

COLORADO HEADQUARTERS

BULLETIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

“Thank You For What You Do”

1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80214

December, 2011

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 will expire 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 prior to January 1, 2012.

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.”

DUES NOTICES: The November dues notice has been mailed by National Headquarters. This is the third notice to go out this year.

For the purpose of establishing continuous membership, a member may reimburse Department and National dues for all delinquent years, provided he or she was a member in good standing for five (5) consecutive years prior to the delinquency.

RECRUITER CREDIT: It is the Quartermaster’s responsibility to ensure that all recruiter information is properly recorded. New/Reinstated memberships entered online, or submitted through National Headquarters, without recruiter information will not be changed afterward

ALL AMERICAN PROGRAM 2011-2012: Please review 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..

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY / PATRIOT’S PEN: Voice of Democracy Banquet will be held January 28, 2012 Golden VFW #4171. Flyer with all the weekend events is enclosed in this Bulletin. Reservations for the dinner must be called into Department Headquarters by January 24, 2012 so we can give Post #4171 a number to be prepared for.

INTERNAL REVENUE FORM 990: It is now past time to file 990N, 990EZ or 990 if your fiscal year end was June 30, 2011. The deadline for filing was November 15, 2011. Those VFW Posts that have a December 31, 2010 year end should have filed by May 15, 2011. If you cannot file the 990N on a computer, call Department Headquarters and Ann will do it for you. Please do not lose your Federal Tax Exempt status.

POST COMMANDERS: Attention of Post Commanders is directed to section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, “Duty of Trustees”. Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ends December 31, 2011. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager and Bingo Chairman. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster records.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Time For Your Voice to Be Heard. The congressional Super Committee's failure to reach a bipartisan agreement to cut a minimum of \$1.2 trillion from the federal budget over the next decade now means mandatory cuts will take place across all federal departments and agencies beginning January 2013. Where and how much, however will be determined after the White House Office of Management and Budget identifies which, if any, programs are exempt. Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare have been mentioned as being exempt, as have veterans programs. The VFW believes that veterans' healthcare programs and benefits will be exempt from any cuts. Questions remain, however, about increased co-payments for visits and prescriptions, as well as imposing enrollment fees on VA category 7 and 8 veterans. Defense Department recommendations include change to the pay and benefits of those currently serving and military retirees, which are in addition to possible reductions in force and cuts to other quality of life programs. In a call to action, the VFW is asking everyone to flood Congress with letters and phone calls to protect veterans' programs and military quality of life programs from any cuts. This is an obligation of every VFW member to keep the faith with our comrades who need us to be their collective voice in Washington. The VFW needs you to make your voice heard now, because the most powerful message Congress can receive is from the folks who employ them — their voting constituents. Learn more at <http://capwiz.com/vfw/issues/alert/?alertid=54813711>, and follow the work of the VFW protecting your benefits on Capitol Hill at www.vfwonthehill.org.

POST AND DISTRICT QUARTERMASTER BONDS: 2010-2011 Quartermaster Position Bonds expired August 31, 2011. Bond Application forms were mailed to the 2011-2012 Quartermaster the end of July 2011. The following have not renewed their Bond as of November 30, 2011: Oak Creek #3311, Rifle #9304, Deer Trail #9491.

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.

ALL POST QUARTERMASTERS should order 2012 Congressional Charter By-Laws and Manual of Procedure and Ritual books from VFW Emblem and Supply. All current officers should have a current book for reference and ritual procedures.

BUDDY POPPIES We can ship orders of 250 from Department Headquarters, but all other orders we have to fax to National. Please allow 6 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 from July 1 - June 30.

The distribution of the VFW Buddy Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in sections 711 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of Buddy Poppies for the Memorial Day campaign in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of Buddy Poppies shall be used in accordance with sections 219 and 704 of the Manual of Procedure.

Post Anniversary Commemoration Poppies can be ordered as your Post celebrates 25, 50 or 75 years. You may order special silver, gold or diamond-colored Poppies for distribution throughout this monumental year. They must be ordered thru Department Headquarters and there is no extra cost for the commemorative poppies.

COLORADO VETERAN The next Colorado Veteran will be published the first of January 2012. The deadline for articles and pictures was December 1, 2011. Then the next paper will be March 1, 2012 with a deadline of February 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. If you are not receiving e-mails at this time from State Headquarters, please advise the State Quartermaster of an e-mail address that can be added to the data base for your post. 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 know that we keep repeating this, but we really do need your e-mail address. We will soon be sending out a test of e-mail addresses that we have acquired from National Headquarters and from Election reports. 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 \$99.99. Please call Headquarters 303-421-1630 with your size and branch of service. We can even keep this a secret if it is for a Christmas, 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