



Executive Order No. 2

April 24, 2020

Pursuant to Section 618(a)(4) and the National Council of Administration's April 17, 2020 vote to adopt the Contingency Planning Committee's recommended option for navigating the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 restrictions, the following mandate is hereby issued. This provides a directive for the election of National officers and provides options as to how Departments, Districts, and Posts may conduct elections in keeping with the requirements and customs of the VFW. This order supersedes all other guidance regarding conducting the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 restrictions.

National:

On July 24, 2020, if no formal business can be transacted at the National Convention, the 2019-20 terms of all National officers are ended, thereby vacating those offices, the incumbents having satisfactorily served to the end of their term as defined in Section 719 of the National Bylaws. Those positions for which succession is provided will be immediately filled pursuant to Section 620 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure (the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders will succeed to Commander and Senior Vice respectively). Immediately thereafter, the Commander-in-Chief shall appoint a Quartermaster General Pro Tempore (as well as all other appointments pursuant to Section 618(a)(6) of the National Bylaws); and shall announce that all other elected vacancies will be filled by the National Council of Administration. Fifteen (15) days thereafter, August 8, 2020, the Commander-in-Chief shall advise the National Council of Administration of the names of comrades presented for those elected positions. The National Council of Administration may vote to fill those vacancies at the next regular or special meeting or by ballot pursuant to Section 620 of the Manual of Procedure.

A *pro-forma* National Convention shall be conducted for the purposes of maintaining compliance with Section 603 of the National Bylaws; no business shall be transacted due to lack of a quorum as "the inability to transact business does not detract from the fact the society's rules requiring the meeting to be held were complied with and the meeting was convened-even though it had to adjourn immediately" pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

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Departments:

Departments that are able to conduct Conventions in accordance with Section 503 of the National Bylaws by June 24, 2020 are encouraged to do so.

Alternatively, the Department Council of Administration may vote by ballot to cancel the formal Department Convention, declare (on a date no earlier than April 24, 2020 and no later than June 24, 2020) that the 2019-20 terms of all Department officers, and National Council Members elected by the Department who have fulfilled their four-year term, are ended thereby vacating those offices the incumbents having satisfactorily served to the end of the term as defined in Section 719 of the National Bylaws. Those positions for which succession is provided will be immediately filled pursuant to Section 520 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure (the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders will succeed to Commander and Senior Vice respectively). Immediately thereafter, the Department Commander shall appoint a Quartermaster Pro Tempore (as well as all other appointments pursuant to Department and National Bylaws); and shall announce that all other elected vacancies will be filled by the Department Council of Administration. Fifteen (15) days thereafter, the Department Commander shall advise the Department Council of Administration of the names of comrades presented for those elected positions. The Department Council of Administration may vote to fill those vacancies at the next regular or special meeting or by ballot pursuant to Section 520 of the Manual of Procedure.

Finally, if the Department Council of Administration does not vote to cancel the formal Department Convention and no Convention is held prior to June 24, 2020 on July 24, 2020 the 2019-20 terms of all Department officers, and National Council Members elected by the Department who have fulfilled their four-year term, are ended thereby vacating those offices the incumbents having satisfactorily served to the end of the term as defined in Section 719 of the National Bylaws. Those positions for which succession is provided will be immediately filled pursuant to Section 520 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure (the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders will succeed to Commander and Senior Vice respectively). Immediately thereafter, the Department Commander shall appoint a Quartermaster Pro Tempore (as well as all other appointments pursuant to Department and National Bylaws); and shall announce that all other elected vacancies will be filled by the Department Council of Administration. Fifteen (15) days thereafter, the Department Commander shall advise the Department Council of Administration of the names of comrades presented for those elected positions. The Department Council of Administration may vote to fill those vacancies at the next regular or special meeting or by ballot pursuant to Section 520 of the Manual of Procedure.

Departments (continued):

If a Department Convention cannot be held, (on a date no earlier than April 24, 2020 and no later than June 24, 2020) a *pro-forma* Department Convention shall be conducted for the purposes of maintaining compliance with Section 503 of the National Bylaws; no business shall be transacted due to lack of a quorum as “the inability to transact business does not detract from the fact the society’s rules requiring the meeting to be held were complied with and the meeting was convened-even though it had to adjourn immediately” pursuant to Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.

Districts:

Districts that are able to conduct Conventions in accordance with Section 403 of the National Bylaws no later than June 14, 2020 are encouraged to do so; otherwise, those Districts are to elect officers at their next regular or special meeting.

Alternatively, if on July 24, 2020 no business can be transacted at a District Convention and no elections held, the 2019-20 terms of all District officers are ended thereby vacating those offices the incumbents having satisfactorily served to the end of the term as defined in Section 719 of the National Bylaws. Those positions for which succession is provided will be immediately filled pursuant to Section 420 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure (the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders will succeed to Commander and Senior Vice respectively). Immediately thereafter, the District Commander shall appoint a Quartermaster Pro Tempore (as well as all other appointments pursuant to District and National Bylaws); all other elected vacancies shall be filled at the next regular or special meeting.

If on a date no later than June 14, 2020 a District Convention cannot be held, a *pro-forma* District Convention shall be conducted for the purposes of maintaining compliance with Section 403 of the National Bylaws; no business shall be transacted due to lack of a quorum as “the inability to transact business does not detract from the fact the society’s rules requiring the meeting to be held were complied with and the meeting was convened-even though it had to adjourn immediately” pursuant to Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.

Posts:

Posts that are able to conduct meetings for the purpose of electing officers are encouraged to do so.

Alternatively, if on July 24, 2020 no election can be conducted, the 2019-20 terms of all Post officers are ended thereby vacating those offices the incumbents having satisfactorily served to the end of the term as defined in Section 719 of the National Bylaws. Those positions for which succession is provided will be immediately filled pursuant to Section 220 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Immediately thereafter, the Post Commander shall appoint a Quartermaster Pro Tempore (as well as all other appointments pursuant to Post and National Bylaws); all other elected vacancies shall be filled at the next regular or special meeting.

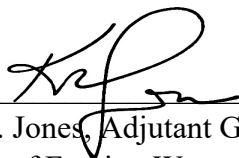
Nothing within this section shall prevent a Post from deciding to have any elected and/or appointed officer serve consecutive terms in the same position so long as their subsequent election and/or appointment is done so in accordance with Section 220 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure

By order of:



William "Doc" Schmitz, Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Official:



Kevin C. Jones, Adjutant General
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

