



Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars



P.O Box 1126 OKC. OK 73101

405 525-2680/ www.vfwoklahoma.org

April 2021

2020-2021 Series

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."

Jimmy Dean

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

General Orders No. 10

2020-2021 Series

1. **Post, District, Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters** are reminded of the requirements of Sections 216, 416 and 516 of the Manual of Procedure with regard to proof of eligibility for all newly-elected and appointed officers. Elected and appointed officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Failure or refusal to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment shall result in the office being declared vacant.

2. **Installing officers** are directed to see to it that the Post Election Report forms have been completed and submitted to National Headquarters. If a Post Election Report form has not been forwarded to National Headquarters at the time of installation, the installing officer shall complete and forward such report at the time of the installation of Post Officers no later than June 1. We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters. Additionally, Section 413 of the National Bylaws requires that a properly completed District Election Report be submitted to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

3. **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

4. **Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure** requires that the Post Commander shall see that the Post Trustees Reports of Audit are properly prepared and submitted each quarter.
5. **Attention of incoming Post Officers** is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure which outlines the duties of various Post Officers.
6. **Attention is called to the provisions of Section 703 of the National Bylaws** which require that each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department, District, County Council or Post, as the case may be, to which each officer is accountable. The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit.
7. **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.”
8. **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.

9. **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.** 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.

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 31st.

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 2021 and the number of delegates for each Post, and delegate fees is below. Any questions may be directed to the Department Quartermaster at vfwhqokqm@outlook.com or 405.590-8577.

DS T	POST #	CITY	3-31- 21 Good Stand Mem b #	# of Delegat es	Pos t Cdr Vot e	Delegat e Fees Due by 27 May 21	Post Cdr Vote	Post + Cdr Vote Dues by 27 May 21	Late Post Dues After 27 May 21	Late Post Cdr Dues After 27 May 21	Late Post & Cdr Dues
13	382	EL RENO	346	12	1	\$60.00	\$5.	\$65.00	\$72.00	\$6.00	\$78.00
2	474	MUSKOGEE	140	5	1	\$25.00	\$5.	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
7	539	HENRYETTA	83	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
5	577	TULSA	394	14	1	\$70.00	\$5	\$75.00	\$84.00	\$6.00	\$90.00
14	1015	ANADARKO	28	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
4	1048	BOSWELL	19	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
7	1098	MC ALESTER	300	10	1	\$50.00	\$5	\$55.00	\$60.00	\$6.00	\$66.00
8	1118	CUSHING	121	5	1	\$25.00	\$5	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
7	1189	OKMULGEE	110	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
14	1192	DUNCAN	218	8	1	\$40.00	\$5	\$45.00	\$48.00	\$6.00	\$54.00
15	1193	LAWTON	241	9	1	\$45.00	\$5	\$50.00	\$54.00	\$6.00	\$60.00
4	1198	COALGATE	34	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	1201	PONCA CITY	180	6	1	\$30.00	\$5	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
10	1202	ADA	27	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	1317	SHAWNEE	334	12	1	\$60.00	\$5	\$65.00	\$72.00		
8	1320	SAPULPA	120	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
15	1335	WOODWARD	126	5	1	\$25.00	\$5	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
9	1719	CHANDLER	56	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	1843	GLENCOE	81	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
8	2027	STILLWATER	108	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
9	2270	ENID	170	6	1	\$30.00	\$5	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
1	2592	BERNICE	93	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
13	2847	ALVA	43	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	2855	BLACKWELL	116	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
5	2976	CLAREMORE	242	9	1	\$45.00	\$5	\$50.00	\$54.00	\$6.00	\$60.00
5	3077	COLLINSVILLE	75	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
7	3085	HARTSHORNE	49	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
1	3573	LOCUST GROVE	75	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
10	3608	BLANCHARD	108	4	1	\$20.00	\$50	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
3	3649	WILBURTON	162	6	1	\$30.00	\$5	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
8	3656	BRISTOW	67	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
4	3658	ANTLERS	31	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
15	3669	ELK CITY	57	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
5	3689	SAND SPRINGS	37	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
1	3698	WESTVILLE	28	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
1	3707	TAHLEQUAH	60	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
4	3916	DURANT	112	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00

