



*Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars*



P.O Box 369, Choctaw, OK 73020
(580) 359-2963/ www.vfwoklahoma.org

June 2026

2025-2026 Series

*"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."
— General Jimmy Doolittle*

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

General Orders No. 12

2025-2026 Series

1. Each Department shall be governed by a Department Convention. The Department Convention shall consist of:
 1. The Commander-in-Chief and Past Commanders-in-Chief who are members in good standing in a Post within the Department.
 2. The National Council Member, the Department Commander, all Past Department Commanders who are members in good standing in a Post within the Department; all elected officers of the Department, Chief of Staff, Inspector, and the Adjutant.
 3. All District Commanders throughout the Department. In the absence of the District Commander, the District Senior Vice Commander, or, in the Senior Vice Commander's absence, the District Junior Vice Commander may be registered and function as a member of the Convention.
 4. All Post Commanders throughout the Department. In the absence of the Post Commander, the Post Senior Vice Commander, or, in the Senior Vice Commander's absence, the Post Junior Vice Commander may be registered and function as a member of the Convention.
 5. Delegates to be elected by the Posts.
2. Each member of the Department Convention as those persons are defined in Section 504, except delegates elected by the Posts, present at a meeting of the convention shall be entitled to one vote, and an individual possessing more than one qualification for membership in the Department Convention shall have no more than one vote. The delegate or delegates of the Post present at a meeting of the Department Convention shall be entitled to vote the full delegate strength to which the Post is entitled.

The Post Commander, or the Senior or Junior Vice Commander functioning in their place as a member of the Convention, may, at their option, choose to vote as a delegate rather than as a Post Commander. Should there be a division among delegates representing the Post, each delegate present and voting shall cast their pro rata share of the total delegate voting strength of the Post. A roll call may be required and entered upon the record of the Department Convention at the call of at least three officers or delegates representing at least three different Posts.

3. The Post Commander may appoint a *Benefits Advisor* and such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Post or as may be required by Post Bylaws.
4. Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National Bylaws concerning 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 Section 413 of the National Bylaws concerning 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. Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers: All Posts, Districts and Departments should be reminded of the provisions of Sections 216, 416, and 516 of the Manual of Procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Adjutant and properly reviewed.
7. District Meetings Dates & Changes: District Commanders are reminded to notify the State Adjutant at okadj@vfw-oklahoma.org or okasstadj@vfw-oklahoma.org of any changes to district meetings including new dates for District meetings.

/os/
Jeff Harris
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /
Heidi Teeter
Adjutant

Commander Jeff Harris

Comrades,

Well TEAM OKLAHOMA, Team this will be my last report as your State Commander, I know some of you are saying, well it's about time. I have had a wonderful year as the commander!! We have done so much for the VFW, but it's not all done yet. The membership is over 100%. We still need 101 % to make All American. Team, we just need about 50 more and we will reach our goal. I know some posts just need one or two more members to be 101%. So, all we need to do is look at the unpaid and call the member to see if they would like to help the State in making All American twice back-to-back. This has not been done in a while.

I was asked to come to Broken Arrow post for their Memorial Day event. I was happy that a number of people showed up. I was asked to speak, so I did a little report. I went over to see the boots display that Josh Starks does every year. It all looked Amazing. Then I went to Eufaula's post to watch their flag display. Then I got to eat, and the Aux at 8798 is always the best at cooking.

The State Convention is coming up soon at the Embassy Suites in Norman. It will be June 11-14. I hope that you will be there. We always have fun at this Hotel, so I am sure you will have a good time. If you or you know someone that needs to file a VA claim, now would be the time. Our State Service Officer will have his team there to help.

Well TEAM, thank you for making this the best year we have ever had. You guys have done so much, and it makes me so proud to have been your State Commander. I love you all.

T.E.A.M. Oklahoma,

Jeff Harris

State Commander
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Senior Vice Commander Tony McGrew

Comrades, What's your mission? Or, What's your purpose?

I'm pretty sure all of us know or at least are familiar with the Mission of the VFW, since we have read it or heard it many times. just in case, let's do a quick review.

The mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts, serve veterans, the military, and local communities, and advocate on behalf of all veterans. This is a pretty broad statement and fosters two key questions, What? and how? I think you could say, the what and how are the purpose of the VFW and acts as the actionable roadmap, outlining the steps, products, or services you can use to fulfill that underlying purpose.

Your purpose is your ultimate guiding star. It's a broad philosophical reason for existence that rarely changes and is rarely "completed." It focuses on the problems you want to solve and the value you provide to those you serve. According to Bruce Jones, at the Disney Institute, most people think of a mission statement as a way to align everyone one in the organization to the same focus. It explains where our focus is now and what it should be in the future.

I challenge you to think for a minute and define, in your own words, the purpose of the Oklahoma VFW. Are you, are we, living up to it? If not, why not?

