

Question and Answer Compilation from Conferences 2019

- 1 Q How long does a Ruling stay in effect?
1 A **A Ruling stays in effect until it is reversed or voted on as a Resolution**
-
- 2 Q Can you get the VFW Magazine on-line?
2 A **Yes, on their website. <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/vfw-magazine>**
-
- 3 Q Can we get the membership years in MALTA fixed to be correct year of joining?
3 A **There is no access in MALTA at this time. We can ask how much it will cost to add this feature and if Departments would like this added.**
-
- 4 Q Auxiliary disband and the member transferred, how do you know what pin to give them?
It's the members responsibility to get a letter from the disbanded Auxiliary before it disbands.
4 A **However, if the Auxiliary is no longer in existence, it is possible your Department Treasurer may be able to help.**
-
- 5 Q Is there a possibility that in the future there will be other eligibility come up like niece/nephew or great grandchildren?
The Government decided the consanguinity needed for membership. That is the degree of
5 A **separation from the Veteran. Unless they change we cannot change. So it is highly unlikely this will change. (This is an IRS regulation.)**
-
- 6 Q Of the 9 employees at National Headquarters; How many are VFW members? How many are Aux Members?
6 A **We have no VFW members on our floor. However, everyone that we hire is asked to join. If they are eligible they join. We currently have 7 staff as members. Two are still researching eligibility.**
-
- 7 Q How much is the salary of the 9 employees and who governs them?
Specific staff information is protected by Privacy Laws. However, the National CofA votes on the
7 A **amount for all employees in the budget and the National Secretary Treasurer manages individual salaries.**
-
- 8 Q Legacy Life Insurance: Can we get information out to our members to explain this benefit? Did the name change?
8 A **We are working with AMWINS on a one page benefit sheet to help with this question.**
-
- 9 Q Is the Auxiliary Magazine going to be sent to VFW members? Will the VFW have the ability to get a subscription to the Auxiliary Magazine?
No, the Auxiliary cannot afford to do this. We do not have Ads in our magazine to cover the costs.
9 A **The magazine is available on our web-site under Media/Magazine so if a VFW member wanted to read it, they could.**
-
- 10 Q Should Auxiliaries pay for a subscription to the VFW Magazine and have it delivered to the VA? Would that be a service to Veterans?
10 A **Three members at the Western Conference informed us all that the VFW National Headquarters already sends a box to the VA Hospital to the Field Service Officer for distribution.**
-
- 11 Q What if you can't place your hands behind your back for the prayer as it is in the Bylaws? This was asked in more than 1 conference.
Please understand, that for many members, they can no longer put their hands behind their back or they may not be able to stand. If you are at your meeting you can have the Patriotic Instructor
11 A **show members how to hold their hands but please do not go up to someone to tell them they are doing this incorrectly. They may no longer be able to do this and you could alienate a good member.**
-

12 Q There was a question about removing caps, followed up by wearing a cap that is not the official Auxiliary cap.

Ann announced that the National ruling is that the Auxiliary is to follow the VFW Bylaws, until a resolution is presented and passed on our floor and changes approved by the VFW. We are to follow the Chaplain. If he/she removes their cover, so should those wearing the VFW Auxiliary Cap. In doing so, Ann explained, our insignia faces outward. Ann further advised that wearing

12 A **another hat/cap – baseball, cowboy hat is not acceptable, but wearing a cover for medical or religious purposes is acceptable. She further stated that the wearing of the Caps protocol applies both to male and female VFW Auxiliary members-that is to remove Caps when the Chaplain removes his/her Cover/Cap. Also, remember to be kind, if someone is wearing a different type of hat, you can assume it may be for medical purposes. You do not need to tell them individually to remove their hat. We are not the cap Police.**

13 Q If you are a line officer in the MOCA Grand. Can you wear your MOCA hat during an Auxiliary meeting, Dept. meeting, etc.? What if you are sitting outside the meeting recruiting? Do they have to remove their hat?