3	4446	STIGLER	105	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
13	4465	CLINTON	85	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
3	4518	SALLISAW	90	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
14	4574	ARDMORE	144	5	1	\$25.00	\$5	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
9	4578	GUTHRIE	159	6	1	\$30.00	\$5	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
7	4609	WEBBERS FALLS	26	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
4	4777	IDABEL	114	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
4	4859	ATOKA	31	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
4	4869	TISHOMINGO	55	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
15	4876	ALTUS	660	22	1	\$110	\$5	\$115	\$132	\$6.00	\$138
3	4884	SPIRO	76	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
14	4888	MARLOW	30	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	4890	NORMAN	104	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
9	4938	EDMOND	116	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
14	5263	FORT SILL	616	21	1	\$105	\$5	\$110	\$126	\$6.00	\$132
1	5307	SALINA	62	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
4	5805	FORT TOWSON	13	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
13	5914	THOMAS	13	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
13	6141	FAIRVIEW	29	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
13	6143	WEATHERFOR D	81	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
15	7092	BOISE CITY	26	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
5	7180	OWASSO	156	6	1	\$30.00	\$5	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
10	7192	MIDWEST CITY	198	7	1	\$35.00	\$5	\$40.00	\$42.00	\$6.00	\$48.00
12	7203	OKEENE	23	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
5	7441	MANNFORD	84	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
9	7740	CRESCENT	39	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	7966	PAWNEE	20	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
5	7977	SKIATOOK	64	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
4	8316	HUGO	53	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
1	8380	GROVE	141	5	1	\$25.00	\$5	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
3	8384	MULDROW	118	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
3	8403	HEAVENER	38	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
14	8580	ELGIN	51	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
15	8676	HOLLIS	17	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	8706	MOORE	126	5	1	\$25.00	\$5	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
7	8798	EUFAULA	304	11	1	\$55.00	\$5	\$60.00	\$66.00	\$6.00	\$72.00
5	9126	GLENPOOL	20	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
9	9265	OKLAHOMA CITY	402	14	1	\$70.00	\$5	\$75.00	\$84.00	\$6.00	\$90.00
10	9969	DEL CITY	241	9	1	\$45.00	\$5	\$50.00	\$54.00	\$6.00	\$60.00
1	1009 9	DEWEY	114	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00

1	1082 9	STILWELL	16	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	1087 6	OKLAHOMA CITY	37	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
5	1088 7	BROKEN ARROW	128	5	1	\$25.00	\$5	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
10	1119 4	KONAWA	173	6	1	\$30.00	\$5	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
14	1120 1	CHICKASHA	20	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
14	1153 9	DAVIS	16	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	1210 3	LEXINGTON	34	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00

10. ATTENTION DISTRICT & POST COMMANDERS:

ALL STATE POST AND DISTRICT CHECKLISTS:

Please take note of the All-State District checklist & the All-State Post checklist that are an attachment in this month's email along with these General Orders. **Due to the change in convention dates, CHECKLISTS ARE DUE TO THIS HEADQUARTERS NLT 1 MAY 21!**

District Commanders: District Comrade of the Year Award: District Commanders please send your recommendation for your District's Comrade of the Year. Please articulate in your recommendation why you have chosen this comrade for the award. From those submitted, the State Commander will also choose one "VFW Department of Oklahoma Comrade of the Year". Please send your recommendation to State Commander Michael L. Merit NLT 30 April 21 via email to michael.l.merit@gmail.com or mail to 124 W. Dogwood St., Skiatook, OK 74070-2118.

Oklahoma/District VFW Comrade of the Year

This award is for a VFW Comrade that has shown exemplary dedication, volunteerism, support, hard work, and performed above all others throughout the 2020-2021 year. A District Comrade of the Year will be given to a comrade from each District. There will be one overall Oklahoma VFW Comrade of the Year given. Any fellow comrade who is a member of the VFW Department of Oklahoma may nominate another comrade. Self-nominations will not be accepted. This award is given at the sole discretion of the State Commander based on the recommendations submitted and is not intended to compete with the lifetime achievement status that the Mr./Ms./Mrs. VFW Award holds.

/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 4574
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

FLYERS FOR CANDIDATES ARE ATTACHED TO GENERAL ORDERS OR WILL BE FORTH-COMING!



