



Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars



1103 N. Blackwelder Ave. OKC. OK 73106
405 525-2680/ www.vfwoklahoma.org

June 2020

2019-2020 Series

"A measure of a country's greatness is its ability to retain compassion in time of crisis."

Thurgood Marshall

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

General Orders No. 12

2019-2020 Series

1. **Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers:** All Posts & Districts should be reminded of the provisions of Section 216 &, 416 of the Manual of Procedures 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.
2. **Post and District Commanders:** Section 222 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure 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.
3. **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."

DS T	POST #	CITY	Election Report Date	3-31- 20 Goo d Stan d Mem b #	# of Deleg ates	Delegat e Fees Due by 4 June 20	Post Cdr Vote	Post + Cdr Vote Dues by 4 Jun 20	Late Post Dues After 4 Jun 20	Late Post Cdr Dues After 4 Jun 20	Late Post & Cdr Dues
10	1202	ADA	4/2/2020	27	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
15	4876	ALTUS	5/14/2020	617	21	\$105.00	\$5.00	\$110.00	\$126.00	\$6.00	\$132.00
13	2847	ALVA	4/7/2020	46	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
14	1015	ANADARKO		37	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
4	3658	ANTLERS	4/7/2020	37	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
14	4574	ARDMORE	4/16/2020	141	5	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
4	4859	ATOKA	5/14/2020	33	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
1	2592	BERNICE		94	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
8	2855	BLACKWELL	5/5/2020	109	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
10	3608	BLANCHARD	5/5/2020	98	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
15	7092	BOISE CITY	4/9/2020	25	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
4	1048	BOSWELL	4/2/2020	18	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
8	3656	BRISTOW		62	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
5	1088 7	BROKEN ARROW	4/10/2020	122	5	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
9	1719	CHANDLER	4/6/2020	62	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
14	1120 1	CHICKASHA	Incomplet e	21	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
5	2976	CLAREMORE	4/8/2020	250	9	\$45.00	\$5.00	\$50.00	\$54.00	\$6.00	\$60.00
13	4465	CLINTON	4/9/2020	80	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
4	1198	COALGATE	4/16/2020	33	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
5	3077	COLLINSVILLE	4/27/2020	73	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
9	7740	CRESCENT	4/7/2020	32	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00

										0	
8	1118	CUSHING		119	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
14	1153 9	DAVIS		22	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	9969	DEL CITY	4/30/2020	223	8	\$40.00	\$5.00	\$45.00	\$48.00	\$6.00	\$54.00
1	1009 9	DEWEY	5/22/2020	114	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
14	1192	DUNCAN		220	8	\$40.00	\$5.00	\$45.00	\$48.00	\$6.00	\$54.00
4	3916	DURANT	4/2/2020	106	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
9	4938	EDMOND	5/14/2020	118	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
13	382	EL RENO		381	13	\$65.00	\$5.00	\$70.00	\$78.00	\$6.00	\$84.00
14	8580	ELGIN	4/26/2020	49	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
15	3669	ELK CITY	4/2/2020	57	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
9	2270	ENID		170	6	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
7	8798	EUFAULA	4/21/2020	317	11	\$55.00	\$5.00	\$60.00	\$66.00	\$6.00	\$72.00
13	6141	FAIRVIEW		27	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
14	5263	FORT SILL	5/21/2020	647	22	\$110.00	\$5.00	\$115.00	\$132.00	\$6.00	\$138.00
4	5805	FORT TOWSON	4/7/2020	15	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
8	1843	GLENCOE	Incomplete	72	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
8	9126	GLENPOOL		22	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
1	8380	GROVE	4/28/2020	155	6	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
9	4578	GUTHRIE	4/9/2020	166	6	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
7	3085	HARTSHORNE	5/9/2020	52	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
3	8403	HEAVENER	5/12/2020	35	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
7	539	HENRYETTA	4/7/2020	105	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
15	8676	HOLLIS		12	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
4	8316	HUGO	4/30/2020	49	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00

4	4777	IDABEL	5/11/2020	113	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
10	1119 4	KONAWA		171	6	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
15	1193	LAWTON	5/23/2020	221	8	\$40.00	\$5.00	\$45.00	\$48.00	\$6.00	\$54.00
10	1210 3	LEXINGTON	5/7/2020	34	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
1	3573	LOCUST GROVE		76	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
5	7441	MANNFORD	4/14/2020	81	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
14	4888	MARLOW	5/5/2020	30	1	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
7	1098	MC ALESTER	4/9/2020	319	11	\$55.00	\$5.00	\$60.00	\$66.00	\$6.00	\$72.00
10	7192	MIDWEST CITY	5/18/2020	191	7	\$35.00	\$5.00	\$40.00	\$42.00	\$6.00	\$48.00
10	8706	MOORE	5/14/2020	117	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
3	8384	MULDROW	4/13/2020	99	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
2	474	MUSKOGEE	4/13/2020	152	6	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
10	4890	NORMAN		119	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
12	7203	OKEENE	5/21/2020	18	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
9	9265	OKLAHOMA CITY		425	15	\$75.00	\$5.00	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$6.00	\$96.00
10	1087 6	OKLAHOMA CITY		39	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
7	1189	OKMULGEE		121	5	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
5	7180	OWASSO		148	5	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
8	7966	PAWNEE		21	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
8	1201	PONCA CITY	5/7/2020	190	7	\$35.00	\$5.00	\$40.00	\$42.00	\$6.00	\$48.00
1	5307	SALINA	5/11/2020	80	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
3	4518	SALLISAW	4/12/2020	88	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
5	3689	SAND SPRINGS	4/23/2020	32	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	1320	SAPULPA	4/7/2020	112	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
10	1317	SHAWNEE	5/12/2020	342	12	\$60.00	\$5.00	\$65.00			

