



Department of Washington, VFW
General Order No. 2
July 30, 2020



Following National guidance, and National Executive Order No. 1, dated 20200729, I, as Washington State Commander, do so order the following General Order No. 2:

1. Your attention is brought to Executive Order No. 1, dated 20200729, from the National Commander-in-Chief which states, in part:

“Pursuant to Section 518 (a)(1)(c) of the Manual of Procedure, Department Commanders shall “insist that Department business and activities are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on the Department, its members or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.” Therefore, Department Commanders at their respective judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings and conventions electronically.”

“Pursuant to Section 418(a)(1)(d) of the Manual of Procedure, District Commanders shall “insist that District business and activities are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on the District, its members or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.” Therefore, District Commanders at their respective judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings and conventions electronically.”

“Pursuant to Section 218(a)(1)(c) of the Manual of Procedure, Post Commanders shall “insist that Post business and activities be conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment upon the Post, its members or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.” Therefore, Post Commanders at their respective judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings electronically.”

This GO, in conjunction with Executive Order No. 1 now allows us to conduct Department, District and Post business electronically.

2. The following is an excerpt from Governor Jay Inslee’s latest memo dated 20200728, clarifying what is approved for “gatherings” and what a “gathering” is:

“**Effective July 20, 2020**, gatherings are not to exceed ten (10) individuals in Phase 3. The existing limitation of five (5) individuals in Modified Phase 1 and Phase 2 is unchanged. For purposes of this memorandum and Washington’s Safe Start Plan, the definition of “gatherings” is likewise unchanged.

The limitations on gatherings **do not** apply to religious practices, weddings, funerals, **business activities**, or any other activity covered separately by a Governor-issued memorandum or safety plan.”

A “business activity” clarifies our ability to hold Department, District, and Post meetings, with no limitations on members present, as a post meeting **IS** the business of the VFW. I urge you all to still practice safe distancing and follow your local laws and guidance. Remember, the canteen is **NOT** the VFW; it is a place for our membership to gather, eat, drink, feel safe, and build camaraderie. There is no clear guidance, as of today, from the Governor’s office as to whether we can keep our canteens open as a “restaurant.” When this guidance is finally sent to us, we will advise. As of now, we need to follow the guidance that we do have at each level of phases for your Post location.

If you have any concerns about the safety of your membership please refer back to Executive Order #1 as it states, “...may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings electronically.”

3. The business of the Department of Washington Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is the members business. Therefore, it is requested that all official communication with any Department Officer (elected or appointed) is directed through official channels to include, but not limited to, official email addresses ending with the domain name containing @vfwwa. This applies to the State Commander, State Sr. Vice Commander, State Jr. Vice Commander, State Chief of Staff, State Adjutant, State Quartermaster, State Judge Advocate, State Surgeon and State Secretary.
 - a. The official email addresses of all the above mentioned elected and appointed officers are:
 - i. cmdr@vfwwa.net
 - ii. svc@vfwwa.org
 - iii. jvc@vfwwa.org
 - iv. cos@vfwwa.net
 - v. adj@vfwwa.net
 - vi. qm@vfwwa.net
 - vii. ja@vfwwa.org
 - viii. surgeon@vfwwa.org
 - ix. deptsec@vfwwa.net
 - b. Please note that some of the email addresses are .org where others are .net.

BY ORDER OF:



TRACI WILLIAMS
STATE COMMANDER

PREPARED BY:



BEN CUMMINS
STATE ADJUTANT