



Department of Idaho
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Commander

February 1, 2020

**General Orders # 8 2019 – 2020 Series, published monthly
by the VFW Department of Idaho
To be read at regular Post meetings and placed in file for future reference.**

1. I want to thank everyone that attended this year's Mid-Winter Conference which I think was a huge success. I also want to give a huge shout-out to the Auxiliary Members, the Mid-Winter Chairpersons- Terry and Lori Thomas for the planning, coordination and execution of the Conference and running the hospitality suite and to Melissa Suekel for her contributions with the decorating as well! I also want to thank Susan for all the hard work completing all necessary materials for the conference; to Tom Black, the Department Quartermaster for his assistance and to the staff with Humana who assisted with the Hospitality Room. The Conference, banquets and hospitality room would not be possible without everyone behind scenes making everything happen- Thank You!
2. **Congratulations** to Voice of Democracy 1st place winner Liliane Anderson, sponsored by Rigby Post 1004 and Patriot's Pen 1st place winner Brodie Merrell, sponsored by Glens Ferry Post 3646. I look forward to escorting Liliane, along with my wife Nancy Heyob, in the Parade of Winners on Monday, March 2, 2020 in Washington D.C.
3. **Congratulations** to this year's recipients of the Citizen Education Teacher Award Recipients- Cindy Barrie (K-5) from Carberry Elementary, Emmett, ID (District 4, Post 4900 Emmett), Wendy Spiers (Grade 6-8), Eagle Middle School, Eagle, ID (District 5, Post 63 Boise) and Matthew Bundy (Grade 9-12), Mountain Home HS, Mountain Home (District 5, Post 5423 Mountain Home).
4. **I would like to thank** Jr. Vice Commander Doug Welch for being the Master of Ceremonies at the VOD/PP Banquet and VOD/PP Chairman PSC Bob Jones for all the work they put in to make this program a tremendous success and Tim Hinseth for the CET Chairman. I wish to thank PSC/National Council Representative Rick Johnson being the MC for the Homecoming Dinner.
5. **The 88th Idaho State Convention** will be held in Boise, ID, June 21 – 24, 2020, at the Riverside Hotel in Boise. All Convention information will be in the March General Orders.
6. **Membership:** As of 31 January, Idaho has 7 Posts that are 100% or greater in membership (at this point last year, we had 15) and 2 Districts are at 90% or above (at this point last year, we had 5). The Department is 831 members away from reaching 100% and stands 41st out of 52 Departments at 88.16%. At this point last year, the department was at 94%, #27 in the Nation and 395 members short of 100%. We, as a Department are way behind last year's numbers and I have faith that we can pull this out with everyone's help. Again, look at your

unpaid rosters, recruit a new member and we can turn this around. If anyone needs any help, contact the Department Membership Chairman Denny Croner.

7. At the Mid-Winter Conference, the membership voted to continue the Department Raffle in order to fund the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen programs. After all of the sales were complete for the past raffle and prizes paid for, the Department raised \$15,850. While the tickets for this year's raffle are not out yet, they soon will be. More information on the Raffle can be found on the Department website, www.vfwidaho.org, or contact PSC John Crotinger.

8. I want to thank all of you for your continued work within your Post, Districts and local communities. All of you are the reason why the VFW is successful within the State of Idaho and if there is anything that I can assist with, please let me know.



**Our daily actions are driven by
“Honor, Courage and Commitment”**

By order of the Commander

Attested to:

Adjutant/Quartermaster

January 2, 2020

1. Department Quartermaster Tom Black:

Comrades,

The list of Posts that are late on audits is a little smaller, lets continue that trend.

February/March is an excellent time to order buddy poppies to ensure they are on-time for Memorial Day.

The new dashboard entries on the national website are not difficult to make, and I can make them for you, if NEEDED. There are a few noticeable issues with the dashboard; Teacher Award will not show as met unless your Post has an entry from all-3 teacher levels, VMS will not show as met until your Post donation is at least \$100 and VMS status is updated once per week. District Adjutants need to approve/reject information quickly so that it can be finalized or reentered. There are bound to be additional questions about dashboard status, don't hesitate to contact me.

Please remember that I am always here to assist any member or Post with anything needed. I am available at the other end of an email or phone call.

Tom Black

2. The Minutes from the Midwinter Conference will be sent separately from these General Orders – hopefully by the end of the week. I was involved in an automobile accident – not my fault – last week and it has interrupted my schedule somewhat. Thanks for your patience! Susan.

3. Please note that the State Convention dates listed in the Officer Directory are wrong. The correct dates are June 20 – 24, 2020.

4. The following need to send missing Audit Reports to Department Quartermaster:
2453, 2909, 3603, 2905, 10300, 6232, 1173, 5840, and District 1

5. The following need to send missing Bonds to Department Quartermaster:
2453, 1173

6. February District Meetings:

District 6	February 16	noon	Twin Falls Post 2136
District 7	February 8	noon	Blackfoot Post 9443
District 8	February 8	noon	Mud Lake Post 8893

7. The All State Matrix is included with these General Orders. At this point it is a true worksheet – what is included is only as good as what I receive from the Officer/Program Chairmen. It will be updated and included with the General Orders each month until May. If you do not understand it or feel that it is incorrect so far (there are items not checked because it is too early to do them), please call Department Headquarters and we will double check the item.

