

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws 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 120th National Convention and will be accorded the recognition due them:

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Harold J. "Hal" Roesch, II, Post 3219, Phoebus, Virginia

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Matthew M. "Fritz" Mihelcic, Post 2698, Sparta, Illinois

Quartermaster General

Debra L. Anderson, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

National Chaplain

James G. "Jim" Jenkins, Post 6401, Bonner Springs, Kansas

Judge Advocate General

J. Douglas "Doug" Whitaker, Post 9675, Papillion, Nebraska

Surgeon General

Curtis O. "Doc" Bohlman, Post 1335, Woodward, Oklahoma

National Council of Administration Members

Alabama	George H. Jones, Post 6073, Scottsboro, Alabama
Alaska	Walter W. Watts, Jr., Post 3629, Fairbanks, Alaska
Arizona	Michael K. "Mike" Ferguson, Post 3632, Tempe, Arizona
Arkansas	Ashley A. Little, Post 4548, Jacksonville, Arkansas
California	Earl D. Fulk, Post 9934, Dana Point, California
Colorado	Bruce R. Dolan, Post 7945, Thornton, Colorado
Connecticut	Richard G. DiFederico, Jr., Post 7330, Oakville, Connecticut
Delaware	William R. "Russ" Hall, Post 8801, Clayton, Delaware
Europe	Norberto "Tony" Millet, Jr., Post 9342, Ansbach, Germany
Florida	W. Benny Bachand, Post 4287, Orlando, Florida
Georgia	Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt, Post 12002, North Fulton, Georgia
Hawaii	Stanley Y. Fernandez, Post 10276, Honolulu, Hawaii
Idaho	Rick W. Johnson, Post 4902, Cottonwood, Idaho
Illinois	Philip L. "Phil" Maughan, Post 3873, Naperville, Illinois
Indiana	Johnny R. Capps, Post 972, Terre Haute, Indiana
Iowa	Carol L. Whitmore, Post 9127, Des Moines, Iowa
Kansas	Bobby J. Cox, Post 2715, McPherson, Kansas
Kentucky	Robert O. "Bob" Hendrickson, Post 8639, Okolona, Kentucky
Louisiana	Gerald G. "Snake" Dugas, Post 3121, Gretna, Louisiana
Maine	David D. Williams, Post 1641, Rumford, Maine
Maryland	R. Brian Sturgis, Post 5118, Easton, Maryland

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON OFFICE

Massachusetts	Robert A. "Bob" Graser, Post 1822, Plymouth, Massachusetts
Michigan	Gerald J. "Jerry" Gorski, Post 2645, Southfield, Michigan
Minnesota	Thomas L. "Tom" Hanson, Post 1639, Willmar, Minnesota
Mississippi	Steven M. "Steve" Organ, Post 5395, Pontotoc, Mississippi
Missouri	Jessie L. Jones, Post 2657, Fulton, Missouri
Montana	Arthur J. "Art" Widhalm, Post 3107, Glasgow, Montana
Nebraska	Larry M. Gerlt, Post 2704, South Omaha, Nebraska
Nevada	Gilbert "Gil" Hernandez, Post 2350, Elko, Nevada
New Hampshire	Paul J. Lloyd, Post 1631, Concord, New Hampshire
New Jersey	William F. "Bill" Thomson, Post 6192, Washington Township, New Jersey
New Mexico	Kathie D. Schiebel, Post 401, Albuquerque, New Mexico
New York	Robert E. "Bob" Barnhart, Post 686, High Falls, New York
North Carolina	Gregory A. "Greg" Stafford, Post 6060, Elizabeth City, North Carolina
North Dakota	James H. "Hoppy" Hapala, Post 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota
Ohio	Christopher W. "Chris" Haynes, Post 7596, Franklin, Ohio
Oklahoma	Robert A. "Robbie" Clark, Post 4876, Altus, Oklahoma
Oregon	Bert W. Key, Post 4273, Sandy, Oregon
Pacific Areas	Shawn C. Watson, Post 2917, Agat, Guam
Pennsylvania	Robert C. Eiler, Post 7842, Linesville, Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	Guyde A. Lombardi, Jr., Post 2812, Thornton, Rhode Island
South Carolina	Augustus "Gus" Singleton, Post 4262, Columbia, South Carolina
South Dakota	Rick L. Williamson, Post 3164, Canton, South Dakota
Tennessee	Henry Hooper, II, Post 11333, Memphis, Tennessee
Texas	Daniel L. "Dan" West, Post 3413, San Marcos, Texas
Utah	Dennis L. Parizek, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah
Vermont	Allston J. "Joe" Gilmond, Post 782, Burlington, Vermont
Virginia	Thomas F. "Tom" Gimble, Post 1503, Dale City, Virginia
Washington	Frederick A. "Fred" Green, Post 2669, Port Orchard, Washington
West Virginia	Todd C. Kingsbury, Post 3522, Charles Town, West Virginia
Wisconsin	Gundel "Gundy" Metz, Post 1318, Madison, Wisconsin
Wyoming	Rodney A. Birkle, Post 3558, Wheatland, Wyoming

