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**118<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA  
JULY 22 – 26, 2017**

**PROPOSED BY-LAW, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL AMENDMENTS**

**SCHEDULE OF RESOLUTIONS**

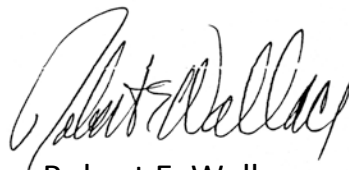
**GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEES**

June 29, 2017

Dear Comrades:

Written notice is promulgated herein, together with copies of proposed amendments to the By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to be considered by the 118<sup>th</sup> National Convention in accordance with provisions of Section 1401 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Wallace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Wallace" clearly distinguishable.

Robert E. Wallace  
Adjutant General

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
of the United States

**TO COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BY-LAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL**  
**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23**

Chairman: John F. Gwizdak, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 5080, GA

Vice Chairman: Edward S. Banas, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 10004, CT

This committee considers all proposed amendments to the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, as well as resolutions having any bearing upon the National By-Laws 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, By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. It also considers resolutions or other proposals pertaining to changes in the VFW Ritual and makes recommendations thereon.

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**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL BY-LAWS**

**B-1**

Proposed by Department of Massachusetts

**ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**

**Sec. 104 – Member Dues.**

Amend Sec. 104 – Member Dues., National By-Laws, by adding the following as the last paragraph:

“VFW to bestow annual memberships at no cost to eligible veterans ages 90 or greater.”

**B-2**

Proposed by Department of Oregon

**ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**

Amend **ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**, National By-Laws, by adding the following Section:

**“Sec. 112 – Legacy Life Members.**

- (a) Legacy Life Members: Any person who is a life member in Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may become a Legacy Life Member by completing Legacy Life Membership acceptance form and payment of the applicable Legacy Life Membership fees to the Post Quartermaster or the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Headquarters. There are three levels of Legacy Life Membership; each level may be obtained individually or together with payment of applicable fees. Once your Legacy Life Membership begins an annual endowment payment in your name will be made to your Post, Department and the National Headquarters. On the death of a Life Member a memorial Legacy Life Membership may be obtained in their name with payment of applicable fees.

(b) Legacy Life Membership Fees: Plan A Legacy Life Membership fees shall be charged in accordance with the following for all ages. Credit will be given for lower levels.

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Plan A	\$400.00	\$800.00	\$1200.00

An individual who is found to be ineligible for membership in Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall forfeit their Legacy Life Membership and all Legacy Life funds. An individual who is discharged from the organization by reason of disciplinary action shall forfeit their Legacy Life Membership and not be entitled to any refund.

(c) Legacy Life Membership Committee: The Legacy Life Membership Committee shall consist of the Commander-in-Chief, the Senior Vice Commander-in Chief, the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, the Adjutant General and the Quartermaster General. Such committee shall also be known as the Board of Trustees of the Legacy Life membership Fund. The Quartermaster General shall be Treasurer of the Legacy Life Membership Committee and shall have custody of the Legacy Life Membership Fund. The Legacy Life Membership Committee shall administer the Legacy Life Membership Fund, investing and reinvesting funds; to the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

(d) Choice of Endowment: Upon filing the Legacy Life Membership Acceptance Form the life member will choose to make a one-time endowment or to continue the annual endowment upon the members' death.

(1) One-time endowment, upon members' death, the principal amount of the members' legacy will be paid in equal amounts to the members' Post, Department and the National Headquarters as applicable.

(2) Annual endowment: The Legacy level payment will continue annually after the members' death. Annual endowment payments will be as follows:

Plan A	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Annual Endowment Post	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$18.00
Annual Endowment Department	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$18.00
Annual Endowment National	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$18.00

In the event that professional actuaries advise that plan assets are insufficient to support the payout specified above; the Legacy Life Membership Committee, with the concurrence of the National Council of Administration, may authorize a lesser payout, consistent with the actuary's recommendations.

(e) Legacy Life Membership Benefits; Other Legacy Life Membership benefits are as follows:

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Plated Engraved Life Member Card	X	X	X
Lapel Pin	X	X	X
Hat Pin	X	X	X

Distinctive Emblem and Supply line for Legacy Life Members	X	X	X
Recognition on Internet and Convention Program	X	X	X
Recognition at Kiosks at Memorial Building in Washington, D.C., National Headquarters	X	X	X
Special Plaque		X	X
Hat Patch			X
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza			X
Emblem and Supply Discounts for personal use	5%	10%	15%
Increased level of no cost A D and D Insurance	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$5,000"

**B-3**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group  
Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE II – POSTS**

**Sec. 201 - Formation, Institution and Chartering.**

Amend Sec. 201 - Formation, Institution and Chartering., National By-Laws, under **Formation.**, by replacing “twenty-five (25)” with “ten (10)”.

**B-4**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group  
Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE II – POSTS**

**Sec. 212 – Defunct Posts.**

Amend Sec. 212 - Defunct Posts., National By-Laws, by replacing the first sentence with the following:

“Any Post with less than ten (10) members, or, while under suspension the Post fails to establish a meeting quorum or elect the required officers, its charter shall be automatically revoked and declared defunct with the issuance of a special order by the Commander-in-Chief.”

**B-5**

Proposed by Department of Tennessee

**ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS**

**Sec. 401 – Formation, Institution and Chartering.**

Amend Sec. 401 – Formation, Institution and Chartering., National By-Laws, in the first paragraph, second sentence, by replacing “(10) Posts and 750 members” with “five (5) Posts and 175 members.”

