



Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New Jersey  
171 Jersey Street Bldg 5, Trenton, N.J. 08611 (609) 393-1929 adjutant@njvfw.com

**GENERAL ORDER#1            2024 / 2025**

1. Having been elected Department Commander and having been installed in office in accordance with the By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.
  
2. The following officers have been duly elected and installed by the 105th Department Convention and will be accorded the recognition due them:

Senior Vice Commander  
Jon Hinker Post 6063

Junior Vice Commander  
Juan Class Post 3525

Quartermaster  
Ken Hagemann Post 12173

Chaplain  
Paul Thompson Post 6699

Judge Advocate  
Kevin McElroy Post 2174

Surgeon  
Minnie Heller-Cousins Post 10117

District Commanders:

District 1 Timothy Holland Post 10117  
District 2 Bruce Young Post 3149  
District 3 Derek Farthing Post 2294  
District 4 Maria Hamlin 493  
District 5 Andrew Burns Post 335  
District 6 Robert Jameson Post 1333  
District 7 Harry Marks Post 9563  
District 8 Filipe Oliveira Post 3117  
District 10 Richard Olsen Post 3401  
District 11 Todd A Epperly Post 3020  
District 12 John Kerwin Post 8867  
District 13 Rob Glass Post 6469  
District 15 James Wisor Post 2290  
District 16 Tom Judge Post 220  
District 17 Michael Venzie Post 8695  
District 18 Brian C. Green Post 12165  
District 19 Georg Hambach Post 7921  
District 21 Franklin Smith Post 5360

3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Chief of Staff

Brian C. Green Post 12165

Service Officer

Robert Weiss Post 133

Inspector

Filipe Oliveira Post 3117

Adjutant

Ken Hagemann Post 12173

5. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and it's Auxiliaries.

6. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2024-2025 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Smart/Maher VFW National Citizen Education Teacher's Awards, Buddy Poppy and National Military Services.

Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and District Commanders comply with all provisions of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

7. Attention of all Commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National By- laws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he/she may be accountable.

8. Attention to all Post Commanders is directed to Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustee' Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September.

9. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department By-Laws and directives. District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.

10. Attention of District and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable.

11. Attention to all District and Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure "Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations", section (k), which reads: "Assure that the (Post) Commander, or their representative, attend all properly called for District Conventions or meetings."

12. Due to the unlawful actions of officers and members of former EWING Post 7298, the Department is ordered by the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Division of Civil Rights, under a consent decree, to adopt the attached policy prohibiting discrimination in the workforce. The decree further orders training in the attached policy for all employees, agents, managers and administrative personnel. It is hereby ordered that all Districts, Posts and subordinate units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New Jersey adopt and adhere to the attached policy. Section V. "Dissemination" of this policy shall become part of the annual inspection process to ensure compliance

13. Any criminal gang, including street gangs or motorcycle group/unit/gang/club or its individual members that is identified as a 1% organization, listed by a federal or state law enforcement agency in any gang threat assessment or list, is prohibited from wearing their vests or "Colors", or support apparel, at any New Jersey VFW Post or business operated by or on behalf of the Post regardless of Post membership approval. This includes the group or unit hosting or attending an event or fundraiser even if it is for another organization but conducted on VFW property. This does not prohibit clubs or persons officially affiliated with the VFW, other Veterans Service Organizations / Veteran Motorcycle Clubs, or other benevolent organizations from wearing vests or "Colors" on VFW property.

14. Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars shall not make any statement on behalf of the organization to the news media concerning pending VFW sponsored legislation on a State or National level, or any relevant to VFW policies of a State or National nature without first obtaining permission from Department of New Jersey VFW Headquarters.

15. No officer or member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall in any manner use the Veterans of Foreign Wars for partisan politics and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any meetings nor shall any nominations, recommendations or endorsements for political office be made, provided this shall not apply to discussion of policies of any organization that seeks to alter our present form of government by force, violence or other unlawful means.

16. All members are reminded that the names and addresses, including email addresses, shall be considered confidential and shall not be made available for commercial or political use.

BY THE COMMAND OF

LUDDIE AUSTIN, COMMANDER

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

ATTEST

  
KEN HAGEMANN  
STATE ADJUTANT