FROM THE COMMANDER



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

Comrades,

April 1st 2021

First, I hope this finds all of you and your family healthy and well. If not, I pray for a speedy recovery. Here we are beginning the tenth month of the year. I hope everyone that is able has continued their year in full swing. I know that COVID is still affecting our operations, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. The VA is now offering the shots to all veterans and spouses. Should you desire to get one, please contact your VA representative to schedule your appointment to receive one. We still have a few more months to do great things for our organization, so let's keep up the Oklahoma Standard and go above and beyond it. We got this TEAM OKLAHOMA! So, "Go do that voodoo that you do so well!"

The Commander-in-Chief's April Membership Challenge and the State Commander's April Showers Reinstatement Challenge are in full swing. Both are great opportunities to win some big prize money for your Post. Packets went in the mail today containing both membership challenges and a roster of Post and At Large unpaid members. Work them hard. There's a lot of people out there we can bring back into the fold. Remember, COVID has impacted a lot of veterans financially. If they cannot afford the membership dues, you can use your Relief Fund to help them out by purchasing their membership for them. You might even consider getting them a life membership so they will not have to worry about dues again. I know we harp on membership a lot, but the bottom line is more members means more dues returned to the Posts and the Department and for some Posts, that's a big shot in the arm.

Membership Update. February end numbers are as follows: Southern Conference, Oklahoma is #3. Nationally, Oklahoma has climbed up #8. We still have 338 to go to that magic 100% before the end of the administrative year. That is down from 669! Keep up the great work. Our highest recruiter to date, NCM PSC Robbie Clark has recruited 145 new members. State Surgeon Stacy Reddig is at 104, State Commander Merit is at 32, State Deputy Chief of Staff Bill Richey at 14, 2 at 11, 1 at 9, 2 at 7, 4 at 5, 5 at 4, 10 at 3, 24 at 2, 46 at 1 and 151 with no recruiter. 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 54 of 84 Posts and 1 out of 11 Districts at or above 100%. Our overall breakdown is 229 new members, 364 reinstates and 69 new life members. Last year we were at 93.49% and this year we are at 97.08%. We are currently in 4th in Group B for the Commander-in-Chief's Membership

Retention Challenge. Remember, keep working those At Large Lists and the Retention Lists you all have received. Let's make it to 1st! Keep up the great work!

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.

One small update to our license plate bills. Ours and the Auxiliary's License Plate bills are in HB1044. All we are waiting for now is the final vote on the floor of Senate before it goes to the Governor. Let's hope this happens soon.

Our Department Centennial is April 16th – 17th, 2021. Not many Departments get to celebrate 100 years, so this is going to be an amazing experience for all of us. Our Centennial Committee has published the agenda for the weekend and is contained in these general orders.

Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch will be in state starting Monday of that week to install Post officers and celebrate Post anniversaries. We're going to be making a trip up Route 66 visiting Posts along the way. So, if you're on Route 66, be on the lookout that week. You never know when we might pop in to see you. We have sold out of our Centennial Coins. That's awesome! But, if you did not get a chance to purchase a coin, we will have Centennial Pins available starting at the event 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, we are in the last quarter of a very tough but fulfilling year. We still have a long way to go to get back to a normal life. But I have faith in each and every one of you that we will continue pressing forward in doing what we do best: being the voice and action for every military member, veteran and their families here in Oklahoma. When you are feeling like it is getting too tough out there, remember the phrase that got Winston Churchill through the toughest times of World War II, "K.B.O. Keep Buggering On." Thank you for all that you have done so far this year and thank you in advance for all I know you are going to do for the rest of this year. Remember, we are TEAM OKLAHOMA, and we are always First to Fight for Veterans!

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 9th out of 52 Departments within the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As of 29 March, 2021

Seeking WW II veterans!



OPERATION SEPTEMBER FREEDOM is coming to Oklahoma. To do this, we need any information you can on WW II veterans. ***We need a phone number, email, and address of WW II era veterans.*** This event is scheduled for August 1st to September 30th, 2022. The VFW is sponsoring this and we are partnering with ODVA to make this happen. Information on the organization is available at <https://dreamflights.org/about-osf/>.



100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE!

