1. **GENERAL ORDERS:** Are to be read at the Post Meeting and posted in your Post.

2. **2016 STATE CONVENTION:** The 95th Annual Iowa State Convention will be June 2 thru June 5, 2016 at the Grand Harbor Resort & Waterpark Hotel, 350 Bell St, Dubuque, Iowa 52001.

3. **CONVENTION BANQUET:** A Social Mixer will begin at 6 pm in the pre-function area and the Banquet will begin at 7:05 PM on June 4, 2016 in Meeting Rooms 4/5, at the Grand Harbor Resort Hotel, 350 Bell St, Dubuque, IA 52001.

   The theme for the Banquet is a **Masquerade Ball**, a costume or formal wear (suit & tie, cocktail dress), will be the dress code.

4. **IOWA GRAND COOTIE CONVENTION:** The Iowa Grand Cootie Convention will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at the Grand Harbor Resort Hotel, 350 Bell Street, Dubuque, IA 52001. The Convention will begin at 10 am in Salon A.

5. **ARREARAGES, DEFICIENCIES AND OMISSIONS:** Section 213 of the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedures & Rituals – Any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to District, Department and National for any fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

6. **CAMP DONATIONS:** If your Post or Auxiliary would like to donate to Camp Sunnyside and Camp Courageous bring your check to VFW State Convention. They will be presented at the Joint Session on Friday June 3, 2016 starting at 1 pm.

7. **FLAG DAY:** All VFW Posts are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day June 14, 2016 and to conduct a ceremony/program.
8. **REMINDER - IMPORTANT TASKS TO ACCOMPLISH BEFORE STATE CONVENTION:**

1) Ensure Hospital, Voice of Democracy, Disaster Fund, & National Home contributions, Post assessments and Convention registrations, State & National, have been paid. Make sure all payments have been remitted.

2) Ensure all Quarterly reports of audit are filed with the Department.

3) Be sure your completely filled out Post & District election reports have been filed with National and the Department!

4) Make sure the Department has your list of Delegates for the upcoming elections at State Convention.

9. **SPECIAL RECRUITING AWARD:** State Commander Holden is having a Special Recruiting Award, a working model .22 caliber Henry lever action rifle or if you do not want the rifle you will receive $350 cash. Everyone who has recruited at least one member prior to March 21, 2016 will get one ticket into the drawing, if you have 20 you will get 2 tickets and 40 members 3 tickets. Starting March 21, 2016, for each new or recovered (reinstate) member you recruit you will have one ticket put into the drawing, 10 members, 10 chances to win. The drawing will take place at Flying Squadron using the recruiting list as of June 30, 2016.

10. **MEMBERSHIP:** Congratulations to the following District & 50 Posts for achieving 100% or better: **District 1 – 100%:** Post 1565, 2271, 2537, 2561, 3508, 3949, 5166 & 6414 **District 2:** Post 5234 & 6174 **District 3:** Post 1886, 3896, 4069, 5661 & 6779 **District 4:** Post 1797, 2237, 4716 & 8876 **District 5:** Post 674, 738, 3519, 5242, 8142, 8174, 8879, 9662, 9668, & 11517 **District 6:** Post 1899 & 5060 **District 7:** Post 5510, 8998 & 11355 **District 8:** Post 1750, 3159, 6129, 6537, 6960 & 7373 **District 9:** Post 508, 2440, 3771, 5139, 5603, 6637, & 11503 **District 10:** Post 5232 & 6161.

The Department is at 96.29% as of May 31, 2016. We are in 4th place in the Big Ten and 30th place out of 54 Departments in membership. This is the year we make 100% so let’s roll up our sleeves and get busy on our recruiting efforts and do not forget the new members you signed up last year and get them to renew their membership.

11. **ALL-STATE POST COMMANDERS & POST QUARTERMasters:**

Congratulations to the following Posts for making the All-State team:

**Captain:** Post 738, Des Moines, Commander Stuart Juarez, Quartermaster Michael Borah

**Post 2440,** Independence, Commander Dennis Ham, Quartermaster Robert Hughes

**Post 9662,** Des Moines, Commander Joe Johnson, Quartermaster Ron Koontz

**Post 9668,** Urbandale/Johnston, Commander Robert Forbes, Quartermaster Larry Cramer

12. **VFW IOWA LICENSE PLATES:** We did not get the 500 paid applications required by the Iowa DOT to begin making the plates. As a result, our plate has been revoked by the DOT. If you sent in an application a refund check was sent to you.
13. **ELECTION REPORTS:** The Election Report of Post Officers for 2016 - 2017 year should have been sent in by this time. If your Report of Election is not received in Department Headquarters by 1 June 2016, your Post Charter may be suspended by National Headquarters and the Department Commander can recommend that your Post Charter be revoked for failure to submit a properly completed Post Election Report. Make 3 copies of the PROPERLY COMPLETED REPORT, keep one copy, and send 1 copy to the District Commander and one copy to Department Adjutant/Quartermaster so that we can have the 2016-2017 Roster Books printed and distributed in a timely manner.

