



Department of Hawaii General Orders # 003

Series 2023-2024

**October 20, 2023**

**1. Commander's Moment:**

Aloha Comrades:

A couple of months ago our Maui Ohana experienced a tragedy that will not be forgotten. Here it is nearly three months later we are still coping with this disaster. Our hearts go out to all our Maui Ohana that was impacted and those still grieving incredible losses.

Shortly thereafter, our call for donations went out nationwide and the response has been incredible and humbling. In a short period the funds totaled nearly \$200,000 were received. The donations from individuals, Posts, Districts, Departments, and others have been astounding. Many have stepped up, showing us their generosity and compassion. We are sincerely humbled.

During the week of 26 – 29 September, the Department Disaster Relief Team set up shop at Post 3850 in Kihei, Maui. Over thirty (30) veterans were interviewed. After a very thorough screening process, financial assistance exceeding \$125,000 was given to over two dozen qualified veterans. Others were given toiletries, food, clothing and other necessities. Words cannot describe the heartfelt thanks and emotions these veterans expressed. The team has scheduled a second visit from 16- 20 October. EVERY VETERAN COUNTS and WE ARE MEETING THE CHALLENGE.

Lastly, MEMBERSHIP MONDAYS are offered for your benefit. It's more than just membership. You'll be surprised how informative it is. I will be contacting each And every Post Commander to reiterate the importance of this meeting. As I said at the beginning of my tenure as your Department Commander, SHOW UP, STEP UP, SPEAK UP, OR SHUT UP. Well sadly it has been more SHUT UP and very few have even SHOWED UP.

*MALAMA I NA KOA  
(HONOR THE WARRIOR)*

- 2. Department Website: The new Department website became active on August 1, 2023. The webpage address is [www.https://vfwhi.org](http://www.https://vfwhi.org). Please check out the new website. Both sites will mirror information for the next several months during the transition period. Contact the Department for further information.**



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3. **Department Convention: The next Department Convention is tentatively scheduled for June 13-16, 2024. Any Post desiring to host the convention please inform the Department Staff of your intentions as soon as possible.**
4. **The Department needs your help in the coming months and years to come. We need support for upcoming events. Consider helping out with the convention booklet, get out and tell the world what we do. Run for office: State Junior Vice Commander, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, or Chaplain.**
5. **Department Council of Administration (COA): The next COA will be held at the Oahu Veterans Center on December 9, 2023 at 0915.** Immediately following the COA Post 10154 will host a meet and greet with Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento. There will also be three short presentations on suicide awareness and prevention.
6. **This year's COAs are currently** scheduled for December 9, 2023 and February 10, 2024, and June 15, 2024. The June 15, 2024, COA is dependent on the dates of the next Department Convention.
7. **Committee Chairpersons: At all Council of Administrations, you have 2 minutes to present a report** on the status of your committee. Commander Schaedel is requesting you also submit a written report updating the Department on your committee's plans for the upcoming year. This report will be included in the published minutes of the meeting. Only action items need to be presented to the COA.
8. **Post Commanders** are reminded that **ALL fundraising** requests must go through the Department for review.
9. **VOD/PP/Teachers: These programs are CORE VFW programs and ALL posts should participate and submit** entries to Department.
  - a. **Voice of Democracy: "What are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"** **Have you** contacted your favorite high school teachers? Are your JROTC or Civil Air Patrol Units involved? **Home schooled, no problem,** Deadline for Post entries is **October 31, 2023.** Post entries must be judges and the finalist must be at Department by **December 9, 2023** by the end of the COA. If your Post has multiple entries; let me know and we can share them with other Posts. Give your students more chances to advance and be recognized. Ron Lockwood VOD Chair.
  - b. **Patriot's Pen: "How are You Inspired by America?"** **All POST** entry applications must be **submitted to Department by the end of the December 9, 2023 COA.** If your Post is having difficulty getting an entry from the schools you contacted, call or email Randy Grant for assistance.
  - c. **Citizen Teacher of the Year: Complete an application** for at least one grade level



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(Elementary, Middle School, or High School) per Post. Entry **applications must be submitted by December 9, 2023** by the end of the COA. Frank Bragg Chair

