



Department of Idaho  
1425 South Roosevelt Street  
Boise ID 83705  
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Commander

May 1, 2020

**General Orders # 11 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. As of today, the State of Idaho has begun the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Governor's Rebound Idaho Plan** and I hope these General Orders finds all of you doing well and in good health! A lot has happened over the past month and we will continue to get through all of this together!

- **The 2020 National Convention** in Reno, NV has been officially cancelled with a Press Release from the National Headquarters on April 20, 2020. The decision to cancel the National Convention was made from a majority vote of the National Council of Administration Members. With the cancellation of the National Convention, Posts are no longer to send in Registration Fees to the National Headquarters. Those that have already sent in their registration Fees, the National Headquarters is refunding the Posts.

- **With the cancellation of the National Convention, this year's National Elections** will be conducted by the following manner- All National Officer positions will be vacated and those positions which follow a progression upward will do so (I.e. the National Sr. Vice Commander in Chief moves up to National Commander in Chief , National Jr. Vice Commander in Chief moves up to Natl Sr. Vice Commander in Chief, etc). The National Headquarters will then ask for nominations for all of the National Elected Positions and the National Council of Administration will vote for all of the National Elected Positions.

- **With the current ongoing COVID-19 restrictions** and the decision of the National Headquarters to cancel the National Convention, the National Executive Committee determined the options for each Department in order to keep our members safe from the spread of the Virus and they released **Executive Order #2** on April 24, 2020 which provides options for Departments when it comes to Department Conventions and Elections. This was necessary because the current National By-Laws did not permit Departments to hold elections through Virtual Means as Districts and Post are allowed to do.

- **Following the Release of Executive Order#2, the Department of Idaho Council of Administration** conducted a vote as to whether the Department of Idaho would hold the **State's Convention** in June as scheduled. With three different options (hold the Convention as scheduled; Hold a one-day abbreviated Convention in order to hold elections; or cancel the Convention and follow the procedures outlined in Executive Order #2), the Department Council of Administration voted to Cancel the Department Convention and follow Executive Order #2.

- **With the decision to Cancel the Department Convention** for the safety of our Membership, the Department will follow the Step-by-Step Procedures of Executive Order #2. As such, on June 21, 2020 (the date of the scheduled Department Council of Administration Meeting in conjunction with the previously scheduled State Convention), I will officially open the State Convention and then close it due to not having the required quorum. At that point, the current Department Senior Vice Commander Melanie Foster will move up to the position of State Commander and the Department Junior Vice Commander-Doug Welch will move up to the Department Senior Vice position. The new State Commander will fill each elected position pro-tem and solicit nominations for the elected positions. After 15 days, the New Department Council of Administration Members will conduct a vote with each being permitted to cast (1) vote each on each of the elected positions. Again, this is outlined in the Executive Order #2 and the Step-by-Step Guidance for Departments from the National Headquarters.

**2. Due to all of these ongoing changes, the VFW National Headquarters has modified some of the requirements for the All American Program** to include: Department Membership requirements are dropped to 98%; the Buddy Poppy Program is no longer considered as National Headquarters cannot fill or process Buddy Poppy Orders; and the requirement to establish a new Post has been waived.

Since this year's National Convention has been cancelled, the National Executive Staff is considering inviting any of this year's All American recipients to attend next year's National Convention in Baltimore. More details to follow.

**3. With the changes from National concerning the All American Program, I am adjusting the Department SOP for the All State Award** to reflect the following. I am numbering the changes to correspond with the numbers in the current All State SOP-

1. Membership Criteria - Posts need to be at 100% Membership by 31 June 2020;  
5. Conduct Monthly Meetings through February 29, 2020, as the COVID-19 restrictions/social distancing measures began in March 2020.

6. Post Commander or designated representative must attend all District Meetings that were physically held.

9. The Post must be active and support the Department's Community Activity Program through regular monthly reporting through the February 2020 monthly report (due to COVID-19 Restrictions). – more than (3) missing reports from July 2019 to February 2020 will be a disqualifier for All State.

10. The purchase a minimum of 500 Buddy Poppies has been removed from this year's All State Requirements.

13. Register a Delegate for the Department Convention and Pay Delegate Fees has been removed from this year's All State Requirements.

14. Register a Post for the National Convention and pay Delegate Fees has been removed from this year's All State Requirements.

**4. We WILL still be awarding the Veteran/Comrade of the Year Award.** Please submit all nomination packages directly to the Department Headquarters before June 14, 2020.

**5. We will NOT award a Lifetime Achievement Award** this year.

**6. Election Reports - Posts and Districts MUST conduct an election and submit election reports as soon as possible and absolutely no later than June 21st.** Posts and Districts have the latitude to conduct virtual meetings in order to conduct the elections as mentioned in Executive Order #1 (dated March 17, 2020) and the Commanders Communication Options (dated March 21, 2020). Districts can also use Executive Order #2 if

it is determined that a virtual meeting/election is not feasible. In place of the Department Council of Administration to actually vote, the District would use the Post Commanders and elected officers in lieu of the COA. Remember, not all members need a smart phone or computer with camera in order to participate in a virtual meeting. Many (like Zoom) allow participants to call in on a standard phone. They will not see the other members participating on a computer screen but they will hear everyone. Ensure all meetings are well-documented.

We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

**7. Membership** - The Department is currently sitting at 6,552 members, 472 Members short of last year's numbers of 7,024. This puts us at 93.28% and ranked 41<sup>st</sup> in the Department Standings.

**Congratulations to the (11) Posts** that are currently at 100% Membership or higher- 7019 Kuna- 130.86%, 3913 Kendrick- 110.97%, 3043 Burley- 107.35%, 3078 Gooding- 104.54%, 5423 Mountain Home- 103.33%, 3520 Grangeville- 103.10%, 9036 New Plymouth- 102.63%, 3001 Jerome- 102.36%, 8311 Elk City- 101.40% 3886 Caldwell- 100.84% and 3646 Glens Ferry- 100.54%

**We currently have (6) Posts at 95% or higher** in Membership: 4902 Cottonwood, 10043 Lewiston, , 735 Pocatello, 10323 Preston, 8893 Mud Lake and 9425 St Anthony. Two Posts (7137 Arco and 5840 Salmon) are just barely out of the 95% or higher category with 94.73% and 94.11% Respectively.