14. **INSTALLATION OF POST OFFICERS:** Sec. 217 of the National By-Laws & Manual of Procedures states “Post officers shall be installed in their respective offices prior to the convening of the Department Convention, but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed.”

15. **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES REPORT:** Send all Community Activity Reports to Chairman, Danny L. White, 1309 SE University Ave., #207, Waukee, Iowa 50263, PH# 515-369-9096, or email iavfwcars@gmail.com. Please use the new form when reporting your Post activities.

16. **117th NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars 117th National Convention will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina on July 23 - 27, 2016. Reservations can now be made on the VFW National Headquarters website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), go to the “News & Events” link and then click on 117th National Convention. You will also find lots of information about this year’s National Convention.

17. **REGISTRATION - V.F.W. NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The Post Adjutant or Quartermaster should have received the Registration packet in the mail. Posts are urged to complete and mail registration forms and payment of delegate fees in accordance with the requirements of Section 222 of the National Bylaws, which mandates each Post to register at least one delegate to the V.F.W. National Convention. Register a Delegate now for $25.00. Do not mail the forms to the Department; it should be mailed to the address on the form or electronically on the VFW National website Online Membership System (OMS). Please email or snail mail a copy of the confirmation to Department Headquarters so that we can update the District Status Report.

18. **BUDDY POPPIES:** Place your orders *EARLY, AT LEAST 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR DISTRIBUTION DATE.* Every Post should be able to receive donations for at least 500 Poppies, to qualify for All State Award your Post must purchase 1,000 poppies. Many Posts are not sending their orders in early enough to receive them prior to their scheduled date. GET THEM IN AT LEAST 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR DISTRIBUTION DATE.

19. **DEFECTIVE BUDDY POPPIES:** For adjustment purposes, it is necessary to report all quality problems and shortages concerning the buddy poppies to Quentin Carroll (816) 968-1155 or QCarroll@vfw.org, in the VFW Programs Department, within 30 days of receiving the order.

After receiving your poppy order, you will need to check it as soon as possible for defective poppies and any shortages. After 30 days, no adjustments will be made.
If a Post fails to report that they haven’t received their Buddy Poppy order within 90 days from the date of the invoice to their Department Headquarters, they will not be replaced.

20. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

*Department of Iowa 95th Annual State Convention* will be June 2 - 5, 2016 at the Grand Harbor Resort Hotel, 350 Bell St., Dubuque, IA 52001. Room rates are $80 Thursday & Friday night, $129 Saturday night, plus tax. For each additional person there will be a $10 charge.

*117th VFW National Convention* will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina on July 23 - 27, 2016. The Department of Iowa will be staying at the Holiday Inn Charlotte-Center City, 230 North College Street, Charlotte, NC 28202. Room rates are $159 a night.

*2016 Fall Pow-Wow* will be October 7 - 9, 2016 at Lakeside Casino Hotel, 777 Casino Drive Osceola, IA 50213. Room rates are not available at this time.

*2016 Big Ten Conference* will be October 20 – 23, 2016 at the Radisson Hotel, 100 West Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007. Room rates are $109 a night.

*Department of Iowa 96th Annual State Convention* will be June 1 – 4, 2017 at the 5 Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, 205 W. 4th St, Waterloo, IA 50701. Room rates at the Ramada Inn are $95.99 plus tax.

21. **THANK YOU:** I wish to thank all the officers and members of the VFW Department of Iowa Posts that worked so faithfully and diligently to accomplish their 100% goals in all the programs for this year. We still need to work on membership and I encourage you to please get out there and finish this year strong.

By Order of:

*Travis W. Holden*

Department Commander
VFW Department of Iowa

OFFICIAL: *Jerry Black*

State Adjutant-Quartermaster
VFW Department of Iowa

TH/jb