Centennial – a 100th anniversary or its celebration. In April 1921, the Department of Oklahoma received its charter and became a reality. There were dedicated people that recognized the need for the VFW in Oklahoma. They worked hard, organized, with a decided purpose, and eventually created the Department of Oklahoma. These individuals were looking to the future. Our present. This means that in April of this year we celebrate our centennial. 100 years of purpose. 100 years of supporting a great cause. 100 years of working to see that, their vision did not wither away. 100 years of Excellence. 100 years of service. 100 years of supporting the veterans in Oklahoma. Not just the veterans, but also their families and their communities. If you think about it, our National motto is “No does more for veterans”. I’m fond of pointing out that many veterans are in families, makes sense that we support the families. Over the years, the families have served, suffered, and felt pride just as the veteran did. And these families live in communities. I know that not many people knew me when I lived here in Oklahoma the first time, but they knew that I served. They would come and ask questions about events on base or items in the news. Veterans have an impact on the communities. As an organized team of veterans and family members, this is the reason we should support our communities. Therefore, 100 years of Excellence and Service, I for one am proud of our

history and our present. Moreover, like those 100 years ago, I am looking to the future for more service and excellence.

The fight to stop the eradication of veteran's benefits continues. Learn what is occurring and stay current and knowledgeable on issues. 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. 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://votervoice.net/VFW/register>.

RETAIN, RETAIN, RETAIN!!! What is your post's retention rate? What are you doing to help retain post 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.

Founded in 1881, the American Red Cross has been helping and supporting the military and their families. Now we can help the American Red Cross. During this pandemic, their food pantry and clothing locker are still operating and helping those in need. Their main offices have closed or moved to minimal staff. They need food and clothing donations so they can continue to help.



DONATE!! DONATE!! Our next blood drive will be at our Centennial Celebration. It will be held from 3 to 6 PM, 1500 to 1800 for the rest of us. If you happen to be setting up an event for the public, you might consider asking the Oklahoma Blood Institute

to come out with you for a blood drive. They are always in need of new blood. This is another way that we can help our veterans, families, and communities. 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.

The Special Olympics have taken their events the virtual world. Baseball, golf, bowling, dancing. Yes, virtual dances. Even in the virtual world, they are still looking for volunteers. They are 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/>. When you are out volunteering for the VFW, please wear something that identifies you as a VFW or Auxiliary member; it helps increase public awareness. I have spent time with some of the Special Olympians. They are some great people and a lot of fun to be around.



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.

Be Visible!

By now, you should have noticed that I want the VFW involved in our communities. When we are out there working in our communities, people notice. And more importantly, they remember. When the time comes for them to think about support of a veteran organization or a veteran, they send them to the VFW. When you have a relative that calls and asks what veterans organization should they donate money to, and then mention several prominent ones from TV. I was stunned to say the least. I told them to donate to the VFW. The post near them was not active and they were not sure if the VFW as a whole still existed.

So I ask, what are you doing in your communities to stand out? When you sponsor an event, does everyone know that you are part of the VFW? Do you have Post or District banners letting people know? Are your members wearing something presentable with VFW or Auxiliary on them? When I was younger, yes before I qualified for the VFW, the VFW Posts were the heart and soul of most communities. I cannot think of any reason that posts cannot be that again. Yes, it is harder in some locations but mostly you just need to go out and do things in the community. Need help with a blood drive, let me know and I will help. Clothing, food, or school supply drives can easily be set up and communities notice.

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 Sr Vice Commander
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars
1103 N. Blackwelder
Oklahoma City Oklahoma 73106
405.664.3929

Bassettj15@yahoo.com
<https://vfwoklahoma.org/>



Oklahoma

FROM THE STATE JUNIOR. VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, I hope this month finds you well and healthy, if not I hope for a speedy recovery. I'm going to keep this short. Recruiting is on a great pace, keep it up and keep thinking outside the box! Our centennial celebration is coming quick so make sure to reserve your rooms and let's have an awesome time together.

Remember, it's election time, do your due diligence and fill your offices! As always, make sure to do your part, because our members are the lifeline of this great organization!

