



*Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars*



P.O Box 1126 OKC. OK 73101

405 850-0815/ www.vfwoklahoma.org

June 2021

2020-2021 Series

“Do Not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.

Nelson Mandela

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

General Orders No. 12

2020-2021 Series

1. Posts that have not sent in a Post Election Report Form listing the Post Officers for 2021-2022 should do so immediately for matter of record and so mailings can be made to the proper officers within the Post. Not doing so will subject the Post to actions within our National Bylaws.
2. Attention is directed to the provision of Section 222 (d) of the National Bylaws, “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.” Post Quartermasters are encouraged to register their delegate on-line through the Online Membership System (OMS). Posts failing to comply with this provision will be considered delinquent and in arrears.
3. Attention is directed to the provision of Article V, Section 3 of the Department Bylaws, “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 by 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 accessed an additional fee of \$1.00 for each delegate registered. Post delegate fees are due and payable regardless of convention attendance. Posts that do not pay prior to the convention will be assessed the delegate fees at the plus \$1.00 rate.”

4. Attention is directed to the provision of Section 213 of the National Bylaws, “Any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council and District meetings; County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

5. Attention is directed to the provision of Section 413 of the National Bylaws, “The Commander of the District in arrears for financial obligations to Department or National, for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, or failing to have the office of the Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the District is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed District Trustees Report of Audit, District Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation at the Department Convention. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

A properly completed District Election Report shall be submitted to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention.”

6. Pursuant to Department By-Laws, please note the dues owed by posts. Posts depicted in green have already submitted their dues. Thank You.

DS T	POST#	CITY	3-31-21 Good Stand Memb #	# of Delegate s	Post Cdr Vote	Late Post Dues After 5- 27-21	Late Post Cdr Dues After 5/27/21	Late Post & Cdr Dues
13	382	EL RENO	346	12	1	\$72.00	\$6.00	\$78.00
2	474	MUSKOGEE	140	5	1	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
7	539	HENRYETTA	83	3	1			
5	577	TULSA	394	14	1	\$84.00	\$6.00	\$90.00
14	1015	ANADARKO	28	1	1	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
4	1048	BOSWELL	19	1	1	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
7	1098	MC ALESTER	300	10	1			
8	1118	CUSHING	121	5	1			
7	1189	OKMULGEE	110	4	1			
14	1192	DUNCAN	218	8	1			
15	1193	LAWTON	241	9	1			
4	1198	COALGATE	34	2	1	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	1201	PONCA CITY	180	6	1	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
10	1202	ADA	27	1	1			

10	1317	SHAWNEE	334	12	1			
8	1320	SAPULPA	120	4	1			
15	1335	WOODWARD	126	5	1			
9	1719	CHANDLER	56	2	1			
8	1843	GLENCOE	81	3	1			
8	2027	STILLWATER	108	4	1			
9	2270	ENID	170	6	1			
1	2592	BERNICE	93	4	1			
13	2847	ALVA	43	2	1	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	2855	BLACKWELL	116	4	1	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
5	2976	CLAREMORE	242	9	1	\$54.00	\$6.00	\$60.00
5	3077	COLLINSVILLE	75	3	1			
7	3085	HARTSHORNE	49	2	1			
1	3573	LOCUST GROVE	75	3	1	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
10	3608	BLANCHARD	108	4	1			
3	3649	WILBURTON	162	6	1			
8	3656	BRISTOW	67	3	1	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
4	3658	ANTLERS	31	2	1	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
15	3669	ELK CITY	57	2	1	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
5	3689	SAND SPRINGS	37	2	1			
1	3698	WESTVILLE	28	1	1	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
1	3707	TAHLEQUAH	60	2	1	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
4	3916	DURANT	112	4	1			
3	4446	STIGLER	105	4	1	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
13	4465	CLINTON	85	3	1			
3	4518	SALLISAW	90	3	1			
14	4574	ARDMORE	144	5	1			
9	4578	GUTHRIE	159	6	1			
7	4609	WEBBERS FALLS	26	1	1	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
4	4777	IDABEL	114	4	1			
4	4859	ATOKA	31	2	1			
4	4869	TISHOMINGO	55	2	1	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
15	4876	ALTUS	660	22	1			
3	4884	SPIRO	76	3	1	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
14	4888	MARLOW	30	1	1			
10	4890	NORMAN	104	4	1			
9	4938	EDMOND	116	4	1	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
14	5263	FORT SILL	616	21	1			
1	5307	SALINA	62	3	1	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
4	5805	FORT TOWSON	13	1	1	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
13	5914	THOMAS	13	1	1	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
13	6141	FAIRVIEW	29	1	1	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
13	6143	WEATHERFORD	81	3	1	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00