**As for Districts**, District 2 is at 97.57%, District 6 is at 96.29%, District 5 at 93.11%, District 8 at 92.94%, District 7 at 90.76%, District 4 at 89.70% and District 1 at 88.50%.

**We still have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to work on membership.** Work the unpaid membership rosters and if you have any questions, contact the Membership Chairman- Denny Croner.

**8. Thank you, Susan and Tom** for everything you do to keeping the office and Department running Smoothly especially during these trying times.

**9. Continue** to ensure that we are contacting our members to check on their safety, well-being and to see if they need anything. We will get through this together!



**Our daily actions are driven by**

**"Honor, Courage and Commitment"**

By order of the Commander

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Blum".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Blum".

Attested to:

**1. Adjutant/Quartermaster Tom Black**

Because of the situation we are all undertaking, there will be no list of delinquent audits, however it is still important to get these done and sent to Department Headquarters as soon as you are able.

Commander Heyob gave everyone a lot of information regarding the National Convention and State Convention cancellations, and the procedures going forward.

Probably the most important thing to do before the convention date is complete your Post and District elections. The Department has a zoom license and we can host unlimited virtual meetings. I can use this to help any Post or District complete the election report.

If you want me to help with this meeting please let me know the exact date and time, with as much notice as possible, so we can inform as many members as possible. I can record the meeting and send it to the Commander.

However, I recommend that the Adjutant take the minutes as he/she would for any meeting. In all cases, please notify Department Headquarters of any meeting date/time changes.

Keep yourselves and your families healthy and secure.

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.

**2. District Meetings for May**

District 2	May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	noon	Hawley Jameson Post 2905 Moscow
District 7	May 9 <sup>th</sup>	noon	Pocatello Post 735, Elks Lodge 410 S Main
District 8	May 30 <sup>th</sup>	noon	Arco Post 7137

Note: District 8 Meeting Date has changed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**2. Reno 2020 Housing Reservation Cancellations as of April 20, 2020**

If you made your hotel reservation with Orchid Events/VFW Housing, your reservation has been cancelled automatically and you were sent a notification of the cancellation via email (if an email was provided).

No fees (1<sup>st</sup> night deposits) have been charged to credit cards. No action is required on your part. If you paid a hotel deposit by check, you will be refunded.

If you booked a hospitality suite, please email our housing manager, Susie Brenner at [susie@orchid.events](mailto:susie@orchid.events)

NOTE: If you made a hotel reservation at a hotel outside of the VFW room blocks – Official VFW Hotels - Grand Sierra, Atlantis, Nugget, you will need to call the specific hotel directly you made the reservation with and cancel that reservation yourself.

**3. Information from PSC Robert Jones Department VOD and Patriot's Pen Programs**

Comrades:

Please click on the following Department Web Page Links for complete information on the VOD and Patriot's Pen programs. Also see the announcement with these General Orders for the two programs.

**VOD Web Page Link:**

<https://vfwid.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=76886>

**PP Web Page Link:**

<https://vfwid.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=77867>

**4. Legislative Chairman Bob Jones has an important message** regarding voting attached to these General Orders. Be sure to read it!

**5. Rick McKenna. Deputy Director, Membership, VFW National Headquarters**

Last week you might have seen our “Membership Shout-Out” video on the VFW Membership Department’s Facebook page.

(link: <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership/videos/1136155550069390/>).

During this challenging time, we’re trying to spotlight those VFW Posts that are going the extra mile to help out on their communities and who truly show what the VFW is about.

We want your stories of how Posts in your Department are doing their part to assist during this COVID-19 pandemic. We’re looking for specifics of what Posts or individuals are doing, preferably with images or video if available, so that we can share these experiences and show the world just how the Veterans of Foreign Wars lives up to our motto and mission statement, that NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

If you have Posts in your Department that we should feature in these Membership Shout-Out videos, let us know. Give me a call or email us at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org), and we’ll discuss how we can bring these stories to a wider audience.

Thank you again for all that you do, especially now when we are needed the most.

**6. Raffle Program**

Please see the Raffle Flyer attached to these General Orders. It is for your use in promoting the raffle. Post it everywhere you think it will be useful!

**7. May Check List**

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 3646, 3604.

\_\_\_\_\_ Posts need monthly Community Activity Reports sent to the JVC by the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month. Email to [jr.vice.commander@vfwidaho.org](mailto:jr.vice.commander@vfwidaho.org).

\_\_\_\_\_ Posts need to continue working membership daily.

\_\_\_\_\_ Posts and Districts should have their elections and provide a copy of the election report to the Department and National. Posts who have not filed by June 21<sup>st</sup> will be considered delinquent and in arrears.

\_\_\_\_\_ May 7<sup>th</sup> VE Day-1945.

\_\_\_\_\_ Flag Day is next month so make plans for parade, appropriate ceremony.

\_\_\_\_\_ All posts need to report deceased members to the Department Adj/Quartermaster before the Memorial Service at the Department Convention in June. Department Adj/Quartermaster needs them no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>.

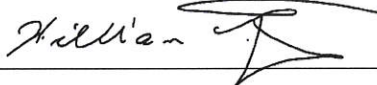
\_\_\_\_\_ Post Commanders should review the “All-State” and “National Membership Program” for requirements and progress. (Note changes listed in the Commander’s General Orders.)

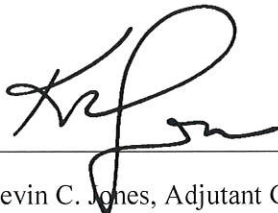



**Executive Order No. 1**

March 17, 2020

Pursuant to the authority under Section 618(a)(4), effective immediately and until rescinded, we ask that Posts, Districts and Departments, if possible and within the requirements of mandated State Declarations, make the attempt to elect officers. For such Posts, Districts or Departments that are not able to elect officers as a result of COVID-19, all current officers shall continue to function within their capabilities until new officers are elected. It is further stipulated that no Post, District or Department be sanctioned as result of the inability to properly function, as mandated by state or local government declarations, as a direct cause of COVID-19.