Jeremy J. Owen
State JR 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**

FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Development: March Legislative email appeal #2 to all Friends of Freedom. **Programs:** VFW "Buddy"® Poppy program is fulfilling orders. We encourage all Posts to be planning distribution safely within their local communities. The Buddy Poppy is an amazing occasion to showcase what we do. **Communications:** This year, the VFW will be hosting its first-ever, virtual Parade of Winners on April 1 at 7 p.m. CDT, live on Facebook. Join us as VFW and VFW Auxiliary state and national leadership, representatives from program sponsors [Twisted X](#) and [Dell](#), and this year's 52 Voice of Democracy Department (state) winners come together from all over the world as we crown the 2021 national Voice of Democracy first place winner. Be sure to [visit the VFW Facebook page, select the Virtual Parade of Winner event, tap "interested," then "going" to ensure you stay up-to-date and receive all event notifications and reminders.](#) C&PA Director Rob Couture worked with other directors, staff, and production team on the online broadcast of National Commander Hal Roesch's virtual testimony before the special joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs, March 18, 2021, and subsequent press release and supporting photos. The C&PA director completed

interviews for the first VFW Podcast as new host. The episode is set to air/post, March 31.

Administrative Operations: There are currently 52 Posts under suspension, four of which are new. They completed one Post charter revocation, one Post consolidation, and one new Post institution. The organization currently has 6,023 active chartered Posts. Administrative Operations is engaged in 18 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, five administrative actions and three pending membership eligibility challenges. This past week they received four new Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review. We also reviewed and approved five total Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions and currently have 24 submissions pending review and approval. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 14 days.

Human Resources Promotion: Quentin Carroll has been promoted to Deputy Director, Administrative Operations. He was previously the Associate Director, Administrative Operations.

VFW Foundation Attention: Federal Employees! President Biden has authorized a special Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) solicitation period until April 9, 2021, that allows Federal employees to voluntarily support nonprofits (such as the VFW Foundation) who are responding to the devastation caused by last year's severe winter weather. The VFW Foundation's CFC # is 10511.

National Legislative Service: VFW National Commander Hal Roesch testified via video teleconference before a special joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The VFW delivered its top priority of toxic exposure reform, demanding Congress develop a comprehensive solution for veterans who were exposed to toxic chemicals during their time in service. The VFW recommends Congress establish an independent commission, free of DOD and VA oversight, as well as partner with the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to identify toxic exposures and evaluate their association to certain diseases. Last Thursday, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health and Women Veterans Task Force conducted a hearing to look beyond the Deborah Sampson Act to continue to improve women veterans' health care. VA representatives responded to questions concerning VA's policies and procedures regarding reproductive services and care, gender-specific in-patient substance abuse treatment, COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy, and research on the reproductive health of both men and women. In a statement submitted for the record, VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Tammy Barlet cited results from a VFW survey of women veterans on gender-specific services, expanding interoperability of electronic health records between VA and Community Care Network providers, and ensuring VA prioritizes reproductive health. Last Wednesday, the Senate passed VFW-supported [H.R. 1276](#), the *Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize All Veterans and Every Spouse Act (SAVE LIVES Act)*, previously titled the *Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' and Caregivers' COVID-19 Immunizations Now Expanded Act of 2021 (VA VACCINE Act of 2021)*. The Senate version would expand on the VA VACCINE Act to include all veterans, their spouses, and caregivers when VA has the vaccine supply to do so. Last Wednesday, the *Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021* was introduced by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester (D-MT) along with 16 senators. The VFW-supported bill would add hypertension and MGUS (monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance) to the list of presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure. VA has yet to add these to the list even though science