**B-6**

Proposed by Department of California

**ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS**

**Sec. 403 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.**

Amend Sec. 403 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees., National By-Laws, under **Convention.**, by replacing “ten (10)” with “thirty (30)”.

**B-7**

Proposed by Department of Massachusetts

**ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS**

**Sec. 406 – District Dues.**

Amend Sec. 406 – District Dues., National By-Laws, by adding the following as the last paragraph:

“VFW to bestow annual memberships at no cost to eligible veterans ages 90 or greater.”

**B-8**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENTS**

**Sec. 522 – Council of Administration – Composition, Powers and Duties.**

Amend Sec. 522 – Council of Administration – Composition, Powers and Duties., National By-Laws, under (a) **Composition.**, by replacing the third sentence with the following:

“The immediate Past Department Commander shall also be a member of the Department Council of Administration.”

Remove the fourth sentence.

In the fifth sentence, remove “District of Columbia”.

**B-9**

Proposed by Department of Massachusetts

**ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL**

**Sec. 606 – National Dues.**

Amend Sec. 606 – National Dues., National By-Laws, by adding the following as the last paragraph:

“VFW to bestow annual memberships at no cost to eligible veterans ages 90 or greater.”

**B-10**

Proposed by Department of Nebraska

**ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL**

**Sec. 615 – Eligibility to Office.**

Amend Sec. 615 – Eligibility to Office., National By-Laws, by adding the following as the last sentence:

“Notwithstanding, any member who has served in the position of Commander-in-Chief shall not be eligible for appointment to the position of National Adjutant General for a period of three years after holding the office of Commander-in-Chief.”

**B-11**

Proposed by Department of Kansas

**ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL**

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

Amend Sec. 616 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National By-Laws, under (a), by adding “Adjutant General” after “Quartermaster General”.

Under (b), remove “Adjutant General”.

**B-12**

Proposed by Department of Kansas

**ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL**

**Sec. 618 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.**

Amend Sec. 618 – Officers: Duties and Obligations., National By-Laws, under **(a) Commander-in-Chief;** (6), by removing “Adjutant General”.

**B-13**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE VII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 717 – Dues Reserve.**

Amend Sec. 717 – Dues Reserve., National By-Laws, by removing “Posts and”.

**B-14 (Late edition: added 7/6/2017)**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL**

**Sec. 621 – Voting.**

Amend Sec. 621 – Voting., National By-Laws, by replacing “Demeter’s Manual of Parliamentary Law and Procedure” with “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Edition.”

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

### **M-1**

Proposed by Department of Oregon

#### **ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**

Amend **ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**, Manual of Procedure, by adding the following Section:

##### **“Sec. 112 - Legacy Life Members.**

All Life Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars shall be eligible to become a Legacy Life Member. Each level of Legacy Life will be the same for all members.

Upon receipt of the applicable fee, the Post Quartermaster shall immediately forward payment together with Legacy Life acceptance form of the individual to the Quartermaster General, or if required by Department, through the Department Quartermaster to the Quartermaster General. The Legacy Life membership shall become effective immediately upon the receipt of the full fee by the Quartermaster General. The Quartermaster General shall deposit all sums received for Legacy Life membership in a special fund called Legacy Life Membership Fund and shall issue a suitable Legacy Life Membership card.

Members-at-large: A member-at-large who is a life member may become a Legacy Life Member by submitting the applicable fee with the Legacy Life Membership acceptance form to the Department Quartermaster or to the National Headquarters in the manner prescribed by the National Council of Administration.

A member using the installment plan who dies before completing full level fee shall be cause for a refund of that part of the Legacy Live Level that have been received on request by Post or Department Quartermaster, or the post or family may complete the fee for that level of Legacy Life Membership.”

### **M-2**

Proposed by Department of Massachusetts

#### **ARTICLE II - POSTS**

##### **Sec. 208 – Change of Name.**

Amend Sec. 208 – Change of Name., Manual of Procedure, by adding the following as the last paragraph:

“In special circumstances the requirements above may be waived at the discretion of the National Commander-in-Chief with a written recommendation by the Department Commander of the Post seeking a waiver. All waiver requests must be accompanied by a written explanation of the special circumstances. The National Commander-in-Chief will grant or deny a waiver on a case by case basis. All decisions of the National Commander-in-Chief are final.”



**M-3**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE II – POSTS**

**Sec. 211 – Suspension and Revocation of Charter.**

Amend Sec. 211 – Suspension and Revocation of Charter., Manual of Procedure, under **1. Actions by the Commander-in-Chief-Suspension.**, by replacing the sentence with the following:

“The Commander-in-Chief may issue a Special Order directing the Department Commander to suspend a Post Charter.”

Under **2. Actions by the Commander-in-Chief-Revocation.**, b., replace “the Post Commander,” with “the Post, in the presence of the Department assigned administrative committee”.

Under paragraph f., add the following as a separate paragraph:

“Notwithstanding the provisions above, the Commander-in-Chief shall automatically revoke the Post Charter if, while under suspension, the Post fails to establish a meeting quorum or elect officers as required in Section 216.”

Under **3. Actions by the Department Commander-Suspension.**, a., replace with the following:

“a. The Department Commander shall issue a Special Order suspending a Post Charter which outlines the deficiencies and appoints an administrative committee consisting of three (3) to five (5) members. Pursuant to a written grant of powers and limitations, such committee shall supervise the business and affairs of the Post during the period of suspension. The acts and actions of the committee shall be subject to the approval or disapproval of the Department Commander.”

