



General Orders No. 1 - July

2026-2027 Series

All General Orders will be forwarded electronically and posted on the state website at <https://vfwwwv.com> under the Resources pulldown tab. Posts or individuals who want a hard copy of the General Orders and accompanying documents, send \$25 to VFW State HQS, PO Box 9431, South Charleston, WV 25309.

1. At the 105th Annual State Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars State of West Virginia held at the Bridgeport Conference Center June 18-21, 2026, I, Kevin E. Link, being duly elected and installed as State Commander in accordance with Article V, Section 517 of the National Bylaws, do hereby assume command. All previous appointments are hereby declared vacant as of June 30, 2025, except those set forth in the bylaws.
2. As of this issue, General Orders will now be following a format similar to those distributed by National HQS, in that we will now have three separate documents: General Orders, Department Headquarters Bulletin, and a Calendar, with any pertinent attachments as needed.
3. Per Section 213 of the National Bylaws, Posts that have not submitted a properly completed Post Election Report by June 1 are in arrears and shall be deprived of all representation in Districts, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustments of such deficiencies. Posts that have registered delegates for the Department and National Conventions will not receive credentials until the Post has satisfied their arrearage.
4. Attention is directed to the provision of Section 222 (d) of the National Bylaws, "Each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee." Post Quartermasters are encouraged to register their delegate(s) online through the Online Membership System (OMS). Posts failing to comply with this provision will be considered delinquent and in arrears.
5. All Posts are required to have their Quartermaster and any other officer or employee handling money bonded. Please complete the attached bond paperwork and send with a check payable to: ***VFW State Headquarters*** to the Mailing Address listed below.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

MAILING ADDRESS

CONTACT

5532 MacCorkle Ave SW
South Charleston, WV 25309

PO Box 9431
South Charleston, WV 25309

(304) 310-0407
vfwwwqm@gmail.com
vfwwwv.com



6. At the State Convention, June 18-21, a majority vote ratified the proposed changes to the District alignment for the state. The following Posts have been moved from District 5 to District 2: Greater Huntington Post 1064 (Huntington), Mountaineer Post 9097 (Hurricane), Milton Post 9796 (Milton). The following Post has been moved from District 3 to District 5: Tri-County Memorial Post 6723 (Alderson).
7. Any Post requesting a post visit by Commander Link through June 2026 needs to send a request in writing to State Headquarters.

OFFICIAL:

D. ANDREW SOCKETT, ADJUTANT
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

BY ORDER OF:

KEVIN E. LINK, COMMANDER
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

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DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



WEST VIRGINIA

VOLUME 1, NO. 1

JULY 2026

Membership

Congratulations to our **Top 10 Recruiters** for the Department of West Virginia!

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Post 6450 – Carl Capito – 23 Members | 6. Post 6327 – Charles Laugh – 8 Members |
| 2. Post 3522 – John Creager – 19 Members | 7. Post 3466 – William White Jr. – 8 Members |
| 3. Post 573 – James Talerico – 15 Members | 8. Post 6418 – Gerald Mollohan – 8 Members |
| 4. Post 6450 – Thomas Torrence – 10 Members | 9. Post 6723 – Marvin Nolen – 8 Members |
| 5. Post 6667 – Elizabeth Logsdon – 9 Members | 10. Post 2102 – Charles Kelican – 6 Members |

Now that we are in July, it is a great time to get started on recruitment for the 2026-27 year! We have a special surprise in store for the Top Recruiter, Top Recruiting Post, and Top Recruiting District for the coming year, and an extra incentive to reach our goals (and to beat out Alabama and Connecticut) in a Department Commander rivalry. Stay tuned for more information in the next “Bull”-etin!

VFW Programs

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN. The 2027 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen Entry forms are now available online at: <https://vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>. The theme for this year is “What a Veteran taught me about America.”

IT’S SCHOLARSHIP TIME! It is the perfect time to contact schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships. Please remember that Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen are VFW programs *supported by* the VFW Auxiliary.

ALL-STATE TEAM. Congratulations to the following Posts for Achieving All-State status!