By order of:   
William "Doc" Schmitz, Commander-in-Chief  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Official:   
Kevin C. Jones, Adjutant General  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



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## Executive Order No. 2

April 24, 2020

Pursuant to Section 618(a)(4) and the National Council of Administration's April 17, 2020 vote to adopt the Contingency Planning Committee's recommended option for navigating the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 restrictions, the following mandate is hereby issued. This provides a directive for the election of National officers and provides options as to how Departments, Districts, and Posts may conduct elections in keeping with the requirements and customs of the VFW. This order supersedes all other guidance regarding conducting the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 restrictions.

### **National:**

On July 24, 2020, if no formal business can be transacted at the National Convention, the 2019-20 terms of all National officers are ended, thereby vacating those offices, the incumbents having satisfactorily served to the end of their term as defined in Section 719 of the National Bylaws. Those positions for which succession is provided will be immediately filled pursuant to Section 620 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure (the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders will succeed to Commander and Senior Vice respectively). Immediately thereafter, the Commander-in-Chief shall appoint a Quartermaster General Pro Tempore (as well as all other appointments pursuant to Section 618(a)(6) of the National Bylaws); and shall announce that all other elected vacancies will be filled by the National Council of Administration. Fifteen (15) days thereafter, August 8, 2020, the Commander-in-Chief shall advise the National Council of Administration of the names of comrades presented for those elected positions. The National Council of Administration may vote to fill those vacancies at the next regular or special meeting or by ballot pursuant to Section 620 of the Manual of Procedure.

A *pro-forma* National Convention shall be conducted for the purposes of maintaining compliance with Section 603 of the National Bylaws; no business shall be transacted due to lack of a quorum as "the inability to transact business does not detract from the fact the society's rules requiring the meeting to be held were complied with and the meeting was convened-even though it had to adjourn immediately" pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

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**Departments:**

Departments that are able to conduct Conventions in accordance with Section 503 of the National Bylaws by June 24, 2020 are encouraged to do so.

Alternatively, the Department Council of Administration may vote by ballot to cancel the formal Department Convention, declare (on a date no earlier than April 24, 2020 and no later than June 24, 2020) that the 2019-20 terms of all Department officers, and National Council Members elected by the Department who have fulfilled their four-year term, are ended thereby vacating those offices the incumbents having satisfactorily served to the end of the term as defined in Section 719 of the National Bylaws. Those positions for which succession is provided will be immediately filled pursuant to Section 520 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure (the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders will succeed to Commander and Senior Vice respectively). Immediately thereafter, the Department Commander shall appoint a Quartermaster Pro Tempore (as well as all other appointments pursuant to Department and National Bylaws); and shall announce that all other elected vacancies will be filled by the Department Council of Administration. Fifteen (15) days thereafter, the Department Commander shall advise the Department Council of Administration of the names of comrades presented for those elected positions. The Department Council of Administration may vote to fill those vacancies at the next regular or special meeting or by ballot pursuant to Section 520 of the Manual of Procedure.

Finally, if the Department Council of Administration does not vote to cancel the formal Department Convention and no Convention is held prior to June 24, 2020 on July 24, 2020 the 2019-20 terms of all Department officers, and National Council Members elected by the Department who have fulfilled their four-year term, are ended thereby vacating those offices the incumbents having satisfactorily served to the end of the term as defined in Section 719 of the National Bylaws. Those positions for which succession is provided will be immediately filled pursuant to Section 520 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure (the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders will succeed to Commander and Senior Vice respectively). Immediately thereafter, the Department Commander shall appoint a Quartermaster Pro Tempore (as well as all other appointments pursuant to Department and National Bylaws); and shall announce that all other elected vacancies will be filled by the Department Council of Administration. Fifteen (15) days thereafter, the Department Commander shall advise the Department Council of Administration of the names of comrades presented for those elected positions. The Department Council of Administration may vote to fill those vacancies at the next regular or special meeting or by ballot pursuant to Section 520 of the Manual of Procedure.



**Departments (continued):**

If a Department Convention cannot be held, (on a date no earlier than April 24, 2020 and no later than June 24, 2020) a *pro-forma* Department Convention shall be conducted for the purposes of maintaining compliance with Section 503 of the National Bylaws; no business shall be transacted due to lack of a quorum as “the inability to transact business does not detract from the fact the society’s rules requiring the meeting to be held were complied with and the meeting was convened-even though it had to adjourn immediately” pursuant to Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.

**Districts:**

Districts that are able to conduct Conventions in accordance with Section 403 of the National Bylaws no later than June 14, 2020 are encouraged to do so; otherwise, those Districts are to elect officers at their next regular or special meeting.

Alternatively, if on July 24, 2020 no business can be transacted at a District Convention and no elections held, the 2019-20 terms of all District officers are ended thereby vacating those offices the incumbents having satisfactorily served to the end of the term as defined in Section 719 of the National Bylaws. Those positions for which succession is provided will be immediately filled pursuant to Section 420 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure (the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders will succeed to Commander and Senior Vice respectively). Immediately thereafter, the District Commander shall appoint a Quartermaster Pro Tempore (as well as all other appointments pursuant to District and National Bylaws); all other elected vacancies shall be filled at the next regular or special meeting.

If on a date no later than June 14, 2020 a District Convention cannot be held, a *pro-forma* District Convention shall be conducted for the purposes of maintaining compliance with Section 403 of the National Bylaws; no business shall be transacted due to lack of a quorum as “the inability to transact business does not detract from the fact the society’s rules requiring the meeting to be held were complied with and the meeting was convened-even though it had to adjourn immediately” pursuant to Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.

**Posts:**

Posts that are able to conduct meetings for the purpose of electing officers are encouraged to do so.

Alternatively, if on July 24, 2020 no election can be conducted, the 2019-20 terms of all Post officers are ended thereby vacating those offices the incumbents having satisfactorily served to the end of the term as defined in Section 719 of the National Bylaws. Those positions for which succession is provided will be immediately filled pursuant to Section 220 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Immediately thereafter, the Post Commander shall appoint a Quartermaster Pro Tempore (as well as all other appointments pursuant to Post and National Bylaws); all other elected vacancies shall be filled at the next regular or special meeting.