Replace d. with the following:

“d. The Department Commander shall give notice, in writing, of the time and place of the next scheduled meeting, in such manner as to reasonably reach the Post members at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the time set for the meeting. Such notice shall include a copy of the special order.”

Replace e. with the following:

“Following an initial suspension period as provided in this subsection, the Department Commander may lift or extend the suspension for an additional period of time not to exceed ninety (90) days; and shall notify the Commander-in-Chief in writing within two (2) days.”

Under **4. Actions by the Department Commander-Revocation.**, replace with the following:

**“4. Actions by the Administrative Committee**

- a. The administrative committee shall approve the expenditure or obligations of all funds and transfers of all property while the order of suspension is in effect. If provided in the Special Order, all funds, securities and other property of the Post may be placed under the custody and supervision of the Administrative Committee.
- b. All acts and actions shall be documented and summarized in a report to the Department Commander with a final recommendation.”

Add the following as No. 5:

**“5. Actions by the Department Commander—Revocation.**

The Department Commander may at any time during the suspension period, recommend revocation of the Post Charter to the Commander- in-Chief.”

**M-4**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group  
Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE II – POSTS**

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

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., Manual of Procedure, in the first paragraph, first sentence, by adding “Judge Advocate, Surgeon” before “Officer of the Day” and “Guard” after “Service Officer”.

In the second paragraph, fourth sentence, replace “sixty (60)” with “thirty (30)”.

**M-5**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group  
Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**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.**, **(5) Quartermaster.**, by removing “f” and relettering.

**M-6**

Proposed by Department of Virginia

**ARTICLE II - POSTS**

**Sec. 222 – Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.**

Amend Sec. 222 – Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions., Manual of Procedure, under c., first sentence, by replacing “the last meeting night in June” with “at a Post meeting no earlier than April and no later than June”.

**M-7**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS**

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

Amend Sec. 416 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., Manual of Procedure, in the second paragraph, last sentence, by replacing “sixty (60)” with “thirty (30)”.

**M-8**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS**

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

Amend Sec. 516 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., Manual of Procedure, in the second paragraph, in the second paragraph, last sentence, by replacing “sixty (60)” with “thirty (30)”.

**M-9**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS**

**Sec. 518 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.**

Amend Sec. 518 – Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under **(4) Quartermaster.**, g., second sentence, by removing “and a hard copy”.

Under **(5) Adjutant.**, c., second sentence, remove “and a hard copy”.

**M-10**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL**

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

Amend Sec. 616 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., Manual of Procedure, in the fourth sentence, by replacing “sixty (60)” with “thirty (30)”.

**M-11**

Proposed by Department of Kansas

**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-12**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE VII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 717 – Dues Reserve.**

Amend Sec. 717 – Dues Reserve., Manual of Procedure, in the first sentence, by removing “and Post”.

**M-13**

Proposed by Department of Connecticut

**ARTICLE VIII – UNIFORMS, BADGES, ETC.**

**Sec. 803 – Manufacture and Use of Seals, Emblems, Badges, Insignia and Uniforms.**

Amend Sec. 803 – Manufacture and Use of Seals, Emblems, Badges, Insignia and Uniforms., Manual of Procedure, under **Cap.**, by adding the following after the second sentence:

“Optional membership patches and lettering including city name, post name, years of office, *Veterans of Foreign Wars* spelled out, *Life Member* spelled out and *Charter Member* spelled out (must correspond with the Post numerals on the cap) are also authorized to be included on the cap.”

**M-14**

Proposed by Department of Washington

**ARTICLE IX - DISCIPLINE**

**Sec. 903 – Procedure for Disciplinary Actions.**

Amend Sec. 903 – Procedure for Disciplinary Actions., Manual of Procedure, under **(h) Procedure – Disciplinary Hearing Requested., 1. Appointment of Panel.**, in the first sentence, by replacing “Department” with “District”.

## **M-15**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

### **ARTICLE X – RULES OF ORDER**

#### **Sec. 1001 – Rules of Order Governing All Meetings.**

Amend Sec. 1001 – Rules of Order Governing All Meetings., Manual of Procedure, in the first paragraph, second sentence, by replacing “Demeter’s Manual of Parliamentary Law and Procedure” with “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition.”

In the last sentence, replace “Demeter’s” with “Robert’s”.

## **M-16**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

### **ARTICLE X – RULES OF ORDER**

#### **Sec. 1004 – Order of Business-Posts.**

Amend Sec. 1004 - Order of Business-Posts., Manual of Procedure, at the beginning, by adding “(a) Order of Business Traditional”. Add “Opening in due form” as no. 1 and renumber.

Add the following:

“(b) Order of Business Contemporary:

- “1. Call to order
2. Check dues cards
3. Roll call of officers
4. Read, refer membership applications
5. Read minutes
6. Quartermaster’s report
7. Report of Service Officer
8. Report on Comrades or the families of Comrades in distress
9. Committee report(s)
10. Unfinished business
11. New business
12. Good of the Order
13. Close meeting”

**M-17**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE XI – AUXILIARY**

**Sec. 1101 – Organization, Disbandment, and Transition of Auxiliaries.**

Amend Sec. 1101 – Organization, Disbandment, and Transition of Auxiliaries., Manual of Procedure, under **(f) Reports., (2) Department.**, by replacing “an itemized report of the financial and membership status” with “the last quarterly audit, membership status report, and such additional reports as may be required by the liaison committee”.

