

**STATE HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

General Orders No. 1 – 2020-2021 Series

1. Having been duly elected and installed as Commander of the Department of California, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I, John G. Lowe, do hereby assume command. All previous appointments under prior command have expired and are Null and Void.
2. The following State Officers have been properly elected and installed and will be shown the proper courtesies.

State Commander	John Lowe	2111
Sr. Vice Commander	Dawn "Dusty" Napier	9561
Jr. Vice Commander	Martin Yingling	2805
Adjutant/Quartermaster	Rodger Meier	10125
Judge Advocate	Lamont Duncan	2122
Surgeon	Patricia Werner	52
Chaplain	James Wright	4630
Immediate Past State Commander	Michael Kuznik	4647
District No.1	Paula Jansen	5867
District No.2	James Styles	3670
District No.3	Jim Lillibridge	233
District No.4	Marc Childs	7243
District No.5	Thomas Pugliese	5551
District No.6	John Crump Jr.	11012
District No.7	Mark Larsen	10049
District No. 8	Ronald Wood	2381
District No.9	Ronald Hardy	8470
District No.10	Mark Steinberg	1525
District No.11	Daniel Ortiz	7734
District No.12	Thomas Peavey	9242
District No.13	Kevin Aqueche	3199
District No.14	Jack Napier	9561
District No.15	Cheyenne Bart	1555
District No.16	Cecil Dennings	8151
District No.17	Richard Linares	4647

3. The following appointments for 2020-2021 are hereby announced:

Chief of Staff	Keith MacDonald	5867
Inspector	Chuck Anfuso	2111
Parliamentarian	Buford Maples	5985
Department Service Officer	Lucia Hernandez	9934
Deputy Chief of Staff – North	Nelson Reyes	8151
Deputy Chief of Staff – Central	Michael Cearley	6199
Deputy Chief of Staff – South	John Muller	8954

Deputy Inspector – Central	Stephen Curtin	7263
Deputy Inspector – South	William Manes	9934
Captain, Sergeant-at-Arms	Larry Ventress	5394
Sergeant-at-Arms	Edward Mc Coy	2275
Sergeant-at-Arms	Tom Karas	1525
Department Trustee, 1 Yr	Frank Hurst	3154
Department Trustee, 2 Yr	Kenneth Lusk	1487
Department Trustee, 3 Yr	Michael Phillips	1512
Buddy Poppy Chairman	Richard Rankin	3982
Community Activities Chairman	Paula Jansen	5867
Community Activities – North	Cheyenne Bart	1555
Community Activities – South	Maria Dwyer	4089
2021 Convention Chairman	Michael Cearley	6311
Homeless Veterans Advisor	Deborah Johnson	10859
Law Enforcement/FF/EMT Chairman	Kevin Aqueche	3199
Legislative Committee (State) Chairman	Michael Seward	5059
Legislative Committee	William Manes	9934
Membership/Life Membership Chairman	Timothy Bryant	3000
Membership – State Recruiter – North	Michael Clay	9498
Membership – State Recruiter – Central	Michael Maynor	6311
Membership- State Recruiter – South	Steve Carby	4089
Mentorship Committee Chairman	Lamont Duncan	2122
National Home Chairman	Jerry Koehmlein	1512
Patriots Pen Chairman	Christopher Darbyshire	10125
POW/MIA Chairman	Al Hewitt	1512
POW/MIA – North	Richard Linares	4647
Scouting/JROTC/Youth Activities Chairman	Frank Squire	10125
Service Committee Chairman	Art Napiwocki	1614
State Cootie Representative	Lamont Duncan	2122
State Riders Group Advisory Committee Chairman	Michael Frank	1513
Teachers Award Chairman	Robert Magner	2266
Training Chairman	Steve Jacobs	9415
Veterans Hospital Programs Chairman	William Reed	1123
Veterans & Military Programs Chairman	Angela Ipock	1981
Veterans & Military Programs – North	Cheyenne Bart	1555
Veterans & Military Programs – Central	Manuel Sandoval	5059
Veterans & Military Programs – South	John Hernandez	4089
VFW/MC Liaison	Myles Fry	2080
Voice of Democracy Chairman	David Kuta	8358
Wheelchair/Golden Age Games Chairman	Eric Luke	1512

