



Oklahoma

1103 N Blackwelder Ave
Oklahoma City, OK 73106
Office: 405 525-2680

vfwhqok@outlook.com
www.vfwok.org

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Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

We all accept that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is the pandemic that is the major concern throughout the nation. I fully understand everyone's curiosity, cautions and concerns pertaining to the virus and how it can and will affect our day to day operations throughout the State/ Department.

First and foremost, I'm not going to give the impression that I need everyone to close their posts doors and not gather or meet for a designated period of time. That call will be to each individual Post Commander based on the adherence of guidance expected to be given by you to your staffs. District Commanders must consider the same precautions for scheduling meetings.

As your State Commander, I ask all Post Commanders to meet with their House Committee and staff within the week, if you haven't already, to consider the development and enforcement of "risk reduction rules". When developing your rules, remember that everyone is at risk; however, persons over fifty (50) years of age are at a greater risk **if exposed**. The higher the age the greater the risk. To reduce exposure; consider that persons with colds, flu or similar symptoms have an elevated risk of contracting and spreading. Also consider that people who have recently travelled to California, Hawaii and nations abroad within the last three (3) months carry a high risk. I am going to ask all Commanders and personnel working within the VFW to be vigilant in asking those persons who recently traveled from those areas to at least get a screening. Also consider to at least have personnel having unexplained fatigue, sore joints and headaches coupled with cold and flu-like symptoms to refrain from frequenting the canteen or participating in VFW activities while sick. I also encourage Commanders to use this period of concern to explore alternate meeting methods that have been discussed in recent years such as internet conferencing or conference calling. When using those methods, it is imperative that certain precautions are taken.

Once again, as an Organization, we cannot make light of the situation. However, to maintain some normality, we have to do our "due diligence" by observing, identifying and engaging all persons that are at risk of spreading or exposing our Veterans, members, supporters and communities. Our help in reducing to risk is paramount. The delicate enforcement and honesty of all will help us get through this period. As situations dictate, further guidance may be forthcoming.

Again Comrades, thank you for your time, but most of all, thank you for your service to our country.

Always a Veteran Always for a Veteran

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DARRYL MABRY
Commander
Department of Oklahoma