

**127th NATIONAL CONVENTION
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**RENO, NEVADA
JULY 25 - 29, 2026**

FOR VETERANS



BY VETERANS

PROPOSED BYLAW, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL AMENDMENTS

SCHEDULE OF RESOLUTIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEES



July 10, 2026

Dear Comrades:

Written notice is promulgated herein, together with copies of proposed amendments to the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to be considered by the 127th National Convention in accordance with provisions of Section 1401 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

Sincerely,

Dan West
Adjutant General

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

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TO COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL

This committee meets at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 26

Chair: Harold J. Roesch, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3219, VA
Vice Chair: Patsey E. Schreiber, Post 8385, GA

This committee considers all proposed amendments to the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, as well as resolutions having any bearing upon the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. It makes recommendations to the Convention for approval or disapproval of proposed amendments that may be adopted only in accordance with sections 1401, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. It also considers resolutions or other proposals pertaining to changes in the VFW Ritual and makes recommendations thereon.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL BYLAWS

B-1

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group
Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE II - POSTS

Sec. 203 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.

Amend Sec. 203 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees., National Bylaws, under **Regular Meetings.**, by removing the second sentence.

B-2

Proposed by Department of Minnesota

ARTICLE II - POSTS

Sec. 215 - Eligibility to Office.

Amend Sec. 215 - Eligibility to Office., National Bylaws, in the second paragraph, by adding the following at the end of the sentence:

“, including but not limited to Quartermaster and Adjutant.”

B-3

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group
Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE II - POSTS

Sec. 220 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members.

Amend Sec. 220 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members., National Bylaws, under **Removal.**, in the second paragraph, by removing “elected”.

B-4

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE II - POSTS

Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

Amend Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions., National Bylaws, under (b), by replacing “elected” with “appointed”.

B-5

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 503 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.

Amend Sec. 503 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees., National Bylaws, by replacing the second paragraph with the following:

“The Department Bylaws may specify the minimum number of delegates required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a Department Convention, provided that in no case shall the quorum be less than one delegate each from ten Posts in the Department.”

B-6

Proposed by Department of Illinois

ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 506 - Department Dues.

Amend Sec. 506 - Department Dues., National Bylaws, by replacing “shall” with “may”.

B-7

Proposed by Department of Illinois

ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 522 - Council of Administration – Composition, Powers and Duties.

Amend Sec. 522 - Council of Administration – Composition, Powers and Duties., National Bylaws, under (a), in the fourth sentence, by adding “the current National Council of Administration Department Member,” after “Department Bylaws,”.

B-8

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL

Sec. 604 - Governing Body; Composition.

Amend Sec. 604 - Governing Body; Composition., National Bylaws, under (2), by removing “All” and adding “, Department” after “Council of Administration”.

B-9

Proposed by the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL

Sec. 615 - Eligibility to Office.

Amend Sec. 615 - Eligibility to Office., National Bylaws, by adding the following as a second paragraph:

“No Past Commander-in-Chief shall be eligible for appointment to a paid National position or office within the organization until a minimum of five (5) years has elapsed since their official departure date as the Commander-in-Chief. A Past Commander-in-Chief remains eligible to hold all elected positions within the organization for which they are otherwise eligible.”

B-10

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL

Sec. 616 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Amend Sec. 616 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (a), by adding “Adjutant General,” after “Quartermaster General”.

Under (b), remove “Adjutant General”.

B-11

Proposed by the Adjutant General

ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL

Sec. 618 - Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 618 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., National Bylaws, under (d)(2), by removing the second sentence.

B-12

Proposed by the Adjutant General

ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL

Sec. 618 - Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 618 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., National Bylaws, under (f)(2), by removing the second sentence.

B-13

Proposed by Department of Kentucky

ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL

Sec. 622 – National Council of Administration-Composition, Powers and Duties.

Amend Sec. 622 - National Council of Administration-Composition, Powers and Duties., National Bylaws, under (b)(12), by adding the following as a second sentence:

“In the absence of a Council Member, the respective State Commander, if present, may serve as the representative for that Council Member.”

