



**DEPARTMENT OF
MASSACHUSETTS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS**



AUGUST 2020

GENERAL ORDER No. 2

*SPECIAL NOTICES *****SPECIAL NOTICES*

VFW installs new Commander in Chief. On July 24th HAROLD “HAL” ROESCH, II was installed as the new Commander in Chief. Here is an excerpt from some of his remarks:

“Attention of all members is directed to the purposes listed within the VFW’s Congressional Charter. “To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom” is one of the VFW’s chartered purposes; as such the VFW represents fighting for American rights, civil rights and humanitarian impulses that have always guided the VFW’s principles”.

Please join me in congratulating Chief Roesch and in wishing him a successful year!

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP CONTEST:

Each month the recruiter and post with the largest number of new members will be eligible to receive a special gift. A minimum of (5) members is needed to qualify. Ties will be settled by a raffle.

For August, a post can earn a \$50.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate and (2) Commander’s Shirts. An individual recruiter can earn a \$50.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate and (2) Tickets to the 100th Anniversary Gala (Date and location TBD). For a complete list of Membership contests see the 2020-2021 Commanders Membership and All-State Program.

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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's 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.

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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.

FIELD TRAINING

The Department will be offering Field Training for Posts using Zoom. It will consist of a two (2) hour block of instruction and will be offered on four separate days, all starting at 1800 hrs.

AUGUST 18, 19, 26, 27 (6:00 PM) 1800 HRS

Please email or call for the links; adjutant@vfwma.org 617-727-2613

ORDERS

- 1. Post Elections; All posts need to submit an election report no later than September 1, 2020. If you did not meet, your Sr and Jr move up. The new Commander needs to appoint a Quartermaster Pro Temp and an Adjutant until that election happens.**
- 2. 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

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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 *****

- 3. Post, District, Department Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters** are reminded of the requirements of Sections 216, 416 and 516 of the Manual of Procedure about proof of eligibility for all newly elected and appointed officers. Elected and appointed officers **shall not be installed** or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and carefully reviewed. Failure or refusal to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment shall result in the office being declared vacant.

- 4. Attention is called to the provisions of Section 703** of the National Bylaws which require that each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department, District, County Council or Post to which each officer is accountable. The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit. Forms can be found on our website at www.vfwma.org. If you have any questions, reach out to your District Commander or the State Quartermaster.

- 5. 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.



6. **For purposes of clarification**, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary. The VFW **DOES NOT HAVE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**. Posts who are found to have associate members may face administrative action.

7. **Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2020-21 year:** Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"® Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

8. **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.**

9. **Attention of incoming Post Officers** is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure which outlines the duties of various Post Officers.

10. **Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed** to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.

11. **Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day** (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).

12. **The Manual of Procedure amendment passed by the 119th National Convention modified Section 1001(25) to read, "The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited."**

13. **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.

14. **The distribution of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies** will be conducted according to the provisions



set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of “Buddy” Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of “Buddy” Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.

15. 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. All District Commanders have been provided a thumb drive with copies of all forms on them. Reach out to your District Commander if you cannot find them.

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.



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings comrades,

First off let me thank you, the members, for your confidence and support which allowed me to become your 101st Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Massachusetts. I promise each member I will do my best to continue the forward and positive progress to make the department better than the year before. I want to thank Past State Commander Jeff Najarian for your support and guidance over the past few months to keep me motivated when things really stopped. I also want to congratulate our newly elected and appointed line officers, District Commanders and Committee and Program Chairpersons.

The promise I made will be a tougher task than originally thought now that we are living in different times with a pandemic, but it is not impossible. I want to challenge every Post and District to "Think Outside the Box" when it comes to doing VFW business and fundraising. It is very important that we do not sit around waiting on life or business to return to normal because this may be the normal for at least the short-term future. Recently I visited a Post who partnered with another Veterans organization to distribute food for veterans. It was a success and all they did was get out of the house and do something. I do want to say – Be Safe and Be Smart and always wear a mask and practice social distancing as much as possible. Let's be the role models when it comes to showing folks we can still be productive, stay safe and help our fellow Veterans in need.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

Membership is an important part of the VFW and what we do. Because the VFW receives NO Federal or State funding we rely solely on Membership and donations to advocate for Veterans rights, provide Service Officers, help, and support Veterans in need and much more. Not all members may

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participate physically in the local level Posts or Districts, but their membership is still extremely important in the performance of our overall mission. Strength is in Numbers and this has shown to be very effective over the past few years at the annual legislative conference in Washington, DC as the VFW overloaded the chamber for the Commander-in-Chief's testimony before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. We have seen a much faster and higher rate of bills being pushed through the red tape. Quartermasters and Commanders, please look at your membership rosters and Call those who did not renew last year or the year before. Personal touches mean a lot and I bet you will recoup at least 80%, if not more, of the non-renewals. Encourage these members to buy a life membership and let them know about the 12 month no interest payment plan. For a 41-50 year old person that is \$31.50 a month.

Continue to support your fellow comrades, check in on the older comrades and be innovative and Think Outside the Box.



101st State Commander

June 19th, 2020 Townsend, MA. Russell K. Jobe was elected State Commander of the Department of Massachusetts, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on June 19th, 2020 during a special ceremony at the Townsend VFW Post 6538 in Townsend, MA. Russell served in the U.S. Navy from 1982-2003 as an Aviation Support Equipment Technician. His duties took him from Antarctica where he served 3 years in Operation Deep Freeze to leadership positions aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt CVN-71, where he earned his eligibility for the VFW by service in the Gulf War, USS John F. Kennedy CV-67 and challenging assignments throughout the United States before retiring 2003. Russell was encouraged by a very close Vietnam Veteran friend and co-worker to join the Townsend VFW Post# 6538 in 2007 where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership.

Russell has served in many elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and State levels prior to his election as State Commander. He is a Life member of the VFW National Home and Disabled American Veterans (DAV), member of the American Legion and Military Order of the Cooties.

Russell is employed as a Defense Contractor at BAE Systems Inc. where he continues to serve the Navy and Air Force. He and his wife Karen reside in Townsend, MA.