shows they meet a stronger evidentiary standard than some of the previously approved conditions. The VFW currently supports [12 pieces of legislation](#) pending before the 117th Congress. **National Veterans Service:** National Veteran Service Director Ryan Gallucci testified before the House VA Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs to present the VFW's recommendations on how to address the current backlog of VA compensation and pension exams. The backlog began to grow last spring when COVID-19 forced VA to temporarily halt all C&P exams. Now, some veterans are still waiting for exams to be completed because of COVID, meaning many will wait months for rating decisions. VFW proposed using private health evidence, VA doctors, and improved telehealth capability to rate as many claims as possible, to ensure contract vendors maintain quality and professionalism standards while expanding capacity, and for VA, VSOs, and vendors to collaborate on communicating with veterans on what to expect in the process. Later in the day, Gallucci also participated in a roundtable discussion with the House VA Technology and Modernization Subcommittee to address the digital divide among veterans, promoting the VFW's participation in Project ATLAS and the VFW's capability to deliver benefits assistance despite COVID restrictions. NVS participated in follow-up requirement sessions with Veterans Benefits Administration to help build a new notification and review system for VSO advocates. This ongoing effort will help VSOs regain optics on the clients they serve following last year's decision by VBA to eliminate the 48-hour pre-decisional review. NVS remains optimistic that a new pilot program for notification and review will once again allow VFW to provide the kind of service our clients expect. NVS VFW's National Pre-Discharge Representatives continued to provide virtual benefit briefings to transitioning service members around the country, this week hosting briefings for Joint Base Andrews, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington Navy Yard, and Fort Hood. **D.C. Operations:** This week, D.C. Ops virtually attended a House Armed Services Committee hearing on extremism in the military. The committee received testimony from experts reporting that during the riot on Jan. 6, when military personnel and veterans were among those who stormed the U.S. Capitol building. The Justice Department is working to hold these individuals accountable, and those actively in the service may face military prosecution. But the military also must tackle the underlying issues at play and do more to understand and address extremism in the service. D.C. Ops also attended this week a Senate Armed Services Committee on military sexual assault. The committee heard testimony that presented the analysis of reports of sexual assault and the DOD's efforts to address the problem by focusing on prevention. D.C. Ops also attended the Defense Health Agency quarterly leadership VSO/MSO meeting in which officials discussed limiting the DHA's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Chapter 703 reforms regarding military medical billet reductions restriction to use of some military installation Medical Treatment Facilities by retirees and military families. Remarkably busy month to be sure!

Robbie Clark
National Council Member
Department of Oklahoma

FROM THE STATE SURGEON



STACY REDDIG: VFW OKLAHOMA STATE SURGEON
GENERAL ORDERS: APRIL 2021

Hello Comrades, Sisters and Brothers:

As you all have been seeing in some areas of the State, VA Hospitals and nursing homes are opening visitations. Not all Veterans are in the VA Hospitals. Did you know that most of our veterans receiving long-term care are NOT in a VA facility? NOPE. Most are right around the corner from you in your LOCAL nursing homes, convalescent centers, and assisted living facilities. Most of our veterans in long-term care never see a person from the VFW because they are not where WE are used to finding them.

Let's not forget about these Veterans. Here are ways to find the ones not at the VA Hospitals:

- Develop a visitation schedule or program plan for a local facility's veteran patients.
- Contact your local nursing home.
- Contact your local memory care/convalescent center.
- Contact your neighborhood assisted living.
- Involve VFW members who are too far from a VA facility to volunteer there (they are not too far from their own local nursing homes!)

These places have activity directors that will greatly appreciate VFW members coming to help with their Veterans. The activities director will help you estimate how many veterans they have in their facility, and how the VFW can assist them with needs and the kind of patriotic programs they'd like you to host (think Flag Day, Pearl Harbor Day, Memorial Day, etc.). All residents would benefit from our visits and are encouraged to take part but make a special fuss over the veteran residents!



I have learned about an awesome resource that can be printed out and put in communities! The Auxiliary has what they call "Resource Rack Cards". It has lots of resources to assist Veterans and their families. This card is a one-stop shop of agency names, phones numbers and websites for people to find the assistance they need and are entitled to because of their service to our great country! Awesome to have these at Stand Downs, welcome home, or deployment events and in recruiting booths. These can be printed on card stock. Please get with an Auxiliary member to obtain Resource Rack Card or contact me and I can get it emailed to you!

March has been a busy month. Making many phone calls to VA Hospitals, members, and outreach programs to see how better the VFW can assist in any way. Membership is especially important right now. With the help of all VFW Post working with me on their memberships, I

have obtained Century Recruiter. Thank you to all, without your help, this would of no been possible. Let's continue working together in obtaining 105% in membership for all Post!

Also, March 22, 2021 the Veterans of Foreign Wars announced the improving its member benefits offerings by teaming up with Hear in America to provide VFW members and their extended families free hearing screenings, a Low-Price Guarantee, and other benefits for hearing aid purchases. For more information on Hear in America benefits for VFW members and their families or to sign up for your free hearing screening with no enrollment fee or premiums, call 1.800.286.6149 or visit www.vfw.org/join/member-benefits/medical-services. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call, text, or email me.

