



Department of Oklahoma  
Veterans of Foreign Wars



1103 N. Blackwelder Ave. OKC. OK 73106  
405 525-2680/ [www.vfwoklahoma.org](http://www.vfwoklahoma.org)

April 2020

2019-2020 Series

*"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at the times of adversity."*

*Author Unknown*

DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA HEADQUARTERS  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

General Orders No. 10

2019-2020 Series

1. **Post Nominations/Election of Officers:** Pursuant to section 217 of the Manual of Procedures, nomination of Post Officers shall open in March and election of Officers shall be conducted in April
2. **Post Commanders:** Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post Election Report forms are being mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1. **NOTE: Post that have to complete election reports by paper are to email or mail them to the State Adjutant who will file the report on- line via OMS.**
3. **Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers:** All Posts & Districts should be reminded of the provisions of Section 216 &, 416 of the Manual of Procedures that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Adjutant and properly reviewed.
4. **Post and District Commanders:** Section 222 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure provides that delegates and alternates for the District Convention and meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post as of March 31.
5. **Pursuant to Article V, Sec 3 of the Department of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars By-Laws,** "A delegate registration fee established by the Council of Administration will be paid by each Post for every delegate to which it is entitled and by others authorized to cast a vote as defined by the National By-Laws. This fee may be increased/decreased at each succeeding convention by the Council of Administration. Said fees shall be paid to the State Quartermaster 15 days prior to the opening session of the Department Convention. Anyone wanting to register after this date will be assessed an additional fee of \$1.00 for each delegate registered. Post

delegate fees are due and payable regardless of convention attendance. Post that do not pay prior to the convention will be assessed the delegate fees at the plus \$1.00 rate.”

5. **Pursuant to Article V, Sec 5 of the Department of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars By-Laws,** “The following rules and regulations shall govern voting for elected officers and the Department Convention:

- (a) The rotation of voting in the roll call of Posts shall be by the discretion of the State Commander.
- (b) The list of Post Delegates and Post Alternates to be honored must bear signatures of both the Post Commander and Post Adjutant.
- (c) At the time of voting, the Comrade casting the vote will have to announce their name and Post number for verification by the Credentials Committee.
- (d) The Post Commander must be present and registered in order for his/her vote to be cast. In the absence of the Commander, the Senior Vice Commander may register in his/her place; in the absence of the Commander and Senior Vice Commander, the Junior Vice Commander may register.

6. Pursuant to VFW National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures Sec 222, Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

By-Laws, Sec 222,

- (a) Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing. Delegates and alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure.
- (b) Delegates elected under this section shall not be considered instructed and may exercise full authority in the duty to be performed.
- (c) Each Post will pay, in accordance with its Department Bylaws, a delegate registration fee for each and every delegate to which the Post shall be entitled.
- (d) Each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee. NOTE: This National Convention Registration Fee of \$25.00 is paid directly to National HQ not the Dept of OK.**

Manual of Procedure, Sec 222,

Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Delegates and alternates of each Post shall serve as delegates throughout the year provided they remain members in good standing in the respective Post within the District.

List of all Post within the Department, members in good standing as of 31 March 2020 and the number of delegates for each Post, and delegate fees is below. Any questions may be directed to the Department Headquarters at [vfwhqok@outlook.com](mailto:vfwhqok@outlook.com) or 405.525.2680 Ext 301.

DST	POST#	CITY	3-31-20 Good Stand Memb #	# of Delegates	Delegate Fees Due by 4 June 20	Post Cdr Vote	Post + Cdr Vote Dues by 4 Jun 20	Late Post Dues After 4 Jun 20	Late Post Cdr Dues After 4 Jun 20	Late Post & Cdr Dues
10	1202	ADA	27	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
15	4876	ALTUS	617	21	\$105.00	\$5.00	\$110.00	\$126.00	\$6.00	\$132.00
13	2847	ALVA	46	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
14	1015	ANADARKO	37	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
4	3658	ANTLERS	37	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
14	4574	ARDMORE	141	5	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
4	4859	ATOKA	33	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
1	2592	BERNICE	94	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
8	2855	BLACKWELL	109	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
10	3608	BLANCHARD	98	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
15	7092	BOISE CITY	25	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
4	1048	BOSWELL	18	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
8	3656	BRISTOW	62	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
5	10887	BROKEN ARROW	122	5	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
9	1719	CHANDLER	62	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
14	11201	CHICKASHA	21	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
5	2976	CLAREMORE	250	9	\$45.00	\$5.00	\$50.00	\$54.00	\$6.00	\$60.00
13	4465	CLINTON	80	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
4	1198	COALGATE	33	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
5	3077	COLLINSVILLE	73	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
9	7740	CRESCENT	32	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	1118	CUSHING	119	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
14	11539	DAVIS	22	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	9969	DEL CITY	223	8	\$40.00	\$5.00	\$45.00	\$48.00	\$6.00	\$54.00
1	10099	DEWEY	114	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
14	1192	DUNCAN	220	8	\$40.00	\$5.00	\$45.00	\$48.00	\$6.00	\$54.00
4	3916	DURANT	106	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
9	4938	EDMOND	118	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
13	382	EL RENO	381	13	\$65.00	\$5.00	\$70.00	\$78.00	\$6.00	\$84.00
14	8580	ELGIN	49	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
15	3669	ELK CITY	57	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
9	2270	ENID	170	6	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
7	8798	EUFAULA	317	11	\$55.00	\$5.00	\$60.00	\$66.00	\$6.00	\$72.00
13	6141	FAIRVIEW	27	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
14	5263	FORT SILL	647	22	\$110.00	\$5.00	\$115.00	\$132.00	\$6.00	\$138.00
4	5805	FORT TOWSON	15	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
8	1843	GLENCOE	72	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00