15	7092	BOISE CITY	26	1	1			
5	7180	OWASSO	156	6	1	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
10	7192	MIDWEST CITY	198	7	1	\$42.00	\$6.00	\$48.00
12	7203	OKEENE	23	1	1			
5	7441	MANNFORD	84	3	1	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
9	7740	CRESCENT	39	2	1	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	7966	PAWNEE	20	1	1	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
5	7977	SKIATOOK	64	3	1	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
4	8316	HUGO	53	2	1			
1	8380	GROVE	141	5	1			
3	8384	MULDROW	118	4	1			
3	8403	HEAVENER	38	2	1	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
14	8580	ELGIN	51	2	1			
15	8676	HOLLIS	17	1	1			
10	8706	MOORE	126	5	1			
7	8798	EUFAULA	304	11	1	\$66.00	\$6.00	\$72.00
5	9126	GLENPOOL	20	1	1	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
9	9265	OKLAHOMA CITY	402	14	1			
10	9969	DEL CITY	241	9	1	\$54.00	\$6.00	\$60.00
1	10099	DEWEY	114	4	1			
1	10829	STILWELL	16	1	1	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	10876	OKLAHOMA CITY	37	2	1			
5	10887	BROKEN ARROW	128	5	1	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
10	11194	KONAWA	173	6	1			
14	11201	CHICKASHA	20	1	1			
14	11539	DAVIS	16	1	1	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	12103	LEXINGTON	34	2	1			

/os/

MICHAEL L. MERIT
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/os/

Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant

Candidates for Department High Office 2021-2022:

Department Commander > Jim Bassett > Moore Post 8706

Department Senior Vice Commander > Jeremy Owen > Eufaula Post 8798

Department Junior Vice Commander > Phil Rose > Ardmore Post 4574

Department Junior Vice Commander > Stacy Reddig > Glencoe Post 1843

Department Junior Vice Commander > Cliff Cagle > El Reno Post 382

Department Quartermaster > Curt Watts > Stillwater Post 2027

Department Chaplain > Rick Willey > Hollis Post 8676

Department Judge Advocate > Gordon Wheeler > Del City Post 9969

Department Surgeon > Erica Wilson-Traxler > Ft. Sill Post 5263

Department Budget & Finance > James Dockemeyer > Shawnee Post 1317

VFW Oklahoma Foundation Director > John Fischer > Stillwater Post 2027



FROM THE COMMANDER



**Michael L. Merit
State Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Oklahoma**

Comrades,

June 1st 2021

First, I hope this finds all of you and your family healthy and well. If not, I pray for a speedy recovery.

Membership Update. May end numbers are as follows: Southern Conference, Oklahoma is #3. Nationally, Oklahoma is #4. We increased our membership by 251 members. That is awesome. Keep up the great work. Quartermasters, please ensure you are entering a recruiter number when putting in new members, so the right person gets the credit for them. We now have 77 of 84 Posts and 9 out of 11 Districts at or above 100%. Our overall breakdown is 317 new members, 620 reinstates and 93 new life members.

Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch has laid down a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of June 2021! The finish line is in sight! As we head into the final month of the membership year, our goal is to continue the momentum we have built up this year and work to increase our membership totals! For this month's Commander's Challenge, the top Post in each Division with the largest increase in Membership Percentage for the month of June will receive a \$1,000 award deposited into the Post account. Membership Percentage is figured by taking your current paid membership total divided by your previous year's total. (Total/Prior Year). We want to see our Posts reaching out to our members and working hard to show that we are an active and progressive organization that has 20/20 VISION FOR VETERANS! This contest will compare the Post's membership percentage as of close of business May 31st through close of business on June 30th. Members processed through the Online Membership System before close of business will be processed that day; membership applications sent in via fax or mail will be processed when received.

Concerning working with your town to make it a Purple Heart City, I remind everyone that you **must contact Mitch Reed with the Military Order of the Purple Heart prior to any action being taken!** His contact information is in the packet attached to these General Orders.

Our Department Convention is June 10th-13th, 2021. The convention agenda is included with these General Orders. We are trying to have as close to a full convention as possible this year,

so we hope to see everyone come back out and celebrate one heck of a year. If you did not get a chance to purchase a centennial coin, we will have Centennial Pins available during the convention and throughout the rest of the year. The pins are 1.5 inches with dual attachments on the back and are similar in design to the coins. They will be \$5 each and all proceeds raised between April 16th and June 30th, 2021, will go to purchasing a bench at the Mission 22 War at Home Memorial in Broken Arrow.

Finally, well, here we are. Just a few more weeks in our administrative year and I could not be more proud of all the work each and every one of you have done. From the Department staff, all the way down to just a regular member, all of you have risen up and answered the call, even during a pandemic that created absolute havoc as we tried to still accomplish our mission. You did it, though. **ALL** of you did it. In some way, shape, or form everyone had a part they contributed to. While we had some rough times here and there, we still found hope and saw the light at the end of the tunnel. I cannot thank all of you enough for what you accomplished. I will never forget that TEAM OKLAHOMA was first to fight for veterans in Oklahoma during this past year. As we have already begun the transition to Jim and his team, let's continue to be the first in Oklahoma to advocate and fight for our military, our veterans and their families. Thank you all!