Stacy Reddig
State Surgeon VFW Oklahoma
405-421-1990
stacyreddig32@gmail.com

FROM THE V& MS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Veterans and Military Services Committee Chair
Tony McGrew



Hello Comrades, Very soon we will have new leadership in the State and many Districts and Posts. I urge each and everyone of you to get behind and get involved with our VFW. You may want to volunteer to be one of the new leaders and rest assured, if you do, you will not be left by yourself in taking on a new role. One of the tenants of the VFW is to mentor and support those coming after you.

On March 15th VMS working with Post 8706 and the Auxiliary hosted and provided refreshments for the 45th ICBT's Daddy/Daughter Dance which was held at the Belflower Chapel and Event Center. The Post applied for and received a \$200.00 grant to help cover the costs.

Please let me know anytime your District or Post provides assistance to the Oklahoma Guard, Active Duty Personnel and Veterans so it can be reported to National.

VMS Programs are an integral part of the VFW's never-ending obligation to assist members of the active-duty military, national guard and reserves, as well as their families. VMS is broken down into 4 distinct stand-alone programs.

- Operation Uplink

- Unmet Needs
- Military Assistance Program (MAP)
- VFW “Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship” program

We will cover these programs individually and in more detail throughout the year. If you have any questions about any of these programs, please let me know.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities and Events:

April 30th 2021 – Hope Community Services is sponsoring a Veteran’s Resource Fair and they invited to us to participate. We will have a table and be able to speak to and provide information to all the participants. Everyone is invited to attend and help with the table. SEE THE ATTACHED FLYER.

All for One; One for All
Tony McGrew
State VMS Chair
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars
1103 N. Blackwelder
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106
405-820-6467
Tony.vfw8706@gmail.com
<https://www.vfwoklahoma.org>

FROM THE Mr. Miss/Mrs VFW AWARD CHAIRMAN

**DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA
MR/MISS/MRS VFW
AWARD**

This award was established by Past State Commander William Beane after his candidacy for National Junior Vice Commander-n-Chief. At the time of the creation of this award the Department of Oklahoma agreed to administering and maintaining all funding for the award.

The Past Commanders Club of the Department of Oklahoma has accepted the responsibility and honor of sponsoring this award effective June 20, 2020.

The award is the most prestigious award that can be received from the Department of Oklahoma, and is designed as a Life Time Achievement Award. The award is to honor a member of the Department of Oklahoma

Veterans of Foreign Wars who has gone above and beyond to help and assist his/her fellow veterans and the betterment of the VFW organization.

Requirements for nomination for this award:

The nominee must be in good standing within the Department of Oklahoma, their Post and District.

The nominee must have been a continuous member for a period of eight (8) years.

The nominee must be active in all levels of the VFW and whose activities have benefited their fellow veterans and their local community.

The nominee's activities/accomplishments should be on a continuing basis and not based on one (1) or two (2) years of involvement as other awards have been established to recognize those individuals, such as Comrade of the year, etc.

The nominee who receives this award will not be eligible to receive a second or subsequent award.

No past or current Department Officer shall be eligible for this award unless they have been out of elected Department Offices for a minimum of five (5) years and have continual and substantial activity within the Department of Oklahoma and the Post and District levels.

Paid employees of the VFW, are not eligible for this award.

NOMINATION AND JUDGING FOR MR/MISS/MRS VFW

1. Nominations shall be submitted in letter format to the Chairperson of the Mr/Miss/Mrs VFW Judging Committee who will be chosen by the Past Recipients of the Award. The nomination should be not more than two (2) type written pages. The nomination should include the name of the nominee, when they joined the VFW, their Post number, and their activities at all levels of the VFW within the Department of Oklahoma. Please include the title for which the member is being nominated for (i.e. Mr, Miss, Mrs.).
2. A listing of offices held by the nominee should not be the sole basis for the nomination but should include any other substantial activities the nominee has performed.
3. Deadline for nominations will be 30 days prior to the scheduled Department Convention.
4. The Chairperson of the Judging Committee will then submit all the nominations received to the Judging committee which will consist of all Past Mr/Miss/Mrs VFW award recipients (a list of known recipients is attached).
5. If a Past recipient submits a nomination package for a member then that Past recipient should recues themselves from the judging committee for that year.
6. The judging Committee after reviewing all nominations will select that individual whom they feel best exemplifies the Mr/Miss/Mrs VFW Award. The committee members will submit their choices to the

Award Committee Chairperson who will compile the votes and notify the Committee of the winning nomination. All votes will be retained until the award is presented and may be reviewed by any Past Mr/Miss/Mrs VFW Award recipient. All ballots will then be destroyed after the award is presented.