13 A **Ann stated that as an invited guest of the President, the MOCA member may wear their MOCA hat as they will most likely be introduced as a guest. To be just sitting in the meeting, as an Auxiliary member in attendance, the MOCA hat should not be worn, as we are VFW Auxiliary members first. If the MOCA has permission to have a recruiting table out in the hallway, then the MOCA member may wear their hat. Recruiting in and during an meeting is not advised.**

14 Q Why do we have a new Podium Book every year? Can we not have a clip with the changes?

14 A **Changes are made to the Podium Book every 3 years and every 5 years for the Ritual. Every year resolutions are purposed, some pass, some fail. The Offices of the President, Secretary and Treasurer should have the most current edition. New members, per our bylaws are entitled to a current podium edition. Other members in attendance shared that they write in their book or attach the resolutions that passed in order to use their Bylaws more than 1 year.**

15 Q There was a question about the collar pins.

15 A **Per the Bylaws they should be worn on the Official Marine Blue Blouse/Shirt. However, if someone forgets to put them on before they leave their house, please don't ask them to leave the meeting. Again, please be kind.**

16 Q If we have a question for National Headquarters, who do we ask?

16 A **Questions or concerns may be emailed to the info email address: info@vfwauxiliary.org On staff is Maria, she filters out all questions and concerns. Maria will respond immediately during the work week or sends to the appropriate staff member so correct information goes out.**

17 Q The question was that an individual's grandchildren are on missions and so they have put their grandmother's address as their home for now. However, when they renewed their membership, their card was sent to the treasurer instead of sending to the address on file. How do we stop this from happening?

17 A **This should not happen. Please give us the specifics and we will inform Sheldon or George to be sure the address was not marked as a bad address.**

18 Q Can we put the information about ruling vs resolution in the Magazine?

18 A **If there is room, we also have other avenues like the E-Newletter and Facebook Live.**

19 Q How can you stop the magazine from coming to several members in the same household, wouldn't this save money?

-
- 19 A **The easiest way would be for the other members in the household to sign up for the digital magazine. You can also send an email to the info account and we will take care of it.**
-
- 20 Q Where can someone find Rulings, are they together in the same place?
- 20 A **Your Department Secretary keeps a file of all rulings.**
-
- 21 Q How do we access blogs?
- 21 A **Go to the Auxiliary Website - www.vfwauxiliary.org - then BLOG at the top, same line as HOME, pick the one you want to read.**
-
- 22 Q Why don't we get receipt notices but we get notice of withdrawal?
- 22 A **You should be getting receipts for both receipts and withdrawals. If you are not please contact us at National Headquarters.**
-
- 23 Q What do we do when we find out that a current member is a convicted felon?
- 23 A **They may be brought up on disciplinary action per Sec 1102 of the Bylaws. Make sure you follow the guidelines. However, they do not have to be brought up on charges. Look at it case by case. i.e.. If they have been a member for years and they did something as a teen and you just found out, you can just disregard. If they stole money, you may not want to make them your treasurer. Use your judgement. It is not automatic removal or action.**
-
- 24 Q Why doesn't the Membership Chairman have access to all of the members in their state?
- 24 A **This has been a discussion for a while. Some feel they should have access, it would make their job easier. Others feel it would infringe on members rights to have their information given out to too many people. We currently do not have plans to give them access.**
-
- 25 Q How come the Conference President and Treasurer are not bonded?
- 25 A **The conferences are not recognized in the bylaws so they are not mandated to bond. Conferences should not have an abundance of money on hand. Be sure the people you elect are trustworthy as best you can.**
-
- 26 Q Why do we have conferences?
- 26 A **From what I have always been told, Conference were set up by the VFW to try to prevent bigger states from dominating the election of National officers. The premise of conferences would at least insure that the National officers would come from different areas of the country.**
-
- 27 Q Can we use both the old and new membership applications?
- 27 A **Yes. If you use the older applications, the applicant must sign in both places on the application. On the new application, you only need one signature.**
-
- 28 Q There was a question on whether the rulings should stand because it mentioned bullets and bullets changes the Bylaws and only Resolutions can change the Bylaws.
- 28 A **It was explained that the Rulings were put in the Bylaws because we were getting frequent questions on the cap and the fact that the Bylaws didn't address Departments without Districts. National President Peggy Haake made these Rulings so everyone can be on the same page. We are hoping resolutions will be brought forth at the next convention to correct these oversights in the Bylaws. One ruling was re-done to eliminate this concern.**
-
- 29 Q Can any member go through info@vfwauxiliary.org or can they call National?
- 29 A **Anyone can email or call National Headquarters at any time. However, many calls or emails we receive will be sent back to the Department to go through the Chain of Command. If we do answer from Headquarters we will cc the Department President so they know what is being asked in their state. They may need to add something to their trainings etc.**
-