8	9126	GLENPOOL	22	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
1	8380	GROVE	155	6	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
9	4578	GUTHRIE	166	6	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
7	3085	HARTSHORNE	52	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
3	8403	HEAVENER	35	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
7	539	HENRYETTA	105	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
15	8676	HOLLIS	12	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
4	8316	HUGO	49	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
4	4777	IDABEL	113	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
10	11194	KONAWA	171	6	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
15	1193	LAWTON	221	8	\$40.00	\$5.00	\$45.00	\$48.00	\$6.00	\$54.00
10	12103	LEXINGTON	34	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
1	3573	LOCUST GROVE	76	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
5	7441	MANNFORD	81	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
14	4888	MARLOW	30	1	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
7	1098	MC ALESTER	319	11	\$55.00	\$5.00	\$60.00	\$66.00	\$6.00	\$72.00
10	7192	MIDWEST CITY	191	7	\$35.00	\$5.00	\$40.00	\$42.00	\$6.00	\$48.00
10	8706	MOORE	117	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
3	8384	MULDROW	99	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
2	474	MUSKOGEE	152	6	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
10	4890	NORMAN	119	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
12	7203	OKEENE	18	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
9	9265	OKLAHOMA CITY	425	15	\$75.00	\$5.00	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$6.00	\$96.00
10	10876	OKLAHOMA CITY	39	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
7	1189	OKMULGEE	121	5	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
5	7180	OWASSO	148	5	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
8	7966	PAWNEE	21	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
8	1201	PONCA CITY	190	7	\$35.00	\$5.00	\$40.00	\$42.00	\$6.00	\$48.00
1	5307	SALINA	80	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
3	4518	SALLISAW	88	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
5	3689	SAND SPRINGS	32	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	1320	SAPULPA	112	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
10	1317	SHAWNEE	342	12	\$60.00	\$5.00	\$65.00			
5	7977	SKIATOOK	63	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
3	4884	SPIRO	78	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
3	4446	STIGLER	100	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
8	2027	STILLWATER	105	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
1	10829	STILWELL	16	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
7	3707	TAHLEQUAH	59	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
13	5914	THOMAS	12	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
4	4869	TISHOMINGO	59	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
5	577	TULSA	375	13	\$65.00	\$5.00	\$70.00	\$78.00	\$6.00	\$84.00
13	6143	WEATHERFORD	75	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00

7	<b>4609</b>	<b>WEBBERS FALLS</b>	25	1	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
1	<b>3698</b>	<b>WESTVILLE</b>	26	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
3	<b>3649</b>	<b>WILBURTON</b>	187	7	\$35.00	\$5.00	\$40.00	\$42.00	\$6.00	\$48.00
15	<b>1335</b>	<b>WOODWARD</b>	127	5	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00

**Posts and Districts are encouraged to utilize some form of virtual meeting website/software for meetings during the COVID-19 crisis. The below links may be helpful.**

You do need to set up an account with zoom ([www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)). However, it is very easy to do and completely free. You just need to go to their website ([www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)), give them the email address you want to use for the account, confirm that email address when they send you a message, and then set up a password. That's all there is to it. And there is no cost to do it.

You can then get to zoom on your computer going to their website. You can also download the Zoom app for your smartphone (iPhone and android) as well as your tablet or iPad, whichever you feel most comfortable in using.

: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/204772869-Zoom-Rooms-User-Guide>

Posts may be able to seek assistance from the Small Business Administration.

