

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA

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General Orders No. 8 February 2025

2024-2025 Series To be read at the next regular meeting.

1. MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP!

Post Quartermasters - please be sure you're promptly entering memberships following monthly meetings. **Posts are reminded that 102% membership must be obtained by April 1, 2025. Membership accounts for 50 points.** The Leadership Training Booklet contains this information. Please note that there has been a change to the leadership manual and the 2% renewed/reinstated stipulation. The memstat report no longer contains this information for us to track so we have removed it.

2. Department Officers: The allowable standard mileage rate for business use of an automobile is now **70** cents per mile. Please submit travel forms within the 45-day deadline to Quartermaster Luby. If you need an updated travel form, please contact Administrative Assistant Jess Ahvakana.

3. 2025 Department Convention: The 2025 Department Convention will be hosted by Post 10029 North Pole, Ak, June 5-8, 2025. Additional information will be posted on the Department website when available.

4. All-State: Post Commanders are reminded to check the requirements to become an All-State Post Commander and Quartermaster. Four (4) such honors can be awarded at the Department Convention in North Pole. Requirements for the All-State teams were amended in this year's Program. Refer to your 2024-2025 Leadership Training booklet for additional information. An electronic version of this booklet will be updated on the Department website at www.vfwak.org, under the "Resources" tab. See all state tracker in the body of the General Orders email to assist you with meeting these requirements. **Reminder: The All-State deadline is April 1, 2025, NO EXCEPTIONS!**

5. Buddy Poppy: Buddy Poppy season is in full swing. Please submit your orders through Department Headquarters using the enclosed form. Only 7 posts have ordered poppies so far this year.

6. 2025 National Convention: 126th National Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio **Aug 9-14, 2025**. Additional details will be available on our website under the "Conventions" tab when available.

7. Reminder: If you or your Post have made a pledge towards the operation of Department Headquarters, Fisher House, Alaska Gathering Room, Patriots Pen, or VOD for the 2024-2025 year and have yet to forward it, please do so promptly. Commander Speegle's Commanders Project needs support from the posts, please help him reach his goal. All pledges can be mailed to Quartermaster Luby at 500 E. Park Avenue, Wasilla, AK 99654.

8. Raffle: The \$10,000 Raffle tickets were distributed at the Mid-Winter Council of Administration meeting, in January. All tickets and monies should be promptly returned to Department Headquarters. **Reminder: If you are having difficulties selling your raffle tickets, there are always Posts looking to obtain more. Please don't save them - return them.**

9. MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AND AUCTION: Was held January 10-12, 2025. Department Commander Ken Speegle would like to thank Susitna Post 9365, Wasilla, for the excellent job they did hosting this year's Mid-Winter Conference. He would also like to thank everyone for a successful Auction which raised \$5200 to help with Department expenses, thank you to everyone that donated and participated.

10. Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year: Judging for these programs has been completed and all 1st place entries have been forwarded to National for judging. The winners for each category are listed below.

Teacher of the Year:

Elementary: Marguerite "Peggy" Benton Post 9785 entry

Middle: No Entries
High: Amanda Turnbull Post 10450 entry

Voice of Democracy:
1st Place: Andrew Gaultt Post 10682 entry
2nd Place(Tie): Lila Steele Post 1685 entry
2nd Place (Tie): Lael Bartch Post 3629 entry

Patriot's Pen:
1st Place: Wyatt McGinnis Post 10682 entry
2nd Place: Roman Gayvoronskiy Post 10450 entry
3rd Place: Bethany Fowle Post 3629 entry

Last Roll Call: In order to show the proper respect due our fallen comrades, the Department Adjutant is asking all Posts to notify him of the death of any member. Please do so in writing by the **20th** of each month so that they can be listed in the Last Roll Call. Please be sure that you are notifying National as well so that they are removed from the membership roster. If you need assistance, please contact Department Headquarters.

Lynus Beattus

VFW Post 3629 (Fairbanks)

OFFICIAL

BY THE ORDER OF:



Danny Luby
State Adjutant

Ken Speegle
State Commander

Please utilize the Department website to access additional forms and information, please contact Department with any questions.

www.vfwak.org