- 30 Q Since the Auxiliary supports the VFW VOD and Patriots Pen and now the VFW is going to help promote the Patriot Art. Can a Bachelor Post send in an entry? If an Auxiliary submits the entry for a Bachelor Post, who gets the credit?
- Per the current brochure, it has to be submitted by an Auxiliary. As far as credit the Auxiliary that submits it would get credit on the Auxiliary side. However, the VFW Bachelor Post could always add it to their Community Service report that they submit to National.**
-
- 30 A
- 31 Q Is there a reason why a Post can't enter without an Auxiliary? Why can't Auxiliary enter VOD and Patriots Pen without a Post?
- Since Auxiliaries all have Posts, it is usually submitted as a joint program. If the Post is not interested in participating, usually the Auxiliary can do the work and submit an entry.**
-
- 31 A
- 32 Q Section 915 Solicitation of Funds from a Third Party. If any Auxiliary has been using a third-party program forever, do they now have to get the Department CofA approval? No one has been able to find information as to whether they ever got approval when this started.
- It was suggested to go back to the department and do an email vote of all the Council to allow them to do their program. Another suggestion is the Department could overlook it this year, since the event was already planned and there is no documentation stating it was or was not approved many years ago. Then the department President or Secretary should notify the Auxiliary that it must be approved by the CofA prior to planning the fundraiser for the following year with the section in the Bylaws quoted.**
-
- 32 A
- 33 Q When will National set it up so Departments can see rejoins and who recruited them?
- This is set up in MALTA already. The Department Treasurer can access under duties/reports Recruiter. It shows both new and rejoins.**
-
- 33 A
- 34 Q If a former Department President or Conference President go to Members at Large, do they stay on the roll call?
- Yes and No. If the roll call is for the purpose of voting they will not be called. However, if you are just announcing who the Past President are, you may say their name as a courtesy. I am not sure how a Conference Secretary would know if a member transferred to be a member at large, unless they are notified from that department.**
-
- 34 A

Comments not Questions

- 1 C In the magazine, it stated it is our responsibility to keep older members information current. This person felt: these members need to reach out to us because we have a legal contract with them till they are dead.
- I agree, it would be nice if members did reach out to us. However, older members that end up in a Nursing Home may not be able to reach out to us.**
-
- 1 R
- 2 C County Clerks could help find out information on deaths of older members. Use internet by searching: Name, Town, and State you last knew they resided
-
- 2 C
- 3 C Suggestion: "Well Being" Committees could be set up to contact members to see how they are doing.
-
- 3 C
- 4 C A concern was raised in regards to the Patriotic Art Contest now allowing 3D art. The rules as they were was very simple with the flat artwork. The allowance of 3D art – Ceramics, sculptures etc., makes shipping and handling most difficult. Perhaps more thought be given to 3D criteria.
-

5 C

A member shared that jewelry was eliminated from items being acceptable for the Patriotic Art entries and this took away the ability for the youth on their Reservation to submit entries.

5 R

Ann clarified that, the VFW Auxiliary did not eliminate jewelry. Jewelry was never allowed. The member was invited to send an email to National Headquarters expressing what she just shared with everyone so that the email can be shared with all of the National Line Officers to consider.

6 C

There was a suggestion made to blind copy versus to show all emails when an email goes out to a group. This will help with privacy and make it more difficult to hack members email addresses. Also, remember not to reply all unless you need to.

7 C

There was a comment about moving the flag to the middle of the podium versus to the side because depending on where you are sitting, you can't see the speaker.

Key Codes

- Q Question
- A Answer
- C Comment
- R Response