



Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars



P.O Box 1126 OKC. OK 73101

405 850-0815/ www.vfwoklahoma.org



July 2021

2021-2022 Series

“There is not limit to the amount of good you can do if you don’t care who gets the credit.

Ronald Reagan



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

General Orders No. 01

2021-2022 Series

1. Pursuant to National By-Laws Article VII Miscellaneous Provisions, Section 703, Bonds, “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.”

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(s) on-line through the Online Membership System (OMS). Posts failing to comply with this provision will be considered delinquent and in arrears.

/os/

JAMES BASSETT
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /

Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant

Commander Jim Bassett

Oklahoma is 3rd out of 14 Departments within the Southern Conference.
Oklahoma is 4th out of 52 Departments within the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
As of 28 June, 2021

The start of a new year. I am honored to be selected as your Commander and serve my fellow comrades. My desire is for the department to grow. Not just in membership numbers, but out into the communities that we all live in. Let our communities know that we are there taking care of veterans. Be visible.

The 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.

The Schools of Instruction are:

10 July – Lake Eufaula, Post 8798

24 July – Lawton, Post 5263

I hope to see you at there.

For all Commanders, Sr Vice Commanders, Jr Vice Commanders, Surgeons, and Chaplains, we will be hosting Zoom sessions to discuss issues. The dates will be coming out soon.

We have several major public events already scheduled so look for the information.

Jim Bassett

State Commander
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars
P. O. Box 1126
Oklahoma City Oklahoma 73101
405.664.3929



*While others talk... do.
While others fear... believe.
While others wait... work.*

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

*Senior Vice Commander
Jeremy Owen*

Comrades, first and foremost, I hope we are healthy and well! If not I hope for a speedy recovery. I want to thank everyone for the support I have received these last few years. I really appreciate the mentorship and guidance I have received and hope to learn even more in the future! New year means new beginnings and we need to buckle down and get to working our programs straight out the gate. Membership is going to be a great need this year with the awesome numbers we achieved last year. Congratulations to PSC Merit for the 104% membership year. I want everyone to remember that the state leadership is here to support you with all endeavors in this great organization, there is a wealth of knowledge throughout this great state so use it! Let's start this year off right and take off to a blazing start! Let's go TEAM OKLAHOMA we can do anything together!

*State Junior Vice Commander
Stacy Reddig:*

*Buddy Poppy Chairman
Membership Program Chairman
Training & Development Program Chairman*

Hello Comrades, Sisters and Brothers:

First and foremost, I'd like to take this time to say "Thank You" to ALL that had the faith in me in electing me as your 2021-2022 Jr. Vice Commander, to our great State of Oklahoma VFW. It's an honor and a privilege and I will not let our members, Veterans, and their families down!

I have been appointed the State Buddy Poppy Chairman for the 2021-2022 year. Also, assisting as a membership chairman. July begins a new year, new learning, and hitting the ground running for what we all believe in, it is why we are members of the best organization, the VFW. It is our duty in supporting Veterans and their family and our communities.



This small, mighty memorial flower has been raising millions of dollars for the welfare of Veterans and their dependents, and partially supports the VFW National Home for Children! The "Buddy" ® Poppies are assembled by veterans in need and disabled veterans. This helps them with additional income or used for a form of therapy for the veterans. VFW Post want to make sure to always have plenty of "Buddy" ® Poppies on hand for hosting/co-hosting a "Buddy" ® Poppy drive. **Contact VFW Department Headquarters to obtain an order form to order Poppies at least 8-12 weeks in advance of your distribution dates.** During the school of instructions, we will have on hand the order forms. Brochures, "Buddy" ® Poppy distribution supplies and promotional items can be purchased

from the VFW Store at www.vfwstore.org or by calling 1-833-VFW-VETS (1-833-839-8387). **Anniversary “Buddy” ® Poppies** are available to order. Special poppies are available to Posts celebrating their 25th, 50th, and 75th anniversaries. The poppies are the same design as traditional poppies but come in *silver for the 25th anniversary Post, gold for the 50th anniversary Post, and diamond (iridescent white) for the 75th anniversary Post.* These poppies can be ordered along with the regular poppies prior to and during your anniversary year.

Advertising your “Buddy” ® Poppy drive is important in making it successful. Get information out to your local town or city, Facebook page, create an event on your VFW Post Facebook page, send information to your local newspaper, radio stations, and local television news to help promote your “Buddy” ® Poppy drive. This also helps educate others in your community! We will also have a VFW “Buddy” ® Poppy Proclamation form. VFW Post can get with their city mayor to set aside a day to urge the citizens of your community to recognize the merits of this cause by contributing generously to its support through your donations for

“Buddy” ® Poppies on the day set aside for the distribution of these symbols of appreciation for the sacrifices of our honored dead and have citizen participate in wearing a “Buddy” ® Poppy.

MEMBERSHIP! Membership is important. Let’s hit the ground running with collecting dues, recruiting new members. The faster we obtain 100 percent plus; we can enjoy working our programs and getting members involved with events and programs for the rest of the year. I am not saying we stop recruiting once your VFW Post reaches 100 percent plus, it just relieves a little stress! If any Post needs help with setting up a membership drive, please let me know and I will be honored to come help. Also, have you ever thought of becoming a **“Legacy Life”** member. What is this? Legacy Life membership enables VFW Life members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization. When you become a Legacy Life member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW – where **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**. Three prestigious levels of Legacy Life membership are available: Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life members. Once your Legacy Life membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department, and the national organization. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are not only helping today’s veterans but the veterans of tomorrow. See chart for member incentives!

I will have application available to any member wishing to obtain a Legacy Life membership. Any questions that I may assist you with, please call me anytime. I am here to help all VFW Posts succeed!