On another note: A Big Thank You Deric and Amanda Duncan for arranging for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall to come to Edmond this past weekend. This would not have been such a success without all of you who showed up to serve the Edmond and other Posts.

As a Vietnam Veteran a very heartfelt thank you.

With Respect and gratitude for all that you do,

Tony McGrew

State Senior Vice Commander
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Candidate for State Commander

*Junior Vice Commander
Larry Hurd*

Hello from the paw-paw patch.

For this time of the year the weather Is predictable, HOT! Past State Commander, Past District Commander and Past Post 4876 Commander Bob McGill passed away on May 28. Bob also held several positions including a National Rep for the Cooties. Please keep the McGill family in your thoughts and prayers.

The Department received an email from National that they are tracking 726 posts nationally that have not submitted their 2026-2027 election reports. Oklahoma has 20 posts that have not sent in their election report. The posts are 11201 Chickasha, 10099 Bartlesville, 8384 Muldrow, 8403 Heavner, 7966 Pawnee, 7740 Cresent, 7180 Owasso, 7203 Okeene, 6143 Weatherford, 5805 Fort Towson, 5307 Salina, 4578 Guthrie, 3573 Locust Grove, 3698 Westville, 2855 Blackwell, 2592 Bernice, 1193 Lawton, 1201 Ponca City, 1098 McAlester and 474 Muskogee. All reports needed to be submitted by June 1st and can be done online through OMS or Department Adjutant. Failure to comply with the requirement will result in Posts being placed on suspension by the Commander-in-Chief which may further result in them being considered in arrears with the inability to have representation at Department or National Conventions or potential revocation of the Post charter.

There are several individuals running for department positions. Review the candidates' caucus with your post, make a decision and then vote. Remember that you will need an additional delegate on

the floor to be able to cast your delegate vote. This will be a good convention so read the agenda, so you or your post does not miss out on what is going on, especially the elections. I hope to see you there.

Have a good month of June.

Respectfully,

Larry Hurd

State Junior Vice Commander
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars

*State Surgeon
Deric Duncan*

Comrades,

With District and Post elections now complete, I want to take a moment to congratulate all newly elected and appointed officers across the Department of Oklahoma. Each of you has been entrusted with a charge of leadership, service, and responsibility. I hope you take that charge and run with it.

Now is the time we begin looking forward to the upcoming VFW year. This is the moment when each Post, each District, and each officer should begin charting the course ahead. The work we do as the Veterans of Foreign Wars does not happen by accident. Our organization proudly carries the motto, "No One Does More for Veterans," and those words are only made true through purpose, planning, and action.

To that end, I challenge every new set of officers to begin making a plan now. What will your Post accomplish this year? How will your District strengthen its programs, support its members, and serve veterans in your communities? How will we, as the Department of Oklahoma, continue to raise the standard?

The best time to make a plan was yesterday. The second-best time is today.

Let this be the year we reach higher, dream harder, and work together with renewed purpose. Let this be the year we build stronger Posts, stronger Districts, and a stronger Department. Let this be the year we prove, once again, that Oklahoma leads from the front.

We are the Department of Oklahoma, and there is nothing Team Oklahoma cannot achieve when we move forward together.

Respectfully,

Deric Duncan

State Surgeon
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars
"Bring the Spark, Ignite the Flame"

Adjutant/Quartermaster *Heidi Teeter*

Comrades,

This is it! We are in the final weeks of the year. Down below you will find the list of posts with missing election reports pulled as of June 1. PLEASE GET THESE SUBMITTED. National will automatically suspend any post without an election report.

Also, Districts, if you have not submitted your election report, please get that submitted. Those election reports are due before the convening of the Department Convention. In other words, you have until 9:30 am June 12 the get it submitted. As of June 1, the following Districts have **not** submitted a 2026-2027 election report to National:

- District 7
- District 8
- District 9
- District 15

If you have submitted it, please send me the copy, sometimes when it is submitted through OMS there is a glitch and it does not get emailed to me.

Great news in the Department. We have a new post. We have stood up Post 12250 chartered in Choctaw, OK. The Post will be officially instituted on June 8 at 6pm at State Headquarters.

I have attached an updated Delegate Dues Sheet. If your post is paid up your post city will be green. You will also notice a column called "Other \$ Due" this is any outstanding balance due to the Department other than current Delegate Dues. Also, if you have not sent in your list of registered delegates, please do so, it will speed up the registration process. I will need a copy of it on file for convention. It can be hand delivered to me at convention.

Charlie Mike,

Heidi Teeter

State Adjutant/Quartermaster
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Judge Advocate *Randy Traxler*

Convention Rules Matter

As we approach the Department Convention, members are reminded that the strength of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States depends on conducting business fairly, legally, and according to established rules.

