



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
— OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA —
DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON

5213 Pacific Highway East • Fife, WA 98424
(253) 922-2114 • www.VFWWA.org



Washington

FRANK PERSA
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

General Order Number 1

2026

1. Having been duly elected and installed, I, **Frank Persa** assume command of the State of Washington, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, effective June 20, 2026.
2. All previous appointments are null and void unless reappointed herein.
3. The following Officers of the State of Washington were duly elected or appointed and installed at the State Convention and will be accorded with the recognition due them:
4.
 - a. Senior Vice Commander: Holly Pierce
 - b. Junior Vice Commander: Jason Paxton
 - c. Judge Advocate: Doug White
 - d. Surgeon: Joe Wright
 - e. Quartermaster: Joshue Schreck
 - f. Chaplain: Carla Scott
 - g. 1-Year Trustee: Otis Wolfe
 - h. 2-Year Trustee: Joe Chartier
 - i. 3-Year Trustee: Darren Hughes
 - j. Adjutant: Joe Wright
 - k. Chief of Staff: Joshua Schreck
 - l. Inspector: Daniel Bujak
 - m. Inspector Deputy: Brad Pieratt
 - n. Service Officer: Kenneth Walters
5. The following District Commanders have been duly elected and installed and will be accorded with the recognition due to them:



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6.
 - a. District 1: Carl Kurfess
 - b. District 2: Alyson Teeter
 - c. District 3: Gary Nisker
 - d. District 4: Daniel Bujak
 - e. District 5: Julia Arnold
 - f. District 6: Debra Proctor
 - g. District 7: Filiberto Rivera
 - h. District 9: Mary Crowfoot
 - i. District 11: Francis Bannister
 - j. District 15: Brandon Vice
 - k. District 16: Gary Archer
 - I. District 17: Robert Clark
7. In accordance with the National Manual of Procedure, Article V, Section 516, the State Commander retains the authority to remove appointed officers, committee chairmen, and committees at any time.
8. In accordance with the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures, each elected officer is required to familiarize themselves with the duties and obligations assigned in Sections 218, 418, and 518.
9. Utilizing the "Chain of Command" correctly is important. Problems encountered at the Post level can often be managed effectively at the Post level by using appropriate measures and forming a committee to address the issue. If the problem remains unresolved, assistance can be requested from the District Commander. State intervention shall be the last means of resolving internal problems; however, the officers and staff at the State are more than willing to assist or provide guidance.
10. **Email Requirement:** Post Commanders and Post Adjutants without email must designate someone who can receive and disseminate communications.



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11. **Bonding Requirement:** As per Section 703, **all** accountable officers must be bonded.
12. **Agency Contacts:** Report any contact with enforcement agencies (e.g., WSLCB, IRS, Police) within 72 hours.
13. **Ownership Restrictions:** No Post or Department entity may own property jointly with any outside organization, except that property may be held jointly or in common by a Post or unit of a congressionally chartered veterans organization, provided the arrangement allows for the prominent display of the names, trademarks, or service marks of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and is not contrary to any provision of law or these Bylaws. per Section 709.
14. **Compliance with Article II Section 213:** Ensure bonding, insurance, and timely audits. Noncompliance risks suspension.
15. **Membership Categories:** The National Bylaws provide for only one category of membership within the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States: active membership. There are no provisions in the National Bylaws for Associate Members, Honorary Members, Courtesy Members, Club Members, Social Members, or any other category of VFW membership.

No Post shall issue any card, certificate, credential, or other document that could reasonably be interpreted as granting membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars to any person not otherwise eligible and properly admitted under the National Bylaws.
16. **Reports:** The State will not accept paper reports/fax reports or mailed reports. If you cannot submit it on the State dashboard, you can have your District help input, email the State Chairperson, or the committee member overseeing that program.
17. **Program Participation:** Posts must actively participate in all core programs listed in the State Roster and Program Book



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18. **Council of Administration meetings:** In additions to the meetings held at midwinter conference and state convention the Council of Administration will have a Virtual meeting on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6 P.M.
19. **State Chairman meetings:** All State Chairman will have a Virtual meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 P.M.
20. **Post Commanders meeting:** All Post Commanders will have a Virtual meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 P.M.
21. **State Line Officer Meeting:** The state line officers will have a Virtual meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 P.M.
22. **National Convention:** 25-29 July 2026 in Reno, NV.
23. **Joint School of Instruction:** Location: 100% Virtual 22nd August 2026
24. **Midwinter Conference:** 14-16 Jan 2027 Yakima
25. **State Convention:** 16-19 Jun 2027
26. **Website/social media Policy:** All VFW WA-affiliated sites or pages must be pre-approved by the State Commander.
27. **Official Correspondence:** Will come through and be sent to the State Adjutant unless otherwise directed by the State Commander.



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Comrades, throughout my 23 years in the United States Army, I learned that strong organizations are built through education, mentorship, and leaders who are willing to step forward when called upon. Those same principles are essential to the continued success of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the State of Washington's 106th State Commander. I have traveled across our great state and witnessed firsthand the dedication, passion, and commitment of our Posts, Districts, and members. The future of our organization depends on our willingness to invest in one another, sharing knowledge, mentoring future leaders, and ensuring every member has the tools needed to succeed.

This year, we will place a renewed emphasis on education and mentorship at every level of our organization. We must prepare the next generation of leaders by teaching them not only how we conduct our business, but why our mission remains so important. Each of us has a responsibility to strengthen our Posts, support our communities, and care for our fellow veterans.

The VFW has always been an organization of action. When challenges arise, when veterans need assistance, and when leadership is required, we cannot wait for someone else to step forward.

If not you, then who?

Together, through education, mentorship, and service, we will continue to grow stronger and ensure the State of Washington remains a leader within the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

BY ORDER OF:

Frank Persa

State Commander

ATTEST BY:

Joe Wright

State Adjutant