Under **(3) Districts, County Councils, Posts.**, in the first sentence, by replacing “an itemized report” and “of the financial and membership status of the auxiliary” with “the last quarterly audit, membership status report and such additional reports as may be required by the liaison committee.”

PROPOSED

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RITUAL

### **R-1 (Pages 2 - 3)**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **RITUAL**

#### **GENERAL RULES**

Amend Chapter Title **GENERAL RULES**, Ritual, under no. 13, (d), by replacing “regular” with “District, Department and National”.

### **R-2 (Pages 14 - 17)**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **RITUAL**

#### **OPENING POST CEREMONIES**

Amend Chapter Title **OPENING POST CEREMONIES**, Ritual, under the first “**Commander:**”, second sentence, by replacing “All persons not members of the VFW” with “Unauthorized guests”.

Remove the last sentence.

### **R-3 (Pages 18 - 19)**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **RITUAL**

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS (Post)**

Amend Chapter Title “**ORDER OF BUSINESS (Post)**”, Ritual, by replacing with “**ORDER OF BUSINESS – TRADITIONAL (Post)**”.

### **R-4**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **RITUAL**

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS – CONTEMPORARY (Post)**

Add a new Chapter Title and Section after Chapter Title “**ORDER OF BUSINESS (Post)**”, Ritual, with the following:

#### **“ORDER OF BUSINESS – CONTEMPORARY (Post)**

1. Call to order
2. Check dues cards
3. Roll call of officers
4. Read, refer membership applications

5. Read minutes
6. Quartermaster's report
7. Report of Service Officer
8. Report on Comrades or the families of Comrades in distress
9. Committee report(s)
10. Unfinished business
11. New business
12. Good of the Order
13. Close meeting

**R-5 (Pages 78 - 83)**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**RITUAL**

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE**

Amend Chapter Title **Memorial Day Service**, Ritual, under "Attest: N.P. Chipman, Adjutant General", in the first paragraph, fourth sentence, by replacing "Men" with "Members".



## BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

Section 1401 of the National By-Laws states:

“Any member in good standing, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National By-Laws; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention. Immediately following a Department Convention, the proposed amendments must be forwarded to National Headquarters.

A national officer may propose an amendment to the National By-Laws and forward the proposed amendment to the Adjutant General.

All proposed amendments will be available to each Post by the Adjutant General at least fifteen (15) days before the assembling of the National Convention.

Amendments require a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at the National Convention.

All amendments adopted at any National Convention according to the provisions of this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after the final adjournment of the National Convention at which they were adopted, unless specifically stated otherwise in the amendment.”

## MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL AMENDMENTS

Section 1401 of the Manual of Procedure states:

“The Manual of Procedure and Ritual may be amended by the Council of Administration by a majority vote of the members present at a stated meeting as prescribed in Section 622 of the By-Laws.

The Manual of Procedure and Ritual may be amended by the National Convention by a majority vote of the delegates present provided that such amendments have been forwarded, through channels; have been properly approved; and, have been proposed by a Post, a District, a Department, or recommended by a National officer. All proposed amendments will be available to Posts by the Adjutant General at least fifteen (15) days before the assembling of the National Convention for those amendments being proposed for consideration at the convention.”

The Manual of Procedure contains material in the By-Laws as well as additional explanatory material.

A change in the By-Laws automatically changes the Manual of Procedure and it is not necessary to act individually on the corresponding Manual change.

**118TH NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**ALL PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**  
**JULY 22-26, 2017**  
**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

**FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION**

- 201 CORRECT THE VFW'S MEMBERSHIP STATUS PROGRAM
- 202 ABOLISH FEDERAL UNRELATED BUSINESS INTEREST TAXES ON VETERAN SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

**GENERAL**

- 301 WORLD WAR ONE MEMORIAL
- 302 BELLS OF BALANGIGA
- 303 ELIGIBILITY FOR THE VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL
- 304 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS RIDER'S GROUPS

**NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

- 401 END SEQUESTRATION
- 402 SUPPORT THE TROOPS
- 403 KEEP DEFENSE BUDGET RELEVANT
- 404 SECURE AMERICA'S BORDERS
- 405 HALT ROGUE NATION WMD PROGRAMS
- 406 SUPPORT BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS
- 407 PRESERVE THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE
- 408 LINK MILITARY PAY INCREASES TO PRIVATE-SECTOR INCREASES
- 409 INCREASE AND EXTEND TSP MATCH
- 410 SEXUAL ASSAULT INCIDENT REPORTING AND TREATMENT
- 411 ENSURE DOD COMPLIANCE WITH TAP MANDATE
- 412 ESTABLISH THE ARMED FORCES UNIVERSITY
- 413 SUPPORT STABILITY AND RELIEF FOR MILITARY FAMILIES
- 414 PROVIDE FULL CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY AND VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION
- 415 REVISE UNFAVORABLE DISCHARGE REVIEW PROCEDURES
- 416 REPEAL SBP/DIC OFFSET
- 417 PROVIDE EQUITY IN BENEFITS TO ALL RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS
- 418 SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN
- 419 SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- 420 SUPPORT THE STATE OF ISRAEL
- 421 PROTECT POW/MIA FULL ACCOUNTING MISSION FUNDING
- 422 CALL FOR MORE UNILATERAL POW/MIA ACTIONS BY VIETNAM
- 423 CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF DOD'S POW/MIA MISSION

