



VFW Department of West Virginia  
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GENERAL ORDERS NO. 4  
 SERIES 2020-2021, OCTOBER 2020

All General Orders will be forwarded electronically and posted on the state website, [www.wvfvw.org](http://www.wvfvw.org). Information is also posted on [www.vfwvfw.com](http://www.vfwvfw.com). Posts or Individuals who want a hard copy, send \$25 to VFW State HQS, PO Box 9431, South Charleston, WV 25309.

1. **MEMBERSHIP:** The goal is to achieve 90% in membership by December 31<sup>st</sup>. We are currently at 79.04%, 1,315 members short of the goal. 825 members have let their dues expire since December 31, 2018. For assistance with membership, contact Membership Chairman PSC Vernon Anderson at 304-559-2788. Life Members will not be reflected in the membership statistics until the September/October timeframe.

Congratulations to the following 100% Posts:

6450 Chester 100.75% 8614 Craigsville 103.44% 6153 Chapmanville 107.60%

2. **MEMBERSHIP INCREASE CONTEST:** Congratulations to Post 8516 Elkview for winning the August membership increase contest. Other Posts in the drawing were Post 8614 Craigsville, Post 8363 Chesapeake, Post 4442 Elm Grove and Post 9926 Mason. The top Post in each Department category that shows the largest membership percentage increase monthly will be put in to a drawing for \$100 to be used as the Post chooses.

3. **2021 RECRUITING AWARD:** For every 5 new or reinstated members one recruits or recovers their name placed in a drawing and the winner will be rewarded with an upgrade in membership or \$400 if already a Gold Legacy Life member. The drawing will be held at the 2021 Department Convention.

**Recruit and/or Reinstatement Members contest leaders:**

Joe Capito, Post 6450, 15 (3); Ray Varian, Post 9926, 9 (1), David Moske II, Post 1064, 8 (1).

4. **2021 DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

District One	7048 Fairmont	Nov 15	1:00 pm	Bogges	Dolly
District Two	South Charleston	Nov 14	12:00 pm	Moske	Whytsell
District Three	Belington	Nov 14	1:00 pm	Elliott	Crum
District Four	Moorefield	Nov 15	1:00 pm	Moske	Hudson
District Five	Madison	Nov 14	12:00 pm	Elkins	Creager

**Due to the current restrictions due to COVID 19, holding joint meetings and serving lunch prior to the meetings is being evaluated. Time listed above is lunch time. Schedule subject to change.**

**We will continue to offer Post representation electronically via the computer or phone via ZOOM.**

**In accordance with Section 218(a)(1)k, Post Commanders are to assure that the Commander or their representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings. Information for members to participate in the meeting electronically will be provided at a later date.**

5. **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

5 <sup>th</sup> of each month	Post Community Service reports (dollars and hours) to District Commander.
15 <sup>th</sup> of each month	District Commanders submit consolidated Community Service report to Dept HQS.
Oct 31, 2020	Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year entries due to Posts.
Nov 16, 2020	Post Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher entries due to Districts.
Dec 1, 2020	Public Servant of the Year entries due to Posts.
Dec 16, 2020	District Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year entries due Dept HQS.
Dec 16, 2020	Post Public Servant entries to District.
Dec 29, 2020	District Public Servant entries to Dept HQS.
Jan 15, 2021	District Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Chairman report to Dept HQS.

6. **2020 CENSUS:** Thanks to those who completed the 2020 census and encouraged the community to do so. The state response rate as of September 28th was leading the nation with 99.9% completion rate. Final statistics by Post location will be provided at a later date.

7. **ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS:** Executive Order No.1 signed July 29, 2020 by the National Commander-in-Chief encourages Department, District and Post Commanders, at their respective judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings and conventions electronically. Going forward, electronic attendance at District and Department meetings and conventions will be made available. **Posts hosting District meetings and Conventions must have internet/wi-fi capability.** ZOOM will be the platform used to allow participation via the computer or by phone. Access information will be provided to Post Commanders prior to the events.