4. Attention of all members is directed to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "Discipline of Members." Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned. In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another's ability to participate in VFW events. All members should be treated with dignity and respect.
5. The official Inspection Program for the Department of California for the 2020-2021 Administrative year begins on September 1, 2020. Inspection forms have been forwarded to the District Commanders for the entire year. The District Inspectors shall coordinate with the Posts on completing the inspections prior to December 31, 2020.
6. Post Audits. The June 30, 2020 Audit Report is now due on Trustee's Audit forms. The (original) signed copy is mailed or emailed to Department Headquarters **and if necessary or requested a copy is mailed to the District Inspector for referral to the Department Inspector**. The outgoing Post Commander, Quartermaster, and if applicable, Trustees should work with the incoming officers to complete the audit.
7. Post and District Commanders are reminded that the Quartermaster Bonds for those bonded through the Department of California will expire on August 31, 2019. Bond applications for the period of September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021, are available on the vfwca.org website under "Resources". It is the personal responsibility of Commanders, on all levels, to see their Quartermasters are properly bonded in the amounts as set forth and provided in the National to Department Quartermaster.
8. Each District Commander will act as personal representative of the State Commander in his District to provide liaison between Post and the Department of California.
9. ***The attention of all members is directed to the Manual of Procedure, Section 1001, paragraph 25 that states "The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited"***. The use of any tobacco product shall be prohibited during VFW meetings. Reported violations of this order will be severely dealt with under the punitive provisions of the VFW National By-Laws. This practice by some Posts not only violates the ritual but also discredits the honored memory of our fallen comrades and is contrary to moral ethics based upon long and distinguished records of this organization. District Commanders are hereby charged with the responsibility of enforcement of this order and the duty of reporting violations thereof to the State Commander.
10. ***The attention of all members is directed to VFW Manual of Procedure, Section 803 – Manufacture and Use of Seals, Emblems, Badges, Insignia and Uniforms, "Cap. A cap of the overseas type, lettered with VFW initials, Post numerals, state, rank of office (when applicable), and bearing the Cross of Malta emblem, shall be the regulation cap to be worn with or without the uniform. The color shall be green, shade 51. Lettering on each cap shall be in gold."*** No other head cover is authorized during official meetings.
11. Posts or Districts requesting the State Commander or a Department Officer to attend ceremonies or other occasions will make such requests in writing to Department Headquarters in sufficient time so

that a proper presentation can be made by the visiting officer. The requests should give information as to the type of event, what is expected of the visiting officer; type of dress, time, and other pertinent information, and should be sent to Department Headquarters not less than (30) thirty days in advance of the event.

12. Posts in violation of Section 214 of the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure (solicitation of funds) are subject to suspension. **Contracts must be forwarded to and approved by Department Headquarters.**
13. Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or Auxiliary within California shall not make any statement to the news media concerning pending VFW sponsored legislation on a state or national level, or any relevant to VFW policies of a state or national nature without first obtaining permission from Department Headquarters.
14. Members desiring to solicit funds through the sale of pins or other merchandise at Council meetings or Convention shall first receive permission from the Council of Administration.
15. The attention of District and Post Commanders is directed to Manual of Procedure, Section 103 - Election, which prescribes the way applications for membership will be handled. **“Balloting on Applications.** Before voting on the application during a Post meeting, the Commander shall allow the members present an opportunity to state their objections, if any, to the admission of the applicant. Unless one member present shall request a written ballot, a vote shall be taken and a majority of the votes cast shall decide acceptance or rejection of the application. **Rejection of Applicant.** Should an applicant be rejected by the Post, the admission fee and dues shall be returned. After one year (12 months) the applicant may again make application, but a person shall not be proposed for membership more than twice in one Post. An applicant rejected in one Post may apply to another Post or become a Department Member-at-Large.”
16. The attention of District and Post Commanders is directed to Section 709, By-Laws, which prescribe the manner in which Districts and Posts shall purchase, sell or otherwise transfer title or any interest in any real estate. Written notice shall be provided to the Department Commander at least 30 days prior and to every member of said unit at least ten (10) days prior to a regular or special meeting at which a proposal is to be considered.
17. An annual Federal income tax return (990-N, 990-EZ or 990) is required of each Post exempt from tax under Section 501(c) of the Code. Post with annual gross receipts of \$50,000 or less are required to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard. Organizations with over \$50,000 and less than \$200,000 of gross receipts and total assets of less than \$500,000 at the end of the year may use 990-EZ. Posts having gross receipts or assets over these amounts will use Form 990. For those who use Form 990, be sure to complete Box A thru Box M. Send the completed return to the service center in your area. Gross receipts include income from all sources, including membership dues, liquor or restaurants receipts, etc. Some of this may be “unrelated business income” in which case the filing of Form 990-T may be required. The returns must be filed on or before the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the accounting period. That means that if the accounting period ends on June 30, the return must be filed on or before the 15th of November of that year. Requests for extension of time to file may be made by submitting Form 2758, Application for Extension of Time to File. If a Post fails to file the return on or before the due date, or the extended due date, a penalty of \$20 for each day the return is late (not to exceed \$10,000) is imposed unless it can be shown that the failure to file was due to reasonable cause. All units are alerted to report activities of IRS District Offices in conducting unannounced investigations and/or surveillance of Posts to determine if non-members are being served or using VFW facilities.