- 10. Scholars App: Scholars App is another way to get entries to the Post for both VOD and PP contests.** Students using this app will have their entries automatically sent to a Post. **Posts need to use this link and fill out the questionnaire:**  
<https://forms.gle/Ro7NwrejbvegCHzD8>. **As you fill out the questionnaire, All Posts in Hawaii are in District 99. Contact either the Committee Chairs or the Department Adjutant is you have any questions. If you send us the name and email address of your VOD/PP chairs, we can fill out the questionnaire for you.**
- 11. Buddy Poppy: Effective October 15, 2023, the price of Buddy Poppies will be \$325.00 per thousand. The new TIN TAB Buddy poppies are now available and will cost \$150.00 per thousand.** All Buddy Poppy orders must go to the Department QM for processing. The updated forms will be on the Department Website.
- 12. Community Activities: All entries for Community Activities will be recorded on the Program (All-American) Dashboard by the Post Adjutant at least quarterly.**
- 13. All-State requirements:**
- 14. Expense Reporting: All reimbursements of expenses must be reported on the Department Expense form, with all receipts attached.** A copy of the form is on the Department Website.
- 15. All-American (Programs) Dashboard: Post Commanders and Adjutants are reminded to use the dashboard to enter the Post data. Post Adjutants** are required to submit **Community Service Reports** on the All-American Dashboard at least monthly. Total money expended, Volunteer Hours, Total Volunteers, Mileage, and Event Explanation is required for each volunteering opportunity. **VMS donations** must be made through the dashboard. Contact Department if you have questions about how to enter the data.
- 16. Post Inspections: The schedule for Post Inspections is as follows:**  

Please think of Post inspections as an evaluation and learning opportunity for the Post and its members. The inspector should attend your Post meeting and conduct the inspection either before or after the meeting. They will also observe how your Post conducts their meeting. Please have all required records available for inspection. If you have any questions about the inspection process or your official meeting time or place is different than what is published on your election report so we can adjust the schedule; contact Department Inspector Ron Lockwood.



POST	INSPECTOR	SCHEDULED
Post 94	Barlett	November 18, 2023
Post 110	Lockwood	December 28,2023
Post 352	Grant	October 14, 2023
Post 849	Lockwood	October 11,2023
Post 970	Barlett	October 12, 2023
Post 1540	Lockwood	Completed
Post 1572	Barlett	December 2, 2023
Post 2875	Lockwood	October 28, 2023
Post 3292	Barlett	Completed
Post 3391	Enos	April 2024
Post 3830	Barlett	August 3, 2023
Post 3850	Barlett	October 22, 2023
Post 3855	Barlett	December 27, 2023
Post 3870	Enos	December 9, 2023
Post 3875	Nu	October 21, 2023
Post 8616	Barlett	November 2, 2023
Post 10154	Grant	November 11, 2023
Post 10276	Grant	October 21, 2023
Post 12122	Nu	October 14, 2023



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Post 12138

Grant

October 28, 2023

- 17. Removal and Appointment of Salaried positions in the Department must be done in accordance with National and Departmental By-Laws.**
- 18. National by-laws** stipulate that elected and appointed state officers shall not assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been given and reviewed. Failure or refusal to send the same within thirty (30) days of election or appointment shall result in the office being declared vacant. Proof of eligibility will be submitted to the office of State Adjutant.
- 19. Western Conference:**
- d. This year's Western Conference will be held in Salt Lake City November 2-5, 2023.** Registration forms are on the Department website. The Commander, Adjutant, Quartermaster
  - e. The 2024 Western Conference will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii on October 31-November 3, 2024.**
- 20. VFW National Convention:** Next year's National Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky from July 26, 2024 to August 2, 2024. Anyone planning to attend the convention should contact the Department Adjutant for further information.
- 21. Commanders Membership incentive:** The membership incentive for September/October/November 2023. The Post will receive \$5.00 for each new or reinstated annual member and \$10.00 for each new life member signed up in during these months.
- 22. Membership requirement for All- American: For the 2023-2024 VFW year** in order to become All-American a Post obtain at least **102%**.
- 23. 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 Councils of Administration. These include up to date trustee reports, current election reports, proper bonding of officers, payment of delegate fees for both the Department and National Conventions and filing of 990's and current DCCA registration.
- 24. Post Commanders shall submit Trustee Reports of Audit** to the Department Quartermaster for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter ending June 30, 2023, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter ending September 30,



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2023, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter ending December 31, 2023 and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ending March 31, 2024. The deadline for the last Trustee Report will be April 30, 2024.

- 25. **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.
- 26. **Posted office hours for the Department of Hawaii, Headquarters office** are 1000 to 1400 Monday through Friday. Contact information (808)-433-0494. E-mail vfwhawaii@yahoo.com.
- 27. **Posted office hours, for the Department of Hawaii, Service Office,** are 0900 to 1300 Monday through Friday. The Department Service Office is found at TAMC, E-wing Room 1C104, 459 Patterson Road, Honolulu Hawaii 96819. Email- [vfw.vbahon@va.gov](mailto:vfw.vbahon@va.gov). Office phone (808)-433-0494/0495. **DO NOT LEAVE any personally identifiable information such as social security numbers as part of any message you leave.**
- 28. **The State Commander, Quartermaster, and Adjutant will be informed of all official neighbor island trips.**
- 29. **Follow your Chain of Command: The State Commander, National Councilmember, State Adjutant and Chief of Staff will be cc'd on all reports sent to National or sent for further distribution.**

**By Order of:**

Ron Schaedel Sr.  
State Commander

OFFICIAL:

George Barlett  
State Adjutant