May 8, 2020

As you know, COVID-19 has changed so many things in our lives, from the way we handle business, to the way we shop and even how we can socialize with family and friends. We have had to cancel meetings and conventions all across all levels of our Organization and National is no different. The VFW has cancelled the National Convention and therefore, we will not be conducting business as usual.

The VFW Auxiliary follows what the VFW does in most aspects of the Organization; however, there are two major differences that call for your attention.

1. The VFW has 53 National Council Members, one from each Department, plus the Immediate Past Commander in Chief. The Auxiliary, per vote of our Council, did not follow them in this decision. Therefore, we only have 29 National Council Members representing all of our Departments, plus 4 Jr. Past National Presidents.
2. The other major difference is our Officers. The Auxiliary starts our line at Guard; the VFW starts their line at Jr. Vice Commander. We vote by Delegates every year at the National Convention for who our Guard will be. The VFW decides by Conference who their Jr. Vice designee will be and then they are elected by the delegation at the National Convention.

National President Peggy Haake appointed a committee to make a recommendation to our National Council of Administration on how to handle voting, Resolutions and the Revisions to both the National Bylaws and Ritual. The National Council of Administration voted to hold a one-day mini-convention in Kansas City to hold our election and our installation.

If we are allowed to gather in groups of 60 or more people in July, we will bring the National Line Officers, the three candidates for National Guard, the 2020-2021 Council of Administration, the Judge and Credentials Chairman to Kansas City for a one-day meeting and installation.

The only people allowed in the meeting will be invited or Headquarters staff. Due to safety and social distancing, we will not allow anyone else in the room. We will conduct this meeting via Zoom and information will be provided to Departments and convention voting members on how to participate. We also plan to stream the meeting for all members to view, if they wish.

In an effort to be fair to everyone, we will send out ballots for the office of Guard only, as no other offices are contested.

- These ballots will be sent to Departments to distribute to their Auxiliaries by any means they wish.
- All Auxiliaries will have their full voting strength provided they have entered their Delegates in MALTA by June 30, 2020.
- All Auxiliaries will get their ballots to their Department by July 17, 2020.
- The Department will determine to whom in the Department these ballots will be sent.
• The Department President, Secretary and Treasurer will have access to a tally sheet.
• The tally sheet will list all your Auxiliaries and their Delegate strength, in accordance with Section 305 in the National Bylaws.
• On the designated date and time of the meeting, we will call each Department by name e.g., Alabama, and the President will cast the votes for that Department.
• In the absence of the President, the Sr. Vice and/or Jr. Vice President may cast the votes. All other members who have their own vote will then be called upon to cast their vote.

When the elections are complete, the installation will take place. Any member, who is to be installed and is not at the one-day meeting, will be installed virtually.

Following the installation, there will be a budget meeting with the Budget Chairman and the National Council of Administration for 2020-2021.

In the event we are not allowed to have 60 or more people in one location by July, we will bring the National Line Officers, the three candidates for National Guard, the Credentials Chairman and the Judge to Kansas City; all others will be involved in the meeting electronically.

On the subject of Resolutions, Bylaws and Ritual Revisions, the committee did not feel Resolutions and Revisions to the National Bylaws should be voted on without the benefit of our members attending the convention. We will hold all Resolutions and Revisions to the National Bylaws until the 2021 National Convention in Baltimore.

The committee felt the Ritual Revisions were more housekeeping in nature and recommended we put these through. The Council of Administration concurred. In the interest of fairness to all members, and as the Ritual is only voted on every five (5) years, we will bring up for discussion any written objection/question to any specific change to the Ritual that was put through in 2020, at the National Convention in 2021. We will only discuss any objections/questions received in writing by March 31, 2021.

On a positive note, our premier convention sponsor, AmWINS, offered to let us keep their sponsorship money. We have agreed to use those funds to mail one Year-End Book to all Auxiliaries along with the 2020-2021 National Program Book. We will also mail these to all National Line Officers, incoming and outgoing National Council Members, Past National Presidents, incoming and outgoing National Ambassadors, Conference Coaches and up to four copies to each Department (Incoming and Outgoing President, Secretary and Treasurer).

We would like to thank the committee and the Council of Administration for your diligence in making these decisions. It has been our effort to make this as fair and transparent as possible to all our membership. We truly value each and every one of you. We are very concerned for your health and want to do what is best for all. Thank you for all you do each and every day for our Veterans and for our Organization.

Loyally,

Peggy Haake
National President

PH:abp