



General Orders No. 2 - August

2026-2027 Series

All General Orders will be forwarded electronically and posted on the state website at <https://vfwwww.com> under the Resources pulldown tab. Posts or individuals who want a hard copy of the General Orders and accompanying documents, send \$25 for the 2026-27 year to: VFW State HQS, PO Box 9431, South Charleston, WV 25309.

1. At the 127th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars our new Commander-in-Chief, Cory L. Geisler, was duly elected and installed for the 2026-2027 year.
2. **As mandated by National:** Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2026-27 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.
3. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to **Section 703 of the National Bylaws** which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. All Posts are required to have their Quartermaster and any other officer or employee handling money bonded. If you have not received your bond paperwork, please visit the state website to download and print the correct forms for the 2026-27 year. Once completed, please send the paperwork to State Headquarters with a check payable to: ***VFW State Headquarters. Deadline is August 31st.***
4. 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 to the Department Quartermaster. Many Posts have not turned in their June Audit, which was due by July 31st, and must be submitted to State HQs as soon as possible. The next report (1st Quarter – September) is due by October 31st.
5. Please note that in order to align with the pre-existing classifications already set in place at National Headquarters, the Department of West Virginia will now refer to the quarterly Audits in the following manner:

1st Quarter: July – September
3rd Quarter: January – March

2nd Quarter: October – December
4th Quarter: April – June

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

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6. 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.
7. Posts in arrears need to contact their District Commanders for help or assistance. The District should be able to help answer any questions you may have, provide training and feedback, and guide you through the steps you will need to take to resolve outstanding issues.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. As a reminder, 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.”
11. In accordance with **Section 218(a)(l)k. of the National Manual of Procedure**, the Commander, or their representative, will attend all properly called **District Conventions or Meetings**.

National Bylaws/Manual of Procedures, Section 220: Removal – Department. “The Department Commander may, with respect to any post within their Department, remove any Post officer for cause who fails to fulfill their duties of office as required by Section 218.”

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August 22

1st District Meeting



- District 2 – Elkview Post 8516 (Reps: Josh Rife, PDP Diana Stout)
- District 3 – Clarksburg Post 573 (Reps: Harold Chipps, DP Linda Smith)
- District 5 – Sophia Post 4326 (Reps: PSC Corrina Boggess, PDP Joyce Dyer)

August 23

1st District Meeting

- District 1 – East Fairmont Post 7048 (Reps: Ronie Wheeler, DP Linda Smith)
- District 4 – Fort Ashby Post 6667 (Reps: Kevin Light, PDP Donna Bodkins)

12. 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. 2

AUGUST 2026

Membership

Are... you... READY? The battle for the top membership recruiters in the state has begun! Check out the attached flyer for a look at the Department of West Virginia's championship belts up for grabs, along with a cash prize and a year's worth of bragging rights. Here are the current recruiting leaders in each category...

Top Recruiting Posts: 1st: Post 3522 – 8 recruits, 2nd & 3rd: Post 573 & Post 3663 – 3 recruits

Top Recruiting Districts: 1st: District 3 – 9 recruits, 2nd: District 4 – 8 recruits, 3rd: District 5 – 4 recruits

Top State Recruiters: 1st: “No Name” – 16 recruits, 2nd: Randy Delawder (3522) – 4 recruits,
3rd: Kevin Light (3663), Robert Earley (3522), Edward Scherz(3522) – 3 recruits

And... Alabama and Connecticut have accepted the challenge as we duke it out for the top spot in the Alabama-Connecticut-West Virginia Department Commander rivalry! Alabama is currently at 2.98%, Connecticut at 2.88%, and West Virginia at a close 2.85%. We are currently in 3rd place, so it's time to step into the ring and give them a little taste of what they can expect from West “by God” Virginia!

For any questions or assistance with membership, please contact the 2026-27 Membership Chairman, Jr. Vice Commander Harold “Butch” Chipps at (304) 389-7190.

“Buddy”[®] Poppy

CONGRATULATIONS to the Auxiliary of Post 3466 for winning 1st place in the “Buddy”[®] Poppy Display Contest, Category 2 with their “Missing Man Table” at this year's National Convention in Reno, Nevada!

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!

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VFW Programs

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM.

CONGRATULATIONS to Elizabeth Lee, sponsored by Post 3522, who was recognized by Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore and Auxiliary National President Lois Callahan as the top Elementary Teacher for the 2025-26 year at the National Convention in Reno!

Now is a great time to start locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous National winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

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.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE POST OF THE YEAR. Each Department will have an NCSP winner based on total impact. National will select based on end-of-year reports on July 1. Winners will also be published in the Convention Program booklet and receive a street sign identifying this National award for the Post to put up in their community.