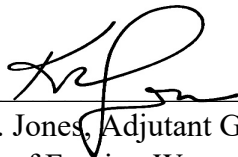
Nothing within this section shall prevent a Post from deciding to have any elected and/or appointed officer serve consecutive terms in the same position so long as their subsequent election and/or appointment is done so in accordance with Section 220 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure

By order of:



William "Doc" Schmitz, Commander-in-Chief  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Official:



Kevin C. Jones, Adjutant General  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



April 29, 2020



## **Re: Executive Order No. 2 – FAQ**

Comrades, below are frequently asked questions and their corresponding answers. A searchable FAQ should be live behind on the member login by Friday May 1, 2020; however, this document should help in the interim.

1. What is Executive Order No. 2 and where can I find it?
  - a. Executive Order No. 2 is a Commander-in-Chief issued order pursuant to the National Council of Administration's adoption via a ballot vote conducted on April 17, 2020 of a contingency plan if no National Convention could be held. Executive Order No. 2 supersedes all previous guidance on conducting fraternal business under COVID-19 restrictions. You can find it and its corresponding step-by-step instruction for Departments [here](#).
2. There is a lot of VFW COVID-19 guidance out there, which one do I follow?
  - a. Executive Order No. 2 issued April 24, 2020 supersedes all previous guidance on conducting fraternal business under COVID-19 restrictions. You can find it and its corresponding step-by-step instruction for Departments [here](#).
3. If my Department is not going to have a Convention, what do we do?
  - a. Executive Order No. 2 and its corresponding step-by-step instructions for Departments can be found [here](#). After careful review of these documents, please refer back to this FAQ should you have additional questions.
4. How did the National Council of Administration decide on a plan to elect National Officers and what authority do they have to do that?
  - a. In response to COVID-19, the Commander-in-Chief appointed the Contingency Planning Committee to develop contingency plans for navigating the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 restrictions; specifically, the committee was charged to explore options for the National Convention under current CDC guidelines of social distancing pursuant to our Bylaws. You can read the committee's report which was presented to the National Council of Administration on April 13, 2020 [here](#).
5. If the Department Council of Administration votes to cancel the Department Convention, can the Department Council of Administration amend the Department Bylaws?
  - a. No. The Department Bylaws may only be amended by the Department Convention pursuant to Section 502 of the National Bylaws.
6. If there is no National Convention, can the National Council of Administration amend the National Bylaws?
  - a. No. Pursuant to Section 1401 of the National Bylaws, the National Bylaws may only be amended by the National Convention; however, pursuant to Section 622(5) of the National Bylaws, the National Council of Administration may amend the National Manual of Procedure.

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7. My state has a statute for non-profits that allows them to have a reduced quorum for their meetings in order to conduct business in times of emergency, does this apply to the VFW?
  - a. No. The state statute does not supersede the VFW's bylaws.
8. Can our Department conduct our Convention electronically?
  - a. No. Pursuant to the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, electronic attendance is only allowed at Post and District meetings provided the respective Post or District has adopted additional procedures pertaining the conduct of its meetings. For more information on this topic please see the [COVID 19 – Contingency Planning Committee Report; Recommendation 2; Option 1.](#)
9. Can our Department Council of Administration conduct its meetings electronically?
  - a. No. Pursuant to Section 522(i) of the National Bylaws, a physical quorum is required to conduct such meetings. Councils of Administration may conduct workshops electronically where business is discussed but not conducted; in such cases business may be conducted by mail ballot which may be email pursuant to Section 522(j) of the National Bylaws.
10. Can our District hold elections electronically?
  - a. Yes. If a District is unable to hold a District Convention, it may hold elections at its next regular or special meeting. A District may conduct meetings utilizing electronic attendance and at such meeting an election may be conducted so long as those meetings are done pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws.
11. Can our Post hold elections electronically?
  - a. Yes. A Post may conduct meetings utilizing electronic attendance and at such meeting an election may be conducted so long as those meetings are done pursuant to Section 203 of the National Bylaws.
12. If the Department Council of Administration wants Department officers to “stay in place” or serve consecutive terms does Executive Order No. 2 prohibit them from doing so?
  - a. No. The National Council of Administration voted on a go forward strategy and Executive Order No. 2 reflects that; however, Section 620 of the Manual of Procedure is different as it indicates the succession shall take place; whereas Sections 520, 420, and 220 indicate the succession may take place. If the succession occurs, it is immediate and does not require an additional vote or installation. If the Senior and Junior do not wish to succeed, the Council would affirm those positions for another term and re-elect the Commander for a consecutive term along with the other officers through a ballot vote.
13. If the District wants District officers to “stay in place” or serve consecutive terms does Executive Order No. 2 prohibit them from doing so?
  - a. No. The National Council of Administration voted on a go forward strategy and Executive Order No. 2 reflects that; however, Section 620 of the Manual of Procedure is different as it indicates the succession shall take place; whereas Sections 520, 420, and 220 indicate the succession may take place. If the succession occurs, it is immediate and does not require an additional vote or installation. If the Senior and Junior do not wish to succeed, the District would affirm those positions for another term and re-elect the Commander for a consecutive term along with the other officers through a District election at its next regular or special meeting.

14. If the Post wants Post officers to “stay in place” or serve consecutive terms does Executive Order No. 2 prohibit them from doing so?
  - a. No. The National Council of Administration voted on a go forward strategy and Executive Order No. 2 reflects that; however, Section 620 of the Manual of Procedure is different as it indicates the succession shall take place; whereas Sections 520, 420, and 220 indicate the succession may take place. If the succession occurs, it is immediate and does not require an additional vote or installation. If the Senior and Junior do not wish to succeed, the Post would affirm those positions for another term and re-elect the Commander for a consecutive term along with the other officers through a Post election at its next regular or special meeting.
15. If meetings are not able to be held due to COVID-19 restrictions, how and when are officers installed; how is an installation conducted?
  - a. Installation of officers at any level may be conducted at any regular or special meeting at any level of the organization. If procedures have been adopted previously, such meetings and installation may be conducted electronically pursuant to Sections 203 and 403 of the National Bylaws respectively.
16. Since the National Convention is canceled, are Posts still required to pay the National Convention registration fee?
  - a. The Adjutant General and Commander-in-Chief have sent a ballot to the National Council of Administration with the recommendation to cancel the National Convention registration fee requirement for Posts as well as return all fees to those Posts who have already paid. The National Council of Administration will vote on Friday May 1, 2020 and the results will be forthcoming and immediate.
17. Pursuant to Section 520, once a vacancy occurs there is a fifteen (15) day call for nominations; is the fifteen (15) days from the date of the vacancy or is there flexibility if the vacancy is known in advance?
  - a. No. Section 520 is clear; the fifteen (15) day call for nominations occurs from the date of the vacancy.
18. If the Department Convention is canceled, can Post delegates vote by mail?
  - a. No. Absentee voting is prohibited pursuant to our bylaws.
19. If the Department Council of Administration is going to conduct elections via ballot, can District Commanders be directed by their respective Posts on how to vote?
  - a. No. Although nothing prohibits a District Commander from polling his/her District for guidance regarding elections, those District Commanders are not required to do so as proxy voting is prohibited pursuant to our bylaws.
20. If the Department Council of Administration votes to end the terms of all officers, is the incoming Commander required to appoint the previous Department Quartermaster as Department Quartermaster Pro Tempore?
  - a. No. The incoming Department Commander may appoint any member in good standing as the Quartermaster Pro Tempore; however, an election still must be held for the position of Department Quartermaster.