This matrix is totally separate from the National Dashboard. This is for the Department of Idaho All State award only – the Dashboard is for All American status and is given by National.

Department All State criteria is listed in the SOPs and is available to download/print on the idahovfw.org website.

8. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to announce it has teamed up with the renowned source for military and veteran news, Stars and Stripes, to offer VFW members a 50% discount on unlimited digital access to news and information on web and mobile.

“Stars and Stripes is certainly a trusted news source that VFW members know well,” said VFW National Commander William “Doc” Schmitz. “Our members are extremely busy. So we’re pleased to be able to offer them quick and affordable access to news while on the go.”

Stars and Stripes is the number one source of independent news and information for the U.S. military community, serving active-duty service members, veterans, DOD civilians, contractors and their families.

“From news coverage of veteran issues to informative online tools and publications, Stars and Stripes has always made our nation’s veterans a top priority,” said Max Lederer, Stars and Stripes publisher. “We recognize and respect the many contributions the VFW has made to the lives of veterans and their families over their long history. The opportunity to serve those who have served is a great honor and we are grateful to be working with the VFW to continue this proud tradition of supporting the veteran community.”

Members who take advantage of this new member benefit will enjoy exclusive news, special features photos and other content, daily newsletter and much more. **Login to vfw.org to sign up.**

9. News from Safety Chairman Joe Riener: Thank you Lucky Gallego, Post 3520, and PSC Bob Wayment for assisting on the judging of our First Responder awards.

The winners are:

Firefighter - William Jenkins - Lewiston Post 10043

Law Enforcement - Danielle Cochran - Cottonwood Post 4902

EMT - William Wicks - Lewiston Post 10043

Also this year, Idaho has submitted eleven Life Saver awards directly to VFW National! I am proud of the increase in Post award participation, but we still had only three of fifty Posts submit awards.

10. Raffle Winners – John R. Crotinger, Chairman

1 st Place	Razor	Daniel Johnson—Ticket No 2027
2 nd Place	\$1000 gift card	Greg Spears—Ticket No 4684
3 rd Place	\$750 gift card	Alan Smith---Ticket No 734
4 th Place	\$500 gift card	Tim Williams---Ticket No 3697
5 th Place	\$250 gift card	Mike Moore---Ticket No 4594

11. The Department of Idaho has concluded another very successful Youth Scholarship Program year. Many thanks to everyone for supporting our youth and those who had a part in making our Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pens Programs a success ! The information on the VOD/Pats Pen Program tab of our Department of of Idaho website has been updated to include the audio speech of our Department VOD winner, the essay of our Department Patriot Pen winner and an audio we played at our Awards Banquet of the shared experience of last year's Department VOD winner. Please take a few minutes and check it out. We all have reason to be very proud of our Idaho Youth. They are our future leaders!!!

Bob Jones, Chairman Youth Scholarships

Voice of Democracy Winners:

District 1:	Bryce Beason
District 2:	Chasta Jared
District 4:	Amelia Chapman
District 5:	Miya Ingram
District 6:	Angel Gutierrez, 3 rd Place
District 7:	McKelle Robinson, 2 nd Place
District 8:	Liliane Anderson, 1 st Place

Patriot's Pen Winners:

District 1:	Ashara Evans, 3 rd Place
District 6:	Brodie Merrell, 1 st Place
District 7:	Zoe Zufelt, 2 nd Place

12. News from the Idaho Division of Veterans Services:

Good Afternoon everyone- there is now a full-time VA Liaison for the new Snake River Canyon National Cemetery.

Shanny Gallegos is the liaison in Twin Falls, Monday through Friday 10 am to 2:30 pm. Phone 208-732-7499. She is located at the VA annex across the parking lot from the Twin Falls Department of Labor office.

Semper Fidelis, Bill Heyob

13. February Checklist

_____ Review state incorporation paperwork for your Post. You should get a card from the Secretary of State that must be signed and filled out and returned no later than 60 days from the date on the card. Due this month: Posts 1675, 2738, 3465, 3622, 5423, 8311, 10043.

_____ Scout of the Year entries due to the Post by March 1st.

_____ Posts need monthly Community Activity Reports sent to the JVC by the 26th of the month. Email to jr.vice.commander@vfwidaho.org.

_____ Posts need to continue working membership daily.

_____ Order Buddy Poppies early for Memorial Day. Often it takes a while to get them. Minimum order of 500 for "All State".

_____ National Home for Children's annual awareness week is in March.

_____ Patriotic Art Contest Due Mar 31st. Check with your Auxiliary because this is one of their projects.

_____ Remember to check your State income tax form for the Veterans Support Fund.