Stacy Reddig
 Jr. Vice Commander, VFW Oklahoma
 Buddy Poppy Chairman
 Membership Chair
 405-421-1990
 stacyreddig32@gmail.com

VFW LEGACY LIFE MEMBER EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS

MEMBER INCENTIVES	BRONZE \$400	SILVER \$800	GOLD \$1200
Plated Engraved Legacy Life Card	●	●	●
Lapel Pin	●	●	●
Hat Pin	●	●	●
Distinctive VFW Store Line for Legacy Life Members	●	●	●
Framed Legacy Certificate	●	●	●
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	●	●	●
Member Recognition at Kiosks at Memorial Building in Washington, D. C. and Museum at National Headquarters	●	●	●
Special Legacy Life Plaque	●	●	●
Hat Patch	●	●	●
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza	●	●	●
VFW Store Discounts (for personal use only) *	5%	10%	15%
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance *	\$2000	\$3500	\$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Department	\$6	\$12	\$18

* does not apply to Memorial Life Legacy Membership

State Adjutant/Quartermaster
Curt Watts
Parliamentarian

Adjutant Side:

Comrades, please see the attached Committee pdf document along with these General Orders. They show who Commander Bassett has chosen along with those elected individuals for each Committee position.

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 yfwokadj@outlook.com AND THE DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER EMAIL CONTINUES TO BE yfwhqokqm@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 appellate 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 appellate 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.

Quartermaster Side:

Comrades, it is time again to renew Accountable Officer Bonds. Again, the price for the bonds is \$5.00 per thousand insured. Please note there is a \$3,000 minimum when insuring your accountable officers. Please see a copy of the bond application with these General Orders. I have attached a PDF fillable bond application to these General Orders. Bonds should be sent to VFW-OK P.O. Box 1126, Oklahoma City, OK 73101 with a check made payable to VFW-OK.

Veterans and Military Services Committee Chair ***Tony McGrew***

Hello Comrades, The hustle and bustle of starting a new year with new leaders and others in new positions is always exciting and a little apprehensive and it is easy to lose sight of why we are here. Of course, you know, as well as I, that it is to serve Veterans. Our Motto “No One Does More for Veterans” is right on target and one of the best ways we can serve is through the



Veterans and Military Support Programs. I encourage each and everyone of you to reach out serve and support these programs.

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 3 distinct stand-alone programs.

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

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.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities and Events:

July 2nd - OKC Energy Military Appreciation Night

September 12th - The OK Air Guard's 137th SOW Family Day

September 15th - 26th - Oklahoma State Fair

All for One; One for All

Tony McGrew

State VMS Chair

Department of Oklahoma

405-820-6467

Tony.vfw8706@gmail.com

<https://www.vfwoklahoma.org>



FROM THE STATE RIDERS GROUP

Proud sponsor of the Oklahoma VFW Foundation

Greetings Comrades and Fellow Riders



We wanted to let everyone know that the Oklahoma VFW

Riders is co-sponsoring a 4-state rally with the Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars Motorcycle Group and VFW Riders Groups from Arkansas and Louisiana for a motorcycle rally to benefit the VFW Unmet Needs program & the Operation Daily Battle Suicide Prevention Fund. The rally will be August 27-29th and hosted by Post 4562 in Texarkana, AR. Some great fun and rides with fellow VFW Riders will occur. Come join in on the comraderies while we support these great causes. Please see the attached flyer or visit vfwmgtx.com/odb-rally

VFW Oklahoma Riders Group State Rally is coming September 17-19th.



DISTRICT MEETING INFORMATION

D-1 > 21 Aug 21 1100hrs>Post 5307 Salina> St. Commander Jim Bassett
D-3 > 25 Jul 21 1200hr>Post 3649 Wilburton (Picnic @ VFW Home Site)> St. Surgeon Erica Traxler
D-4 > 07 Aug 21 1100hrs>Post 8316 Hugo>St. Surgeon Erica Traxler
D-5 > 08 Aug 21 1100hrs>Post 7441 Mannford>St. Surgeon Erica Traxler
D-7 > 07 Sep 21 1100hrs>Post 1189 Okmulgee>St. Commander Jim Bassett
D-8 > 01 Aug 21 1000hrs>Post 2855 Blackwell>PSC Jay Bjorgo
D-9 > 07 Aug 21 1100hrs>Post 9265 OKC> St. Sr. Vice Jeremy Owen
D-10 >11 Sep 21 1100hrs>Post 1317 Shawnee> St. Sr. Vice Jeremy Owen
D-13 >07 Aug 21 1230hrs>Post 5914 Thomas> St. Commander Jim Bassett
D-14 >08 Aug 21 1100hrs> Post 1192 Duncan> St. Sr. Vice Jeremy Owen
D-15 >11 Sep 21 1100hrs> Post # 1335 Woodward > St. Adj/QM Curt Watts

DATES TO REMEMBER:

02 Jul> U.S. Army Air Corps Established (1926)
04 Jul> U.S. Independence Day (1776)
10 Jul> VFW-OK/Auxiliary School of Instruction>Post 8798 Eufaula OK
24 Jul> VFW-OK/Auxiliary School of Instruction>Post 5263 Lawton, OK
27 Jul> Korean War Ended (1953)
27 Jul> National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
31 Jul> VFW/VFWA National Convention, Kansas City, MO.
27 Aug> Multi-State VFW Riders Group Rally, Texarkana, AR
15 Sep Oklahoma State Fair Begins (Oklahoma City)
17 Sep Oklahoma VFW Riders Group State Rally, Sequoyah State Park

**ATTENTION: IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR A HOME DEPOT GRANT, PLEASE
SEE THE BELOW LINK TO APPLY:**

<https://corporate.homedepot.com/foundation/communityimpactgrants>

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.

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