B-14

Proposed by Department of Texas

ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL

Sec. 623 - National Council of Administration, Department Members, Election, Vacancies and Removal.

Amend Sec. 623 - National Council of Administration, Department Members, Election, Vacancies and Removal., National Bylaws, by adding the following at the end of the section:

“Pro Tempore Representation: In the event a duly elected National Council of Administration member is unable to attend a scheduled meeting of the National Council of Administration due to illness, incapacity, or other unavoidable and temporary circumstances, the Department Commander, with the two-thirds (2/3) concurrence of the Department Council of Administration, may appoint a qualified member in good standing from within the Department to serve as a pro tempore National Council member for that meeting.

This provision is intended solely to provide temporary representation in situations where the Department does not seek to remove or replace the duly elected National Council member due to a short-term condition.

Such appointment shall be limited to no more than two (2) consecutive National Council of Administration meetings.

The Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant General shall be notified of such appointment no later than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the National Council of Administration meeting.

The appointed pro tempore member shall have all rights and responsibilities of a National Council member during the meeting(s) for which they are appointed.

Under no circumstances shall this provision be used to permanently replace, bypass, or circumvent the duly elected National Council member.”

B-15

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 704 - Relief Fund.

Amend Sec. 704 - Relief Fund., National Bylaws, by removing the entire section.

B-16

Proposed by Department of Virginia

ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 707

Amend Sec. 707, National Bylaws, by adding the following as a new section:

“Sec. 707 - Conferences.

- (a) For the purposes of recommending members for election to national offices at the National Convention, Departments within a geographical area may establish themselves as a Conference. There shall be no more than four Conferences and they shall be known as Eastern Conference, Southern Conference, Western Conference, and Big 10 Conference.
- (b) A Conference shall be governed by such Bylaws and Ritual as may be adopted by it, and by the lawful orders issued by its National Officers, provided such Bylaws, Ritual and Orders do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or the lawful orders or directives of the National Convention, the Commander-in-Chief or the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
- (c) Voting rights within a Conference shall be as follows:
 - a. The Commander-in-Chief and Past Commanders-in-Chief and all other elected National officers, the Adjutant General, Inspector General, and Chief-of-Staff who are members in good standing of a Post in a Conference shall each be afforded one vote.
 - b. All National Council of Administration members who are members in good standing of a Post in a Conference shall each be afforded one vote.
 - c. All Department Commanders of a Department in good standing in a Conference shall each be afforded five votes regardless of the size of their Department’s membership. In the absence of the Department Commander, the Department Senior Vice Commander, or, in the Department Senior Vice Commander’s absence, the Department Junior Vice Commander may function in the role of the Department Commander and cast said votes. The manner in which these votes are cast shall be at the discretion of said Department Commander so long as they are cast in whole numbers and shall be cast in accordance with the bylaws of the respective Department, if applicable.
 - d. Current elected and appointed officers of the Conference as prescribed by the bylaws of the Conference who are members in good standing of a Post in the Conference shall each be afforded one vote.
 - e. An individual possessing more than one qualification as noted above shall not be entitled to vote under more than one qualification.”

B-17

Proposed by Department of Washington

ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 714 - Control of Mailing Lists.

Amend Sec. 714 - Control of Mailing Lists., National Bylaws, by adding the following at the end of the Section:

“Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section, duly elected Post Commanders and Department Commanders shall be entitled to access membership roster information within their respective jurisdiction, as made available through official VFW systems, solely for the purpose of performing the official duties of their office.

Such access shall remain subject to all confidentiality restrictions contained in this Section and shall not include authority to disseminate, sell, transfer or otherwise use membership information for commercial or political purposes.

A Commander may designate, in writing, not more than five (5) members within the same jurisdiction to receive limited proxy access for operational purposes. Any member granted such proxy access shall be bound by the same restrictions and limitations applicable to the Commander, and such designation shall terminate automatically upon the expiration of the Commander's term of office."

