

**125th NATIONAL CONVENTION
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
JULY 27 – AUGUST 1, 2024**



PROPOSED BYLAW, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL AMENDMENTS

SCHEDULE OF RESOLUTIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEES

MEET THE CHALLENGE



2023-2024



July 12, 2024

Dear Comrades:

Written notice is promulgated herein, together with copies of proposed amendments to the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to be considered by the 125th National Convention in accordance with provisions of Section 1401 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan West".

Dan West
Adjutant General

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

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TO COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL
This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 28

Chairman: Vincent B.J. Lawrence, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 7686, NM
Vice Chairman: Paul A. Spera, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 144, MA

This committee considers all proposed amendments to the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, as well as resolutions having any bearing upon the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. It makes recommendations to the Convention for approval or disapproval of proposed amendments that may be adopted only in accordance with sections 1401, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. It also considers resolutions or other proposals pertaining to changes in the VFW Ritual and makes recommendations thereon.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL BYLAWS

C-1

Proposed by Department of Georgia
CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER
Sec. 230101 - Organization.

Amend Sec. 230101 - Organization., Congressional Charter, under **(a) Federal Charter.**, by replacing “and airmen” with “airmen and guardians”.

B-1

Proposed by Department of Georgia
ARTICLE I – MEMBERS
Sec. 101 - Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., National Bylaws, by replacing (2) with the text below and renumbering the current language in (2) and (3) as (3) and (4):

“(2) in a foreign war, insurrection or expedition which service has been recognized with an individual military medal or devices for valor or performance in foreign combat and is governed by the authorization of the award of an individual military medal by the Government of the United States, or”

B-2

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group
Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 – Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., National Bylaws, (3), by adding “; or” at the end of the sentence and the following as (4):

“(4) in Cold War Service deployed on the continent of Africa, Asia, or Europe or their territorial waters for not less than 60 consecutive days, between September 2, 1945, and December 26, 1991.”

B-3

Proposed by Department of Vermont

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 - Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., National Bylaws, by adding the following as (4):

“(4) Foreign Duty Service on Foreign Soil, its Airspace and Territorial Waters for not less than 30 consecutive days, or a total of 60 non-consecutive days.”

B-4

Proposed by Department of Massachusetts

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 111 – Life Members.

Amend Sec. 111 – Life Members., National Bylaws, under **(b) Life Membership Fees**, under **Attained Age** and **Plan E Life Member Fee**, by replacing “81 & over” with the following and adding new age ranges and fees as follows:

<u>Attained Age</u>	<u>Plan E Life Member Fee</u>
81 – 90	\$170
91 – 99	\$125
100 & over	\$80”

B-5

Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

ARTICLE II – POSTS

Sec. 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National By-Laws, (b), by adding “may appoint” before “Service Officer.”

B-6

Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

ARTICLE II – POSTS

Sec. 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National By-Laws, (c), by removing “Surgeon”.

B-7

Proposed by Department of Virginia

ARTICLE II – POSTS

Sec. 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, (c), at the end of the sentence, by replacing “required” with “allowed”.

B-8

Proposed by Department of New York

ARTICLE II – POSTS

Sec. 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (c), by replacing the current language with the following:

“The Post shall elect or the Post Commander shall appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day and/or Guard if appointment rather than election is required by Post Bylaws.”

B-9

Proposed by Department of Georgia

ARTICLE II – POSTS

Sec. 220 – Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members.

Amend Sec. 220 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members., National Bylaws, by changing the section title and section language to include “Delegates” and read as follows:

“Sec. 220 – Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers, Delegates or Committee Members.

Vacancies. All vacancies occurring in the elected offices or delegates of the Post shall be filled in accordance with Section 220 of the Manual of Procedure at the next regular or special meeting as prescribed in Section 203 of the Manual of Procedure.

Removal. Elected officers, elected delegates, or elected committee members may be removed for just cause by the Post or the Department Commander as prescribed in Section 220 of the Manual of Procedure.

Any elected Post officer, delegate, 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 or as a delegate in the same administrative year in which the officer, delegate, or committee member is removed.”

B-10

Proposed by Department of Virginia

ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

Sec. 416 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Amend Sec. 416 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, (c), at the end of the sentence, by replacing “required” with “allowed”.

B-11

Proposed by Department of New York

ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

Sec. 416 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Amend Sec. 416 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (c), by replacing the current language with the following:

“The District shall elect or the District Commander shall appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chief of Staff or Officer of the Day if appointment rather than election is required by District Bylaws.”

B-12

Proposed by Department of Virginia

ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 516 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Amend Sec. 516 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, (c), at the end of the sentence, by replacing “required” with “allowed”.

B-13

Proposed by Department of North Carolina

ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL

Sec. 616 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Amend Sec. 616 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (a), by adding “Adjutant General” after “Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief”.

