



November 25, 2024

Joseph D. Riener, Commander  
Department of Idaho, VFW  
PO Box 135  
Cottonwood, ID 83522

Re: Proposed Amended Bylaws

Dear Comrade Riener:

Receipt is acknowledged of the proposed revised Bylaws for the Department of Idaho, VFW, submitted for review of the Commander-in-Chief in accordance with Section 502 of the Manual of Procedure.

These documents have been designated amended Bylaws to reflect their replacement of previously reviewed Bylaws.

A review of the proposed amended Bylaws discloses that they are in substantial compliance with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual, and laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; however, have been modified for compliance. To preclude any misunderstanding of the additions and/or deletions, an informal document has been attached.

A copy of the reviewed amended Bylaws has been retained for our files and two sets herewith returned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Q. S. Carroll', written over a white background.

Quentin S. Carroll, Director  
Administrative Operations

QSC: sb

Enc: Revised Bylaws (2)

cc: Department Adjutant (1)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Kansas City, MO 64111

Office 816.756.3390  
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NATIONAL BYLAWS/MANUAL OF PROCEDURE CONFLICT

DEPARTMENT OF IDAHO, VFW

**Article XI Section 1**

Add “present and voting delegate” in place of “voting”

*Reason: A delegate may abstain from voting.*

**BY-LAWS  
DEPARTMENT OF IDAHO  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**PREAMBLE**

We, officers and enlisted persons and honorably discharged officers and enlisted persons of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, do unite to establish a permanent organization, which shall be known as: THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES.

**ARTICLE I  
NAME AND JURISDICTION**

Section 1: By virtue of the Charter granted, the name of this organization shall be "Department of Idaho, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States". The headquarters shall be located at 1425 S. Roosevelt Street, Boise, Idaho 83705-2025.

Section 2: The Territorial jurisdiction of this Department shall conform to the Territorial limits of the State of Idaho.

**ARTICLE II  
OBJECTS AND AUTHORITY**

Section 1: The objects and purposes of this Department shall be those prescribed in the Congressional Charter and National By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The Department shall operate as a nonprofit organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)19.

Section 2: The supreme authority of this association is vested in the National Convention, this Department at all times shall be governed by the Congressional Charter and By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the By-Laws of the Department of Idaho, lawful orders issued by authority of the National Convention, the National Council of Administration, the Commander-in-Chief, the Department Convention, the Department Council of Administration and the Department Commander.

**ARTICLE III  
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1: Eligibility for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, application for, acquiring and maintenance of, loss of, and discipline shall be in accordance with the provisions of the National By-Laws.

**ARTICLE IV  
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

Section 1: The Department shall hold an annual Convention in accordance with Article V of the National By-Laws. Proposals for the time and place of the Annual Convention shall be voted upon at the Annual Convention two (2) years prior to Convention date, and will be sponsored by a Post, Posts or District. A Convention Committee shall be formed to conduct the business affairs of the Annual Convention. The members of the Committee shall be individuals of the sponsoring unit, or units, together with other individuals from the Department designated by the Department Commander. In the event of an emergency, failure to act expeditiously in preparing for the Annual Convention, or failure to comply with the proposals upon which a

Convention bid was approved by the Department Convention, the Department Commander with the approval of the Department Council of Administration may change the site of the Annual Convention to another appropriate site, as well as the time and place of same.

- Section 2: All bids or invitations to entertain the Department Convention shall be submitted to the Time and Place Committee at the Department Convention two (2) years prior to the date of the Department Convention in question. Bids shall be submitted in writing to Department Headquarters pertaining to a guarantee of rooms, suites, meeting places, banquet facilities and such other information to insure a successful convention. The Department may give the hosting Post (s) or District \$500, to help offset the costs of the Convention.
- Section 3: The delegate strength of each Post in the Department shall be one (1) delegate for every 30 members or fraction thereof, in good standing, as recorded in the Department Headquarters, as of March 31st. A delegate registration fee of four dollars (\$4.00) shall be required by the Department for the registration of each and every delegate to which the Post shall be entitled. Registration fee allotment, by Posts, will be computed by the Department Adjutant and published in the General Orders one month prior to Convention.
- Section 4: Only those Officers, Past Officers, and delegates to the Department Convention for whom registration fee has been paid shall be entitled to vote in the Convention.
- Section 5: The minutes of the Department Convention shall be recorded, and a copy thereof furnished to all Post Commanders and Department Officers not later than 30 days after the last day of the month in which the Convention is held.
- Section 6: Voting on all elected officers shall be by roll call vote. Should there be only one candidate nominated for an elected office, the presiding officer shall declare that candidate or candidates elected without objection.
- Section 7: Ten (10) days prior to each annual Department Convention, all Department Officers and all chair's of standing committees shall submit written reports of their activities, or no travel pay will be paid. Officers' reports need not be submitted in writing at the Council of Administration meetings.
- Section 8: All resolutions except as provided in Sections 10 and 11 hereof shall be in the office of the Department Adjutant ten (10) days prior to the Annual Convention opening. All such resolutions shall be referred by the Department Commander to the appropriate committees for study and recommendation to the Convention.
- Section 9: Resolutions of appreciation, sympathy and condolence may be presented at any time during the Department Convention.
- Section 10: All other resolutions presented after the convening of the Department Convention must have a two thirds (2/3) majority approval of the Department Convention in regular session before any such resolution may be considered by the appropriate committee.