B-18

Recommended by Past Commander-in-Chief Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 719 - Past Officers.

Amend Sec. 719 - Past Officers., National Bylaws, in the first paragraph, by adding "or suspended" after "terminated" and adding the following at the end of the paragraph:

"Any loss of such status, rights, privileges, or title as outlined in this section resulting from action taken pursuant to Article IX shall be final and permanent and shall not be subject to pardon, commutation, restoration, remission, or other modification by any higher authority."

B-19

Proposed by Department of Washington

ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 719 - Past Officers

Amend Sec. 719 - Past Officers., National Bylaws, by replacing the second paragraph with the following:

"For purposes of Section 404, the term "Past Commander" includes only those persons whose service as a Commander was in that respective District or in one which was consolidated or merged into it."

B-20

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE IX - DISCIPLINE

Sec. 903 - Procedure for Disciplinary Actions.

Amend Sec. 903 - Procedure for Disciplinary Actions., National Bylaws, under (c)(5), by adding the following language as no. 5 and renumbering the current language in nos. 5., 6. and 7. as 6., 7. and 8.:

"5. If the initiating documents are returned to the initiating authority due to refusal of delivery, failure to claim the mailing, or undeliverable based on the last known address of the

member, such service shall be deemed sufficient notice for purposes of these proceedings, and the action shall proceed as though no hearing or summary disposition was requested.”

B-21

Proposed by Department of Tennessee

ARTICLE XI - AUXILIARY

Sec. 1102 - Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 1102 - Eligibility, National Bylaws, in the first paragraph, by adding “including in-law and step relations of the same” after “grandchildren”.

B-22

Proposed by Department of Colorado

ARTICLE XI – AUXILIARY

Sec. 1102 – Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 1102 - Eligibility., National Bylaws, by replacing the first paragraph with the following:

“Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary shall be limited to spouses, including surviving spouses; parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren; step- parents, step-grandparents, step-children, and step-grandchildren; adoptive parents, adoptive grandparents, adopted children, and adopted grandchildren; and parents-in-law, grandparents-in-law, brothers- and sisters-in-law, children-in-law, and grandchildren-in-law of a person who was or is eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.”

B-23

Proposed by the Adjutant General

ARTICLE XIII - NATIONAL VFW RIDERS

Amend ARTICLE XIII - NATIONAL VFW RIDERS, National Bylaws, by adding “Group” after “Riders” in the title and as it appears throughout the Article.

B-24

Proposed by the Adjutant General

ARTICLE XIII - NATIONAL VFW RIDERS

Sec. 1302 - Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 1302 - Eligibility, National Bylaws, in the first sentence, by adding “and its Auxiliary” after “Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States”.

B-25

Proposed by Nevada

ARTICLE XV

Add new **ARTICLE XV**, National Bylaws, to read as follows:

"ARTICLE XV – CONFERENCES

Sec. 1501 – Recognition of Conferences.

For the purpose of recommending members for election to National office at the National Convention, the existing Conferences of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States are hereby formally recognized. There shall be no more than four (4) Conferences, known respectively as the Eastern Conference, Southern Conference, Western Conference, and Big Ten Conference.

Sec. 1502 – Governance and Authority.

Each Conference shall be governed by such bylaws, rules, and procedures as may be adopted by that Conference, provided such provisions do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual, or lawful directives of the National Convention, Commander-in-Chief, or National Council of Administration.

Sec. 1503 – Advisory Nature of Conference Endorsements.

- (a) Conference endorsements for National office shall be advisory only and shall not prohibit or restrict any qualified member from seeking nomination for National office.
- (b) A Conference may endorse one or more qualified candidates for National office; however, such endorsement shall not guarantee nomination or election.
- (c) Conferences shall publish procedures and timelines governing endorsements to their respective Departments.

Sec. 1504 – Voting Procedures.