Respectfully,
Michael L. Merit
State Commander
2020-2021
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars



Oklahoma

P.O. Box 1126
Oklahoma City, OK 73101
Office: 405 850-0815

vfwokadj@outlook.com
www.vfwoklahoma.org

COMMANDER'S OFFICIAL CALL

TO: Officers and Delegates of the 100th Annual State Convention, Department of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Comrades,

It is my honor and privilege to issue the "Official Call" to the 100th Annual State Convention of the Department of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars, June 10-13, 2021 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel – Oklahoma City Airport 2101 S. Meridian Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73108.

I cordially invite all comrades in good standing to descend upon this convention with spirit, ideas, and commitment as we honor the deserving, elect our future department leaders, pass the rules we will operate by, and most importantly share some fellowship with our friends and new acquaintances during this trying time.

We intend to hold a full convention this year. However, we will afford convention presence via Zoom. Voting privileges will only be extended to those members in person at the Convention and on live video who have proven their membership and Post affiliation. Every attempt will be made for the members to continue to have a voice in our department while operating in a safe manner.

First to Fight for Veterans!

BY ORDER OF:

Michael L. Merit
State Commander

OFFICIAL:

Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant

FROM THE STATE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

State Senior Vice Commander
National and State Legislative Chair
Bylaws/Resolutions Chair
Jim Bassett

Oklahoma is 3rd out of 14 Departments within the Southern Conference.
Oklahoma is 3rd out of 52 Departments within the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
As of 24 May, 2021

Memorial Day has past, I attended a great service that made you think about those that have paid the ultimate price as well as those that served. I hope everyone was able to get out and attend one of the many services. I also hope that you had a safe and fun filled Memorial Day weekend.

Schools of Instruction have been scheduled. While attendance is mandatory for some, I want to encourage general members to come and attend. We will be talking about the programs. I hope to see you at there.

OPERATION SEPTEMBER FREEDOM has entered the planning phase. Later this month or next, we will be notified of the where the WW II veterans are so that we can start planning on how to get them to a nearby airport for their ride. As soon as I hear anything, I will let everyone know. Thank you for the support that have shown for this endeavor. This event is scheduled to start August 1st and run to September 30th, 2021. The VFW is sponsoring this and we are collaborating with Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to make this happen. Information on the organization is available at <https://dreamflights.org/about-osf/>.



I mentioned the Department Dashboard last month. We are trying to get it changed and corrected. But we still need you to input the information. Keep an eye on it and it corrections need to be done, let us know but include the proof. Not everyone is imputing their events or hours. Please, if you are unsure of how to accomplish this, ask.

Keep yourself informed on the issues that influence veterans, easy to do, register at <https://votervoicenet/VFW/register>. Help in the fight to stop the eradication of veteran's benefits continues. Facebook, Twitter, or other Social Media sites do not always tell the truth so do not get wrapped up on hearsay or social media truths. Register with To do this, simply register to receive the Action Corps newsletter. This is a simple and easy way to stay informed. You can register at <https://votervoicenet/VFW/register>.

RETAIN, RETAIN, RETAIN!!! Are you talking to your members? Keeping them interested? If you do not, they may leave. We need to keep members. Recruiting is half of the battle on our membership. We need to keep the members that we currently have as well as bring in new members.

I want to thank those that have stepped up and helped the American Red Cross. Please consider continuing support of the organization. Their food pantry and clothing locker are being operating and helping those in need. They need food and clothing donations so they can continue to help.



DONATE!! DONATE!! Our next blood drive will be at our State Convention in June. They will be there on Friday the 11th, from 3 to 6 PM. If you can donate, please do so. If you do donate blood, please submit a report to the Supreme Military Order of the

Cooties. They set up an online report of blood donated. They will send you a certificate of recognition 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.

Special Olympics are still in need of coaches, assistants, chaperons, and cheering sections. Volunteering or even sponsoring, either individually or as a post, go to <https://www.sook.org/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>.



The Oklahoma VFW Foundation has need of volunteers! We are looking for people that enjoy engaging with businesses or other entities that donate money to worthy causes. The board feels that helping the veterans of Oklahoma is the greatest cause of all. We need help reaching out to businesses. Help us help the foundation grow so that it can support us in our

mission to help veterans.

Like any organization, vacancies occur. If you are interested in serving your fellow veterans, please submit a letter with your fund raising and non-profit experience for consideration. We have also asked the Department to vote two members into the board. Please send your experience letter to Jim Bassett, bassettj15@yahoo.com. I will ensure the board reviews all letters.