<https://www.oklahomacenterfornonprofits.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-resources-for-nonprofits/>

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DARRYL MABRY  
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

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Curtis A. Watts  
Adjutant

***Candidates for Department High Office 2020-2021:***

Department Commander > Mike Merit > Broken Arrow Post 10887 (See attached Flyer)  
 Department Senior Vice Commander > Jim Bassett > Moore Post 8706 (See attached Flyer)  
 Department Junior Vice Commander > Larry Jordan > Clinton Post 4465 (See Attached Flyer)  
 Department Junior Vice Commander > Matt Ward > Salina Post 5307  
 Department Quartermaster > Curt Watts > Stillwater Post 2027  
 Department Chaplain > Gary Lee Walker > Moore Post 8706  
 Department Judge Advocate > Gordon Wheeler > Del City Post 9969  
 Department Surgeon > Jeff Harris > Eufaula Post 8798 (See Attached Flyer)  
 Department Surgeon > Stacy Reddig > El Reno Post 382 (See Attached Flyer)



## COMRADES AND AUXILIARY BROTHERS AND SISTERS;

As the threat and concerns of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Oklahoma and the country continue, I want all to continue to adhere to the State and local guidelines regarding safety precautions. So, I ask you to; be safe, be home, be mindful and continue to be busy.

Don't let the threat take away from you achieving your goals. If anything, these times should force or sway you to alternative thinking. Meaning we can and should achieve some of the same as before but use a different path or method to get there.

At the Headquarters, we have had to cancel or postpone some near dated events due to the statewide quarantine and asked limited movement of personnel. We will continue to provide updates as they come. I know the same has happened within your areas and hope that you continue to update the Headquarters as necessary. The information we disseminate will be vital. We are not shut down. We are just slowed down and have to be patient and deliberate with what we are doing. Learn to use your various mediums (i.e., smartphone, computer or tablet) to process memberships and have meetings. The National Headquarters has given us the opportunity to explore some non-traditional means, "let's make it happen".

Take care of yourselves. But at the same time check on the older (seasoned) Veterans of our organization that may have difficulty adjusting to these times of social isolation. Please check-up on them with probably a simple phone call and ensure they remain in our fight. Helping out by doing a little shopping for them won't hurt either. On that note, don't forget to call our Veterans' centers to see how you can help them also. Show the Veterans in our communities around the state that we all "dare to care".

Lastly, this is a good time to start working on your individual or Post story for the 100th anniversary book. If you recall, I mentioned before that the yellow data cards would be regenerated. The purpose of the cards is not only to ensure you still are at that address, but to inquire if you want to participate and or purchase the book once it's completed. There are no other motives with the card.

"We must remain excited about what we do, let's just be careful at how we do it."

"ALWAYS A VETERAN, ALWAYS FOR A VETERAN"

*Darryl Mabry*  
STATE COMMANDER

## ***FROM THE SR. VICE COMMANDER***

Comrades,

First of all, I hope this finds you in good health given the COVID-19 pandemic across our state, nation and the world. First and foremost, please make sure that you are taking care of yourselves and each other. Please make every effort to follow the guidelines published not only by this department, but the State and Federal government as well. Every one of you are an essential part of this organization and we cannot afford to lose you.

Every District and Post Commander should have received a snail mail letter from the CinC, Commander Mabry and me concerning the COVID-19 guidelines and ways to seek aid during this time. That information was also sent out via email from State Adjutant Watts. Please utilize all of the information it provides concerning economic relief and ways to conduct meetings electronically. Post Commanders, please communicate to your District Commanders how you plan to continue to hold your meetings, elections and installations. District Commanders, please provide the same for your District to the State HQ as soon as you have it.

Programs. If you have not seen on the Facebook or National pages, the 2020-2021 Voice of Democracy theme is "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" and the Patriot's Pen theme is "What is Patriotism to Me?" We had an amazing turn out this year with almost 2400 Patriot's Pen entries and almost 700 Voice of Democracy entries. I would love to see that number continue to increase. I know that school is closed for the rest of the year, but that does not mean that you still cannot send the information, once it is available, to them so they can plan to get it into their curriculum for next year.

Legislative. With the ongoing crisis, the State Legislature is meeting remotely right now and there has not been a lot of movement on any legislation at this time. Federally, the Tele-Health bill that the VFW backed, passed out of the Senate by unanimous consent and went to the President for his signature into law. We are currently promoting the Maj. Richard Star Act HR5995 which is the first step in the door to completing our mission of concurrent receipt for all retirees. There have been several action alerts already concerning it, and there will be more. Even though this pandemic has slowed a lot of things down, it still takes each and every one of you to contact our federal delegation and let your voice be heard. They are still answering phone calls, letters and emails. Please reach out to them.