- (a) Each Department represented at a duly convened Conference meeting shall be entitled to five (5) votes in Conference endorsement proceedings.
- (b) The Department Commander, or duly designated representative, shall cast the Department's votes.
- (c) Endorsement of a candidate shall require a majority vote of the Departments present and voting.

Sec. 1505 – Rights of National Convention Delegates.

Nothing contained in this Article shall limit the right of any duly accredited delegate to nominate or vote for any qualified candidate for National office in accordance with the National Bylaws."

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

M-1

Proposed by Department of South Dakota

ARTICLE I - MEMBERS

Sec. 101 - Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., Manual of Procedure, under the **ELIGIBILITY GUIDE**, after “Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal” by adding the following:

“Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal

Sept. 11, 2001 – Open”

M-2

Proposed by Department of Colorado

ARTICLE II – POSTS

Sec. 203 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.

Amend Sec. 203 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees., Manual of Procedure, by adding the following after the first paragraph:

“Official notice of regular or special meetings, conventions, or other organizational communications required under these Bylaws may be provided by electronic means, including email or other digital communication, when a member’s contact information has been furnished for that purpose. Electronic notice shall be deemed equivalent to written notice; provided, however, this shall not apply to disciplinary, suspension, or removal notices, which shall be delivered as otherwise required.”

M-3

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE II - POSTS

Sec. 211 - Suspension and Revocation of Charter.

Amend Sec. 211 - Suspension and Revocation of Charter., Manual of Procedure, under (2)(b), by adding “or Department representative” after “administrative committee”.

M-4

Proposed by Department of Colorado

ARTICLE II – POSTS

Sec. 211 – Suspension and Revocation of Charter.

Amend Sec. 211 – Suspension and Revocation of Charter., Manual of Procedure, under (3)(b), by replacing the paragraph with the following:

“The Post Commander shall be notified of the action, which may be transmitted by electronic means, including email or other digital communication, or by personal delivery by a designated representative, provided the correspondence is verifiable and retained for record.”

M-5

Proposed by Department of Minnesota

ARTICLE II - POSTS

Sec. 218 - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 218 - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(1)(f), by removing "by use of voucher or payment order" from the end of the sentence.

M-6

Proposed by Department of Virginia

ARTICLE II - POSTS

Sec. 218 - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 218 - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(6)(d), no. 1., by replacing the sentence with the following:

"1. A hard copy of the original application of every member admitted to the Post until such time as the membership has been successfully processed into the VFW National OMS Database, at which time the original documents may be committed to electronic copies in accordance with the preceding section."

M-7

Proposed by Department of Colorado

ARTICLE II – POSTS

Sec. 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(6) by adding the following after g.:

"h. Official correspondence of the Post may be conducted by electronic means, provided such correspondence is consistent with Department and National policy and appropriate records are retained."

M-8

Proposed by Department of Texas

ARTICLE II - POSTS

Sec. 218 - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 218 - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(12), by adding the following at the end of the second sentence:

" , an accredited VFW Service Officer, or other accredited representative."

M-9

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE II - POSTS

Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

Amend Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions., Manual of Procedure, in the first paragraph, by replacing the first sentence with the following:

“Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be appointed by the Post Commander, with approval by a majority of members present and voting at a regular meeting in April.”

Amend the fourth paragraph by replacing the current language with the following:

“Posts instituted after delegate strength has been determined, but prior to convening date of the respective convention or District meeting, shall on the day of institution, have the Post Commander appoint, with approval by a majority of members present and voting, one delegate and one alternate for each thirty names or fraction thereof according to the number of names listed on the charter application.”

Amend the fifth paragraph by replacing the current language with the following:

“Only in the event a Post is left without at least one elected delegate or alternate during the year, the Post Commander shall appoint, with approval by a majority of members present and voting, replacement delegates, according to delegate strength, at the next Regular or Special Meeting.”

M-10

Proposed by Department of Colorado

ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

Sec. 403 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.

