



Memorandum

To: Department Adjutants
From: Kevin C. Jones, Adjutant General
Date: April 4, 2019

Attached are the resolutions referencing National Security & Foreign Affairs, POW/MIA, and Veterans Service to be proposed by the Commander-in-Chief to the delegates attending the 120th National Convention.

These resolutions are being provided for the review of your department convention. Do not return these resolutions to national. They require no action by your department convention other than to discuss, debate and direct respective committee members and registered delegates from your department. Consideration as to any of your convention proposed resolutions may be redundant or repetitive to these Commander-in-Chief resolutions. Additionally, the national convention committee members or registered delegates can still take the concerns of your membership to the national convention committee meetings and the convention floor for a final determination by the delegates.

“Preparing a Proposed Amendment to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual” and “Preparing a Resolution,” is attached for your use. Please use this information as a guide when submitting a proposal for a bylaw amendment or preparing a resolution for your department’s review or submission to the national convention.

Please mail or email your department’s approved resolutions that require action by the national convention within five days following the close of your department convention. This includes approved resolutions concerning matters of interest beyond your department and any approved proposals to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or the Ritual.

Do not forward resolutions or bylaw proposals that were rejected or disapproved by your convention delegates or that refer to state issues.

Resolutions regarding federal legislation, Department of Veterans Affairs’ issues, Department of Defense policy or other matters of national significance approved by your department must be acted on by the national convention before becoming official policy.

Questions and information requirements regarding resolutions and proposals affecting the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual should be directed to the Administrative Operations office: David Prohaska, Director of Administrative Operations, (816) 968-1114 (DProhaska@vfw.org) or Tammie Gniotczynski, (816) 968-2727 (TGniotczynski@vfw.org).

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 54th Street | Office 816.756.3390
Kansas City, MO 64111 | Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E. | Office 202.545.2239
Washington, D.C. 20002 | Fax 202.545.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

**PREPARING PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE
NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE OR RITUAL**

Bylaws: Any member in good standing, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National Bylaws; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention. Immediately following a Department Convention, the proposed amendment(s) must be forwarded to National Headquarters.

Manual of Procedure and Ritual: Any Post, District, or Department may propose an amendment to the Manual of Procedure or Ritual; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must have been forwarded, through channels and have been properly approved.

In order to meet National Bylaw/Manual of Procedure Article XIV requirements, to provide fifteen (15) day notice to all Posts of all amendments, the Adjutant General requests all amendments be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than five (5) working days following the close of the Department Convention.

Bylaw, Manual of Procedure or Ritual changes not in proper form, unclear as to meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

A proposed change to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual must be submitted as such, not as a resolution. Proposed amendments must be definite and specific as to the verbiage to be deleted or added. Use of the most recent amended copy of the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual is encouraged, as proposed changes considered by Convention delegates cannot be amended on the floor.

EXAMPLE 1

Proposed Amendment to National Bylaws proposed by Department of _____.

Section 202 – Bylaws.

Amend Section 202, National Bylaws, by deleting the words “two-thirds (2/3)” in the first sentence of paragraph one, and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:

“majority”.

EXAMPLE 2

Proposed Amendment to National Manual of Procedure proposed by Department of _____.

Section 518 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Section 518, Manual of Procedure, by deleting paragraph (a) (1) d. in its entirety and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:

“Plan and organize all social functions.”

EXAMPLE 3

Proposed Amendment to National Ritual proposed by Department of _____.

Amend the Ritual by deleting on page 48, in the last sentence of the Member’s Obligation, the words “and a citizen of our great republic.”

Further amend by placing a period after the word “comrade” in the same sentence.

If you require help composing a proposed change to the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual, please contact Administrative Operations at National Headquarters for advice and assistance in properly preparing a proposed amendment to be voted upon by your department convention.

PREPARING A RESOLUTION TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The policy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is established by resolutions adopted by the delegates attending Department and National Conventions. Most such resolutions originate at the Post level and are passed through the District and Department before being acted upon at a National Convention. Many times, an otherwise worthy idea gets nowhere merely because it is not correctly presented.

A resolution contains two separate parts; a statement of the problem to be solved, and the proposed solution to the problem. The problem is outlined in the "WHEREAS" clauses, and the proposed solution is given in the "RESOLVED" section.

The "RESOLVED" section of a resolution should be complete in itself without depending on the "WHEREAS" clauses to give it meaning.

EXAMPLE

WHEREAS, the rising cost of living has created an intense hardship on those disabled veterans whose only income is a meager pension check; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we petition Congress to enact legislation which would provide a substantial increase in non-service connected pension rates.

(Note: The "RESOLVED" section has a proposed solution that makes sense and can stand alone without the "WHEREAS" clause giving it meaning.)

If a resolution deals with a local problem, it needs no action on a level higher than that of the Post. If the problem concerns an area larger than that served by the Post, it should, after Post approval, be presented before the District or County Council. All resolutions of statewide, regional or national concern must be acted upon by the Department Convention. Those resolutions approved by a Department Convention, which affect persons or matters *outside the state boundaries*, must be forwarded to the National Convention for final disposition.

When submitting a resolution to the Department Convention, a notation on the bottom should show the previous action taken, such as, approval by Post and, if applicable, by the District. A Post or District submitting a resolution to its Department Convention must follow guidelines established by the Department, which may require submitting the resolution to the Department Adjutant prior to the convening of the convention.

Resolutions not in proper form with unclear meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

Resolutions approved by a Department Convention, which affect matters outside state boundaries, must be forwarded by the Department Adjutant to the National Convention for final disposition. Approved resolutions should be sent to National Headquarters at the close of the Department Convention. The Adjutant General requests all resolutions be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than five (5) working days following the close of the Department Convention. A resolution disapproved by the Department Convention or not acted upon by the Department Convention will not be considered by the National Convention.

Resolutions may also be originated by Department officers or by the Department Convention itself and acted upon by the Department Convention. A National Officer may originate a resolution concerning National affairs and submit it directly to the National Convention without Department action. Likewise, a National Convention Committee may originate a resolution and present it for approval during the National Convention.

Policy set by the National Convention is binding upon all subordinate units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. No Post or Department is permitted to take any individual action or espouse any cause contrary to the National Bylaws or to the actions of the National Convention except that it may propose changes in policy by the preparation of a resolution for consideration as outlined herein.