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Cat. 2: | Post 6418 St. Albans, Post 5269 Belle, Post 6723 Alderson, Post 8516 Elkview |
| Cat. 3: | Post 578 Terra Alta, Post 4469 Beckley |
| Cat. 4: | Post 3466 South Charleston, Post 6327 Sistersville, Post 2102 Wardensville |
| Cat. 5: | Post 629 Fairmont, Post 7048 East Fairmont |
| Cat. 6: | Post 6450 Chester, Post 3522 Charles Town |

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DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



“Buddy”® Poppy

DEPARTMENT “BUDDY”® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST. This year the “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest will be taking place at Midwinter, February 19 – 21 at the Bridgeport Conference Center. Don’t forget to get your “Buddy”® Poppy orders in early to avoid the rush!

“BUDDY”® POPPY CAMPAIGN. Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies.

BUDDY POPPY POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

1. Departments must order poppies through OMS.
2. All claims of non-receipt of a Buddy Poppy order must be made within 60 days of the date of the order or will NOT be replaced free of charge.
3. All orders for the traditional Buddy Poppy, Anniversary Poppies or tin tab Poppies must be placed through your Department Headquarters. Auxiliaries must go through their Post to order all Poppies.
4. The tin tabs ***do count*** towards the Buddy Poppy requirement for the All-American program.
5. If you do not receive your order within four (4) weeks of placing it with your Department, please contact your Department Headquarters to report you have not received your order.
6. All Poppies are shipped within ten (10) days of ordering, except orders placed in June and July. Due to preparations for National Convention, please allow an additional five (5) business days.

Administrative Operations

The Member Service Center and Online Membership System (OMS) will pause membership processing on Tuesday, June 30, at 6:00pm. CDT in preparation for the membership year-end. OMS will be off-line until National has processed year-end reports, and will keep us posted as to when the system(s) will be returned to service.

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DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



National Convention

For those attending the National Convention in Reno, Nevada, July 25-29, there will be a “Patriotic Celebration Parade Contest”. Members are encouraged to dress in patriotic attire, and there will be awards given for the 1) Best Dressed Patriotic Group, 2) Best Scooter Decoration, and 3) Legacy Pair Award (Veteran & Spouse/Partner). Please see attached flyer.

In addition, we will be using the Band App to keep our VFW members and Auxiliary connected during the Convention. If you did not sign up on the National Convention sheet at State Convention, please contact HQS with your phone number and email address.

Also, the Southern Conference invites you for special night of Southern hospitality and camaraderie on Monday, July 27th, 5-7pm at Post 9211, located just 3.4 miles away from the hotels.

Chaplain's Corner

To American soldiers, the colors of the flag are more than fabric in the wind—they are a reminder of everything they love, protect, and are willing to sacrifice for. The red speaks of courage and the blood shed by those who stood in defense of freedom. The white reflects the hope, honor, and promise of the country they serve. The blue represents loyalty, strength, and justice, reminding every soldier that their service is part of something greater than themselves.

Bible Verse: Leviticus 25:10 “Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.”

Prayer: Lord help us heal any divisions and bring unity to our communities and The Veterans of Foreign Wars. Guide our Nations leaders with wisdom, integrity, and a deep desire to serve with compassion. Bless our families, and this place we call home. Amen.

Department Of West Virginia State Chaplain, Maria Saunders

Commander's Note

How do you like the new look of the General Orders? Did you notice an unexpected “guest” anywhere? If you located the Prime Beef Bull, please call Commander Link on 304.703.2771 from 4-8pm, Monday – Friday to let him know where you found it!

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PLANNING CALENDAR



Schedule of VFW Meetings and Events

2026

July 25 – 29	National Convention – Reno, Nevada
July 31	2nd Quarter Audits due
August 7 – 8	Line and District Commander Training – Buckhannon, American Legion Post 7
August 22	1 st District Meeting • District 2 – Elkview Post 8516 • District 3 – Clarksburg Post 573 • District 5 – Sophia Post 4326
August 23	1 st District Meeting • District 1 – East Fairmont Post 7048 • District 4 – Fort Ashby Post 6667
August 31	Deadline for Post Quartermaster Bonds
October 22 – 25	Southern Conference – Mobile, Alabama
October 31	3rd Quarter Audits due
October 31	Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Citizenship Education Teacher entries to Post
November 1	2 nd District Meeting • District 4 – Moorefield Post 9606
November 7	2 nd District Meeting • District 2 – Ripley Post 5501 • District 3 – Grafton Post 3081 • District 5 – Beckley Post 4469 (location TBD)
November 15	2 nd District Meeting • November 15 – Chester Post 6450