The Judge Advocate's role is not to decide outcomes, but to help ensure procedures follow governing documents and protect every Post and delegate equally.

We all should review:

- National and Department Bylaws
- Ritual and Manual of Procedure
- Special Rules of Order
- Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised when applicable

Convention rules are mandatory. They govern:

- Debate and voting
- Election procedures
- Appeals and decorum

No motion or majority vote can override mandatory bylaw requirements or higher-authority governing documents.

Delegates should evaluate not only whether they support a proposal, but whether it is properly written, legally compliant, financially understood, and operationally workable. Good intentions do not replace proper process.

Parliamentary procedure exists to protect fairness, order, and confidence in convention decisions.

Respectfully and fraternally,

Randy Traxler

Judge Advocate
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars

*Chaplain
Marcus King*

Comrades,

As we move into the summer months, I want to begin by thanking every Post and Auxiliary member who stepped up over Memorial Weekend. Across Oklahoma, you showed up in your communities with dignity, respect, and a deep sense of purpose. Whether you placed flags, held ceremonies, checked on families, or simply stood in quiet remembrance, your efforts ensured that our fallen were honored the way they deserve.

This past month, two of our Posts undertook an especially meaningful responsibility. Edmond Post 4938 and Bartlesville Post 989 each hosted The Wall That Heals in their communities during May. Bringing the Wall to town requires extensive planning, volunteers, and community support, and both Posts rose to the occasion with professionalism and dedication. I want to recognize the many comrades, Auxiliary members, and community partners who made these events possible and ensured that every visitor was welcomed with dignity and respect.

I also want to highlight a resource recently distributed by our National Chaplain: the new “Pass Books.” These small booklets are designed to help chaplains and members alike offer comfort, prayer, and encouragement in moments when words don’t always come easily. I strongly encourage every Post to make use of them. They can be found at: https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html.

Finally, it is with sadness that I inform you of the passing of Past State Commander Bob McGill. His service to the Department and to the veterans of Oklahoma leaves a legacy that will not be forgotten. His funeral will be held at Kincannon Funeral Home, 3020 North Main, Altus, on June 3, 2026, at 1:00 PM. Please keep his family, friends, and comrades in your prayers during this time of loss.

As always, thank you for the work you continue to do—quietly, faithfully, and often without recognition. May we carry ourselves in a way that honors those who came before us and strengthens those who walk beside us.

In service and support,

Marcus King

State Chaplain
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars

 vfwokchaplain@outlook.com

 405.651.5509

Training and Development ***Randy Traxler and Jim Bassett***

Delegates: Understanding Convention Through Existing Guidance

As delegates prepare for the Department Convention, members are encouraged to make full use of the guidance and reference materials provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to better understand how and why convention business is conducted.

Questions involving resolutions, bylaw amendments, elections, officer responsibilities, financial oversight, and parliamentary procedure are often already addressed within existing National and Department publications. Reviewing these materials beforehand helps delegates better understand not only the rules themselves, but the purpose behind them.

Resources delegates should review include:

- National and Department Bylaws
- Manual of Procedure and Ritual
- Quartermaster and Trustee guides
- Officer duty references
- Prior convention actions and standing policies

These resources explain why certain deadlines exist, why amendment procedures matter, how voting authority is determined, and why financial and operational impacts must be considered before major organizational changes are adopted.

Section 222(b) states: “Delegates elected under this section shall not be considered instructed and may exercise full authority in the duty to be performed.” It is important to understand this does not mean delegates should be uninformed. Delegates are expected to review proposals, understand governing documents, and make informed decisions in the best interest of the organization.

Convention is not simply debate and voting. It is the formal business process that protects the structure, stability, and integrity of the organization. Delegates who take time to review the available guidance are better prepared to participate effectively, ask informed questions, and evaluate proposals based on long-term organizational impact rather than emotion or incomplete information.

An informed membership strengthens the Convention process and helps ensure business is conducted fairly, consistently, and in accordance with governing authority.

Respectfully,

Randy Traxler

State Education Co-Chair
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Jim Bassett

State Education Co-Chair
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Veterans and Military Support

Jim Bassett

With activity worldwide, units are again being deployed again. Have you reached out to your locale units to find out how we can help them? What can we do for the deployed or their families? Please don't forget their loved ones while they are gone. We all have been in their place, remember how you felt. They feel the same. I also encourage each post to reach out to units in their area to build a relationship with them. If you are unsure, let me know and I can help you find someone.

Help-A-Hero fundraising starts in October. This is an annual event. Visit your local store, talk to them. Talk to the patrons and tell them you're supporting their fundraising. Funny thing is that this simple thing increases their fundraising. Also generates people's interest in the VFW, the Auxiliary, and new members. The downside is it also generates veterans' interest in working a VA claim. But that is what we do!