## VETERANS SERVICE

- 601 ADEQUATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET
- 602 VA PHARMACEUTICAL CO-PAYMENTS
- 603 COMPETITIVE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR VA AND DOD HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS
- 604 VA MEDICARE and TRICARE REIMBURSEMENT
- 605 CONSIDER TREATMENT FOR A PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED CONDITION AS A CLAIM FOR VA COMPENSATION
- 606 EXTENDING GULF WAR PRESUMPTIONS AND HEALTH CARE BEYOND 2021 AND TO AFGHANISTAN THEATER VETERANS
- 607 NURSING HOME ELIGIBILITY
- 608 TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HEALTH CARE
- 609 PTSD AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE
- 610 VA HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS
- 611 EXPAND VA CAREGIVER BENEFITS
- 612 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY CARE OPTIONS FOR VETERANS
- 613 EXTEND SERVICE CONNECTION PRESUMPTION TO BLAST SURVIVORS
- 614 TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION
- 615 HEARING LOSS COMPENSATION
- 616 VA CLAIMS WORKLOAD
- 617 IMPROVE EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS
- 618 BURIAL PLOT ALLOWANCE
- 619 TOXIC EXPOSURES
- 620 HOMELESS VETERANS PRIORITIES
- 621 ENSURE VETERAN SUCCESS IN EDUCATION
- 622 VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY
- 623 SUPPORT VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS
- 624 VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- 625 IMPROVE VA & DOD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR HEPATITIS B
- 626 EQUITABLE EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS
- 627 MEDICAL CANNABIS TREATMENTS BY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PRACTITIONERS
- 628 DISABLED VETERAN LEAVE

**TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION**  
**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23**

Chairman: Glen M. Gardner, Jr., Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3359, TX  
 Vice Chairman: William A. Thien, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3281, IN

This committee considers all resolutions involving financial and organizational policies and procedure and makes recommendations thereon.

No. and Dept.	Title	Convention Action
201	OH    CORRECT THE VFW'S MEMBERSHIP STATUS PROGRAM .....	_____
	BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Post Member Status Program be amended to include all paid up members in a Post.	
202	LA    ABOLISH FEDERAL UNRELATED BUSINESS INTEREST TAXES ON VETERAN SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS .....	_____
	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation be tasked by the National Commander and the Council of Administration to advise Congress to abolish the Federal Unrelated Business Interest Tax in recognition that funds from bingo and pull tab operations are used expressly for veteran support, patriotic education to young students, charitable events, aiding the elderly, supporting disabled and needy veterans and for administering the operating of these charitable gaming operations; and	
	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation advise Congress to abolish the unfair Unrelated Business Interest Tax for veteran support organizations that are chartered by Congress.	

**TO COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS**  
**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23**

Chairman: Larry W. Rivers, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 1736, LA  
 Vice Chairman: John A. Biedrzycki, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 418, PA  
 Vice Chairman: Walter G. Hogan, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 6498, WI  
 Vice Chairman: Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr., Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 6498, WI

This committee considers resolutions of a general nature, including those affecting the veteran only as a part of a special group and those not falling within the category of other committees.

No. and Dept.	Title		Convention Action
301	CIC	WORLD WAR ONE MEMORIAL..... BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States supports the U.S. WWI Centennial Commission in its mission to honor, educate, and commemorate the Great War; and  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States endorses building a National World War One Memorial in Washington, D.C., as a lasting tribute to the bravery, courage, commitment, service, and sacrifice exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces.	_____
302	PAC	BELLS OF BALANGIGA..... BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Pacific Areas, in recognition of the 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bataan Death March and the historic military ties and camaraderie between Americans and Filipinos, and given that accurate information on the history of the two bells now exists, that the President of the United States in collaboration with the Congress of the United States, take action to return the two Catholic Church Bells now on display on F. E. Warren Air Force Base (formerly Fort D. A. Russell) in Cheyenne, Wyoming to the Church of San Lorenzo de Martir in the town of Balangiga, Province of Eastern Samar, Republic of the Philippines.	_____
303	VA	ELIGIBILITY FOR THE VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL..... BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, petition Congress to change the present laws so that those veterans who served in Vietnam from November 1, 1955 to June 30, 1958 be eligible for the AFEM/Vietnam Service Medal.	_____

304    CIC    VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS RIDER'S GROUPS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commander-in-Chief, utilizing Veterans of Foreign Wars Rider's Group (VFWRG) Advisory Committee recommendations, initiate VFWRG Policy reform, unrestricted by Resolution 308 of the 111<sup>th</sup> National Convention and in accordance with current VFW National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

PROPOSED

**TO COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23**

Chairman: James E. Nier, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 8919, TX  
Vice Chairman: John E. Moon, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 2873, OH

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON POW/MIA**

**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23**

Chairman: John Furgess, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 1970, TN  
Vice Chairman: Paul A. Spera, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 144, MA

This committee considers all resolutions pertaining to national defense, military policy, foreign affairs, POW/MIAs and civil defense and makes recommendations thereon.