Finally, as I said in the beginning, please take care of yourselves and stay healthy. If you have any questions about how to conduct meetings during these difficult times, please, do not hesitate to ask us. We are here to help you. Stay safe out there.

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V/R,

Michael L. Merit

State Senior Vice Commander

VFW Department of Oklahoma



**Michael L. Merit**  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Oklahoma  
 Senior Vice Commander  
 National Legislative Chair  
 State Legislative Chair  
 Military Order of the Cooties Grand Scratch of Oklahoma  
 Grand Commander

¶  
 Comrades, .....April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020¶

¶  
 As we near the end of our administrative year, I ask each of you to reflect on what a great year we have had under the stewardship of our State Commander, Darryl Mabry. Our membership numbers are continuing to increase and our programs are seeing increased participation across the state. Without Commander Mabry's leadership, we would not have been able to accomplish any of this.¶

¶  
 It is tradition to present a gift to the outgoing state commander at the end of their term on behalf of the entire state. So, this is the official call to all Districts, Posts and members within our Department to please send a monetary donation to the State Quartermaster Curt Watts for Commander Mabry's gift. It can be in an individual's name or on behalf of a group. This is not a requirement. However, I believe it fitting we show our state commander the appreciation he deserves.¶

¶  
 Please send all donations to the State Headquarters Attn: State Commander Gift. The address is 1103 N. Blackwelder Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73106. All donations must be received NLT June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.¶

¶  
 I appreciate any and all donations you can make as I am sure Commander Mabry will as well.¶

¶  
 V/R,¶  
*Michael L. Merit*  
 Michael L. Merit¶  
 State Sr. Vice Commander¶



State Junior Vice Commander  
Public Affairs  
Veterans and Military Services Committee Chair  
*Jim Bassett*

What a month! Lock down and staying home, it's enough to drive someone crazy. Well crazier. I truly hope that everyone is sequestered in their home and not venturing out unless absolutely necessary. Most importantly, stay healthy!

A lot of good information is being passed out. Stay informed on what your VFW is doing! Read the General Orders. Our next major event will be the Department Convention, June 18 to 21 at the Wyndham Gardens.

Nomination time is on us again. Are you looking at fellow members that you think are ready to take on leadership roles? You should be. Talk to them, ask them.

Normally, this is where I begin to let you know about our upcoming events. With the quarantine procedures in place, a lot of events have been canceled. The Oklahoma City Thunder have canceled their season. The Oklahoma City Energy has suspended their season until May 10th and the Oklahoma City Dodgers will have their season but the start date is unknown right now. So the Military Appreciation Nights are unknown for both organizations. As soon as I find out I will get word out. If you have not attended one of these events, you should. They are a lot of fun.

Now is a good time to start planning your end of year recruiting events. I know that members of the Department are more than willing to help on any membership drives. There are several other outstanding recruiters out there to ask. We also offer great opportunities to recruit. Let us know.

While talking about recruiting, what are you doing to retain your members? Do you have someone communicating with them to see how they are doing? Are you talking to them at events and making them feel welcome? Are you challenging them to be active members and engaged on your events?



We are planning a drive for the VFW/Auxiliary Freedom Fest and again at our state convention. The Supreme Military Order of the Cooties has set up an online report of blood donated. If you donate, please submit the information at <http://vampire.puptent1.org/>.

The blood drives are being sponsored by the Military order of the Cooties Grand of Oklahoma.

Talking to some of the Post and Auxiliary members that participated in the family parties with the Oklahoma National Guard, they seemed to have had fun. Let's see, fun and a chance to recruit? What could be better? I know that I enjoy attending some of these events.



Remember to donate to VMS! If you would like to donate to them, please follow this link.  
[https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw\\_programs\\_donation](https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation)

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities and Events:

#### April:

Stay at home and stay healthy!!!

#### May:

~~15 May~~, Pending new date, Oklahoma City Dodgers Military Appreciation Night, open to any VFW and Auxiliary members. Great recruiting event! If you would like information on helping at this game, contact me, Jim Bassett, 405.664.3929 or [bassettj15@yahoo.com](mailto:bassettj15@yahoo.com).

#### June:

13 June, the VFW and the Auxiliary is sponsoring a Freedom Fest. The timing will be from 10 to 5 at the Eufaula Indian Community Center. There will be a musical guest, Sailor Jerri will be performing from 2 until 4. <https://www.sailorjerrimusic.com/>. If you have attended a Nation Convention lately you should remember that Sailor Jerri is former Navy and a very talented and military oriented singer.