Under (b), remove “Adjutant General”.

B-14

Proposed by Department of North Carolina

ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL

Sec. 617 – Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office.

Amend Sec. 617 - Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office., National Bylaws, by replacing the last paragraph with the following:

“The Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Chaplain, Judge Advocate General and Surgeon General shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. The Adjutant General and Quartermaster General shall be elected to serve a term of four (4) years with the opportunity to hold a second four (4) term, if elected. National Officers shall assume their duties at the close of the National Convention.”

B-15

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL

Sec. 618 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 618 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., National Bylaws, under **(a) Commander-in-Chief**, (6), by replacing the current language with the following:

“(6) Immediately upon entering office, appoint the Adjutant General who shall be a full-time salaried officer of the organization, subject to approval by a majority of the National Council of Administration.”

B-16

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL

Sec. 619 – National Committees.

Amend Sec. 619 - National Committees., National Bylaws, in the first paragraph, by adding “c. National Legislative Committee.”

Add the following at the end of the section:

“(c) National Legislative Committee.

(1) Composition: The National Legislative Committee shall consist of committee members appointed by each Department Commander with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief. Department Commanders shall receive one committee appointment for every eight members of the federal Congressional delegation for the states and/or territories that comprise the Department. Appointments to the committee must be approved by the current Department Commander, the current Department Senior Vice Commander, and the current Department Junior Vice

Commander. Committee members shall be appointed to a three-year term with one-third of the committee receiving appointments each year. The Commander-in-Chief shall select a chairman for the committee and shall consult the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and immediate Past Commander-in-Chief on selection of vice chairs. The Commander-in-Chief may remove committee members for failure to discharge their duties or for other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline.

(2) Duties: The National Legislative Committee shall formally meet twice each year in Washington, D.C. to conduct training and advance the VFW legislative priority goals in accordance with the organization's legislative and welfare programs and policies approved by the National Convention. Committee members shall continually advance the VFW legislative priority goals in their home states and territories between formal meetings and shall complete monthly activity reports for submission to the Adjutant General or the Adjutant General's duly appointed authority in the VFW Washington office. The Commander-in-Chief may call additional meetings of the committee or promulgate General Orders necessary to the committee for the effective discharge of its business. Committee members shall discharge all duties in compliance with Section 702 of the National Bylaws."

B-17

Proposed by Department of Oklahoma

ARTICLE VII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 709 – Control of Units.

Amend Sec. 709 - Control of Units., National Bylaws, in the first paragraph, first sentence, by adding "and its subordinate units" after "United States" and "other" after the first word "any".

B-18

Proposed by the National Judge Advocate General

ARTICLE VII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 717

Amend Sec. 717, National Bylaws, by adding a section title and the language below:

"Sec. 717 – Prohibition on Personal Gain; Conflicts of Interest.

1. No officer, past or present of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall use any VFW title or position he or she currently possesses or has possessed for personal private gain or for the private gain of any family member, personal friend, business associate or other person with whom a personal relationship exists.
2. No officer or member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall at any meeting or any other situation wherein VFW business is being transacted, either formally or informally, participate in any discussion or vote relating to any matter in which he or she may receive personal private gain or any matter that may bestow

private gain on any family member, personal friend, business associate or other person with whom a personal relationship exists. When such a situation presents itself, the officer or member must announce his or her conflict of interest and recuse him or herself from the discussion and/or vote.

3. Nothing within this Section shall be interpreted to preclude an officer, past or present or a member of the VFW from referencing their VFW membership or any VFW position held when describing his or her professional experience or involvement in a veteran service organization so long as the officer, past or present or member does not infer or imply the VFW endorses any product, service or enterprise. In addition, nothing in this Section shall be interpreted to preclude an officer, past or present or a member of the VFW from engaging in organizational sponsorship activities under the same terms and conditions offered to the general public.”

B-19

Proposed by Department of Colorado

ARTICLE IX – DISCIPLINE

Sec. 902 – Offenses.

Amend Sec. 902 - Offenses., National Bylaws, No. 5., by adding the following at the end of the sentence:

“as long as the conviction, the guilty plea, or no contest plea, occurs after being accepted as a member.”

B-20

Proposed by the National Judge Advocate General

ARTICLE IX – DISCIPLINE

Sec. 903 - Procedure for Disciplinary Actions.

Amend Sec. 903 - Procedure for Disciplinary Actions., National Bylaws, under (a), by adding the following as (4):

- “4. No Disciplinary Action may be taken with respect to the act or acts of a member unless the Disciplinary Action has been initiated in accordance with Section 903(c) of the National Bylaws within one year of the offense having been committed but said time period shall be extended where the member has taken steps to conceal the act or acts from discovery in which case the one year period of time begins upon the date of discovery.”