No. and Dept.	Title	Convention Action
401	CIC	END SEQUESTRATION..... BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we demand that the United States Congress eliminate sequestration.
402	CIC	SUPPORT THE TROOPS..... BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the Commander-in-Chief and the brave men and women in uniform who defend our nation, and that we call upon Congress to end sequestration and provide our military and the nation’s intelligence agencies the necessary resources to identify, target and destroy our enemies wherever they exist.
403	CIC	KEEP DEFENSE BUDGET RELEVANT ..... BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge Congress to end sequestration and to provide the necessary funding equal to not less than 5 percent of GDP for the readiness, training, modernization, healthcare, and quality of life initiatives for the armed forces of today and tomorrow.
404	CIC	SECURE AMERICA’S BORDERS..... BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to continue to fast-track funding so that the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice can expedite all initiatives to secure America’s borders from all threats, foreign and domestic, and for the U.S. Government to continue to aggressively identify, confine and deport illegal aliens who commit crimes.

- 405 CIC HALT ROGUE NATION WMD PROGRAMS .....  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the Administration and Congress to do all within their power to halt the nuclear weapons development programs and transfer of nuclear weapons technology and material to rogue nations and nonaligned terrorist organizations; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support and encourage the U.S. Government to continue to impose unilateral sanctions as required, and to penalize all American companies and corporations that conduct business with North Korea and Iran.
- 406 CIC SUPPORT BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS.....  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon Congress to continue funding a fully integrated ballistic missile defense system to protect our country, our deployed military forces, and our allies.
- 407 CIC PRESERVE THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE .....  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we will redouble our efforts to work with Congress and the Administration to preserve the All-Volunteer Force, to end the sequester, and to help bring some permanent financial stability to a military that will continue to operate in a very dangerous and unpredictable world.
- 408 CIC LINK MILITARY PAY INCREASES TO PRIVATE-SECTOR INCREASES.....  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon Congress to maintain military base pay comparability with private-sector wages by matching annual military pay raise percentages to annual ECI increases.
- 409 CIC INCREASE AND EXTEND TSP MATCH .....  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we will work with Congress to increase the government’s TSP contribution to a total of 6 percent beginning in Year 3 of service, and extend the match throughout an individual’s military career.
- 410 CIC SEXUAL ASSAULT INCIDENT REPORTING AND TREATMENT .....  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge DOD to continue strengthening its “Zero Tolerance” campaign, particularly in efforts of prevention, by encouraging all sexual assault and harassment survivors to report their attacks, to provide victims with proper medical and mental health care, and to aggressively investigate every reported incident and punish attackers as appropriate.



- 411 CIC ENSURE DOD COMPLIANCE WITH TAP MANDATE.....  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Defense to include the additional curriculum tracks in its mandatory pre-separation classroom counseling, and to ensure nationally-accredited Veterans' Service Organizations are afforded consistent access to transitioning service members; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request Congress to require DOD and its partner agencies to periodically update their TAP information and procedures to maintain program relevancy, and to expand access to TAP resources for veterans after separating from the military.
- 412 CIC ESTABLISH THE ARMED FORCES UNIVERSITY .....  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to establish the Armed Forces University for the purpose of conferring accredited college degrees on military-trained personnel to improve preparedness for the civilian workforce.
- 413 CIC SUPPORT STABILITY AND RELIEF FOR MILITARY FAMILIES .....  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the Department of Defense and Congress to review and strengthen programs and policies that support military family readiness and meet our nation's obligations to those who serve and those who serve alongside them.
- 414 CIC PROVIDE FULL CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY AND VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION.....  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation for the full concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation without offset and regardless of rating percentage.
- 415 CIC REVISE UNFAVORABLE DISCHARGE REVIEW PROCEDURES.....  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to establish a process by which Military Department Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records will presume administrative irregularity and place the burden of proof on DOD to show that the discharge was just for those cases where the veteran claims service-related PTSD, TBI or sexual trauma as a mitigating factor in requesting an upgrade to his or her military discharge.
- 416 CIC REPEAL SBP/DIC OFFSET.....  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to repeal the Survivor's Benefit Plan and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset.

- 417 CIC PROVIDE EQUITY IN BENEFITS TO ALL RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS... \_\_\_\_\_  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to eliminate the discrepancies that discount the dedication and sacrifice of our Reserve Component members serving at home and abroad.
- 418 CIC SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Administration and Congress to strictly adhere to the concepts of the Taiwan Relations Act by approving the sale of state-of-the-art military equipment, weapons and technology to maintain an adequate defense capability; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the Administration and Congress to support the admission of the Republic of China on Taiwan into the United Nations, and to provide the President of Taiwan the same respect and privileges due other visiting Heads of State.
- 419 CIC SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the U.S. Government to maintain a substantial military presence in the Republic of Korea, and to increase military aid and assistance though modern weaponry and technology to help promote peace and stability in the region.
- 420 CIC SUPPORT THE STATE OF ISRAEL ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the United States Government to continue to support the State of Israel through the sale of advanced weaponry and technology to help them maintain an adequate defense capability in order to survive as a nation.
- 421 CIC PROTECT POW/MIA FULL ACCOUNTING MISSION FUNDING ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon Congress to fully fund the requested amounts for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and all supporting organizations involved in the Full Accounting Mission.

422 CIC CALL FOR MORE UNILATERAL POW/MIA ACTIONS BY VIETNAM .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we encourage Vietnam to continue to expand the number and  
frequency of Vietnamese-led recovery operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in this cooperative effort, that we urge  
Vietnam to continue to authorize its officials to locate and release  
immediately to the United States all records relating to Americans  
missing from the Vietnam War, and to urge the Vietnamese people to  
turn over the remains of Americans or information on American burial  
sites, as well as any reports of live American servicemen.

