

3rd QUARTER TALKING POINTS

REVIEW ALL THE MATERIAL AND MAKE APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR POST OFFICERS: Post Commanders and/or Quartermasters need to ensure your Post Officers have renewed their annual membership before their expiration date. National will automatically remove any officer that has an expired membership card, and that officer cannot run for office again until the 2025-2026 term.

SECTION 218 AND SECTION 418: All Post officers and chairperson need to read section 218 in the 2025 Podium edition for clarification on your duties. All District officers and chairperson need to read section 418 in the 2024 Podium edition for clarification on your duties.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT OF AUDIT: Trustee's Report of Audit for the Quarter ending December 2025 were due by January 31st or they are considered late.

ALL STATE ENTRY FORMS: Forms are due at State Headquarters by April 1, 2026. Form is on the department website under Resources, Reports & Forms. This form is required if you want to be considered for All State Status. Must be sent to Chris at statecg@vfwfl.org **ONLY!**

DISTRICT MEETING REPRESENTATION: Any Post that fails to send a representative (**Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, or Quartermaster**) to the District Meeting may be disqualified from All State Judging.

ARREARAGES: Any Post in arrears for District Dues, National or Department Delegate Fees, Department Obligations and Quarterly Audits will **NOT** be eligible to vote at the District Convention in May or the State Convention in June.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Remember to check all membership cards of the VFW and Auxiliary to make sure they are current. Make sure your bartenders are also checking membership cards. Remember annual membership for members varies monthly.

STATE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT: The State Commander's Special Project is Veterans Village Floor Revitalization Project. All donations are to be sent to Department Headquarters, 543 NE Sanchez Ave., Ocala, Florida 34470. Be sure to put Commander's (CDR) Special Project on the memo section of your check.

EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR: Nominees for Department Scout of the Year are due to the Post by March 1, 2026. All candidates with full entry criteria must be submitted by the Post to the Department Scout Chairperson Ron Holladay by April 1, 2026. State Chairperson Ron Holladay's address is 5303 Woodlake Trace, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563 and is listed under Dept. Committee's on the Dept. website.

PROGRAM REPORTING: Conducting and reporting VFW Programs is integral to our core mission and essential in preserving our non-profit status. Post Commanders should ensure that their program chairperson knows how to report programs and has the tools to do so. If you have any questions as to how to report your programs online via the Department website, contact state headquarters for instructions. Program site closes April 30, 2026.

GENERAL ORDERS & HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN: All members are encouraged to read the headquarters bulletin and general orders for timely information. Access available on the Department website under resources.

PARTNERS IN PATRIOTISM: National has established the Partners in Patriotism to help our heroes by giving a monthly donation. This is the most effective way to help veterans, service members, and their families. When you sign up, you support life-changing programs every month of the year. It keeps administrative cost down so more money goes to the programs, allows for better budget planning and program funding to help more veterans, members and their families, cuts down the amount of mail you receive, and you will only receive the VFW Supporter Quarterly Newsletters. Flyer is on the Department Website under News and Events.

DEPARTMENT RAFFLE: The department will be holding one (1) raffle to raise funds for the VFW Programs. For Tickets you can contact your District Commander, who received one (1) ticket for every Post in their District, or you can get one (1) through Department Headquarters. Raffle tickets will be \$100.00 each; make checks payable to the VFW Department of Florida and mail them to State Headquarters, 543 NE Sanchez Ave., Ocala, FL 34470, and a ticket will be sent to you. Drawing will be held at the State Convention on Saturday, June 13th, 2026 at the conclusion of the Department Banquet. Flyer for the Raffle is on the Department Website under News and Events.

VFW VETERANS' VILLAGE: Annual Picnic – **Saturday, March 21st, 2026**, at the Veterans Village. Picnic ticket order form can be found on the Department Website.

STATE COMMANDERS' HOMECOMING: The State Commander and Presidents Homecoming will be held on March 13-14, 2026, at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Blvd. Information is available on the Department website.

2026-2027 QUARTERMSTER/TRUSTEE SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION:

QM/Trustee School will be May 29th -31st 2026, at the Florida Hotel & Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, FL 32809. Room Rate - \$125.00 per night plus tax. Check in is 4:00 p.m. and checkout by 11:00 a.m. Cut-off date is on or before Friday, May 8, 2026. You must mention Veterans of Foreign Wars to receive room rate. A registration flyer will be posted on the website at a later date with phone numbers for making your reservations. Registration Fee: \$10.00 per person to be sent in prior to the date of the school. **Please do not call for reservations at this time.**

Leadership School will be on Friday May 29th, 2026, and will be held at Florida Hotel & Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, FL 32809. This school is for new Post and District Commanders and is in conjunction with the Quartermaster/Trustee School of Instruction.

STATE CONVENTION: State Convention is June 12th -15th , 2026 at the Renaissance Orlando SeaWorld, 6677 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, and FL. Room Rate is \$159.00 plus tax. Cut-off date is Monday, May 18, 2026. More information will be posted on the website as it becomes available and don't forget to check under the Department Events/Announcements for all functions happening in the Department. Banquet information will be provided at a later date.

Please do not call for reservations at this time.

NATIONAL CONVENTION : July 24th - 30th , 2026 in Reno, NV. More information will be made available at a later date.

VFW GENERAL SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION: Saturday, August 15, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. til.

Hotel: The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, FL. Room Rate - \$125.00 plus tax, with possible early check-in fee. For reservations call 407-859-1500 and must mention VFW School of Instruction to receive this rate. Cut-Off Date: July 13, 2026; Check In — 4:00 p.m.; Check out — 11:00 a.m.

SERVICER OFFICER SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION: Friday, August 14th, 2026. Early registration 8:00 a.m.

Class begins at 9:00 a.m. — until. **Hotel:** The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, FL. Room Rate - \$125.00 plus tax, with possible early check-in fee. For reservations call 407-859-1500 and must mention VFW School of Instruction to receive this rate.

Cut-Off Date: July 11, 2025; Check In — 4:00 p.m.; Check Out 11:00 a.m. Registration Form is on the Department Website.