Amend Sec. 403 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees., Manual of Procedure, under Regular Meeting., by adding the following after the first paragraph:

“Official notice of regular or special meetings, conventions, or other organizational communications required under these Bylaws may be provided by electronic means, including email or other digital communication, when a member’s contact information has been furnished for that purpose. Electronic notice shall be deemed equivalent to written notice; provided, however, this shall not apply to disciplinary, suspension, or removal notices, which shall be delivered as otherwise required.”

M-11

Proposed by Department of Minnesota

ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS

Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(1)(g), by removing “by use of a voucher or payment order” from the end of the sentence.

M-12

Proposed by Department of Minnesota

ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS

Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(5)(a), by removing “vouchers” from the sentence.

M-13

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS

Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(5)(e), in the second sentence, by adding “and a backup is maintained.” after the second “National Headquarters”.

M-14

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS

Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(6), by replacing the current language with following:

“(6) Adjutant. Among the duties of the District Adjutant, the Adjutant shall:

- a. Be the official corresponding officer for the District and shall attest to all official communications and reports with their signature.
- b. Under the direction of the Commander, prepare all reports and returns required of the Adjutant.
- c. Maintain the books and records in a legible and uniform format. Record keeping by electronic means may be used, provided a back-up is maintained. Books and records shall be available for inspection by authorized officers and Post members at all reasonable times.
- d. The District Adjutant shall maintain the following:
 1. Minutes of each District meeting after correction and approval.
 2. All current orders or circulars issued by the Commander-in-Chief, the National Council of Administration, the Department Commander, and the District Commander.

3. A correspondence file.
4. A file containing a copy of the proof of eligibility submitted by officers pursuant to Section 416.
- e. Maintain a current copy of the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and copies of the Bylaws of the Department and District.
- f. Transfer to their successor, without delay, all books, papers, records, monies and other records and property of the Post in their possession or under their control.
- g. Comply with and perform all duties required of the Adjutant by the laws and usages of this organization, applicable Bylaws and orders from lawful authority and perform such other duties as are incident to such office.”

M-15

Proposed by Department of Colorado

ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 503 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.

Amend Sec. 503 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees., Manual of Procedure, by adding the following paragraph:

“Official notice of regular or special meetings, conventions, or other organizational communications required under these Bylaws may be provided by electronic means, including email or other digital communication, when a member’s contact information has been furnished for that purpose. Electronic notice shall be deemed equivalent to written notice; provided, however, this shall not apply to disciplinary, suspension, or removal notices, which shall be delivered as otherwise required.”

M-16

Proposed by Department of Minnesota

ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 518 - Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 518 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(1)(f), by replacing the current sentence with the following:

“Approve all disbursements of the funds properly authorized by the Department Council of Administration or Department Convention.”

M-17

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL

Sec. 620 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members and Salaried Officers.

Amend Sec. 620 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members and Salaried Officers., Manual of Procedure, in the second paragraph, by adding “or Adjutant

General” after “Quartermaster General” and “or Assistant Adjutant General” after “Assistant Quartermaster General” as it appears throughout the paragraph.

M-18

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 704 - Relief Fund.

Amend Sec. 704 - Relief Fund., Manual of Procedure, by removing the entire section.

M-19

Proposed by the Adjutant General

ARTICLE XIII - NATIONAL VFW RIDERS

Amend ARTICLE XIII - NATIONAL VFW RIDERS, Manual of Procedure, by adding “Group” after “Riders” in the title and as it appears throughout the Article.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RITUAL

R-1

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group
Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

RITUAL

PLATES

Amend the Ritual, by removing the following plates:

Plate No. 1 – Page 10
Plate No. 1A – Page 11
Plate No. 1B – Page 12
Plate No. 2 – Page 13
Plate No. 3 – Page 31
Plate No. 4 – Page 45
Plate No. 5 – Page 66
Plate No. 6 – Page 90
Plate No. 7 – Page 91
Plate No. 8 – Page 95
Plate No. 9 – Page 98
Plate No. 10 – Page 114

R-2

(Page 14)

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group
Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

RITUAL

OPENING POST CEREMONIES

Amend Chapter Title - Opening Post Ceremonies, Ritual, under the second **Commander** on page 16, by removing all language after "Order Arms!".

