



Department of Washington, VFW

General Order #1

June 13, 2020



Having been advanced to Commander of the State of Washington, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, per National Executive Order #2, I, Traci Williams, hereby assume command.

1. The following appointments are hereby announced:
 - State Adjutant – Ben Cummins, Post 2224
 - State Chief of Staff – Joshua Schreck, Post 1263
 - State Deputy Chief of Staff – Brad Pieratt, Post 3617
 - State Inspector – Nester Tamayo, Post 3063
 - State Deputy Inspector – Brad Pieratt, Post 3617
 - State Officer of the Day – John Kaiser, Post 4278
 - Department Service Officer – Todd Gruchalla, Post 2669
 - Department Commanders Advisory Board:
 1. Frank Banister, Post 1741
 2. Elmer Clark, Post 91
 3. Linda Fairbank, Post 2289
 4. Steve Stetson, Post 7824
 5. Fred Green, Post 2669
2. All previous appointments are hereby null and void.
3. All other appointments are posted on the website at www.vfwwa.org.
4. **POST COMMANDERS:** If you do not have an email address please designate a member of your Post, with an email address, to disseminate information from District and Headquarters. Also, please ensure the Post election report is always up to date & accurate.
5. **GENERAL ORDERS:** All material in State General Orders are directive in nature and will be posted to the membership at the Post regular membership meetings.
6. **ATTENTION COMMANDERS:** All levels are directed to Section 703 of the National By-Laws which requires that each accountable employee and officer(s) be bonded with an Indemnity Company in the sum at least equal to the amount of liquid assets for which he/she may be accountable.
7. The next Business Session of the 2020-2021 Council of Administration will be June 28, 2020 at 9:00 AM at the Department Headquarters. This meeting will include the election of State Officers for the ensuing year per the vote of the 2019-2020 State CoA and at the direction of National VFW. Please see rules for voting as published in the Election Rules sent out on 13 June 2020.
8. **SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION** will be held at 9:00 a.m. August 15 (West side) and August 16 (East side,) 2020, held at locations to be announced at a later date. Any member of the Department of Washington, in good standing, may attend. Digital meeting information to follow.

9. **ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES VISITS:** All Commanders are required to notify the Department as soon as possible and no later than 72 hours after any contact by phone, letter or visit by Federal, State or Local Enforcement Officers of the WSLCB, IRS Office, local Sheriff, Police Departments or any other agencies of their visit and any violation, request noted or any information requested. Routine inspections and visits are precluded from this requirement.
10. **CONTROL OF UNITS:** National By-Laws Section 709 states, “No Post, County Council, District or Department and no activity, clubroom or holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of any Post, County Council, District or Department may own any property jointly or in common with any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation or other business or charitable entity, including veterans organizations nor may they participate in any arrangement whereby the funds of such Post, County Councils, District or Department or activity clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or in its behalf are expended on property held by another entity for the joint used of such Post, County Council, District and Department and other individuals, firms, partnership, associations, corporation or other business or charitable entities, including veterans organizations.”
11. **NOTICE:** National By-Laws Article II Section 213 requires that the office of Quartermaster be bonded, that the Post be properly insured and that all trustee audits be submitted on time. Failure to comply will subject your Post Charter to suspension.
12. The Congressional charter “An Act” Section 5 and the National By-Laws Article 1 Section 101 describe in detail the requirements for membership in the VFW and it does not allow for any type of Social, Honorary or Associate membership, PERIOD.
13. **All Posts must participate in the core programs listed in the Roster and Program book.** Programs, especially membership, are the VFW and not the canteen. Without doing the programs it is not the VFW and **there will be no canteen.**
14. **All Members** are requested to utilize the appropriate channels (chain-of-command) for assistance, complaints or grievances starting at the lowest level.

It’s amazing to see how our Posts, Districts and the Department are adapting to new ideas to reach out to our membership and carry on with the mission. Let’s all “**Stay Focused**” on that mission and make our organization the best Veterans Service Organization in the world!

BY ORDER OF:



TRACI WILLIAMS
STATE COMMANDER

PREPARED BY:



BEN CUMMINS
STATE ADJUTANT