



Department of Hawaii General Orders # 006

Series 2020-2021

February 1, 2021

Commander's Corner, "LOOKING TO THE FUTURE"

In late December our State Adjutant sent out a 'bare bones' SOP for Strategic Planning for the next ten years for the Department of Hawaii. This document went to every state officer, Post commander, Post QM and Post Adjutant for input by 30 January. I hope you shared with your post comrades, kicked it around and have responded. This will help us begin the discussion in March at the COA.

As Commander, I am concerned. Thanks to y'all our membership numbers look good, but our Post leadership teams remain static. Not enough members are vying for leadership positions at the Post level or higher. In ten years, many of our RVN members may not be physically or mentally capable to continue as leaders. Post elections for 2021-2022 are to be held in April (Section 217, National Bylaws), let's start mentoring STAT. Our role as leaders is to identify the future leaders within our posts and recruit new members to fill specific roles. Transferring to another Post to assist them isn't heresy; it's to better our organization.

VFW.org now has some outstanding material online for training. Utilize it as a starting point and localize it to your needs. Train your post service officers, chaplain, JVC, SVC, committee chairs. It is all available online and will be in our SOPs.

Mahalo to everyone for what we have overcome in 2020. We are a stronger organization as our Post Zoom meetings now include off island and shut in members who participate in addition to those in attendance. Our department Zoom COA allow more members to participate without the airfare/hotel/car expense.

Once again look at and review the SOPs. We need your comments to help us determine the direction for our next ten years. Each SOP is on the Department website VFW-DEPT-HI.org. Please help us make this an inclusive and not a top down exercise.

Ron Lockwood, Commander

1. **Commander's Membership Challenge for February 2021 is for every new member recruited the Post is awarded ten dollars (\$10.00) and for every member reinstated the Post is awarded five dollars (\$5.00).**
2. **Congratulations to the following Posts for reaching 100% membership: 1540, 1572, 3830, and 3870.**



3. VOD/PP.

The winners for the Voice of Democracy are as follows:

- 1st Place Post 8616 Emily Tom from Iolani High School.**
- 2nd Place Post 1540 Kayla Lum from Kaiser High School.**
- 3rd Place Post 12122 Zoe Spikerman from Parker School**

The winners for the Patriots Pen are as follows:

- 1st Place Post 8616 Thomas Lynch from SEEQS**
- 2nd Place Post 10154 Madelyn Spake from Kailua Intermediate School.**
- 3rd Place Post (Tied) Noah Kaliliponi from Kamehameha Schools Kula**
- 3rd place Post (Tied) Elizabeth Nguyen from Our Lady of Good Counsel**

- 4. The VOD/PP Award luncheon is scheduled for March 13, 2021 at 11:00 after the COA meeting. Venue may change due to COVID restrictions.**
- 5. The Council of Administration meeting scheduled for February 13, 2021 will now meet on March 13, 2021.**
- 6. Commander Lockwood's Homecoming is now scheduled for 6 P.M. March 12, 2021 at the Waikiki Elks. The location is tentative and may change due to COVID restrictions.**
- 7. Department elections will be conducted in June 2021 during the Department Convention. Any person wishing to announce their candidacy for a Department Officer please send the State Adjutant your name, Post number, and information you want distributed to the other members of the COA to consider before the elections.**
- 8. Post Elections: In accordance with National bylaws section 217 nominations for Post Officers will open in March and remain open until the elections are conducted in April 2021.**
- 9. Posts delegates: In accordance with National Bylaws section 222 Posts required to elect delegates for Department and National Convention are to be elected in April. Delegate strength is based on members in good standing as of March 31, 2021.**
- 10. Department of Hawaii and Auxiliary Conventions are being held in Kailua Kona on the Big**



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Island on June 10, 11, and 12, 2021.

11. The VFW National Convention in Baltimore is currently scheduled for late July early August. If you are planning to go; plan to arrive on July 30th and depart on Aug 5th.
12. Hal Roesch's Homecoming has been rescheduled for July 7 through 11 2021.
13. National Convention housing will open in February. If you are planning to go make your reservations as soon as it opens. It is easy to cancel hotel reservations.
14. Post Commanders are reminded that any Post in arrears to Department or National for fees, other financial obligations or administrative requirements including Election and Trustee Audit Reports will be deprived of representation at the Department or National Conventions and Council of Administration.
15. Any officer or committee member whose membership is not in good standing by reason of failure to pay current dues by their anniversary date shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office in that administrative year.
16. The COVID-19 guidelines allow for electronic signatures for documents submitted to the Department. We need to be able to validate the signatures. Electronic signature programs provide an authenticity or validation certificate. Either this certificate, a screenshot showing the document was signed or an E-mail from the signatories e-mail account stating they signed the document needs to be included with the documents.
17. Post Commanders shall submit Trustee Reports of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for 4th quarter ending June 30, 2020, 1st quarter ending September 30, 2020, 2nd quarter ending December 31, 2020 and 3rd quarter ending March 31, 2021. The deadline for the last Trustee Report will be April 30, 2021.
18. It is recommended that all Posts review their Post By-Laws and incorporate language that allows for electronic attendance at Post meetings in accordance with National By-Laws Section 203.
19. Post Inspections continue, COVID restrictions have delayed the completion as originally scheduled. A member of the Inspection team will contact Commanders and Quartermasters to reschedule your inspection. If you need to reschedule your inspection contact State Inspector Sean Matimoe or the State Adjutant George Barlett.



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20. Submit your Community Service report monthly to the Community Service Chairman Ronald Lockwood. Send it in monthly. Phone number (808)227-3773 or email to lockwood0849@gmail.com.
21. The State Commander and Adjutant will be informed of all official neighbor island trips.
22. The State Commander, State Adjutant and Chief of Staff will be cc'd on all reports sent to National or sent for further distribution.

By Order of:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Lockwood", is positioned below the "By Order of:" text.

Ronald Lockwood
State Commander

OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Barlett", is positioned below the "OFFICIAL:" text.

George Barlett
State Adjutant