April 24, 2020

**Re: Executive Order No. 2 - Department Scenario (No Convention)**

April 24, 2020:

1. Sitting Department Council of Administration votes by ballot to cancel the Department Convention and end the terms of all Department Officers on June 12, 2020.

June 12, 2020:

1. Department offices (as well as those District, and Post offices who haven't held an election) become vacant; Senior Vice and Junior Vice succeed to Commander and Senior vice respectively. Other such offices shall succeed to the next as defined within their respective bylaws (i.e. Department Surgeon succeeds to Department Junior Vice Commander if written within the Department bylaws).
2. The Department Commander appoints a Quartermaster Pro Tem, Adjutant, and all other appointed positions pursuant to the Department Bylaws (i.e. Judge Advocate, Chief of Staff, Inspector, Surgeon).
3. The Department Commander sends out a notification to the NEW Department Council of Administration (NEW District Commanders, Senior Vice Commander, Past Department Commander, Quartermaster Pro Tem, Adjutant, as well as the other appointed members pursuant to the Department Bylaws (i.e. Judge Advocate, Chief of Staff, Inspector, Surgeon) announcing the vacancies of the Junior Vice, Quartermaster and all other elected positions pursuant to the Department Bylaws. (As well as those Department elected National Council Members whose four-year term has ended.)
4. The Department Commander sends out a ballot asking for confirmation of any appointed salaried officers (i.e. Department Adjutant).
5. All appointed officers and confirmed appointed salaried officers may be installed at any Post or District regular or special meeting.

June 27, 2020 (15 days thereafter):

1. The confirmed and installed Department Adjutant sends out a ballot with the names of comrades to fill the aforementioned vacancies to the Department Council of Administration. **(Each Council Member is entitled to one (1) vote.)**
2. Once the votes have been tallied, those newly elected officers may be installed at any Post or District regular or special meeting. **(Newly elected National Council Members must be installed prior to August 8, 2020 if they wish to vote for National Officers)**
3. All other business (i.e. passing of the budget, etc.) may be done by ballot, but only those installed members are eligible to vote.

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Office 816.756.3390  
Fax 816.968.1157

**WASHINGTON OFFICE**

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Office 202.543.2239  
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www.vfw.org

March 21, 2020

Commanders,

As previously discussed in earlier memoranda concerning meetings and Conventions, my goal was to emphasize the flexibility that we must embrace in order to ensure the business of the organization is carried out to the extent feasible. This guidance was sent in anticipation of restrictions of state and local governments on the number of people allowed to assemble at one location. For many such locations, those restrictions make achieving a traditional quorum at meetings and Conventions difficult, if not impossible. To the extent that our bylaws do not sufficiently address how we should proceed, I believe it is crucial to offer this guidance.

The guidance outlined in the Executive Order, keeping the current officers in place until such time that elections can be held without jeopardizing the health and well-being of members, may remain the best option.

But as you consider next steps, in keeping with the requirements of the bylaws, and to ensure adherence with all applicable laws, please understand that the flexibility previously emphasized means that you can, with some creativity and ingenuity, maintain the necessary quorum and adhere to applicable laws by utilizing available technology to achieve the goal of conducting the business of the organization.

Through technology, a quorum can be established. Delegates and other Members may attend such meetings by way of video-conference or tele-conference, provided any voting be counted from only those who are attending the meeting, in person or otherwise, while it is being conducted.

Through this guidance, it is my hope that you will use your best efforts to conduct the necessary meetings and Conventions. As you do so, it will be helpful to limit the business to the most critical items, such as election of officers and voting on resolutions.

In terms of voting, it will be necessary to develop a system that allows for the proper recording of all votes. For instance, if a vote is submitted by way of email, the subject line must correspond to the subject of the discussion. The time-stamp on the email must also be recorded to ensure that the vote is taken at the time the matter is being voted on.

There is an abundance of technology available that can assist in this regard. Available services include, but are in no way limited to, the following:

- [GoToMeeting](#)
- [RingCentral](#)
- [UberConference](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- [FreeConferenceCall.com](#)
- [Google Hangouts](#)
- [Vast Conference](#)
- [Webex](#)
- [BlueJeans](#)

We recognize that there is no single approach that can be utilized at every level of the organization. We just ask that you use your best efforts to meet the challenges of today's environment. Our collective mission is far too important to not move forward.



William "Doc" Schmitz  
Commander-in-Chief

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**IDAHO VFW MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**PERCENT 93.28%**

**AS OF May 1, 2020**

LOCATION	N/R LM	LIFE	NEW	R-NEW	CONT	TOTAL	TOTAL 18	PERCENT	FOR 100%	FOR 105%
889 Coeur d'Alene	1	271	1	2	60	334	360	92.78%	26	44
1473 Spirit Lake	0	41	4	0	11	56	63	88.89%	7	10.15
1675 Osburn	0	125	0	0	29	154	168	91.67%	14	22.4
2453 Sandpoint	0	61	5	0	11	77	101	76.24%	24	29.05
2909 Priest River	0	37	0	0	8	45	55	81.82%	10	12.75
3603 Post Falls	0	72	6	1	11	90	96	93.75%	6	10.8
3622 Bonners Ferry	0	35	0	0	9	44	49	89.80%	5	7.45
10320 Clark Fork	0	48	0	0	14	62	82	75.61%	20	24.1
<b>Dist #1 TOT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>88.50%</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>160.7</b>

Note: The N/R LM numbers are for information only. They have already been added to the above numbers.