18. An annual state income tax return, FTB-199N (e-postcard) is required of each Post with annual gross receipts of \$25,000 or less. They may choose to file Form 199. Organizations with over \$25,000 in gross receipts must file FTB-199.
19. Many Posts have received correspondence from a company named "Corporate Compliance Center" the information they are providing for a fee is easily obtained free of charge from various State agencies, the VFW, Department of California has asked this company to discontinue mailing information to our Posts. Post Quartermasters you are advised to disregard correspondence from this company.
20. National By-Laws provides for only one type of membership; that is active membership. There are no provisions in the National By-Laws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW By-Laws or procedure.
21. VFW Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the Courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of Section 708 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities.
22. The attention of Post Commanders and District Commanders and Inspecting Officers is directed to Section 215 of the National By-Laws – Eligibility to Office. All members shall be eligible to hold any office in the Post provided that proof of eligibility has been submitted and verified by the Post Commander and Adjutant prior to the installation. No member shall hold two elected Post offices at the same time but may hold one elected and one or more appointed offices. Post trustees shall not be eligible to serve on committees or as officers having to do with the receipt and expenditure of Post funds whose records and accounts are audited by the trustees.
23. The attention of Post Commanders and District Commanders and Inspecting Officers is directed to Section 216 of the National By-Laws – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairman and Committees. Post officers, elected and appointed shall submit proof of eligibility to the Post Adjutant. Post Officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the Commander, Adjutant, and Quartermaster prior to installation to office. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility within **thirty (30)** days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited, the office declared vacant and the eligibility qualifications of such officer shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National By-Laws.
24. The attention of Post Commanders and District Commanders and Inspecting Officers is directed to Section 218(a)(6)(d)(5) – Duties of Adjutant. The Post Adjutant shall maintain the following; a file containing a copy of the proof of eligibility submitted by officers pursuant to Section 216 of the National By-Laws

25. The attention of Post Commanders, and District Commanders and Inspecting Officers is directed to Section 703, Manual of Procedure - Bonds. Each accountable officer of this organization shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. Liquid assets are defined as cash on hand or in the bank and other negotiable instruments readily convertible into cash. Per the Manual of Procedure, Section 218(a)(5)b, the Quartermaster shall collect all monies due the Post, giving receipt therefore, and have charge of the funds, securities, and other property of the Post, all of which shall be placed in their care.
26. The attention of the Post Commander is directed to Section 708 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure which prescribes the procedure for the Incorporation of Units. It shall be the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure full compliance with Section 708, and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc. are met in a timely manner.
27. All officers should obtain current copies of the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the 2020 revised edition of the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Emblem and Supply Department, National Headquarters. The 2020 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 120th National Convention, which became effective on September 30, 2019. Due to the cancellation of the 121st National Convention, no amendments were made to the Bylaws.
28. All Commanders are reminded that Section 709, Manual of Procedure - Control of Units, requires that any activity, unit or club sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or in behalf of a Post, District or Department shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, District or Department and that all money, property or assets of any kind must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster. All Commanders should ensure that all provisions of Section 709 are enforced.
29. The attention of all units is called to Section 1101 of the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure which provides for the formation and jurisdiction of the Auxiliary. This Section provides that each unit of the Auxiliary shall be under the jurisdiction of the corresponding unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, but shall be permitted to function in accordance with the National Ritual, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the Auxiliary.
30. In addition to provisions of Auxiliary By-Laws, solicitation of funds or donations by Auxiliary units, including contracts with fund-raising organizations for greeting cards, calendars and/or label programs shall be subject to approval and ratification by the governing body of the corresponding unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
31. Section 704 of the Manual of Procedure outlines the various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be used. A few years ago, the phrase, "To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs," was added to this section. This allows the Post to use the relief funds for the Voice of Democracy program or other Americanism programs that are educational. This does not include Post building projects, hall remodeling, color guard uniforms or any other expenditure that does not follow the guidelines as outlined in Section 704.
32. The attention of all District Commanders is directed to Section 413 of the National By-Laws which provides that the Commander of the District in arrears for poppy money, supply money or other financial obligations, or failing to have the Quartermaster bonded or failing to submit required District Trustees Report of Audit or District Election Report shall be deprived of all representation at Department

Conventions. In addition, Districts in arrears shall be deprived of all representation at Department Council of Administration meetings. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

BY COMMAND OF
JOHN G. LOWE
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodger W. Meier", with a horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rodger W. Meier
State Adjutant/Quartermaster