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

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

Kevin C. Jones, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

National Chief of Staff

Paul R. Phillips, Jr., Post 2863, Richardson Park, Delaware

Inspector General

Duane T. Sarmiento, Post 5579, Gibbstown, New Jersey

Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Director, Washington Office

Vincent B.J. Lawrence, Post 7686, Alamogordo, New Mexico

Assistant Adjutant General, Administration & Programs

Kim A. DeShano, Post 2216, Staunton, Virginia

Director, Administration & Economic Opportunity, Washington Office

Anthony J. Lowe, Post 341, Washington, DC

Director, Administrative Operations

Johnathan R. Duncan, Post 1829, Kansas City, Missouri

Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Washington Office

Joseph E. Davis, Post 3391, Pago Pago, American Samoa

Director, Member Service Center

David E. Prohaska, Post 4434, Belleville, Michigan

Director, Membership

Rick L. Butler, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, National Legislative Service

Carlos U. Fuentes, Post 5627, College Park, Maryland

Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs

Johnathon N. Towles, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia

Director, National Veterans Service

Ryan M. Gallucci, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia

Director, VFW Programs

Lynn W. Rolf, III, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kansas

Director, VFW Properties

Brian T. Opalewski, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas

National Sergeant-at-Arms

Bryan P. O'Brien, Post 2550, Dunedin, Florida

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 its VFW Auxiliary.
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 2019-20 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teachers' Awards, "Buddy"® Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.
7. Post Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to federal legislation or to the policy or procedure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other governmental agency, to their respective Department Headquarters for consideration and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies. Posts, County Councils, Districts and officers and members thereof shall not publicly communicate or promulgate any such resolutions until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.
8. DEPARTMENT DUES RESERVE: Due to the passage of Bylaw Amendment B-38 at the 119th National Convention, it is no longer necessary for Departments to maintain a dues reserve fund effective August 24, 2018.

9. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws 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 may be accountable.
10. Attention of 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 Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. **Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.**
11. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.
12. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).
13. The passage of Manual of Procedure Amendment M-30 has modified Section 1001(25) to read, "The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited."
14. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department Bylaws and directives. Department and 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.
15. U.S. Army ARDEC has issued guidance on the operation and maintenance of the M1 Garand. The manual can be found in the VFW Training & Support section at www.vfw.org or you can visit the M1 Garand Associated Website: www.m1garandtraining.com.
16. The distribution of VFW "Buddy"[®] Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of "Buddy"[®] Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of "Buddy"[®] Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.
17. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:
- Post Nos. 402 and 5756 consolidated as Post No. 402, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania
Post Nos. 8322 and 3592 consolidated as Post No. 8322, Chicago, Illinois
18. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charter for the following Post:
- Post No. 12190 – Evans, Georgia

BY COMMAND OF
WILLIAM "DOC" SCHMITZ
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin C. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kevin C. Jones
Adjutant General