LOCATION	N/R LM	LIFE	NEW	R-NEW	CONT	TOTAL	TOTAL 18	PERCENT	FOR 100%	FOR 105%
2905 Moscow	3	53	1	0	13	67	76	88.16%	9	12.8
3296 Orofino	0	144	1	0	42	187	197	94.92%	10	19.85
3520 Grangeville	1	106	4	0	23	133	129	103.10%	-4	2.45
3913 Kendrick	1	50	9	1	31	91	82	110.98%	-9	-4.9
4902 Cottonwood	1	74	4	1	27	106	107	99.07%	1	6.35
5407 Kamiah	0	74	0	0	12	86	93	92.47%	7	11.65
8311 Elk City	0	52	1	1	18	72	71	101.41%	-1	2.55
10043 Lewiston	0	224	11	1	40	276	282	97.87%	6	20.1
10300 Potlatch	0	51	0	0	16	67	75	89.33%	8	11.75
<b>Dist #2 TOT</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>1085</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>97.57%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>82.6</b>
<b>AREA 1 TOT</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1549</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>1947</b>	<b>2086</b>	<b>93.34%</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>243.3</b>

Note: The N/R LM numbers are for information only. They have already been added to the above numbers.

LOCATION	N/R LM	LIFE	NEW	R-NEW	CONT	TOTAL	TOTAL 18	PERCENT	FOR 100%	FOR 105%
2738 Payette	0	214	4	0	51	269	300	89.67%	31	46
4900 Emmett	1	86	2	0	17	105	124	84.68%	19	25.2
6232 Midvale	0	40	0	0	12	52	60	86.67%	8	11
9036 New Plymouth	1	61	3	1	13	78	76	102.63%	-2	1.8
11065 Wilder	0	34	2	0	9	45	52	86.54%	7	9.6
<b>Dist 4 TOT</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>89.71%</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>93.6</b>

Note: The N/R LM numbers are for information only. They have already been added to the above numbers.

LOCATION	N/R LM	LIFE	NEW	R-NEW	CONT	TOTAL	TOTAL 18	PERCENT	FOR 100%	FOR 105%
63 Boise	2	1029	18	4	173	1224	1350	90.67%	126	193.5
142 Idaho City	0	36	9	0	23	68	76	89.47%	8	11.8
1173 Boise	0	55	0	3	6	64	72	88.89%	8	11.6
3465 Nampa	0	58	6	1	15	80	85	94.12%	5	9.25
3886 Caldwell	1	93	50	12	83	238	236	100.85%	-2	9.8
4000 Meridian	0	112	7	0	65	184	219	84.02%	35	45.95
5423 Mt. Home	0	67	9	0	17	93	90	103.33%	-3	1.5
7019 Kuna	0	59	22	0	25	106	81	130.86%	-25	-20.95
<b>Dist 5 TOT</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1509</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>2057</b>	<b>2209</b>	<b>93.12%</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>262.45</b>
<b>AREA 2 TOT</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1944</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>2606</b>	<b>2821</b>	<b>92.38%</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>356.05</b>

Note: The N/R LM numbers are for information only. They have already been added to the above numbers.



	LOCATION	N/R LM	LIFE	NEW	R-NEW	CON'T	TOTAL	TOTAL 18	PERCENT	FOR 100%	FOR 105%
2136	Twin Falls	2	96	3	0	23	122	142	85.92%	20	27.1
2974	Wendell	0	20	0	0	8	28	33	84.85%	5	6.65
3001	Jerome	2	70	4	0	56	130	127	102.36%	-3	3.35
3043	Burley	0	54	2	2	15	73	68	107.35%	-5	-1.6
3078	Gooding	0	11	1	0	11	23	22	104.55%	-1	0.1
3604	Buhl	0	47	1	0	14	62	71	87.32%	9	12.55
3646	Glenns Ferry	1	136	4	0	45	185	184	100.54%	-1	8.2
	<b>Dist 6 TOT</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>96.29%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>56.35</b>

Note: The N/R LM numbers are for information only. They have already been added to the above numbers.

	LOCATION	N/R LM	LIFE	NEW	R-NEW	CON'T	TOTAL	TOTAL 18	PERCENT	FOR 100%	FOR 105%
735	Pocatello	0	110	5	1	26	142	146	97.26%	4	11.3
3884	Montpelier	0	17	1	0	8	26	35	74.29%	9	10.75
9141	Soda Springs	0	36	2	0	15	53	58	91.38%	5	7.9
9443	Blackfoot	0	23	1	1	10	35	45	77.78%	10	12.25
10323	Preston	0	22	1	0	6	29	30	96.67%	1	2.5
	<b>Dist 7 TOT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>90.76%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>44.7</b>

Note: The N/R LM numbers are for information only. They have already been added to the above numbers.

	LOCATION	N/R LM	LIFE	NEW	R-NEW	CON'T	TOTAL	TOTAL 18	PERCENT	FOR 100%	FOR 105%
1004	Rigby	1	165	1	0	4	170	184	92.39%	14	23.2
2146	Idaho Falls	0	176	6	1	50	233	261	89.27%	28	41.05
3012	Rexburg	1	71	4	1	25	101	109	92.66%	8	13.45
5840	Salmon	1	51	1	0	12	64	68	94.12%	4	7.4
7137	Arco	1	49	1	0	4	54	57	94.74%	3	5.85
8893	Mud Lake	0	27	2	0	2	31	32	96.88%	1	2.6
9425	Saint Anthony	1	151	0	0	0	151	154	98.05%	3	10.7
	<b>Dist 8 TOT</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>92.95%</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>104.25</b>
	<b>AREA 3 TOT</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1332</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>1712</b>	<b>1826</b>	<b>93.76%</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>205.3</b>

Note: The N/R LM numbers are for information only. They have already been added to the above numbers.