Please share the information, let friends and family know. Share with your coworkers. If you know organizations that would like to attend or set up booths, please have them contact Teresa Stevenson, [tmstevenson@outlook.com](mailto:tmstevenson@outlook.com) or 918-429-2418.

18 to 21 June, State Convention, Wyndham Garden Oklahoma City Airport, 2101 S. Meridian. OKC

#### July:

~~3 July~~, Pending new date, Military Appreciation Night with the Oklahoma City Energy FC against the El Paso Locomotives, open to any VFW and Auxiliary members. Great recruiting event! If you would like information on helping, contact me, Jim Bassett, 405.664.3929 or [bassettj15@yahoo.com](mailto:bassettj15@yahoo.com) 3<sup>rd</sup>.

~~10 July~~, Pending new date, Oklahoma City Dodgers Military Appreciation Night, open to any VFW and Auxiliary members. Great recruiting event! If you would like information on helping at this game, contact me, Jim Bassett, 405.664.3929 or [bassettj15@yahoo.com](mailto:bassettj15@yahoo.com).

18 to 23 July, 121<sup>st</sup> VFW National Convention. This event will be held in Reno, Nevada.



Oklahoma State Fair, 17 to 27 September, and Tulsa State Fair, 1 to 11 October.



We are planning on attending the Fair again this year. We will be concentrating on recruiting, but we will also be encouraging participation in all VFW and Auxiliary events.

**Special Olympics**  
Oklahoma



The Special Olympics is always looking for volunteers. They are in need of coaches, assistants, chaperons, and cheering sections. When you're out volunteering for the VFW, please wear something that identifies you as a VFW or Auxiliary member; it helps increase public awareness. Sign up to help, better yet, have your post sign up to support or sponsor them. Apply at <https://www.sook.org/>.

### **Be Visible!**

When you're out volunteering for the VFW or Auxiliary, please wear something that identifies you as a VFW or Auxiliary member; it helps increase public awareness. Any time you help a veteran is also a good time to wear something that identifies you as a member of the VFW or Auxiliary. There are some exceptions if you are working with other entities, check with them to find out if you can wear VFW or Auxiliary items.

### **Be Visible!**

*Jim Bassett*

State Jr Vice Commander  
Department of Oklahoma  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
1103 N. Blackwelder  
Oklahoma City Oklahoma 73106  
405.664.3929  
[Bassettj15@yahoo.com](mailto:Bassettj15@yahoo.com)  
<http://vfwok.org/>

## ***FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER***

**Adjutant's Side:** Comrades, as we move forward into our election season at the Post and district level, please ensure that once your election is held and that the eligibility of each elected officer is provided to the appropriate Adjutant. In addition, it is imperative that once the election is completed, the election report is filed on-line with VFW National Headquarters utilizing the On-line Membership System (OMS). **Please see additional information below.**

**Post Commanders:** Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post Election Report forms are being mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1. **NOTE: Post that need to complete election reports by paper are to email or mail them to the State Adjutant who will file the report on-line via OMS.**

**Post Commanders and Adjutants, Pursuant to Article V, Sec 5 (b) of the Department of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars By-Laws,**

“The list of Post Delegates and Post Alternates to be honored must bear signatures of both the Post Commander and Post Adjutant. Post may mail or email their letter with delegate name(s), signed by the commander and adjutant to Department Headquarters prior to the Convention. Forward to:

VFW Dept of Oklahoma  
Attn: State Adjutant  
1103 N. Blackwelder Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

or email to [vfwhqok@outlook.com](mailto:vfwhqok@outlook.com)

**Quartermaster’s Side:** Comrades, please note that Post Delegate dues and Commander’s Vote dues for the 99<sup>th</sup> Department of Oklahoma Convention may be paid to the Department prior to 7 June deadline. Please annotate on checks to the Department of Oklahoma that this is for Delegate Dues. All Posts will be invoiced, and copies of invoice will be provided. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Buddy Poppy Production & Shipping on hold: Comrades, due to the COVID-19 issues, National HQ’s has ceased their production and shipment of Buddy Poppy orders. We had 8,000 poppies on order approximately 3 weeks prior to the shutdown. However, National did not fill our order. Once production starts up again, we will be receiving our order. I would encourage all Posts to go ahead and send us your Poppy orders and we will fill them once we receive our shipment at State Headquarters

Curt Watts



***FROM THE OKLAHOMA VFW FOUNDATION***

**OUR MISSION:** The Oklahoma VFW Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, assists Oklahoma veterans and their families, promotes patriotic programs, provides relief for veterans and veteran support organizations, and provides educational scholarships.

