



**DEPARTMENT OF
MASSACHUSETTS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS**



October 2020

GENERAL ORDER No. 4

*SPECIAL NOTICES *****SPECIAL NOTICES*

CONGRATULATIONS TO POST 620 STONEHAM FOR LEADING THEIR DIVISION IN NEW, REINSTATED ORRENEWED MEMBERS. THEY WILL RECEIVE A \$500 STIPEND DEPOSITED TO THEIR POST ACCOUNT AND THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO RECEIVE \$500.

100% MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

- ❖ Posts of 50 or more members achieving 100% by December 31st, 2020 will be entered into a drawing to win one of (6) \$300.00 prizes. (6 Winners)
- ❖ Posts of 49 or less members achieving 100% by December 31st, 2020 will be entered into a drawing to win one of (3) \$75.00 prizes. (3 Winners)

******* NEW DISTRICT 100% MEMBERSHIP AWARD*******

- ❖ The 1st District to attain 100% membership by **December 31, 2020** will be awarded a **VFW Canopy Tent from the VFW Store OR a 6' VFW Tablecloth & 7' VFW logo Blade flag.** Includes marketing handouts (bling) for membership drives.



Members are reminded that under the subscription dues model, an annual member's dues expire on the last day of the month of which they paid the previous year. Annual members are encouraged to renew their dues prior to their anniversary month to avoid a lapse in continuous membership.

If an Officer or Committee member fails to renew their membership before the last day of the month they renewed in the year before, they shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office for the remainder of the administrative year. This situation creates an administrative headache for the post and should be avoided. Please keep track of your officers and make sure they are renewed in time, or better yet, have them upgrade to a Life Membership!

Life Membership: The VFW offers the lowest Life Membership fees of most organizations and even offers a 12 month no interest payment plan. It is Easy; It is Cheap, and you never have to worry again. Plan E Life Membership fees shall be charged in accordance with the following Plan E fee schedule effective January 1, 2007:

Attained Age	Plan E Life Member Fee
Through 30	\$425
31-40	\$410
41-50	\$375
51-60	\$335
61-70	\$290
71-80	\$225
81 & over	\$170

The applicable fee from the effective life membership fee schedule will be determined using the applicant's attained age as of December 31st of the current calendar year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth.

VFW V MAIL

Please be advised all members at all levels have access to a V Mail account through the National Website. Just log on to www.vfw.org and under My VFW, navigate to member V Mail. Then click on that and login to receive all correspondence there. If you do not know your log in credentials for vfw.org or vmail, email member services at memberduesprocessing@vfw.org or call 1.800.963.3180.

DEPARTMENT PROVIDED EMAIL

Each Post has an email provided by the Department through our Go Daddy account. Here are the step by step instructions:

Search for Go Daddy-email-login on the Internet.

Enter email address as Post####@vfwma.org. For example, post9999@vfwma.org. Then enter the password-vfw2017. If that password does not work, contact PSC Eric Segundo at esegundo@vfwma.org to get a new password.

ORDERS

- 1. Post Inspections:** Section 518 provides that the Department Inspector shall require that each Post be inspected in accordance with Department and National guidelines. The purpose of the inspection is to assure that the Post operates in a manner that supports the purposes set forth in the Congressional Charter, complies with the By-Laws, preserves the financial integrity of the Post and protects the interest of the member. Every Post is expected to be inspected at least once each year. It will also be a requirement for All State. It is the duty of the District Inspector to notify the Post Commander, Quartermaster, Adjutant and Trustees of the date and time that the inspection is scheduled. The inspector should allow you enough time to prepare for the visit. The Post inspection will go a lot smoother if it is conducted at some time other than a Post meeting night. If, for any reason, a Post cannot be inspected thoroughly, a report stating the facts must be submitted. It is the responsibility of the Post Quartermaster and Post Adjutant to provide the records necessary to complete the duties of Inspector. When the inspection of a Post is completed, the Post Inspection Form will be made out in triplicate. The yellow copy will be mailed to the Post Commander and a copy should be retained for your files.

*****ALL POSTS ARE TO BE INSPECTED BY ORDER OF THE STATE COMMANDER *****

- 2. Attention of all members is directed to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "Discipline of Members."** Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned. In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another's ability to participate in VFW events. All members will be treated with dignity and respect.

- 3. Organizations exempt from income tax under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code are generally required to file Form 990 by the 15th day of the fifth month following the close of their accounting fiscal year.** For the current IRS requirements (beginning on or after January 1), if the organization's annual gross receipts are normally more than \$50,000, the organization must file Form 990 or 990-EZ. Small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less are required to electronically submit Form 990-N also known as the e-Postcard. There is no penalty assessment for late filling the e-Postcard, but an organization that fails to file required information returns for three consecutive years will automatically lose its tax-exempt status. The revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status will not take place until the filing due date of the third year.