Jim Bassett

State Sr Vice Commander
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars
405.664.3929
Bassettj15@yahoo.com
<https://vfwoklahoma.org/>

FROM THE STATE JUNIOR. VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

We did it! We've made it to the home stretch. Without the help of each and every one of you this successful year would not have been possible. I have really enjoyed spending this year at a Department level and hope to continue working with each and everyone of you. Remember the year is not complete so keep up the hard work. This year was very trying but we worked hard and kept thinking outside the box! Together we are TEAM OKLAHOMA and will continue to be a top state in the VFW! I hope to see a large presence at the state convention coming up, if you haven't reserved your rooms or bought banquet tickets there is still time. Also, make sure delegate fees are paid so your post has a voice in the voting aspect of our convention. I'll end this by humbly asking for your support in becoming the next Department of Oklahoma State Senior Vice Commander.

Yours in comradeship,

Jeremy J Owen
State Junior Vice Commander
Department of Oklahoma

FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

TO ALL

PLEASE NOTE THE MAILING ADDRESS FOR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN CHANGED TO:

**VFW DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 1126
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73101**

PLEASE NOTE THE PHONE NUMBERS FOR DEPARTMENT STAFF HAS BEEN CHANGED TO:

WHO	Phone #	USER
Dept HQ	405.850.0815	Curt and/or Admin support
Dept Commander	405.850.0185	Jim Bassett
Dept VSO	405.850.1108	James Dockemeyer
Dept AVSO	405.850.0804	Bill Hinds
Dept AVSO or VSO support	405.850.0798	VSO discretion

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO OUR ADJUTANT EMAIL ADDRESS BEING HACKED WE HAVE DECIDED TO DELETE THAT EMAIL ADDRESS. THE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT IS vwokadj@outlook.com AND THE DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER EMAIL CONTINUES TO BE vwfhqokqm@outlook.com We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.:

PLEASE SEE THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS OF OUR VETERANS AFFAIRS ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICERS. THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR AN ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER LEVEL II (ADSO) TO WORK IN THE VFW OKLAHOMA OFFICE IN MUSKOGEE. ANYONE INTERESTED CAN CONTACT STATE SERVICE OFFICER JAMES DOCKEMEYER AT 405.850.1108

**DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
VETERANS AFFAIRS ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICERS**

BASIC PURPOSE:

The Veterans Service Officer is assigned responsibilities involving the coordination of benefits and other related services for eligible veterans and their dependents and as a legal representative/Power of Attorney on their behalf before U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Federal boards. The Veterans Service Officer serves as an advocate for eligible veterans to maximize services and benefits for themselves and their families. The Veterans Service Officer also serves as a liaison to other Federal and State agencies in matters related to veterans' services and benefits.

TYPICAL FUNCTIONS:

Functions in this job vary by position, however, will include the following:

1. Interviews veterans and families to assess their needs and eligibility relating to receipt of State and Federal benefits in the areas of medical treatment, disability compensation, insurance, pension, debt management, education, training, and rehabilitation.
2. Performs case management duties throughout assessment by researching information, compiling reports, filing claims, formulating appeals, obtaining benefits, interpreting laws to include rules, regulations, and procedures.
3. Provides assistance in the completion of required forms, counsels and assists clients in utilization of appropriate resources, identifies deficiencies and develops a strategy to initiate actions necessary to obtain maximum benefits.
4. Advises clients regarding documentation needed to support benefit claims which may include making referrals to other agencies and resources.
5. Reviews rating board decisions assuring compliance with Title 38 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, determining if an appeal is warranted.
6. Initiates the appeal process by preparing a written brief outlining the basis of disagreement and obtains client's Power of Attorney to utilize, as necessary.
7. Prepares financial statements and interprets the correlation of Social Security, military retirement, other income, and net worth affecting VA pension and compensation.

8. Assists client in dealing with VA Debt Management Agency by preparing financial reports to support client's request for waiver, postponement, compromise offers, or repayment plan for benefit overpayment.
9. Independently reviews client VA files, evaluating evidence including veteran's service and post service medical records, as well as service history.
10. Research laws, regulations, policies, and case law/precedent decisions from VA Board of Veterans Appeals and U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals.
11. Assists veterans in preparing for hearings, writing appeal briefs on issues that were previously adjudicated at a lower level.
12. Acts as claimant's legal representative during informal hearings before VA decision review officers, formal hearings before VA administrative hearing officers and Board of Veterans Appeals administrative law judges.
13. Presents oral arguments and sworn testimony during hearings through a series of questions that are supportive of the issues on appeal.
14. Plans/develops curriculum, conducts and coordinates training seminars, certification training for Post and District service officers, and others if requested.
15. Develops, maintains, and coordinates comprehensive veterans' outreach and public information programs including certification through Veterans Affairs Regional Office.
16. Serves as agency liaison and guest speaker at civic functions.

LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

The Veterans Service Officer's job consists of three levels which are based on the complexity of work assigned, the level of expertise required to perform assigned duties, the location of specific positions and the responsibility for the leadership of others.

Claim Consultant, Level I

This is the basic level. Employee performs entry level tasks to build skills in the processing of claims and services based on Federal and State laws and regulations endeavoring to assure the entitlement and receipt of appropriate benefits.

Practices counseling veterans and their dependents concerning benefits and services. Under close supervision, limited responsibility may be assigned for preparation of written briefs outlining evidence supportive of issues.

1. Under appellant review or assignments, act as representative of veteran/client before decision review officers, administrative hearing officers, and administrative law judges
2. Limited responsibilities may be assigned for providing training or assistance to others, including administrative support personnel, in providing appropriate services.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSA)

1. KSA requires knowledge of Federal/State statutes/regulations pertaining to veterans' benefits programs consisting of Social Security, Worker's Compensation and applicable rules, policies, and programs that affect said benefits.

2. Basic benefit counseling and interviewing techniques of common adjustment problems experienced by veterans is the goal.
3. The Claims Consultant must have the ability to independently research laws, regulations, policies, and precedent decisions for appellant cases.
4. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing as well as have the ability to follow written and oral instructions. (Use of various software and agency specific computer programs and establishing/maintaining effective working relationships is needed.)

Education and Experience

Requirements at this level consist of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university or an equivalent combination of education and experience, substituting one year of work experience in the military or veterans' programs for each year of the required education.

Assistant Department Service Officer, Level II (ADSO)

This is the Specialist level. Employee is assigned responsibilities involving advanced level work requiring a high level of technical expertise, including the leadership skills providing benefits and services to veterans, i.e., a project leader or other comparable duties. ADSO may supervise clerical or administrative support staff.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSA)

KSA required at this level include skills identified in Level I, plus the ability to provide assistance and services to eligible veterans and their families. ADSO must have knowledge of effective supervisory principles and practices, ability to organize and conduct several programs simultaneously and exercise sound judgement analyzing complex situations while adopting appropriate courses of action.

Education and Experience

Requirements at this level consist of those identified in Level I plus one (1) additional year of experience working veterans' programs.

Department Service Officers, Level III (DSO)

This is the leadership level. Employee is required to have a clear specialization in the occupational family and is responsible for:

1. Administering major program components of the claims and benefits program
2. Managing daily operations dealing with claims/benefits and appeals at a regional claims office or Veterans Affairs claims office.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSA)

KSA at this level consist of those identified in Assistant Department Service Officers.

Education and Experience

Requirements are those identified in Level II plus two (2) additional years of advanced level work in providing benefits and services through programs for veterans.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicant for Claims Consultant must meet KSA, education and experience as listed, but is not required to be a veteran. However, if they are a veteran, they must meet item two (2) of the Special Requirements.
2. Applicant for DSO and ADSO must be a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, discharged under honorable conditions, and must be a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), Department of Oklahoma.
3. Applicant applying for DSO, ADSO and Claim Consultant must obtain accreditation (which has been certified by the VA) from the VFW National Headquarters within six months of employment.
4. Applicant must be willing and able to fulfill all job-related travel requirements associated with these positions.
5. Applicant must meet requirements and be in compliance as outlined in the VFW National Veterans Service Policy and Procedure.

FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Development: May 27 Appeal: Memorial Day matching gift email #3 to all Friends of Freedom. May 29 Appeal: Partners in Patriotism invite #4 to a select group of member and nonmember donors.

Communications: “Uniting to Combat Hunger” Campaign -- Despite the continuing pandemic making it difficult to host food drives and fresh food gleaning events, our “Uniting to Combat Hunger” campaign remains dedicated to eliminating food insecurity among service members, veterans, and their families. This year, together with Humana, we are teaming up with the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization, Feeding America®, to raise donations that help provide meals to people facing hunger. To reach our goal of 1,000,000 meals for 2021, we need your help to spread the word! Be on the lookout for additional information soon. Every dollar donated to Feeding America helps provide at least 10 meals to people facing hunger, and all “Uniting to Combat Hunger” donations received will go directly to support local Feeding America member food banks across the nation. The C&PA director facilitated a media interview with correspondent from the Associated Press discussing Memorial Day. The C&PA director attended a joint press conference at the House Triangle outside the U.S. Capitol Building held by legislators and other veterans’ rights advocates highlighting toxic exposure legislation. VFW NLS Associate Director for DAMA Kristina Keenan gave remarks on behalf of the VFW, Episode 013 of #StillServing: [The VFW Podcast](#), “Hallowed Grounds and Fallen Heroes: Focus on Memorial Day”, posted and is now available for download. **Administrative Operations:** There are currently 37 Posts under suspension, one of which is new. We have completed three Post charter revocations, one Post consolidation, and are currently working to institute two new Posts pursuant to Sections 212, 209 and 201 of the National Bylaws, respectively. The organization currently has 6,003 active chartered Posts. Administrative Operations is engaged in 18 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, three administrative actions and four pending