423 KS CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF DOD's POW/MIA MISSION .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
urges the Congress to establish a committee or committees to oversee  
The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such committees report annually to the  
public and concerned groups the progress and plans of the Defense  
POW/MIA Accounting Agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all committee actions are non-partisan  
and that this issue is never held hostage for political gain.

**TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICE RESOLUTIONS**  
**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23**

Chairman: John W. Smart, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 1503, VA  
 Vice Chairman: Gary L. Kurpius, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 9365, AK

This committee considers all resolutions pertaining to the Department of Veterans Affairs laws, policy and procedure and laws providing rehabilitation benefits for veterans. It also considers resolutions pertaining to veterans' employment, civil service and housing problems and resolutions that require legislative action and makes recommendations thereon.

No. and Dept.	Title	Convention Action
601	CIC ADEQUATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET .....	_____
	BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress of the United States authorize appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs which fully fund and maintain the integrity and enhancement of veteran entitlement programs and health care system.	
602	CIC VA PHARMACEUTICAL CO-PAYMENTS .....	_____
	BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose increases in VA pharmaceutical co-payments; and	
	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress must exempt preventive medicines from VA pharmaceutical co-payment requirements.	
603	CIC COMPETITIVE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR VA AND DOD HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS .....	_____
	BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation and regulations authorizing reimbursement rates for VA and DOD health care programs and other programs, which provide medical care for retired and disabled veterans to be competitive with private health insurance.	
604	CIC VA MEDICARE and TRICARE REIMBURSEMENT .....	_____
	BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support enactment into law of legislation authorizing VA to receive reimbursement for the cost of non-service connected care that is provided to veterans who are enrolled in Medicare or TRICARE.	
605	CIC CONSIDER TREATMENT FOR A PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED CONDITION AS A CLAIM FOR VA COMPENSATION .....	_____
	BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to enact legislation requiring that treatment by	

the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for a condition or disease recognized as presumptively service connected will be considered to be an informal claim for service connection for compensation purposes.

- 606    CIC    EXTENDING GULF WAR PRESUMPTIONS AND HEALTH CARE BEYOND 2021 AND TO AFGHANISTAN THEATER VETERANS..... \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress and the VA must support research to verify whether service members who served in Afghanistan are subjected to the same environmental hazards as those who served in Iraq, so that appropriate benefits, including eligibility for compensation based on undiagnosed illnesses, and medical care eligibility, will be provided retroactive to the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that while research is ongoing, allow veterans who served in the Afghanistan theater of operations access to the Gulf War Registry Health Exam; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA must permanently extend presumptive disability compensation benefits for Gulf War veterans to ensure all service members who serve in Southwest Asia theater of military operations are afforded this protection.
- 607    CIC    NURSING HOME ELIGIBILITY ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to establish a standard VA nursing home entitlement for all veterans.
- 608    CIC    TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HEALTH CARE ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to provide sufficient funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that appropriate screening, diagnostic services, treatment and life-long case management services are available to every veteran suffering from conditions associated with blast injuries, blunt trauma, motor vehicle accidents, and falls are at risk for TBI; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve research pertaining to screening methods, diagnostic tools, and treatment of conditions associated with blast injuries, blunt trauma, motor vehicle accidents, and falls are at risk for TBI to ensure veterans who have experienced a TBI receive effective health care.
- 609    CIC    PTSD AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue to adequately staff VA mental health treatment and research programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to dedicate adequate resources to address the alarming rate at which Veterans commit suicide.

610 CIC VA HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we acknowledge VA has improved the care and services it provides women veterans, but we urge VA to continue to monitor and enhance health care services available to women veterans at all VA medical facilities and expand its designated women’s health program to mental health care to ensure veterans have access to mental health care providers who understand women-specific mental health conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to improve outreach to older women veterans, allow women to choose the gender of their VA health care providers and properly train VA’s workforce to treat women veterans with the respect and dignity they have earned and deserve.

611 CIC EXPAND VA CAREGIVER BENEFITS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to expand eligibility for the VA Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program to include veterans of all eras; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to fully align the VA Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program with the DOD SCAADL program by including in its eligibility criteria veterans who require caregiver services as a result of serious illnesses incurred in the line of duty.

612 CIC SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY CARE OPTIONS FOR VETERANS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the VFW, that Congress must establish a single, sustainable and veteran-centric community care program that expands VA’s community care authorities and ensures veterans are able to receive the timely, high quality, comprehensive, and veteran-centric health care they have earned and deserve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA comply with federal prompt payment requirements and incentivize private sector health care providers to participate in its community care program, while ensuring veterans are not held financially liable for services furnished through such program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA must remain the guarantor and coordinator of care for enrolled veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the VFW oppose privatizing the VA health care system or eroding VA's ability to provide direct care to veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress and VA must furnish and conduct proper outreach to ensure veterans are fully aware of their health care options.

613 CIC EXTEND SERVICE CONNECTION PRESUMPTION TO BLAST SURVIVORS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to approve a presumption of service connection for conditions associated with blast exposure.

614 CIC TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, we urge Congress and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grant service connection on a presumptive basis for any veteran diagnosed after discharge with hearing loss or tinnitus when the evidence shows that the veteran participated in combat or worked in a position or occupational specialty likely to cause acoustic trauma.

615 CIC HEARING LOSS COMPENSATION .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to amend the Schedule for Rating Disabilities to provide a minimum compensable evaluation for any service connected hearing loss for which a hearing aid is medically indicated.