	LOCATION	N/R LM	LIFE	NEW	R-NEW	CON'T	TOTAL	TOTAL 18	PERCENT	FOR 100%	FOR 105%
15013	AT LARGE	7	205	42	2	38	287	291	98.63%	4	18.55

	LOCATION	N/R LM	LIFE	NEW	R-NEW	CON'T	TOTAL	TOTAL 09	PERCENT	FOR 100%	FOR 105%
STATE	HEYOB	29	4999	261	36	1256	6552	7024	93.28%	472	823.2

AREA 1	WELCH	7	1549	47	7	375	1947	2086	93.34%	139	243.3
AREA 2	HEYOB	5	1944	132	21	509	2606	2821	92.38%	215	356.05
AREA 3	FOSTER	10	1332	40	6	334	1712	1826	93.76%	114	205.3

DIST 1	English	1	690	16	3	153	862	974	88.50%	112	160.7
DIST 2	Riener	6	859	31	4	222	1085	1112	97.57%	27	82.6
DIST 4	Spurling	2	435	11	1	102	549	612	89.71%	63	93.6
DIST 5	Suekel	3	1509	121	20	407	2057	2209	93.12%	152	262.45
DIST 6	Bolich	5	434	15	2	172	623	647	96.29%	24	56.35
DIST 7	Hollingsworth	0	208	10	2	65	285	314	90.76%	29	44.7
DIST 8	Babcpl	5	690	15	2	97	804	865	92.95%	61	104.25

Note: The N/R LM numbers are for information only. They have already been added to the above numbers.

**VFW Department of Idaho**  
**Community Activity Report**  
**April 2020**

Div #	Post #	Location	Total Activities	# Members	# Hrs	# Miles	Total Monies Donated
<b>DISTRICT ONE</b>							
3	889	Coeur d'Alene	38	23	158	0	\$0.00
10	1473	Spirit Lake	87	151	661	2090	\$946.60
6	1675	Osburn	69	160	497	1453	\$12,853.42
8	2453	Sandpoint	12	79	220	320	\$44.80
10	2909	Priest River	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
8	3603	Post Falls	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
11	3622	Bonnors Ferry	6	0	0	0	\$250.00
9	10320	Clark Fork	173	253	1408	9875	\$5,743.50
5		TOTALS	385	666	2944	13738	\$19,838.32
<b>DISTRICT TWO</b>							
9	2905	Moscow	10	13	55	28	\$3.92
5	3296	Orofino	118	343	923	6314	\$9,188.96
7	3520	Grangeville	11	41	1103	1196	\$167.44
9	3913	Kendrick	82	252	570	6997	\$2,231.58
8	4902	Cottonwood	27	129	641	3076	\$3,543.85
8	5407	Kamiah	38	215	671	3412	\$3,440.68
9	8311	Elk City	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
4	10043	Lewiston	205	856	4705	15783	\$20,045.62
9	10300	Potlatch	6	18	36	36	\$5.04
5		TOTALS	497	1867	8704	36842	\$38,627.09
<b>DISTRICT FOUR</b>							
4	2738	Payette	83	232	391	4340	\$3,215.23
7	4900	Emmett	54	76	481	1106	\$7,130.61
10	6232	Midvale	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
9	9036	New Plymouth	143	169	1709	10509	\$12,621.26
10	11065	Wilder	5	11	55	92	\$662.88
6		TOTALS	285	488	2636	16047	\$23,629.98
<b>DISTRICT FIVE</b>							
1	63	Boise	39	169	193	1988	\$7,681.32
9	142	Idaho City	42	169	182	3790	\$4,930.60
9	1173	Boise	113	113	491	807	\$9,443.98
8	3465	Nampa	103	310	799	6113	\$6,154.53
5	3886	Caldwell	125	114	1828	11623	\$2,582.62
5	4000	Meridian	315	369	1549	8406	\$10,438.52
8	5423	Mt. Home AFB	11	12	287	595	\$1,088.30
9	7019	Kuna	54	127	478	4208	\$2,664.12
3		TOTALS	802	1383	5807	37530	\$44,983.99

**VFW Department of Idaho  
Community Activity Report  
April 2020**

Cat #	Post #	Location	Total Activities	# Members	# Hrs	# Miles	Total Monies Donated
<b>DISTRICT SIX</b>							
6	2136	Twin Falls	253	479	4159	14964	\$4,837.91
11	2974	Wendell	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
7	3001	Jerome	126	586	3363	14459	\$8,573.26
9	3043	Burley	31	219	1250	4909	\$3,142.26
11	3078	Gooding	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
9	3604	Buhl	132	164	1500	7130	\$8,913.20
5	3646	Glenns Ferry	239	456	1953	6158	\$14,146.12
6		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>1904</b>	<b>12225</b>	<b>47620</b>	<b>\$39,612.75</b>
<b>DISTRICT SEVEN</b>							
6	735	Pocatello	212	511	1568	15813	\$3,443.82
11	3884	Montpelier	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
10	9141	Soda Springs	188	374	1147	11120	\$7,320.80
11	9443	Blackfoot	35	66	539	1719	\$1,640.66
11	10323	Preston	17	61	66	848	\$118.72
6		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>1012</b>	<b>3320</b>	<b>29500</b>	<b>\$12,524.00</b>
<b>DISTRICT EIGHT</b>							
5	1004	Rigby	74	306	1846	6959	\$1,299.26
4	2146	Idaho Falls	58	406	1374	884	\$8,697.46
7	3012	Rexburg	62	336	597	2110	\$917.40
9	5840	Salmon	11	51	81	202	\$722.28
10	7137	Arco	106	213	196	2186	\$1,165.04
11	8893	Mud Lake	144	248	684	7971	\$3,029.63
6	9425	St. Anthony	33	156	295	1373	\$2,486.22
5		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>1716</b>	<b>5073</b>	<b>21685</b>	<b>\$18,317.29</b>
	<b>DEPT</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3690</b>	<b>9036</b>	<b>40708</b>	<b>202962</b>	<b>\$197,533.42</b>

**Activities to be reported:**

Community Activities can fall in several categories, including community involvement, cooperation with other organizations, aid to others, school; and church assistance, safety, Americanism, and youth activities. The reporting date deadline to be included in the next General Orders is the 26th day of each month. Standardized forms are located on the state website under Department >"forms & reports"

**Doug Welch**  
**Jr. Vice Commander - Idaho**  
**Community Activities Chairman**  
[jvc@vfwid.org](mailto:jvc@vfwid.org)

## Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz has laid down a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of May 2020!