Comrades,

I speak for all members of the Oklahoma VFW Foundation Board of Directors that I hope you are all safe and well during these trying times.

Our Founding Donor program that the Foundation Board approved in February is off and running. We currently have 20 Founding Donors and 3 Founding Sponsors. Our Founding Sponsors include the Dept. of Oklahoma VFW, Curtis “Doc” Bohlman, and the VFW Riders Group – Oklahoma. We are in the process of creating a brochure for these programs, but in its

simplest terms the first 200 donors who donate \$100 will be our Founding Donors and the first 25 donors who donate \$1,000 will be our Founding Sponsors.

One of our 4-Year Board member terms is coming up this summer. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Foundation, please drop me a line and I will get more information on this opportunity to you.

Finally, I want to take some time to make sure that we all know we are in this together. That being said, our Foundation is new and thus does not currently have the resources or programs in place to assist with the COVID-19 emergency. And, yes, we want donations. However, we understand that hard decisions have to be made. If you have been impacted financially, take care of yourself before donating to us, or any other cause. If you are looking to help veterans in need, one of the best places to donate to is your own Post's Relief fund. Posts are required to maintain a Relief Fund to help veterans in need. If a Post has a veteran in need contact them and the Post has to turn them away, it is typically because they simply don't have the available funds in their relief funds to provide the assistance. Therefore, although the Oklahoma VFW Foundation does appreciate your donations, we also do not want to be in competition with the VFW and VFW Posts for funds in this time of need. With our 501(c)(3) status, we will continue to pursue funds not available to the VFW and their Posts. If you have a company wanting to donate to you but can't because you are not a 501(c)(3), have them contact us to act as a conduit. In these General Orders is a copy of the letter we will send to that donor to help you receive their funding.

If you want to donate to help veterans in need but can only afford to make one donation, please consider a VFW Post's Relief Fund for your donation in this time of immediate need, after first making sure that Post actually has a way to get funds from that Relief Fund to where they need to go.

John H. Fischer  
President/Executive Director  
Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation  
1103 N. Blackwelder Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106  
Office: (405) 525-2680 (OK-VFW Headquarters)  
Mobile: (405) 443-7265  
Email: [okvfwfoundation@outlook.com](mailto:okvfwfoundation@outlook.com)



# ***FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER***

## **From the National Council Member**

**Development** This week's Development Campaigns are: March 24 Appeal: March sustainer invite email #1 to all Friends of Freedom.

**Programs** Buddy Poppy. VFW "Buddy"® Poppy distribution centers have been shut down due to numerous governors' decrees. We will resume operations once the facilities are allowed to reopen. **All-American Dashboard** Now is a good time to get online and verify all your participation reports to ensure the Posts, Districts and Departments have received all credits. Plenty of training is available online, along with myself to work with anyone at your convenience to ensure credit is awarded

**VFW Store, Emblem and Supply** In response to the recent "stay at home" order, many employees are working remotely, however, employees can be contacted by email or phone. Orders are being processed and we are shipping stock orders. Many personalized/custom orders are shipped by our vendors, who are operating under their state guidelines, so delays are expected.

**Administrative Operations** There are currently 39 Posts under suspension, one of which is new. We have processed one Post charter surrender pursuant to Section 210 of the National Bylaws respectively. The organization has 6,135 chartered Posts. Administrative Operations is engaged in 29 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, six administrative actions and five membership eligibility challenges. We have 17 Bylaw/Article of Incorporation submissions in for review, 10 of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaw/Article of Incorporation submissions is approximately 14 days.

**National Legislative Service** Last week, the VFW-supported [S. 3503](#) was passed by Congress and signed into law. The law ensures student veterans aren't financially penalized because the COVID-19 pandemic has caused their schools to move to online classes. VFW Washington Office Executive Director B.J. Lawrence participated in a teleconference with President Donald J. Trump to discuss the bill's enactment into law. Last week, the VFW-supported S. 3444, [Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2020](#) was introduced in the Senate. On Monday, an [action alert](#) was launched through the VFW Action Corps urging VFW members and supporters to contact their members of Congress and ask for passage of the [Major Richard Star Act](#), which would eliminate the offset between retirement pay and VA disability compensation for veterans who were discharged because of combat wounds. The VFW currently supports [118 pieces of legislation](#) pending before the 116th Congress.

**Communications and Public Affairs** Answered Associated Press and NPR media queries regarding VA response, communication and care during coronavirus pandemic. Attended the DOD Coronavirus Facebook Live Q&A with Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark A. Milley, and Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Ramón "CZ" Colón-López on March 24.