616 CIC VA CLAIMS WORKLOAD.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Congress require VA to accept private medical evidence and opinions in lieu of VA examinations whenever they are sufficient for rating purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to continue to exercise its oversight capacity and provide the resources necessary to hire, train and sustain a workforce sufficient to overcome the workload and provide quality and timely service to those claiming benefits or appealing decisions from VA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress continues its oversight of VA IT initiatives to ensure that they are constructive, relevant and effective in

streamlining claims processing and improving quality of entitlement decisions.

617 CIC IMPROVE EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to increase DEA benefits to reflect the rising cost of education, with future increases indexed to reflect the average cost of attendance as reported by the Department of Education.

618 CIC BURIAL PLOT ALLOWANCE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Congress increase all burial benefits to what the *Independent Budget* recommends: the service connected burial benefit, non-service connected burial benefit and the plot allowance for those veterans who do not have access to a state or national veterans cemetery should be increased to \$6,160, \$1,918, and \$1,150 respectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the service connected burial benefit, non-service connected burial benefit and the plot allowance for those veterans who have access to a state or national veterans cemetery but chose burial in a private cemetery should be increased to \$2,793, \$854, and \$1,150 respectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should provide the resources required to meet burial needs of all veterans who have served their country so honorably and faithfully.

619 CIC TOXIC EXPOSURES .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to invest adequate resources to study, diagnose, and treat conditions and illnesses associated with toxic exposures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress ensures that the Department of Veterans Affairs extends presumptive service connection to veterans suffering from any conditions or illnesses found to be associated with exposure to toxic substances in the line of duty.

620 CIC HOMELESS VETERANS PRIORITIES .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President and Congress to continue to address veterans' homelessness by increasing the availability of affordable housing, expanding educational and employment opportunities and training and providing gender-specific services; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA should periodically adjust Grant and Per Diem program rates for inflation to ensure sufficient operation of homeless veteran assistance programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA compensation and non-service connected pension should not be considered countable income by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in determining program eligibility.

621 CIC ENSURE VETERAN SUCCESS IN EDUCATION.....

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, urge Congress to ensure proper oversight of VA's educational benefit programs by developing quality metrics with which to demonstrate student veteran success in higher education, and close financial loopholes through which certain academic programs can exploit GI Bill reimbursement models; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress ensure veterans receive equitable access to benefits like in-state tuition and quality pre-enrollment educational information to ensure veterans are academically and financially prepared to succeed in higher education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States work to extend full GI Bill benefits for all combat veterans and preserve quality GI Bill benefits for all current conflict veterans and future conflict veterans to ensure they have access to quality education assistance programs.

622 CIC VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to change the eligibility delimiting date for VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program by eliminating the 12-year-delimiting date for eligibility to Chapter 31 benefits and allow all veterans with employment impediments or problems with independent living to qualify for VR&E services for life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VA must restructure performance measures to emphasize long-term rehabilitation versus the current short-term indicators of success. Furthermore, VR&E should continually follow up with veterans considered to be rehabilitated to ensure that the rehabilitation and employment placement plans have been successful; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA streamlines eligibility and entitlement to VR&E programs to provide more timely intervention and assistance to all disabled veterans.

623 CIC SUPPORT VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support viable and effective veterans employment and training systems, such as the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) program and other Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to improve and enforce federal veteran-hiring mandates for contractors who do business with the federal government as outlined in Title 38 USC 4212; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal veteran hiring initiatives and programs must be held accountable for the effectiveness of the services provided and funding should be adjusted to reflect abilities in creating long-term meaningful careers for veterans, and state agencies that receive federal funding must be held to the same standards and report to Congress on the success of veteran hiring initiatives.

624 CIC VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP .....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Congress expand entrepreneurial education and networking programs for veterans via veterans small business centers and other entrepreneurship programs funded through the Small Business Administration in order to help achieve the federal government’s three-percent veterans contracting goal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress expand veteran’s and disabled veteran’s access to capital by expanding direct loan programs through the Small Business Administration in order to help achieve the federal government’s three-percent veterans contracting goal; but such programs should never come at the expense of other earned veterans’ benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress hold VA accountable for its duty to properly verify veteran entrepreneurs to help achieve the federal government’s three-percent veterans contracting goal.

625 HI IMPROVE VA & DOD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR HEPATITIS B .....

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to take steps to improve Hepatitis B screening, follow-up testing and treatment among veterans born between 1945 and 1980; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Department of Defense to codify policies for retention and discharge of military personnel with

chronic Hepatitis B infection to educate and ensure Hepatitis B policies are documented, transparent, equitable, and updated as medical capabilities, technologies, evidence-based practices, and DOD policy considerations evolve.

- 626 PAC EQUITABLE EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS..... \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to right this wrong that singles out dependents living and studying in the Philippines.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to ensure eligible dependents who are studying in the Philippines receive equitable treatment under the Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program.
- 627 WI MEDICAL CANNABIS TREATMENTS BY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PRACTITIONERS ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States that we support the use of Medical Cannabis for Veterans being treated by the Veterans Administration.
- 628 WV DISABLED VETERAN LEAVE ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States that we petition Congress to enact legislation and policy which would retro activate qualifying federal employees to receive "Disabled Veteran Leave".

**TO COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION RULES**  
**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23**

Chairman: John M. Carney, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 4643, FL

Vice Chairman: Clifford G. Olson, Jr., Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 144, MA