membership eligibility challenges. This past week we received 16 new Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review. We reviewed and approved seven total Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions and currently have 33 submissions pending review and approval. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 14 days. The online Post Election Report is moving right along with 4,950 complete reports submitted to date. The online District Election Report is going strong with 388 complete reports submitted to date. **VFW Foundation:** Now in its fourth year, ACE Hardware is once again partnering with the VFW to place 1 million flags on veteran graves for Memorial Day. Part of this promotion is that ACE ships flags to over 2,000 selected Posts that are near participating ACE Hardware dealers. Flags began shipping to VFW Posts in April. On Saturday, May 29, 2021, participating ACE Hardware retailers will have a flag distribution event at local stores. Consumers who visit a participating ACE store on that date will receive a free 8" x 12" American flag. As a part of the program, ACE Hardware recently donated \$20,000 to the VFW Unmet Needs program. To date ACE Hardware has donated over 4 million flags in support of this program and has made a total contribution of \$80,000 to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Unmet Needs program. Be sure to thank your local ACE Hardware store. The VFW Foundation has begun recruitment for the July 2021 Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign. Not surprisingly, the pandemic has had a negative impact on the fundraiser over the past year. Therefore, we are reaching out to all previous participants as well as first-timers. If anyone has information about a potential interested BK franchisee candidate, please forward contact information to VFW Foundation Assistant Manager, Special Projects Ben Vargas at 816.968.2720 or email at BVargas@vfw.org. Additionally, the VFW's 2021 #ThankBK Appreciation Week is slated for June 14-18, 2021. Whether you dine in, use the drive-thru or have Burger King delivered, it is important for each of us to find ways to show our appreciation to Burger King. Since 2007, Burger King franchisees have raised more than \$6.5 million for the program, helping the VFW to provide more than \$12 million in assistance to America's military and veteran families. **National Legislative Service:** Last Tuesday, the House passed VFW-supported, [H.R.1510](#), the Veterans' Camera Reporting Act, [H.R. 2494](#), to establish a fourth administration in VA, and [H.R. 2441](#), the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act. H.R. 1510 would provide a review of VA's policies and procedures on camera placement, surveillance, equipment maintenance, data storage, and any gaps or barriers VA faces in providing a sense of security and trust to veterans, their families, and VA staff. H.R. 2494 would establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration to oversee programs for vocational rehabilitation, employment, education assistance, veterans' housing loans, veteran-owned business, and the transition assistance program. H.R. 2441 would expand VA's Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement (RANGE) program and assess the mental health needs of rural and highly rural veterans. The VFW currently supports [57 bills; and opposes 1 bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress. **National Veterans Service:** NVS VFW's Pre-Discharge Representatives are providing transition assistance briefings at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Fort Hood, Washington Navy Yard, and areas around the National Capital Region this week, informing transitioning service members on how to access their benefits. NVS leaders joined Veterans Benefits Administration for the newly implemented biweekly meeting for major VSOs to discuss issues with VA benefits processing and collaborate on solutions. NVS Director Ryan Gallucci met with LHI, one of VA's contract vendors to deliver compensation and pension exams to veterans seeking to access VA benefits. NVS now has an ongoing dialogue with all three of VA's contract exam vendors, LHI, QTC, and VES. **D.C. Operations:** VFW D.C. Ops attended a Department of Defense meeting with Ms. Anne McAndrew, who is performing the duties of Under Secretary of Defense Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer to discuss the FY22 defense budget request. Also briefing was Vice Admiral Ronald Boxall, who is the Director for Force Structure, Resources and Assessment, Joint Staff, J8, and several senior leaders from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. D.C. Ops attended a Defense Health Agency briefing with RADM Anne Swap, Director, National Capital Medical Directorate, Defense Health Agency, who discussed the National Capital Region response to COVID-19 and administration of the vaccine. D.C. Ops continues to prepare a daily report for the VFW leadership regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Previously mentioned Bills in the House and Senate are listed further down this General Order input. **LAST THING:** It has been an incredible pleasure to have been your National Council Member for the past three years. All the

dedication and professionalism I have seen is evident in that our great department has been rate 100% in membership by National Headquarters for ALL THREE OF THOSE YEARS! Way to go to Oklahoma!!