**National Security & Foreign Affairs** Daily COVID-19 reports, morning Sitrep and afternoon updates. We have been asked to sign on to a letter of support that would convert National Guard service members from State Active Duty (SAD) orders to Title 32 USC 502(f) orders, which would provide better medical coverage if they contract the coronavirus during their duties to assist communities. Attended Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) hearing Thursday regarding Army posture during COVID-19 crisis. We are attempting to find out if the president's stimulus package includes DOD funding for service members whose permanent change of station (PCS) orders have been stopped or delayed due to the coronavirus.

**Operations** Continuing to execute protocols within VFW Memorial Building to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, which include reduced/alternate manning, and the disinfecting of surfaces. Closely monitoring veteran unemployment, where the overall rate has increased to 3.6%. The rate for OIF/OEF veterans is at 4.5%. These rates will continue to be impacted by COVID-19 layoffs.

**National Veterans Service** VFW Washington Office staff participated in a teleconference with Dr. Richard Stone, Executive in Charge for Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to discuss VA's response to the

COVID-19 pandemic. VHA reported that it remains committed to serving veterans first, that the supply chain is strong, and that they have not seen delays in the delivery of prescriptions for veterans. VHA will start to send daily updates to VSOs on VA's COVID response and will look to host weekly calls with VSO leaders to field questions. VFW Executive Director B.J. Lawrence met with VA Undersecretary for Benefits Dr. Richard Lawrence in a teleconference on Tuesday to discuss how VA is responding to COVID-19 to continue to allow veterans to file claims and receive benefits even when they cannot physically visit with advocates or VA Regional Offices. National Veterans Service worked closely with National Legislative Service to craft emergency legislation in consultation with both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees to extend filing deadlines and protect veterans who may not be able to file certain benefit actions with VA during the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Veterans Service team began planning to deliver required service officer training in a digital environment due to the cancelation of the spring Proficiency Training Conference. The NVS training team is building additional modules in the VFW Service Officer online learning portal to deliver key curriculum digitally this spring. NVS staff began the first full week of remote work, with essential staffing at the VFW Washington Office, ensuring that veteran inquiries continued to be answered in a timely manner and that we continue to provide updates and guidance to the VFW's global network of more than 2,100 accredited veterans' advocates.

**District Meetings for 2020: "Any Changes or corrections to Districts meetings, please notify the State Adjutant ASAP."**

D-1 > 02 May 20 @ 11 am > Salina Post #5307 >  
D-3 > 03 May 20 @ 11 am, > Stigler Post #4446>  
D-4 > 03 May 20 @ 11 am > Durant Post #3616>  
D-5 > 03 May 20 @ 10 am > Mannford Post #7441>  
D-7 > 02 May 20 @ 11 am > Okmulgee Post #1189>  
D-8 > 03 May 20 @ 11am > Bristow Post #3656  
D-9 > 16 May 20 @ 10am > OKC Post #9265  
D-10 > 09 May 20 @ 10 am > Del City Post #9969  
D-13 > 16 May 20 @ 12:30 pm > Weatherford Post #6143  
D-14 > 02 May 20 @ 11 am > Duncan Post #1192  
D-15 > 02 May 20 @ 11 am > Altus VFW Post #4876

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

09 Apr> National Former POW Recognition Day  
10 Apr> Good Friday  
11 Apr> Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire (1991)  
12 Apr> Easter Sunday  
19 Apr> Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Bombing (9:02 AM April 19, 1995)  
01 May> Loyalty Day  
07 May> National Day of Prayer  
07 May> Unconditional Surrender of all German Forces Signed (1945)  
08 May> V-E Day Declared (1945)  
08 May> Military Spouses Day  
10 May> Mother's Day  
...15 May> Women's Army Corps Founded (1942)  
04 Jun> Post Delegate Dues (Oklahoma State Convention ) Due to VFW Dept of Oklahoma  
18 Jun> VFW Oklahoma 99<sup>th</sup> Department Convention Begins

**Department of Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

**2019-2020 State Raffle**

**Tickets are ONLY \$10**

**GRAND PRIZE: \$1,000**

**Other Prizes**

**3 x \$500, 3 x \$250, 5 x \$150, 6 x \$100**

**SPECIAL EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS**

For tickets purchased and money turned into State Headquarters on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, four prizes of \$100 each will be awarded in January!! (*Early Bird winners are eligible for main drawings*)

**Individual Prizes for Selling the Most Tickets**

- If at least 800 total tickets are sold, the top two individual sellers will be awarded cash prizes.
- If at least 900 total tickets are sold, the top three individual sellers will be awarded cash prizes.
- If at least 1,000 tickets are sold, the top four individual ticket sellers will be awarded cash prizes.