Section 11: All resolutions adopted by the Department Convention requiring action by any Department Officer or unit, or any subordinate Officer or unit, must be regarded as a mandate of the Department Convention.

Section 12: Standing Committees at the Department Convention shall be:

- |                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Credentials | 6. By-Laws               |
| 2. Budget      | 7. Ways and Means        |
| 3. Audit       | 8. Time and Place        |
| 4. Resolutions | 9. Veteran of the Year*  |
| 5. Steering    | 10. Lifetime Achievement |

And such other special committees as may be required.

\*A nominee for Veteran of the Year may not be an elected District Commander or elected Department Officer for the year their name is submitted.

## **ARTICLE V CONVENTION RULES**

Section 1: All Convention meetings shall be held in compliance with the V.F.W. Ritual and By-Laws, Article X - Rules of Order, Section 1001.

Section 2: Posts may cast their vote on any subject if they have complied with all of the provisions as required with the VFW Ritual and By-Laws.

Section 3: Nominations of Department Officers will be accepted the day prior to the Convention adjournment. Nominations and elections of Department Officers shall be held during the business session on the last day of the Convention. Installation of Department Officers shall be conducted on the last day of the Convention and may be in joint installation with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. This section may be suspended by a Two-Thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Department Convention.

Section 4: All Committees shall function until excused by the Department Commander or their designated officer.

Section 5: All Conventions will begin at the time called.

## **ARTICLE VI OFFICERS**

Section 1: The elected officers of the Department shall be the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, Judge Advocate and Surgeon. The Department Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Inspector, Service Officer, Chief of Staff and Officer of the Day.

Section 2: The duties and terms of the officers of the Department shall be those prescribed by the National By-Laws, and as the Department may direct.

Section 3: In addition to the duties of the Department Officers prescribed by the National By-Laws, the following Officers are charged with the following specified duties and responsibilities:

- a. The Department Commander and/or the Council of Administration can call for an external audit if it is viewed to be required. This audit would be at the Department's expense.
- b. The Department Commander shall appoint, subject to the confirmation of the Council of Administration, an internal Audit Committee of three (3) capable persons to audit quarterly. Copies of the Audit will be posted in the next General Orders after the completion of the audit. The Department Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice Commander shall act in an advisory capacity to the Department Audit Committee and shall attend as many Audit Committee meetings as possible. The Audit Committee will be governed by the guidelines set forth in the National By-Laws and the Standard Operating Procedures published by the Department for the Audit Committee. In the event of a vacancy, the Department Commander shall appoint a replacement, subject to the approval of the Council of Administration within 30 days at a regular or special meeting. In the event the Council of Administration fails to approve the Commander's appointed replacement, the Department's Senior Vice Commander shall act as the replacement, pro tem, to fill the audit committee's vacancy until the Council of Administration approves the Commander's succeeding appointment at its next regular or special meeting.
- c. The Department Quartermaster shall prepare an annual inventory, location and valuation report covering all real property belonging to the Department of Idaho, and shall submit such report to the Audit Committee for their study and recommendations to the Department Council of Administration.

Section 4: The Department Commander shall appoint a Department Membership Chair. In addition to the duties of their office, they shall attend all meetings of the Council of Administration.

## **ARTICLE VII COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION**

Section 1: The Department Council of Administration, its composition powers and duties shall be as provided in Article V, Section 522 of the National By-Laws and such other additional duties as the Department may direct. Also, the three (3) immediate living Past State Commanders are voting members of the Department Council of Administration.

Section 2: The Department Judge Advocate, Chief of Staff, Inspector, and Surgeon shall be members of the Department Council of Administration.

Section 3: The Department Council of Administration shall meet not less than three (3) times each year at such time and place that the Department Commander or Department Council of Administration shall designate, the final meeting to be held in the current Convention city within ten (10) days or on the opening day of the Annual Convention as the first order of business.

Section 4: Copies of the minutes of the Council of Administration shall be sent to all Department Officers and all Commanders of subordinate units.

- Section 5: Members of the Department Council of Administration shall be entitled to mileage to attend meetings of the Council and to attend the Department's Annual Convention, the amount to be set by the Council, and such other committee chair's as the Department Commander deems necessary.
- Section 6: The Council of Administration shall adopt a Standard Operating Procedure to guide all officers and chair's in their duties.
- Section 7: The Membership Chair is a non-voting member of the Council of Administration for travel pay only.
- Section 8: The Council of Administration shall approve an annual balanced budget prior to October 31<sup>st</sup> covering the financial operations of the Department for the ensuing year. Once approved, the budget will be posted in the next General Orders.

