

**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

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

M-1

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 – Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., Manual of Procedure, under **ELIGIBILITY GUIDE**, in the second paragraph, by adding the following at the end of the first sentence:

“; or served in Africa, Asia, or Europe during Cold War Service as outlined in the following guide.”

Under **Campaign Medal** and **Qualifying Dates**, add the following after **Korea Defense Service Medal...**:

“Cold War Service

Sept. 2, 1945 – Dec. 26, 1991”

Service in Africa, Asia, or Europe, or its territorial waters for not less than 60 consecutive days.

M-2

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 – Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., Manual of Procedure, under **Campaign Medal** and **Qualifying Dates**, add the following before **Combat Infantry Badge & Combat Medical Badge...**:

“Purple Heart

Aug. 7, 1782 – Open”

M-3

Proposed by Department of Vermont

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 – Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., Manual of Procedure, by adding the following under the ELIGIBILITY GUIDE before “Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay” or where appropriate:

“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.”

M-4

Proposed by Department of Georgia

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 – Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., Manual of Procedure, by adding the following at the end of the section:

“The following individual military medals for valor in combat have been recognized as meeting the medal requirements of membership:

Medal of Honor

Distinguished Service Cross

Army

Navy Cross

Navy, Marine Corps

Air Force Cross

Air Force

Coast Guard Cross

Coast Guard

Silver Star

Bronze Star

Prisoner of War Medal

Individual medals that are distinguished with the “V” device for valor in combat and individual medals that are distinguished with the “C” device for performance in combat meet the medal requirements of membership.”

M-5

Proposed by Department of Georgia

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 109 – Right of Appeal.

Amend Sec. 109 - Right of Appeal., Manual of Procedure, under **Appeals to the Department Commander**., in the third paragraph, by replacing the last sentence with the following:

“The Department Commander shall provide a written decision within thirty (30) days.”

M-6

Proposed by Department of Georgia

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 109 – Right of Appeal.

Amend Sec. 109 - Right of Appeal., Manual of Procedure, under **Appeals to the Commander-in-Chief**., in the third paragraph, by replacing the last sentence with the following:

“The Department Commander shall provide a written decision within one-hundred twenty (120) days.”

M-7

Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

ARTICLE II – POSTS

Sec. 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under **(a) Officers.**, by removing **(9) Surgeon.** in its entirety and renumbering subsections **Officer of the Day.** as “**(9)**”, **Trustees.** as “**(10)**” and **Service Officer.** as “**(11)**”.

M-8

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., Manual of Procedure, by changing the Section title to read “**Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers, Delegates, or Committee Members.**”

Under **Vacancies.**, in the last paragraph, by adding “, Delegate position,” after “elected Post office”.

Under **Removal – Post.**, in the first paragraph, first sentence, by adding “, delegate,” after “removal of an officer”. In the second sentence, add “, delegate status,” after “The member holding such office”.

M-9

Proposed by Department of Virginia

ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

Sec. 417 – Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office.

Amend Sec. 417 - Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office., Manual of Procedure, under **Order of Nominations and Elections.**, by adding “(unless appointed in accordance with District Bylaws)” after “Judge Advocate” and “Surgeon”.

M-10

Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

Sec. 418 – Officers; Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under **(a) Officers.**, **(13) Surgeon.**, by removing the second sentence.

M-11

Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 518 – Officers; Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 518 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under **(a) Officers., (10) Surgeon.,** in the second sentence, by replacing “Post” with “District”.

M-12

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., Manual of Procedure, under **Order of nominations and elections.,** in the first sentence, by adding “Adjutant General” after “Quartermaster General”.

M-13

Proposed by Department of Oklahoma

ARTICLE VII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 709 – Control of Units.

Amend Sec. 709 - Control of Units., Manual of Procedure, in the third paragraph, first sentence, by adding “and its subordinate units” after “United States”.

M-14

Proposed by the National Judge Advocate General

ARTICLE IX – DISCIPLINE

Sec. 907 - Penalties.

Amend Sec. 907 - Penalties., Manual of Procedure, by removing “(See Section 907 of the Bylaws)” next to the section title and add the following:

“The penalty imposed upon a member shall be commensurate with the offense or offenses committed and should be corrective in nature reserving the most serious penalty of membership termination for the most egregious offenses. In determining an appropriate penalty under Section 907 of the National Bylaws, the adjudicating officer, adjudicating panel, appellate official or appellate body shall consider the following factors:

1. The nature and seriousness of the offense and its relation to: (a) membership within the Veterans of Foreign Wars; (b) the member’s duties and responsibilities in an elected or appointed position in the Veterans of Foreign Wars; (c) whether the offense was intentional or technical or inadvertent; and (d) whether the offense was committed maliciously or for gain or was frequently repeated;
2. The member’s past disciplinary record within the Veterans of Foreign Wars;

3. The member's past contributions to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its mission including length of membership, volunteer activities and performance in appointed or elected positions;
4. Consistency of the penalty with those imposed upon other members for the same or similar offenses;
5. The impact of the offense upon the reputation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its members outside the organization;
6. The clarity with which the member was on notice of any rules that were violated in committing the offense or had been warned about the conduct in question;
7. Potential for the member's rehabilitation;
8. Mitigating circumstances surrounding the offense such as unusual personal issues, personality problems, mental impairment, harassment or bad faith, malice or provocation on the part of others involved in the matter; and
9. The adequacy and effectiveness of alternative sanctions to deter such conduct in the future by the member or others.

When applying these factors to determine an appropriate penalty under Section 907 of the National Bylaws, the adjudicating officer, adjudicating panel, appellate official or appellate body shall balance the needs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to maintain good order and discipline with the membership rights bestowed upon a member by the National Bylaws. Where a lesser penalty set forth in Section 907 of the National Bylaws achieves the proper balance, the adjudicating officer, panel or appellate official or body shall choose the lesser penalty."