

SECTION 8

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Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation



Cross of Malta

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States adopted for its symbol the Cross of Malta, which has a heritage of honor, duty, sacrifice and courage that dates back to the 11th century.

The Cross has its origin in the Knights of St. John, a strict order of crusaders originally founded to maintain a hospital for pilgrims journeying to the Holy Land. From this order evolved two divisions, the Knights Templar, famed for their ability to fight, and the Knights Hospitaller, humanitarians who provided for the sick and distressed.

The Knights established branches throughout Europe and moved their headquarters to Cyprus. From Cyprus the headquarters was eventually moved to Rhodes in the 14th century and was transferred from there to the island of Malta in the 16th century. There they became known as the Knights of Malta.

The insignia of the Knights of Malta is basically the same as the one used today by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is an 8-pointed cross formed by four arrowheads meeting at the points. Each represents one of the Beatitudes taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The arrowheads indicated the knights were willing to fight for the principles of justice and truth although their order was basically a peaceful one.

Outlook Similar

This outlook is similar to that of the VFW, devoted to peace but comprised of men who have fought and are willing to fight again, for those principles which embody the individual liberties and dignities of men.

The fundamental objectives of the organization are set forth in a charter granted it by the Congress of the United States in 1936.

Member Insurance

We value your service and your VFW membership! To show our appreciation, we offer quality coverage to you and your family.

- ✓ \$1,000/1,500 Personal Accident Plan (no cost to members)
- ✓ Annuity Plans
- ✓ Auto Insurance
- ✓ Cancer Insurance
- ✓ Dental Insurance
- ✓ Funeral pre-planning, at-need, and cremation
- ✓ Health Insurance and Sr. Hospital Indemnity
- ✓ Life Insurance – High Limit Term, Juvenile Life, Sr. Term and Simplified Issue Term Life Insurance
- ✓ Homeowners Insurance
- ✓ Long-term Care
- ✓ Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Supplement, Part D
- ✓ Mortgages – Conventional, FHA, VA, and Reverse
- ✓ Moving Services
- ✓ Pet Insurance
- ✓ Post Liability Insurance
- ✓ Post Accidental Death and Dismemberment
- ✓ Real Estate Services
- ✓ Tricare/ CHAMPVA Supplement
- ✓ Voluntary Personal Accident Protection (ADD coverage)

www.vfw.org

Toll-Free 1-800-821-2606, option 1

**PREPARING PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE
NATIONAL BY-LAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE OR RITUAL**

By-Laws: Any member in good standing, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National By-Laws; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention. Immediately following a Department Convention, the proposed amendment(s) must be forwarded to National Headquarters.

Manual of Procedure and Ritual: Any Post, District, or Department may propose an amendment to the Manual of Procedure or Ritual; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must have been forwarded, through channel and have been properly approved.

In order to meet National By-Law/Manual of Procedure Article XIV requirements, to provide 15 day notice to all Posts of all amendments, the Adjutant General requests all amendments be forwarded to National Headquarters on or before the first working day of July.

By-Law, Manual of Procedure or Ritual changes not in proper form, unclear as to meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

A proposed change to the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual must be submitted as such, not as a resolution. Proposed amendments must be definite and specific as to the verbiage to be deleted or added. Use of the most recent amended copy of the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual is encouraged, as proposed changes considered by convention delegates cannot be amended on the floor.

EXAMPLE 1

Proposed Amendment to National By-Laws proposed by Department of _____.

Section 202 – By-Laws.

Amend Section 202, National By-Laws, by deleting the words “two-thirds (2/3)” in the first sentence of paragraph one, and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:

“majority”.

EXAMPLE 2

Proposed Amendment to National Manual of Procedure proposed by Department of _____.

Section 518 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Section 518, Manual of Procedure, by deleting paragraph (a) (1) d. in its entirety and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:

“Plan and organize all social functions.”

EXAMPLE 3

Proposed Amendment to National Ritual proposed by Department of _____.

Amend the Ritual by deleting on page 48, in the last sentence of the Member’s Obligation, the words “and a citizen of our great republic.”

Further amend by placing a period after the word “comrade” in the same sentence.

If you require help composing a proposed change to the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual, please contact Administrative Operations at National Headquarters for advice and assistance in properly preparing a proposed amendment to be voted upon by your department convention.

PREPARING A RESOLUTION TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The policy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is established by resolutions adopted by the delegates attending Department and National Conventions. Most such resolutions originate at the Post level and are passed through the District and Department before being acted upon at a National Convention. Many times, an otherwise worthy idea gets nowhere merely because it is not correctly presented.