Key Bills in Congress

H.R. 67: Veteran Overmedication and Suicide Prevention Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 147: BRAVE Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 239: Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 303: Retired Pay Restoration Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 333: Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 344: Women Veterans TRUST Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 637: Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 958: Protecting Moms Who Served Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 1273: Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 1282: Major Richard Star Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 1292: Same-Day Accountability for Veterans Enhancement Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 1355: K2 Veterans Care Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 1361: To provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 1448: PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 1510: Veterans' Camera Reporting Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 1585: Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 1972: Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2127: Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2268: Keeping Our Promises Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2326: VA campaign to educate veterans about cyber risks | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2372: Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2391: Pilot program on short-term fellowships for veterans | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2419: Assistance for homeless veterans | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2420: Modern information technology service | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2436: Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2441: Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2457: In-state tuition rates for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2494: Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2521: DOULA for VA Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2530: Enewetak Atoll Cleanup Radiation Study Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2545: To clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2569: Veterans Agent Orange Exposure Equity Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

H.R. 2580: Palomares Veterans Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 89: Ensuring Survivor Benefits During COVID-19 Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 134: A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a retraining assistance program for unemployed veterans | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 189: Veterans' Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 219: Aid and Attendance Support Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 344: Major Richard Star Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 437: Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 444: To provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 454: To provide health care and benefits to veterans exposed to toxic substances while serving at K2 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 565: Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 657: To modify the presumption of service connection for certain Vietnam veterans | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 731: Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 810: Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 894: Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 927: Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 952: Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 976: Caring for Survivors Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 1031: To conduct a study on disparities in benefits associated with race and ethnicity | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 1039: Improving Benefits for Gulf War Veterans Act | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 1071: Pilot program for pension claim enhancement assistance | 117th Congress (2021-2022) **NOT SUPPORTED BY THE VFW**

S. 1093: Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 1095: In-state tuition rates for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 1096: To expand eligibility for the Fry Scholarship to certain individuals | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 1296: TAP suicide reduction pilot program | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 1467: VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

S. 1468: Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021 | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Robbie Clark
National Council Member
Department of Oklahoma

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 10 Jun> VFW Oklahoma 100th Department Convention starts (
- 13 Jun> VFW Oklahoma 100th Department Convention closes
- 14 Jun> U.S. Army Founded (1775)
- 14 Jun> Flag Day
- 20 Jun> Father's Day
- 21 Jun > Summer Begins
- 22 Jun> Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress (1942)
- 22 Jun> GI Bill Signed into Law (1944)
- 25 Jun> Korean War Began (1950)
- 27 Jun> National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day
- 30 Jun> Post-911 GI Bill Signed Into Law (2008)
- 04 Jul> U.S. Independence Day

All American Post/District Information

All District and Post Commanders who achieve 100% in membership will receive an email from National Headquarters requesting their VFW hat size and preference type of cap (female/male). A District Commander will not be considered All-American until they hit the top 10 in membership in their division and have met all their program requirements. A Post Commander will not be considered All-American until they achieve the required membership percentage in their respective division and have met all their program requirements. Only the top 25 in their respective division who achieve All-American status will receive an All-American cap from National Headquarters. Once the email from National Headquarters has been received, click on the link and provide the data requested for hat sizes. Having the data will make it easier to place the All-American cap orders to ensure they arrive on time for the National Convention.

Post Membership Divisions and Minimum Qualifying Percentages

Division	Total Membership	Qualifying Percentage	# Eligible
1	951+	Over 101%	25
2	750 to 950	Over 102%	25
3	356 to 749	Over 113%	25
4	246 to 355	Over 114%	25
5	185 to 245	Over 115%	25
6	143 to 184	Over 116%	25
7	112 to 142	Over 117%	25
8	88 to 111	Over 118%	25
9	68 to 87	Over 119%	25
10	51 to 67	Over 125%	25
11	10 to 50	Over 127%	25

District Membership Divisions and Minimum Qualifying Percentages

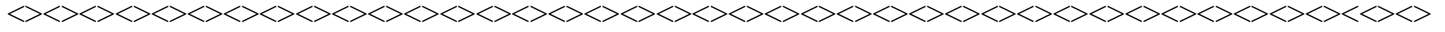
Division	Total Membership	Qualifying Percentage	# Eligible
1	5000 to 14000	Over 100%	10
2	3282 to 4999	Over 100%	10
3	2172 to 3281	Over 100%	10
4	1447 to 2171	Over 100%	10
5	906 to 1446	Over 100%	10
6	1 to 905	Over 100%	10

POST # _____ DISTRICT # _____ VFW YEAR _____

Delegates and Alternates for District, Department & National Conventions

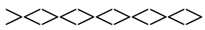
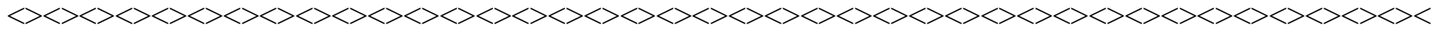
Please complete this form and return to Department Quartermaster once the election of delegates and alternates are elected. Form can be mailed to VFW Dept of Oklahoma, P.O Box 1126. Oklahoma City, OK 73101 or can be emailed to vfwokadj@outlook.com

National By-Laws & Manual of Procedure, **By-Laws, Sec 222**, 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. Pursuant to **MOP, Sec 222**, 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.