As Memorial Day approaches, we want to focus on membership growth. Whether by recruiting new members, making sure our Annual members renew their dues, or contacting lapsed members to reinstate them - it's time to get to work!

For May's Commander's Challenge, we are going to focus on increasing membership. We will be looking specifically at New, Renewing, and Reinstated members and rewarding the Posts that show the highest percentage of membership growth for the month of May.

*We will be holding a drawing to select three of the top fifteen Posts in each Division, based on the percentage of membership growth for the month of May, to receive a \$1000 stipend deposited into the Post account.*

We want to thank all of our Posts, Districts, and Departments for all the hard work that they have put into reaching our membership goals this year, especially with the many challenges we've all endured. This has truly been the year we proved that we DARE TO CARE.

Our strength as an organization comes from our membership, and during this season we want to give our thanks to the members and Posts who are doing the hard work of recruiting, retaining, and mentoring our membership to help the Veterans of Foreign Wars prove that we **DARE TO CARE** when it comes to serving our fellow veterans!

Membership totals will be figured from May 1st through May 31. All membership numbers for this contest will be final as of that time. Members processed through the Online Membership System before the designated shutdown time on May 31st will be processed that day; membership applications sent in via fax or mail will be processed when received.



# 2020 VFW Fund Raiser Raffle

Veterans of Foreign Wars Veterans of Foreign Wars Veterans of Foreign Wars Veterans of Foreign Wars Veterans of Foreign Wars

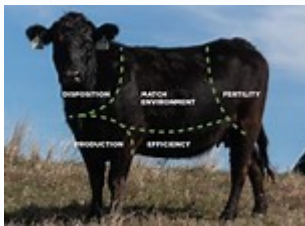
## TICKETS: \$10 ea.

**1st Prize** 2021 Polaris Razor 900 EPS

Furnished by: BUDS POWER SPORTS  
Cottonwood, ID 83522  
Phone: 208-962-3211



NOTE: Images do not represent the exact prizes.



**2nd Prize** Whole beef, cut, wrapped and delivered (donated by "Matthews Beef" of Buhl, ID)

**3rd Prize** \$1,000 VISA Gift Card

**4th Prize** \$750 VISA Gift Card

**5th Prize** \$500 VISA Gift Card

**6th Prize** \$250 VISA Gift Card

Veterans of Foreign Wars Veterans of Foreign Wars Veterans of Foreign Wars Veterans of Foreign Wars Veterans of Foreign Wars

All Proceeds help support our **YOUTH ESSAY, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY,** and **TEACHER OF THE YEAR** programs.

FOR TICKET INFORMATION contact:



## **VFW Kicks Off Annual Youth Scholarship Competitions**

*More than \$3 million in scholarships and awards are presented each year*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (April 28, 2020)** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is now accepting entries for its 2020-21 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen youth scholarship competitions. The announcement comes just weeks after the VFW’s 2020 Legislative Conference concluded in Washington, D.C., where the top national winners of both contests were recognized.

Dedicated to encouraging a better understanding and appreciation of America, the VFW’s Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen essay competitions help foster patriotism among today’s youth. The programs also promote friendly competition and reward success with more than \$3 million in scholarships.

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition, with the theme “Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?” is open to all students in grades 9-12. Each state winner competes for the top national \$30,000 scholarship prize. More than 51,000 students competed in last year’s competition. Shruthi Kumar, sponsored by VFW Post 1581 in Omaha, Nebraska, was the 2020 national Voice of Democracy winner. [Listen to her deliver her award-winning essay.](#)

Students in grades 6-8 can complete in the Patriot’s Pen competition by answering this year’s theme, “What is Patriotism to Me?” Entrants vie for the top award of \$5,000. Ruby Howe, sponsored by VFW Post 334 in Lake Orion, Michigan, took home the 2020 Patriot’s Pen first place prize among more than 138,000 student entries. [Listen to her award-winning entry here.](#)

Student entries, accompanied with a completed entry form, must be submitted to a local participating VFW Post. The deadline for both contests is **Oct. 31, 2020.**

Find your local [VFW Post](#), or [read more about the competitions.](#)

-vfw-

**About the VFW:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation’s largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally-chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.6 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in over 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim “NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS” than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans’ service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

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April 9, 2020

Comrades:

We Are Stronger Together!!!

Due to concerns regarding the Corona Virus, the 2020 Primary Election will be an all-absentee election. You can request an absentee ballot online at [IdahoVotes.gov](https://IdahoVotes.gov).

According to the Governor's proclamation, Idahoans will have the opportunity to request an absentee ballot until 8 PM on May 19, 2020, and the ballots must be postmarked by 8 PM on June 2, 2020.

As I write this, we are only days from the primary election. Numbers matter in an election and we have the numbers to make a difference. As you may be aware, there are approximately 130,000 veterans residing in Idaho. In addition, it has been estimated that 94 % of veterans vote. Combine this with wives, family members and friends, and it results in a significant number of votes.

We are stronger together and our influence counts. However we must speak with one voice and our voices must be heard. While our various veterans' service organizations cannot officially endorse a political candidate, as individuals, we are urged to support those running for public office who support us and our legislative efforts.

We as veterans know what words like citizenship and patriotism mean and the obligations that come with them. We also understand that these obligations do not end when our service is complete. Consequently, there is no group of citizens that has a more vested interest and right to vote than our nation's veterans. Therefore, we must continue to play a role as patriotic citizens and get involved in the elections.

Veterans and our military quality of life must be a priority of our elected officials. The only way to ensure this is to vote for those candidates who believe in and support our issues. Therefore, it is important for us as citizens, veterans and voters to study the issues and be aware of the positions of those campaigning for public office, so we may cast an informed vote at election time.

Remember: "All Politics Are Local." We need to elect pro-veteran candidates who will support us in office. Then, we need to let our elected officials hear our demands "loud and clear" to preserve benefits and support our veterans, active-duty military and their families. If our elected officials don't hear from us, they will assume that we are satisfied with the way they vote and the outcome of the issues that affect our daily lives, and we will live with the consequences. We are the land of the free because we are the home of the brave!!!

Most importantly, don't forget to vote and encourage everyone to do the same. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy.



Bob Jones  
Legislative Chairman  
Department of Idaho  
Veterans of Foreign Wars