VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

General Orders No. 4 2026-2027 Series

1. Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been changed to a 12-month dues structure that started July 1, 2018. The changes to subscription dues to a "DMV" model now allows anyone who becomes a member or renews membership to postpone expiration until the last day of their 12th month. For example, if a new member joins or an existing member renews on July 5, 2026, their dues now expire on July 31, 2027. The annual membership card (effective July 1, 2026) reflects the month, and year dues expire.

   Current members that are in good standing as of July 1, 2026, have been extended in OMS through the last day of the month when their dues are scheduled to expire. Regardless of the month they renewed, as long as they were in good standing as of July 1, 2026, they now have until the end of the expiration month to renew their dues.

   Members that are in good standing but have not renewed for the 2026-27 membership year will see the changes on their digital ID card reflecting the updated month and year when their dues expire. They will have the option to request an updated annual membership card with the change reflecting the expiration month and year.

   The purpose of the changes to subscription dues to a "DMV" model was to streamline the process for both the Post and Department Quartermasters to track expiring annual members. No longer will Posts and Departments have to chase annual members' dues on a daily basis; instead, they can see a block of members during a specific month (one, two and three months out), allowing them to formulate a plan to collect dues at one time. This also makes it easier for the Department/District/Post Sergeant-at-Arms to quickly see if a member is in good standing prior to a meeting.

2. Section 220 of the National Bylaws, "Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members" states, "Any elected Post officer or committee member removed, by reason of failure to pay current dues or under the provisions of this section shall not be eligible to serve in any Post office or committee in the same administrative year in which the officer or committee member is removed."

3. For the purpose of establishing continuous membership, a member may reimburse Department and National dues for all delinquent years, provided the member was in good standing for five (5) consecutive years prior to the delinquency.

4. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Trustees." Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ends Dec. 31, 2026. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager, Bingo Chairman and any other activity of the Post. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.

5. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department Bylaws and directives. District and Department Inspectors to include Assistant Inspectors, shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.

6. The distribution of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of Buddy Poppies for the Memorial Day campaign in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of Buddy Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 219 of the Manual of Procedure.

7. The VFW National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual establish that *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Newly revised *Robert's Rules of Order* is readily available at local bookstores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

Respectfully,

Randolph "Randy" Cash
State Commander

ATTEST:

John L. Coleman
State/Adjutant/Quartermaster