R-3

(Page 20)

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group
Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

RITUAL

CLOSING CEREMONIES (Post)

Amend Chapter Title - Closing Ceremonies (Post), Ritual, by removing the language under the third **Commander** on page 21.

RITUAL

Add the following as a new Chapter Title called “**UNSERVICEABLE FLAGS CEREMONY**”, inserted at the end of the Ritual:

“UNSERVICEABLE FLAGS CEREMONY

(During the ceremony, only one flag should be utilized to symbolize all the flags intended for disposal.)

Officer of the Day: “Today we have gathered here to pay our last respects to this symbol of our great nation and retire this flag.

The Stars and Stripes was adopted on June 14, 1777, by the Continental Congress to be our nation’s flag. Since then, there have been 27 iterations of this flag but what it stands for has not changed. The US flag has 13 alternating red and white stripes representing the 13 original colonies. Its 50 white stars on a blue field represent the 50 states of our country. The colors of the flag also have meaning – The Red representing valor and bravery, White for purity and innocence, and Blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Our Nation’s flag has flown in peace and war. It has been present at more than 100 military conflicts and countless expeditions and deployments around the world to include the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, The Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq. The flag remains a symbol of freedom, liberty, hope strength and pride to which Americans pledge their allegiance.

Comrade Commander, I wish to present this flag of our Country for examination and retirement.”

Commander: “Comrade Officer of the Day, proceed to the Junior Vice Commander and present the Flag for examination.”

(Officer of the Day will pick up ceremonial flag and will carry it with both arms crossed, held to their chest and will move in a uniform manner to the Junior Vice Commander)

(When Officer of the Day arrives with the ceremonial flag, Junior Vice Commander renders a slow salute to the flag)

(Officer of the Day will lower the flag from their chest and present the flag to the Junior Vice Commander)

Following presentation of the flag to the Junior Vice Commander, the Officer of the Day shall, in turn, render a slow salute)

Officer of the Day: “Comrade Junior Vice Commander, I present this flag for your examination. Is this flag no longer a fitting emblem for display?”

(Junior Vice Commander looks down upon the flag)

Junior Vice Commander: “It is not, proceed to the Senior Vice Commander”

(Officer of the Day will bring the flag back to their chest and move in a uniform manner to the Senior Vice Commander)

(When Officer of the Day arrives with the ceremonial flag, Senior Vice Commander renders a slow salute to the flag)

(Officer of the Day will lower the flag from their chest and present the flag to the Senior Vice Commander)

Following presentation of the flag to the Senior Vice Commander, the Officer of the Day shall, in turn, render a slow salute)

Officer of the Day: “Comrade Senior Vice Commander, I present this flag for your examination. Should this flag be destroyed in a dignified manner?”

(Senior Vice Commander looks down upon the flag)

Senior Vice Commander: “Yes, it should. Present this flag to the Commander for final examination and fitting disposal.”

(Officer of the Day will bring the flag back to their chest and move in a uniform manner to the Commander)

(When Officer of the Day arrives with the ceremonial flag, Commander renders a slow salute to the flag)

(Officer of the Day will lower the flag from their chest and present the flag to the Commander)

Following presentation of the flag to the Commander, the Officer of the Day shall, in turn, render a slow salute)

Officer of the Day: “Comrade Commander, in accordance with United States Code Title 4. Section 8 (k), when the flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

Commander: “Very well.”

Commander: “Attention! This flag has served its nation long and well It has been worn to a condition in which it should no longer be used to represent the nation. This flag represents all the flags collected and being retired from service today. The honor we show here for this one flag, we are showing for all the flags, even those not physically here.”

(Prayer portion of this ceremony is optional)