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PLANNING CALENDAR



November 20	Post Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Citizenship Education Teacher Entries to District
November 20	Post Public Servant entries (one each – Law / FF / EMT) to District
December 20	District Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen to State HQS

2027

January 1	The Chapel of Four Chaplains Nomination to State HQS
January 15	District Teacher of the Year entry (one entry only) to state HQS
January 15	District Public Servants of the Year (one each – Law / FF / EMT) to State HQS
January 31	4th Quarter Audits due
February 1	Chaplain of the Year nominations to State HQS
February 19 – 21	Midwinter Conference – Bridgeport, WV
February 27 – March 4	Washington Conference – Washington, D.C.
March 1	Scout of the Year Entries to Post
April 1	Post Scout of the Year entry to State HQS
April 10	3 rd District Meeting • District 3 – Buckhannon Post 3663
April 11	3 rd District Meeting • District 4 – Wardensville Post 2102
April 17	3 rd District Meeting • District 2 – Mason Post 9926
April 18	3 rd District Meeting • District 1 – East Fairmont 7048
April TBD	3 rd District Meeting • District 5 – Madison Post 5578

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PLANNING CALENDAR



April 30	1st Quarter Audits due
April 31	Deadline for Posts and Districts to meet requirements for All-State
May 1	JROTC Cadet of the Year entries to State HQS
May 15	Rich Homan Award nominations to State HQS
May 15	All-State Team selected
June 1	Completed Post and District Election Reports to National and State HQS
June 10 – 13	State Convention – Bridgeport, WV
July 31 – August 4	National Convention – Milwaukee, WI

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PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION PARADE CONTEST

To encourage greater participation and foster community spirit among VFW members and auxiliary members, the parade will feature three fun and engaging judging categories:



Best Dressed Patriotic Group:

Recognizes groups whose members creatively dress in patriotic attire, costumes, or uniforms.



Best Scooter Decoration Contest:

Invites participants to decorate their scooters in a fun, patriotic manner, making this a lively and inclusive competition for all ages.



Legacy Pair Award (Veteran & Spouse/Partner):

Celebrates a veteran and spouse/partner who participate together and best represent VFW family spirit through a coordinated, patriotic presentation. These categories are designed to make the event enjoyable, inspire creativity, and engage more VFW members and auxiliary members in the celebration.

Judging Criteria (1-5 Scale)

Each entry will be scored on a 1–5 scale for the criteria listed below
(1 = needs improvement, 3 = good, 5 = excellent.)
Scores may be totaled to determine category winners.

Prize for each category winner!

Celebrate, compete, and sing crowd karaoke with Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore!



VFW BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORM

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

POST NO. _____ Membership # of CDR, SVC, JVC, or A/Q*: _____
(*Need VFW membership # in order to process)

THIS ORDER IS FOR (circle one): POST AUXILIARY

NAME & ADDRESS WHERE POPPIES WILL BE SHIPPED (Do NOT use a PO Box – Orders are shipped via UPS):

NAME: _____ Phone #: _____
(Must be the name of the individual receiving poppies for either the Post OR Auxiliary)

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

*** Minimum number of traditional Poppies or Poppy tabs that can be ordered is 500. ***

	Quantity	# of Poppies	Price	S&H*	SUBTOTAL
TRADITIONAL		500	\$150.00	\$15.95	
		1,000	\$300.00	\$29.95	
		2,000	\$570.00	\$69.95	
POPPY TABS		500	\$75.00	\$10.95	
		1,000	\$150.00	\$15.95	
		2,000	\$300.00	\$29.95	
TOTAL:					

**Shipping & Handling is based on the rates provided by National, per the chart below.*

SHIPPING & HANDLING

\$50.01 - \$100.00 \$10.95
\$100.01 - \$200.00 \$15.95
\$200.01 - \$300.00 \$29.95
\$300.01 - \$400.00 \$34.95
\$400.01 - \$500.00 \$39.95
\$500.01 & over \$69.95



Signed: _____
(Name) (Title)

NOTE: ALL ORDERS MUST BE SENT TO THE STATE HEADQUARTERS.

Please make checks payable to: VFW STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Send all Orders and checks direct to: VFW State of West Virginia

PO Box 9431

South Charleston, WV 25309

(Rev. 07/01/2026)