Chaplain's Corner

August 26 is International Dog Day, a time to recognize the important role dogs play in people's lives. One famous military working dog is Cairo, a Belgian Malinois who served with U.S. Navy SEALs during the 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound. Trained for dangerous missions, Cairo could detect explosives, move through challenging areas, and help protect service members from harm. Service dogs and military working dogs show incredible loyalty, courage, and skill, often helping save lives while forming strong bonds with the people they serve. Their bravery and companionship remind us why dogs deserve our gratitude and respect.

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Bible Verse: (Psalm 104:24) “O Lord, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all, The earth is full of Your possessions.”

Prayer: We remember those who have served and those who have fallen, and we honor their memory with gratitude. May every dog, whether still in service or retired, be cherished, cared for, and remembered for their companionship. Thank you, Lord, for the love you show us through your creations.

Department Of West Virginia State Chaplain, Maria Saunders

Commander's Note

Passing the Torch: The Power of Mentorship

The true strength of the Veterans of Foreign Wars does not just lie in our past service, but in how we prepare for our future. To ensure our organization continues to thrive, we must commit ourselves to mentoring the next generation of leaders. Training newer comrades to step into post positions isn't just an administrative duty; it is a vital mission to preserve our legacy. When we share our knowledge, patience, and experience, we build a resilient foundation. By actively guiding others to take the reins, we guarantee that the advocacy, camaraderie, and support the VFW is known for will endure for decades to come.

Stronger Together: Partnering with the Auxiliary

No VFW post can achieve its full potential alone. Working hand-in-hand with our VFW Auxiliary is essential to fulfilling our core mission. The Auxiliary brings invaluable energy, dedication, and a unique perspective that amplifies everything we do—from community outreach to supporting veterans and their families. They are the backbone of our extended VFW family, and by fostering a close, collaborative relationship in every post, we double our impact. Together, as a united front, we ensure that no veteran is forgotten and that our service to the community remains unshakeable.

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

August 7 – 8	Line and District Commander Training – Buckhannon, American Legion Post 7
August 22	1 st District Meeting • District 2 – Elkview Post 8516 (Reps: Josh Rife, PDP Diana Stout) • District 3 – Clarksburg Post 573 (Reps: Harold Chipps, DP Linda Smith) • District 5 – Sophia Post 4326 (Reps: PSC Corrina Boggess, PDP Joyce Dyer)
August 23	1 st District Meeting • District 1 – East Fairmont Post 7048 (Reps: Ronie Wheeler, DP Linda Smith) • District 4 – Fort Ashby Post 6667 (Reps: Kevin Light, PDP Donna Bodkins)
August 31	Deadline for Post Quartermaster Bonds
October 22 – 25	Southern Conference – Mobile, Alabama
October 31	1st Quarter Audits due (July – September)
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 (Reps: Kevin Light)
November 7	2 nd District Meeting • District 2 – Ripley Post 5501 (Reps: Josh Rife) • District 3 – Grafton Post 3081 (Reps: Harold Chipps) • District 5 – Beckley Post 4469 (location TBD) (Reps: PSC Corrina Boggess)
November 15	2 nd District Meeting • District 1 – Chester Post 6450 (Reps: Ronie Wheeler)
November 20	Post Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Citizenship Education Teacher Entries to District

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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 **2nd Quarter Audits due (October – December)**
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 3rd District Meeting

- District 3 – Buckhannon Post 3663 (Reps: Harold Chipps)

April 11 3rd District Meeting

- District 4 – Wardensville Post 2102 (Reps: Kevin Light)

April 17 3rd District Meeting

- District 2 – TBD (Reps: Josh Rife)

April 18 3rd District Meeting

- District 1 – East Fairmont 7048 (Reps: Ronie Wheeler)

April TBD 3rd District Meeting

- District 5 – Madison Post 5578 (Reps: PSC Corrina Boggess)

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PLANNING CALENDAR



April 30	3rd Quarter Audits due (January – March)
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	4th Quarter Audits due (April – June)
July 31 – August 4	National Convention – Milwaukee, WI

* Changes or Updates to the previous month's calendar are shown in red.

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DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

**A CHALLENGE TO
ALL VFW MEMBERS
IN THE STATE!**



**WHO WILL
REIGN
SUPREME**
AND CLAIM ONE OF
THESE CHAMPIONSHIP
BELTS?

★ VFW CHAMPIONSHIP ★ RECRUITMENT CHALLENGE

WHOEVER RECRUITS THE MOST MEMBERS AT THE
POST LEVEL | **DISTRICT LEVEL** | **STATE LEVEL**
WILL WIN THE CHANCE TO | CLAIM ONE OF THESE | CHAMPIONSHIP BELTS
AND A CASH PRIZE!



CASH PRIZE!



**RECRUIT.
BUILD.**



**COMPETE.
LEAD.**



**WIN.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

YOU WILL NEED TO BRING THE BELT TO ALL STATE AND DISTRICT FUNCTIONS.

★ **REPRESENT. RECRUIT. REIGN SUPREME.** ★