**ARTICLE VIII  
STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Section 1: All standing committees, consisting of Budget, Audit, Building, and By-Laws, shall be appointed by the Department Commander within ten (10) days following the adjournment of the Department Convention, and all Post Commanders and Department Officers shall be notified of the names and addresses of all standing committee members in the Department Officer Directory and the first General Orders of the new commander.
- Section 2: The Department Legislative Chair shall study and report to the Department Council of Administration and Department Convention at each regular meeting thereof, any pending Legislation affecting Veterans and shall represent the Department of Idaho at any Legislative Committee hearings. It shall be the duty of the Chair to comply in detail with the provisions of Article VII, Sec 702 of the National By-Laws.

**ARTICLE IX  
DISTRICTS**

- Section 1: In compliance with the provisions of the National By-Laws and to assist administration of the affairs of the Department, the territorial units of the Department of Idaho are divided into seven (7) Districts, each to be recognized by a designated number.
- Section 2: The designated numbers and territorial limits, by whole or partial counties of the several Districts are as follows:
- DISTRICT #1 -  
Boundary, Bonner, Benewah, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties.
- DISTRICT #2 and District #3 combined -  
Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce Counties.
- DISTRICT #4 -  
Adams, Gem, Payette, Valley and Washington Counties, the Township's of Horseshoe Bend in Boise County, *Homedale and Marsing in Onybee County* and the Western part of Canyon County which includes the towns of Greenleaf,

Wilder, Notus, and Parma on a meridian line through Exit 17 on Interstate 84.

DISTRICT #5 -

Ada, Boise, Canyon, Owyhee, and that portion of Elmore County lying west of a meridian line running through the Anderson Ranch Dam and that part of Canyon County lying east of a meridian line through Exit 17 on Interstate 84.

DISTRICT #6 -

Blaine, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Camas, Lincoln, Minidoka, Twin Falls, and that portion of Elmore County lying East of a meridian line running through the Anderson Ranch Dam.

DISTRICT #7 -

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida and Power Counties.

DISTRICT #8 -

Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties and that part of Bingham County from the South boundary of Bonneville County extending to the south limits of the town of Shelley.

Section 3: At least three (3) district meetings shall be held each fiscal year by each district. Combined meetings with another District shall be deemed an accredited meeting.

Section 4: The District Commander shall submit within ten (10) days after the Department Convention, a tentative schedule of District meetings to the Department Commander to guide in preparing their itinerary.

Section 5: The District Commander of each District shall be Department Deputy Inspector for their District unless otherwise appointed by the Department Commander. District Commanders or appointed Department Deputy Inspectors shall be entitled for mileage to inspect each post in their district, the amount to be set by the Council of Administration.

Section 6: The elected officers of the various Districts shall be those prescribed by the National By-Laws. The District Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Service Officer, Inspector and such other officers as they deem necessary to conduct the duties and welfare of the District, all of whom the Commander may remove at their pleasure.

Section 7: Vacancies in elected offices shall be filled as prescribed in the Manual of Procedure, Article IV, Section 420.

**ARTICLE X  
DEPARTMENT TAXES AND FINANCES**

Section 1: The Department per capita tax shall be six dollars and fifty cents (\$6.50) per annum on each and every member in good standing in each and every post within the Department of Idaho's jurisdiction, except life members, effective November 1, 1988.



- Section 2: A delegate registration fee of four dollars (\$4.00) for each delegate to the Department Convention for which it is entitled shall be paid by each post.
- Section 3: Any monies or things of value in excess of the actual expenses authorized and incurred by the Department realized from the Convention shall revert to the Department General Fund.
- Section 4: The Host Post(s) or District of a Department Convention may make a reasonable charge for social activities to cover expenses such as meals for distinguished guests or other added expenses.
- Section 5: Department Officers travel allowance will be paid upon receipt of a signed voucher with necessary receipts attached.
- Section 6: The property located at 1425 S. Roosevelt Street, Boise, Idaho, shall not serve as a primary or secondary residence for any member, officer, or other person.


**ARTICLE XI  
AMENDMENTS**

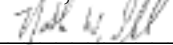
- Section 1: These By-Laws may be amended only by the Department Convention, by a two thirds (2/3) majority of the present and voting delegate strength of the Convention as reported by the Credential Committee, at a roll call vote. No amendment shall be considered unless a copy of the same shall have been forwarded to all Post Commanders and Department Officers at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention of the Department of Idaho.
- Section 2: No amendment shall be effective until the same has been reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. An approved original copy of the amendment must be attached to these By-Laws upon return thereof.
- Section 3: Wherever these By-Laws or subsequent amendments may be found to be in conflict with the present or any future National By-Laws the latter shall prevail and be binding upon this Department as though written herein.

**ARTICLE XII  
REPEAL**

- Section 1: All By-Laws heretofore and not embodied in these By-Laws are hereby repealed. These By-Laws were adopted, subject to the review and approval of the Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on the 6th Day of June, 2024, at the Department Convention in the city of Pocatello, and County of Bannock, State of Idaho.

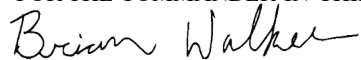
Department of Idaho Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

By:   
Commander, Kenneth J Babcock

By:   
Adjutant, Nate Suekel



REVIEWED **NOV 25 2024**  
FOR THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

  
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL

BY , DIRECTOR  
ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS