

COLORADO HEADQUARTERS

BULLETIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

“Thank You For What You Do”

1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80214

April, 2012

PLEASE SHARE The information in this Bulletin is important to ALL of our members. Please help get the information out by reading the appropriate parts at your next meeting and/or publishing appropriate items in your newsletters or bulletin board.

GENERAL ORDERS Commanders and Quartermasters at all levels are hereby directed to review and comply with General Orders published in the *Colorado Veteran*.

Members are reminded that their Annual Membership in the VFW expired December 31, 2011, unless their 2012 dues are paid and reported to Department and National Headquarters. All officers are encouraged to make every effort to renew the membership of continuous members.

Section 220 of the National By-Laws, “Vacancies and Removal of Elective Officers” states that “Any elective Post officer removed by the Department Commander, by reason of failure to pay current dues or by vote of the Post under the provisions of this section, shall not be eligible to serve in any Post office in the same administrative year in which the officer is removed.”

ALL POST QUARTERMASTERS should order 2012 Congressional Charter By-Laws and Manual of Procedure and Ritual books from the VFW Store. All current officers should have a current book for reference and ritual procedures. Changes were made at National Convention.

ALL AMERICAN PROGRAM 2011-2012: Please review the Colorado Membership Plan book and follow the current requirements for this year’s program. The deadlines for this year have changed and must be completed by June 30, 2012. However, in order to have your awards presented at the National Convention in Reno, all requirements must be met and reported by no later than June 15, 2012.

POST OFFICERS: VFW Posts hold election of officers in April for 2012-2013 and no later than June 1. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Post Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officer and no later than June 1 to National Headquarters and to State Headquarters. Except as may be otherwise provided in Post By-Laws, chairmen and members of committees shall cease to hold office at the end of the administrative year. (Section 217)

DISTRICT OFFICERS: Each District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than Forty-five (45) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention. District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 415 of the Manual of Procedure.

INSTALLING OFFICER: The Post Commander Elect will select the installing officer who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of Post Commander. The District Commander Elect will select the installing officer who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of District Commander. Installation may be conducted publicly at an open meeting.

An officer-elect who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause may be installed at any regular or special meeting prior to the Department convention. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant.

SALUTE TO SERVICE Awards Banquet will be April 28th, 2012, VFW Post 9644, Sheridan, CO. Nominee and 1 guest will not be charged. All other members and guests that attend will be charged a nominal fee to help with expenses. Reservations must be called to Department Headquarters by April 23rd, 2012. Every Post can nominate 1 VFW member that has always been there for the Post. Ladies and Men's Auxiliary can also nominate 1 outstanding member each. Prior nominees may be nominated again for this award. Deadline for nominations is April 9, 2012.

LOYALTY DAY PARADE Department Loyalty Day Parade will be in Calhan, CO May 5th, 2012. Parade line up 10:00 am, step off 11:00 am. Contact Jim Crim VFW Post 5221 for information 719-541-2650. Parade entry form is enclosed with this bulletin. Section 223 of the National by-Laws and Manual or Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Loyalty Day.

DELEGATE CARDS State Convention Delegate cards will be mailed out May 1, 2012 with a bill for the Delegate fees that must be paid prior to State Convention to Department Headquarters.

STATE CONVENTION will be held June 13-16, 2012, hosted by VFW Post 7945 Thornton, CO. Hotel, schedule of meetings, etc. were printed in the March Colorado Veteran, Page 8, and will be re-printed again in the May issue. Convention Book Ad prices and form is included in this bulletin. Officers and VFW Posts are urged to place their ad by the deadline date.

TAPS FOR JOINT MEMORIAL BOOK Please submit the names of your deceased members to Department Headquarters for the Joint Memorial Book at State Convention. If you have already submitted your deceased names for Taps in the Colorado Veteran, do not submit them again. Form for deceased names is enclosed with this bulletin, deadline is May 20, 2012. Please print or type, so we do not misspell their name. We wish to honor all our deceased veterans.

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE Section 223 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on graves of deceased veterans.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FEE Post Quartermasters, there is a \$1.00 admission fee on ALL NEW MEMBERS to be submitted to Department Headquarters. **THIS ADMISSION FEE DOES NOT GO TO NATIONAL.** The Posts may submit monthly, quarterly or at the end of the year. But please remember the \$1.00 State New Member Admission Fee. Headquarters will be sending out notices, if you do not pay the Admission Fee on New Members.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. the 2012-2013 themes have been chosen by Sr Vice Commander-in-Chief John Hamilton. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "What I Would Tell America's Founding Fathers?" This information has been posted on the Colorado VFW website.

BUDDY POPPIES We can ship orders of 250 from Department Headquarters, but all other orders we have to fax to National. Please allow 6 - 8 weeks for orders of 500 or more. Please send ALL orders to Department Headquarters. The 2011-2012 year for Buddy Poppies started May 1, 2011 and will end April 30, 2012 for State Awards. Buddy Poppies for All American runs July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012. Anniversary poppies are temporarily suspended to ensure maximum production of the red poppies.

NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION Each Post is entitled to one identified registered delegate for a fee of twenty-five (\$25). Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee. Advance Registration should be mailed with each delegate's name and address to Convention Registration, 406 W 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111 or you may pre-register on line with the National Organization.

COLORADO VETERAN The next Colorado Veteran will be published the first of May 2012. The deadline for articles and pictures was April 1, 2012. Then the next paper will be August 1, 2012 with a deadline of July 1, 2012.

ELECTRONIC AGE Department Headquarters is still working on the establishment of a complete e-mail data base of Post Commanders or Quartermasters or another person in each post that will be responsible for receiving communications from State Headquarters. E-mail ann@vfwcolodept.org or vfw@vfwcolodept.org and then you can be added to the database. You will save Department postage if we can e-mail you the information. We need at least 1 (one) contact in EACH VFW Post.

LEATHER SERVICE JACKETS Department Headquarters has a fund raiser and you can wear a Leather Jacket with your branch of service emblem on the back for \$110.00 + shipping. Please call Headquarters 303-421-1630 with your size and branch of service. We can even keep this a secret if it is for an anniversary or birthday present. So tell your spouse, friend or relative that you would like one of these jackets.

Thank You For What You Do For Our Veterans and God Bless America