **MUST** be ordered from the Department.
- **Zoom Training** We know we are behind. The ones we lack will be made up at the State convention on down time.
- **Mid Winter** We are looking for a new location. We were way over budget and have to look at cutting corners to make ends meet. That said, the Time and Place Committee will be taking bids and are looking into holding it at a post. Those interested should get ahold of AQ Dave Fouse at vfwnmhq@gmail.com and he can pass it to them.
- **Thank you all for everything you do every single day!**