7. The nominee chosen to receive this award will be presented with a plaque in honor of this outstanding achievement. The presentation will be at the annual awards banquet at the Department Convention.

Known Past Award Recipients

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Stacy Reddig	2005	staceyreddig@gmail.com
Herman Almendinger	2007	hoa92731@aol.com
Curtis "Doc" Bohlman	2009	vfwsg4x@sbcglobal.net
Harlan J. Bjorgo	2010	jaybjorgo@outlook.com
Gordon Wheeler	2011	vfwjudge@cox.net
Robert Clark	2015	f172driver@gmail.com
Ron Gimondo	2016	mondostraw@yahoo.com
Robert McGill **	2018	rdmcgill@sbcglobal.net
Kenneth Pike	2019	kpike@cableone.net
Ron Slowik	2020	rojslowik@suddenlink.net
Bill Milan		

(Deceased Award Recipients are not listed.)

NOTE: ** Denotes Judging Committee Chairperson

DISTRICT CONVENTION/MEETING INFORMATION

D-1 > 24 Apr 21 11am>Post 5307, Salina> St. Cdr. Merit
D-3 > 02 May 21 11am, Post 3649 Wilburton> Sr. Vice Cdr Jim Bassett
D-4 > 01 May 21 11am>Post 3916 Durant> St. Jr. Vice Cdr Jeremy Owen
D-5 > 25 Apr 21 10am>Post 577, Tulsa> St. Cdr Mike Merit
D-7 > 01 May 21 11am>Post 8798, Eufaula> St. Surgeon Stacy Reddig
D-8 > 02 May 21 11am>Post 3656, Bristow> St. Adj/QM Curt Watts
D-9 > 08 May 21 10am>Post 1719, Chandler> St. Jr. Vice Jeremy Owen
D-10 > 24 Apr 21 10 am>Post #8706, Moore, New Hope Church, 12323 S. Penn, OKC > PSC Mabry
D-13 > 01 May 21 12:30pm>Post # 6143, Weatherford> PSC Darryl Mabry
D-14 > 15 May 21 11am> Post 4574 Ardmore> St. Jr. Vice Cdr Jeremy Owen
D-15 > 08 May 21 @11 am> Post # 4876 Altus > St. Surgeon Reddig/PSC Darryl Mabry

DATES TO REMEMBER:

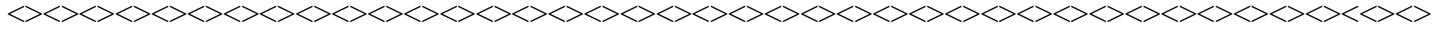
02 Apr> Good Friday
04 Apr> Easter Sunday
11 Apr> Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire (1991)
19 Apr> Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Bombing (9:02 AM April 19, 1995)
01 May> Loyalty Day
06 May> National Day of Prayer
07 May > Unconditional Surrender of all German Forces Signed (1945)
07 May> Military Spouses Day
08 May > V-E Day Declared (1945)
09 May > Mother's Day
15 May> Women's Army Corps Founded (1942)
15 May> Peace Officers Memorial Day

POST # _____ DISTRICT # _____ VFW YEAR _____

Delegates and Alternates for District, Department & National Conventions

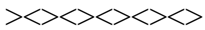
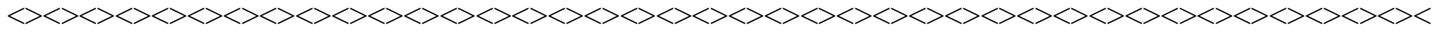
Please complete this form and return to Department Quartermaster once the election of delegates and alternates are elected. Form can be mailed to VFW Dept of Oklahoma, P.O Box 1126. Oklahoma City, OK 73101 or can be emailed to vfwhqok@outlook.com

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:** _____