

APR 13 2010

Proposed By-Law Change- Submitted by District 1, State of MO.

**BY-LAWS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Revised June 2007**

**ARTICLE IX
DEPARTMENT TAX AND FINANCE**

Insert a new section after Section 1 to read:

"Section 2. The Department Per Capita Tax (Veteran Service Officer Fund Tax) shall be Three Dollars (\$3.00) per annum on each and every member in good standing on June 30 of any given year. The per capita tax shall be assessed on a quarterly basis over the first three (3) quarters of the year with one-third of the tax due in October, January and April. Post failing to pay the per capita tax by June 30 of any given year shall be considered in arrears to the Department, in accordance with the National By-Laws.

Re-number current sections 2,3,4,5,6 & 7

Explanation:

Our Veteran Service Officer Program in Missouri is one we all can be very proud of. Our dedicated staff assisted in recovery of over \$120 million dollars last year in benefits to Veterans in Missouri. We lead the nation in dedication and success. These are Veterans in your Post and your local community. Then why does over 45% of the Posts in Missouri not support the financial cost of this program?

Our Veteran Service Program consist of: One (1) Service Officer, six (7) Assistant Service Officers, two (2) Regional Office Staff, one (1) full time and three (3) part time support staff in the offices at Cochran and Kansas City medical centers and twelve (12) District VSIO Chairmen who are paid travel expense only.

We've worked hard over the last three (4) years to encourage Posts to voluntarily contribute their fair share to support this program. Some Posts have been very committed and generous with their donations and we thank them for it. But far too many have ignored our pleas. We have failed to meet our budgeted revenue from Post donations two (3) out of the last three (4) years and are currently looking at a shortfall this year. Comrades, it's time all Posts start paying their share.

It's our hope you too will want to continue the work we do for Veterans in Missouri and support this By-Law Amendment.

Louis P. Puskarsky

District Adjutant

Karl Wenzel

District Commander

Proposed 65 for

OPPOSED

H-10-10