Please type or print names of Delegates and/or Alternates: Please place a checkmark to indicate delegate or alternate.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| 1. _____ | Delegate: _____ | Alt: _____ |
| 2. _____ | Delegate: _____ | Alt: _____ |
| 3. _____ | Delegate: _____ | Alt: _____ |
| 4. _____ | Delegate: _____ | Alt: _____ |
| 5. _____ | Delegate: _____ | Alt: _____ |
| 6. _____ | Delegate: _____ | Alt: _____ |
| 7. _____ | Delegate: _____ | Alt: _____ |
| 8. _____ | Delegate: _____ | Alt: _____ |
| 9. _____ | Delegate: _____ | Alt: _____ |
| 10. _____ | Delegate: _____ | Alt: _____ |
| 11. _____ | Delegate: _____ | Alt: _____ |
| 12. _____ | Delegate: _____ | Alt: _____ |



Pursuant to Article V, Sec 5 of the Department of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars By-Laws,

(b) The list of Post Delegates and Post Alternates to be honored must bear signatures of both the Post Commander and Post Adjutant.

Post Commander Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Post Adjutant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Recruiting Banners! Recruiting Table Cloths!

Customizable 7-foot tall banner. Can order either Oklahoma or city with Post and number. Comes with four point stand or ground stake. Approximately \$190 plus shipping

Table Cloth, 6-foot black with post number, Auxiliary and VFW logos. \$200 plus shipping.



These items are offered at cost and shipping.

Contact Jim Bassett, bassettj15@yahoo.com



VFW 122nd NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING
Hotel Phillips
Kansas City, MO – July 31-August 3, 2021

TO: Department Adjutants/Quartermasters
FROM: National Convention Office, VFW
SUBJECT: Convention Housing
DATE: May 28, 2021

The housing assignments for Kansas City have been finalized. Housing for the Kansas City convention opens **6/1/21**.

Toll-Free: 877.464.6840 – Mon.-Fri. 9a-6p - EST
International: 980.337.3372 – Mon. Fri – 9a-6p - EST
Housing Website: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50193779>

www.vfw.org/convention

Please review the hotel’s smoking policy with your hotel contact.

- <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/mkccuqg-hotel-phillips-kansas-city/>
Hotel number is 816-221-7000

Housing for the 122nd National Convention officially opens on **June 1, 2021**. The special convention rates (shown below) are available until **June 30** or **until our block of rooms sells out**. As a reminder, we recommend not waiting until cut-off as there are no guarantees there will be rooms available by that time. **It is always easier to release a room, than it is to get one at the last minute.**

Rates for: \$159 sgl/double **Tax:** 18.35% + \$1.50 per room, per night KC Development fee
Note: Taxes subject to change

Suites: *Suites & Hospitality suites; (based on availability) –Kim Warrender #816-346-4409*

Parking: \$30 Valet Only

No individual, other than the VFW Department, will be able to block more than 5 rooms under one name unless authorized by the VFW department.

Please be advised as a result of your final room block pick-up your department may be eligible for comp rooms based on the amount provided by the hotel contract. It is your responsibility to work directly with the hotels to determine the distribution of these comp rooms prior to your leaving the hotel at the end of the convention. There are no guarantees you will receive your comps if you do not handle this prior to leaving the hotel at the end of the convention.

CC: Department Commander, Department Sr. Vice Commander, Hotel, VISIT Kansas City– VFW

2021 DEPARTMENT HOTEL ASSIGNMENTS

MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN (VFW)

Virginia
Illinois
Arizona
Missouri
Alabama
Arkansas
Georgia
Texas
Kentucky
South Carolina

LOEWS (AUXILIARY HQT)

Michigan
Florida
New York
Connecticut
Maryland
Pennsylvania
Massachusetts
Vermont

HOTEL PHILLIPS

Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
Tennessee

HOTEL INDIGO

West Virginia
Iowa
Wisconsin

AMBASSADOR

Oregon
Pacific Areas
Washington
Wyoming

CROWNE PLAZA

California
Colorado
Kansas
Montana
Nevada
Un-affiliated Posts
Alaska
Hawaii
New Mexico
North Dakota

HOTEL KANSAS CITY

Indiana
Minnesota

HAMPTON INN

Maine
Europe
New Hampshire
Rhode Island

MARRIOTT COURTYARD

Delaware
New Jersey

HILTON PRESIDENT

Nebraska
Ohio
South Dakota
Utah
Idaho

5/27/21