Gross receipts are normally considered less than \$50,000 if the organization:

- A. Has been in existence for 1 year or less and received, or donors have pledged to give, \$75,000 or less during its first taxable year.
- B. Has been in existence between 1 and 3 years and averaged \$60,000 or less in gross receipts during each of its first two tax years: and
- C. Is at least 3 years old and averaged \$50,000 or less in gross receipts for the immediately preceding 3 tax years (including the year for which the calculations are being made).

If annual gross receipts are normally more than \$50,000, the organization must file Form 990 or 990-EZ. For the current IRS requirements, if an organization has gross receipts less than \$200,000 and total assets less than \$500,000, it may file form 990-EZ. However, if either gross receipts or total assets are above those limits, Form 990 must be filed.

For purposes of filing requirements, gross receipts include: total contributions; gifts and grants; program service revenue; membership dues and assessments; gross investment income (including interest, dividends, gross rents, and other investment income); gross income from the sale of assets other than inventory; gross income from special fundraising events; gross sales net of return allowances; and any other revenue.

IRS regulations require that all tax-exempt organizations make both their Application for Exemption and 990's for the last three years available for public inspection at their principal office and provide copies in response to written requests, subject to the payment of reasonable fees. There are substantial penalties for violation of these regulations.



- 4. VFW Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located.** Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of Sections 708 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities. It shall be the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure full compliance with both sections and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc., are met in a timely manner. Forms are also available on our Department website; www.vfwma.org
- 5. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees,** which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. June reports are due now! **Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters. All reports should be turned into the Department Headquarters.**
- 6. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure.)**
- 7. Sections 219 and 704 of the Manual of Procedure** outline the various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be used. Several years ago, the phrase, "To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs," was added to this section. This allows the Post to use the relief funds for the Voice of Democracy program or other Americanism programs that are educational. This does not include Post building projects, hall remodeling, color guard uniforms or any other expenditure that does not follow these guidelines.
- 8. VFW Essay Programs under way.** New Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Themes for 2020-2021 Voice of Democracy: "Is This the Country the Founder's Envisioned?" Patriot's Pen: "What is Patriotism to Me?" Remember the deadline is October 31st for the entries to be submitted to a post. Brochures and Entry forms are now available from National at www.vfw.org.
- 9. U.S. Army ARDEC has issued guidance on the operation and maintenance of the M1 Garand.** The manual can be found in the VFW Training & Support section at vfw.org or you can visit the M1 Garand Associated Website: m1garandtraining.com. TACOM Is conducting an inventory. **Be prepared!**

**DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

District 15	October 11	10:30 AM	N. Billerica	8818
District 18	October 11	10:30 AM	Melrose	1506
District 12	October 12	6:30 PM	Brockton	1048
District 8	October 18	2:00 PM	Upton	5594
District 9	October 18	10:00 AM	Pittsfield	448
District 11	October 18	2:00 PM	Gardner	905

FORMS:

If you are looking for forms, try these links first! Also, forms are available on our state website, www.vfwma.org, under Member Tools.

**For all Veterans & Military Support program information and forms, use provided link below:
VMS Formstack Links:**

- Virtual Pins: <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/virtualpinrequest>
- VFW Website Solution: <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp>
- AUX Website Solution: <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp>
- Chairman Report: https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms_chairman_report
- MAP Grant Application: www.vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication
- MAP Grant Report: www.vfw.org/MAPGrantReport
- Adopt a Unit Application: www.vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp
- Adopt a Unit Report: www.vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport
- Programs Donation Form: https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation.

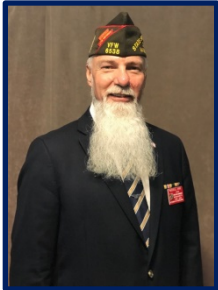
BY COMMAND OF:

Russell Jobe, Commander

OFFICIAL:

William G. LeBeau, Adjutant

VFW DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS



Commanders Special Project - Massachusetts VFW Foundation

The purpose of the Massachusetts VFW Foundation is "To promote and carry out the purpose of aiding Massachusetts communities, charitable organizations, and individuals in achieving their charitable goals, through its affiliates, resources and funding programs with particular interest in the Department of Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars. To conduct such other activities and programs in furtherance of the foregoing purposes ..."

I ask for your support this year to help raise money for the Massachusetts VFW Foundation so we can continue to carry out our purpose. **Please look at planning a fundraiser at the Post and District levels to help. If you work for companies that regularly support (501)(c)(3) organizations then mention the Massachusetts VFW Foundation.**