A resolution contains two separate parts; a statement of the problem to be solved, and the proposed solution to the problem. The problem is outlined in the “*WHEREAS*” clauses, and the proposed solution is given in the “*RESOLVED*” section.

The “*RESOLVED*” section of a resolution should be complete in itself without depending on the “*WHEREAS*” clauses to give it meaning.

EXAMPLE

WHEREAS, the rising cost of living has created an intense hardship on those disabled veterans whose only income is a meager pension check; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we petition Congress to enact legislation which would provide a substantial increase in non-service connected pension rates.

(Note: The “*RESOLVED*” section has a proposed solution that makes sense and can stand alone without the “*WHEREAS*” clause giving it meaning.)

A resolution may deal with a local problem. It needs no action on a level higher than that of the Post. If the problem concerns an area larger than that served by the Post, it should, after Post approval, be presented before the District or County Council. All resolutions of statewide, regional or national concern must be acted upon by the Department Convention. Those resolutions approved by a Department Convention, which affect persons or matters outside the state boundaries, must be forwarded to the National Convention for final disposition.

When submitting a resolution to the Department Convention, a notation on the bottom should show the previous action taken, such as, approval by Post and, if applicable, by the District. A Post or District submitting a resolution to its Department Convention must follow guidelines established by the Department, which may require submitting the resolution to the Department Adjutant prior to the convening of the convention.

Resolutions not in proper form, unclear as to meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

Resolutions approved by a Department Convention, which affect matters outside state boundaries, must be forwarded by the Department Adjutant to the National Convention for final disposition. Approved resolutions should be sent to national headquarters at the close of the department convention. The Adjutant General requests all resolutions be forwarded to National Headquarters on or before the first working day of July. A resolution disapproved by the Department Convention or not acted upon by the Department Convention will not be considered by the National Convention.

Resolutions may also be originated by Department officers or by the Department Convention itself and acted upon by the Department Convention. A National Officer may originate a resolution concerning National affairs and submit it directly to the National Convention without Department action. Likewise, a National Convention Committee may originate a resolution and present it for approval during the National Convention.

Policy set by the National Convention is binding upon all subordinate units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. No Post or Department is permitted to take any individual action or espouse any cause contrary to the National By-Laws or to the actions of the National Convention except that it may propose changes in policy by the preparation of a resolution for consideration as outlined herein.

WHO WE ARE

The VFW Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity established in 1996, is a natural and logical outgrowth of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The mission of the VFW Foundation is to support non-political programs that secure, manage and distribute resources to improve the lives of veterans, military service personnel, their families and communities. To achieve our objectives we raise money through a variety of sources such as individual donations including the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and United Way, corporate and foundation grants, major gifts, matching gifts, cause marketing, planned giving, social media & texting, etc.

We are especially proud of the fact that administrative costs of the VFW Foundation are extremely low. The VFW Foundation is reviewed and rated by various agencies such as Charity Navigator, GuideStar and has received the “Best in America” rating from the Independent Charities of America.

WHO WE HELP

The VFW Foundation seeks to make military personnel and their families feel appreciated for their service to our country. Thus we fill in governmental assistance gaps that are currently lacking or that do not exist for our service population: our troops abroad, deserving military families back home in the U.S. and America’s often forgotten veterans.

WHAT WE DO

The VFW Foundation supports a wide variety of programs and services (most with a national geographic emphasis) at **no cost** and **no VFW membership required** to those we serve. It is important to note that the VFW Foundation receives no government funding.

Our “Return the Favor” campaign is used to support the following:

- Aids troops and their families with a one-time grant to pay for rent, mortgage, utilities, vehicle repair, medical expenses and food/basic assistance – over \$3,900,000 awarded so far!
- Allows troops to call home via VOIP, Voice over Internet Protocol, twice monthly including all holidays —a typical month provides over 100,000 conversations, approximately 1.3 million minutes of talk-time.
- Morale boosting “welcome home” or “sendoff” events for military units.
- VIP treatment for troops and their families at sporting events and entertainment venues.
- Direct pro bono assistance by the VFW’s National Veterans Service (NVS) officers to help veterans in their often difficult entitlement claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We actively pursue compensation for service-related injuries to veterans including PTSD. Of special interest is our pledge to meet with all recently discharged troops from Iraq and Afghanistan as they return home via group dispersals.



Return the favor today to our soldiers ... We need them, they need you.

Text "RETURN" to 90999 to donate \$10 now or visit www.returnthefavor.org.