**Post/Auxiliary Prizes for Selling the Most Tickets**

- In addition, Post and Auxiliary Units whose members sell tickets will also win prizes....
- 2 Posts/Auxiliaries win prizes if 800 total tickets sold, 3 win if 900 sold, and 4 win if 1,000 sold.
- If 1,000 total tickets sold, a cash prize to the VFW or Auxiliary District who sold the most tickets.

**Specific Prize Drawing Information:**

*Early Bird: Drawings for a \$100 winner will be drawn on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. (Tickets sold and turned in by 12/31/19).*

**NOTE: For all other drawings, tickets must be sold and turned in to State Headquarters prior to the drawing for that date.**

*March 2020: \$100 Drawings on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. \$250 Drawing on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

*April 2020: \$100 Drawings on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. \$250 Drawing on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

*May 2020: \$150 Drawings on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

*Memorial Day 2020: Two \$500 Drawings, exact date to be determined but will be between Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

*2020 Oklahoma State Convention: At the banquet, \$1,000 GRAND PRIZE DRAWING, as well as \$500 and \$250 winners.*

**Individual Ticket Seller Prizes:**

*If at least 800 tickets sold, top seller wins \$250, 2<sup>nd</sup> place wins \$100. If at least 900 tickets sold, top seller wins \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup> place wins \$250, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place wins \$100. If at least 1,000 tickets sold, top seller wins \$600, 2<sup>nd</sup> place wins \$300, 3<sup>rd</sup> place wins \$200, and 4<sup>th</sup> place wins \$100.*

**Post / Auxiliary Unit Ticket Seller Prizes:**

*If at least 800 tickets sold, Post or Auxiliary unit whose members (when totals combined) sold the most tickets wins \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> place wins \$50. If at least 900 tickets sold, top Post or Auxiliary wins \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> place wins \$100 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place wins \$50. If at least 1,000 tickets sold, top Post or Auxiliary wins \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> place wins \$200, 3<sup>rd</sup> place wins \$100 and 4<sup>th</sup> place wins \$50.*

*If at least 1,000 tickets sold, the VFW or Auxiliary District whose members (when totals combined) sold the most tickets wins \$250.*



# Oklahoma VFW Shirts

## \$40

### Department Fundraiser

A choice of emblems and three different Moisture wicking polo shirts. One with left sleeve pen pocket, and all available in multiple colors.



#1: 6.5 oz. pique adult tactical wicking polo. Made from a 100% polyester. Polo features anti-microbial BLU-X-DRI protection, stain release, snag resistance, matching buttons, a rib knit curl-free collar, side vents and hemmed sleeves. It also offers a raglan sleeve, mic clips on the center placket and shoulders, reinforced dual pen pockets on the left sleeve. Comfortable in any environment and meeting IL-50 standards.

Available from men's small to 6 XL.

Available colors are: Red, Light Blue, Royal Blue, Navy Blue, Hunter Green, White, Tan, Graphite and Black.

#2: Ultra-light 100% polyester moisture wicking three button polo shirt has breathable mesh back, sleeve, and shoulder inserts to help you stay cool. 100% polyester embossed print smooth wicking knit with true hue technology®.

100% polyester Dry-Excel™ small grid mesh back and inserts.

Available from men's small to 4 XL.



Colors: Navy Blue, Royal Blue, White, Black, Forest Green, Graphite, Scarlet, Burgundy.  
Lettering will be in white.



#3: Dry-Excel™ 4.1 ounce 100% polyester moisture wicking horizontal textured stripe knit with high mechanical stretch and snag resistant technology.

Contrast color inserts.

Available from men's small to 4 XL

Color combination: black/graphite, black/light gold, black/orange, black/scarlet, black/white, brown/white, cardinal/white, navy/light gold, navy/scarlet, navy/white, forest/white, graphite/black, Kelly/white, maroon/white, purple/white, royal/light gold, royal/white, scarlet/white, university blue/white, Vegas gold/white and white/graphite.

When requesting shirt, please include the number for the shirt, the color, and which emblem (Cross of Malta or New emblem) you prefer. Shirt orders are placed when there are at least a minimum total order of 12 shirts being requested. When email requesting shirts, please provide a good contact method (phone and email). The new VFW emblem is authorized for Auxiliary members to wear.

**Contact Jim Bassett ([bassettj15@yahoo.com](mailto:bassettj15@yahoo.com)).**