Jim Bassett

State VMS Chair
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services

Tony McGrew and Jim Bassett

Residents at the VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City are anticipating visits. Get a group together, VFW, Auxiliary, or both. Cooties are visiting, why not the VFW and Auxiliary?

As always, the VA is always looking for volunteers. They are needed from highly skilled to handing out popcorn and books. If you are interested, let us know. We encourage you to volunteer at homes or hospitals. If you are interested in the VA hospital, let us know. Contact Tony McGrew, tony.vfw8706@gmail.com. Or Jim Bassett, bassettj15@yahoo.com.

Tony McGrew

Jim Bassett

State VAVS Chair
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars

VOD/Patriot Pen/Teacher of the Year

Jim Bassett

This year's themes have been announced and we can take applications. The new post QR code posters should also now available. If not, let me know.

Voice of Democracy "What a Veteran Taught Me About America"

Patriot's Pen "What a Veteran Taught Me About America"

Scholars App is an online program that students can enter, upload their application and essay. It also is a portal for parents, teachers, and school counselors with information about other scholarships, thousands of them, that students can apply for. This is a win/win for the students. Because of this, I really encourage all posts and districts to use the portal. It creates less work for the chair! Get the QR codes out in public, monitor the Scholars App dashboard. When judging time arrives, select your judges. When they are done the dashboard automatically ranks your essay. You just "promote" your top three. If you have enough to promote additional, it does it for you.

From there you notify your top three winners. Easy. But don't forget to enter your report on the National Dashboard so you get credit.

Jim Bassett

State VoD/PP/ToY Chair
Department of Oklahoma

From the Desks of the Department Adjutant Teeter and Public Relations Chair R. Traxler:

Stay Connected – Update Your Email and Check Your Inbox!

We want every member to receive the Department's *General Orders* and important updates without interruption. Please take a moment today to ensure we can reach you:

1. **Verify your email address** with your Post and on your VFW member record.
2. **Check your spam and junk folders** – if you find any Department emails there, mark them as “Not Spam” so future messages go directly to your inbox.

Your involvement starts with staying informed. Help us strengthen communication across the Department by making sure you and your fellow members are connected and receiving the information you need.

We Want to Feature YOU for Warrior Wednesday!

Every week, we're spotlighting the dedicated veterans and leaders who make our organization stronger — and we want your story to be next. “Warrior Wednesday” is our way of celebrating the service, sacrifice, and continued commitment of VFW members across the Department.

📌 Here's how you can be featured:

- Send us your **name, current position, Post number, and location**
- Share your **branch of service, years served, MOS, and eligibility details**
- Tell us **why you're active in the VFW** and what keeps you engaged
- Add a few **hobbies or interests** that show who you are beyond the uniform
- Include **1–2 high-quality photos** — one from your time in service and one current

Submit your information to okadj@vfw-oklahoma.org, okasstadj@vfw-oklahoma.org or oktraining@vfw-oklahoma.org and join us in highlighting the stories that inspire, connect, and strengthen our VFW family. Let's make every Wednesday a celebration of the warriors among us!

2026-2027 Post Election Reports Needed

Dist	Post	PostName
1	2592	Jack D. Crittenden Memorial Post
1	3573	Sequoyah-Downing Post
1	3698	Cherokee Nation Post
1	5307	Grass-Morrow Post
4	5805	Choctaw County Post
5	7180	Owasso Post
5	10099	Dewey Post

7	474	Yank Tipton Post
7	1098	Robert B. Thomas Post
8	1201	Harvie Kothe-Ed Rieman Post
8	2855	Ivan M. Swaim Post
8	7966	Pawnee Post
9	4578	Sooner Post
9	7740	Lloyd R Payne Post
13	6143	Weatherford Post
15	1193	Lawton Post

DISTRICT MEETING INFORMATION

D-1 > August 1, TBD, 1100
D-3 > August 1, TBD, 1100
D-4 > August 1, Hugo 1100
D-5 > August 2, TBD, 1400
D-7 > August 1, TBD, 1100
D-8 > TBD
D-9 > TBD
D-10 > Sept 12, Shawnee, 1000
D-13 > TBD
D-14 > TBD
D-15 > Sept 26, Lawton, 1100

DATES TO REMEMBER:

D Day; Allied invasion of Europe>>June 6
Oklahoma VFW State Convention>>11-14 June>> Embassy Suites, Norman, OK
Flag Day>>June 14
Army Birthday>> June 14>> 251 years young
Juneteenth>> June 19
Father's Day>>June 21
Independence Day>> July 4
School of Instruction>>July 18>> Altus, OK
National Convention>>24-29 July>>Reno, NV
Signing of the Korean Armistice in 1953>> July 27
Coast Guard Birthday>> August 4
Purple Heart Day>>August 7
School of Instruction >>August 29>>Tulsa, OK
Marine Forces Reserve Birthday>>August 29
End of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2010>>August 31