8. **INSTALLMENT LIFE PROGRAM:** The cost to enroll in the Installment Life Program is \$45. Current annual members can enroll in this program via the Online Membership System (OMS) if they have an email address in their OMS profile. A new member can be enrolled if they provide an email address on the application. Once the request is processed, the OMS system automatically generates an email to the individual they must respond to within 15 days to acknowledge enrolling in the program. If the individual does not acknowledge the email within 15 days, the enrollment request is automatically removed from the system. If a member does not have an email address in OMS, or a new member does not provide an email address on the application, the current member must complete an application and the application must be sent to National HQS for processing.

9. **100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE:** Senior Vice Commander Jeff Elkins has been appointed as chairman of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. District representation on the committee is PSC Vernon Anderson (District 1), 304-559-2788; David George (District 2), 304-494-7871; Paul Howe (District 3), 304-624-6967; Kevin Link (District 4), 304-703-2771; and PSC Kelly Goddard (District 5), 304-392-5770. The committee remains in the process of designing a commemorative coin, pin and t-shirt. If you would like to provide input to these designs, please contact your District representative or Chairman Elkins, 304-373-9100. The committee's goal is to have the items available at the Mid-Winter Conference. The Committee is requesting Posts to conduct fundraisers with proceeds donated, or donations to the committee to keep the cost of commemorative items as low as possible. Donations can be sent to Department HQS and checks made out to VFW Department of WV earmarked for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

10. **BUDDY POPPY ORDERS: Order Poppies now and pay later.** National HQS is having difficulties processing Buddy Poppy orders due to COVID affecting the assembly sites. National asks for at least a 3-month lead-time to fill Poppy orders. As a reminder, Posts and Auxiliaries must submit separate Buddy Poppy orders to receive the proper credit for ordering Poppies. **Please include the name of an individual (not the Post or Auxiliary), and physical address (no PO Box) when ordering Poppies.**

11. **PROGRAM PARTICIPATION:** In accordance with paragraph 5 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars General Orders No. 1 2020-21 Series, 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.

12. **POST OFFICER DUES:** In Accordance with Section 220 of the National Bylaws, any elected or appointed Post officer or committee member who let their dues lapse shall not be eligible to serve in any Post officer or committee in the same administrative year in which the officer or committee member is removed. Post Commanders and Quartermasters should be paying attention to the Unpaid/Expiring Post Officers list available in OMS under Reports.

13. **POST DONATIONS:** Each year we request Posts to donate \$275 to support the VFW Programs. These donations offset the cost of donations to the VA Medical Centers, Veterans Nursing Home, Veterans Home, and recognition provided to VFW Programs participants. The entire \$275 does not need to be donated at one time. Forward checks to Department Headquarters earmarked for VFW Programs.

14. **DECEASED MEMBERS:** Please keep the family of the deceased members in your thoughts and prayers. A list of those who have passed since August 24<sup>th</sup> is enclosed.

15. **POST EVENTS:** A Post that has an upcoming event they want publicized to promote participation, send the information to Department Headquarters to be posted on Facebook and distributed via email.

16. **COMMEMRATIVE DATES:** In accordance with Section 223 of the National Bylaws, each Post shall properly observe the following commemorative dates:

January 27 – Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord in 1973.

February 15 – Sinking of U.S.S. Maine, 1898

February 28 – Liberation of Kuwait – Operation Desert Storm 1991.

March 24 – Start of Kosovo Campaign 1999.

March 31 – End of Operation Restore Hope – Somalia 1995.

May 1 – Loyalty Day, annually.

May 8 – VE Day: German unconditional surrender signed, 1945.

May 30 – Memorial Day.

June 6 – D Day: Allied Invasion of Europe, 1944.

June 14 – Flag Day.

July 4 – Independence Day.

July 27 – Signing of the Korean Armistice in 1953.

August 31 – End of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2010.

September 2 – VJ Day: Japan surrendered, 1945, ending World War II fighting.

September 11 – Patriot's Day

September, 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday – POW/MIA Recognition Day.

October 9 – Start of Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan 2001.

October 18 – Recognition of Women in Military Service.

November 11 – Signing World War I Armistice, 1918. Veterans Day.

December 7 – Pearl Harbor Day, since 1941.

OFFICIAL:  
S. KEVIN LIGHT, ADJUTANT  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

BY ORDER OF:  
DAVID MOSKE II, COMMANDER  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