5	7977	SKIATOOK	4/2/2020	63	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
3	4884	SPIRO	5/14/2020	78	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
3	4446	STIGLER		100	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
8	2027	STILLWATER	5/12/2020	105	4	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
1	1082 9	STILWELL		16	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
7	3707	TAHLEQUAH		59	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
13	5914	THOMAS	5/12/2020	12	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
4	4869	TISHOMINGO	5/7/2020	59	2	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
5	577	TULSA	5/7/2020	375	13	\$65.00	\$5.00	\$70.00	\$78.00	\$6.00	\$84.00
13	6143	WEATHERFOR D	4/21/2020	75	3	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
7	4609	WEBBERS FALLS		25	1	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
1	3698	WESTVILLE	5/7/2020	26	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
3	3649	WILBURTON	4/16/2020	187	7	\$35.00	\$5.00	\$40.00	\$42.00	\$6.00	\$48.00
15	1335	WOODWARD	4/7/2020	127	5	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00

4. Pursuant to Article V, Sec 5, (b) 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.

NOTE: Please see worksheet below. If your Post has not already submitted this worksheet to Department Headquarters, then it must accompany the Post delegates and be submitted during Convention Registration.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Oklahoma

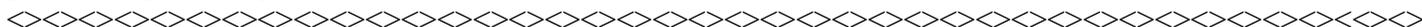


POST # _____ DISTRICT # _____ VFW YEAR _____

Delegates and Alternates for District, Department & National Conventions

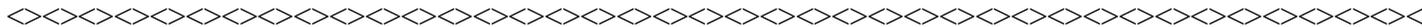
Please complete this form and return to Department Quartermaster once the election of delegates and alternates are elected. Form can be mailed to VFW Dept of Oklahoma, 1103 N. Blackwelder Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73106 or can be emailed to vfwhqok@outlook.com

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:** _____,

5. Pursuant to Article XV, Sec 1 of the Department of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars By-Laws,

Proposed Amendments to the Department By-Laws presented to the Adjutant shall be forwarded to all Post Commanders, District Commanders, State Officers and Pat State Commanders at least 30 day prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

Proposed State Bylaw Amendments

6. Proposed Amendment to State Bylaws proposed by the State Headquarters

Article XIV Social Media (New)

**Insert new Article XIV as follows and the subsequent Articles to be renumbered as required:
“Article XIV Social Media**

Section 1. All Social Media referring to itself as representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Oklahoma, OKVFW known hereafter, is to be maintained by the OKVFW HQ.

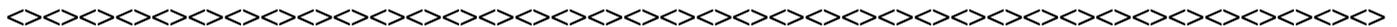
A. All social media pages claiming any relationship to the OKVFW are to be administered by current OKVFW State Commander appointed administrators.

1. Each social media page relating to a particular program of OKVFW is to be administered by the current Chair of said program appointed by the State Commander.

2. At the end of each administrative year, the outgoing Chair of each program who maintains a social media page for said program, is responsible for complete and total handoff, to include operation of the page, to the incoming appointed chair.

Section 2. Any social media ran by the OKVFW Auxiliary or its subordinate units are not subject to these bylaws.

Section 3. Any jointly run Social Media pages between OKVFW and its Auxiliary (Department Level) must be divided and run separately upon approval of this amendment.”



COMMANDER’S OFFICIAL CALL

TO: Officers and Delegates of the 99th Annual State Convention, Department of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Comrades,

It is my honor and privilege to issue the “Official Call” to the 99th Annual State Convention of the Department of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars, June 19-21, 2020 at the VFW Oklahoma

Headquarters 1103 N. Blackwelder Ave. OKC, OK 73106 and at the Embassy Suites OKC Northwest, 3233 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City Oklahoma 73112

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

Our convention this year will not be traditional; basically, meaning without all the flair as before. We will plan and push comrade's health and safety at all events and abide by the current local & state COVID-19 protocols. We will afford convention presence via video (Zoom platform) for attendance purposes only without voting privileges. Every attempt will be made for the members to continue to have a voice in our department while operating in a safe manner.

Always a Veteran; Always for a Veteran

**Darryl Mabry
State Commander
Department of Oklahoma**

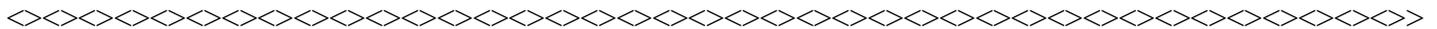
/os/

**DARRYL MABRY
STATE COMMANDER**

OFFICIAL:

/ os /

**Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant**



Candidates for Department High Office 2020-2021:

Department Commander >	Mike Merit > Broken Arrow Post 10887
Department Senior Vice Commander >	Jim Bassett > Moore Post 8706
Department Junior Vice Commander >	Larry Jordan > Clinton Post 4465
Department Junior Vice Commander >	Jeremy Owen > Eufaula Post 8798
Department Junior Vice Commander >	Matt Ward > Salina Post 5307
Department Quartermaster >	Curt Watts > Stillwater Post 2027
Department Chaplain >	Gary Lee Walker > Moore Post 8706.
Department Chaplain >	Rick Wiley > Hollis Post 8676
Department Judge Advocate >	Gordon Wheeler > Del City Post 9969
Department Surgeon >	Jeff Harris > Eufaula Post 8798
Department Surgeon >	Stacy Reddig > El Reno Post 382
Past State Commander >	Darryl Mabry > Lawton Post 1193 >

FROM THE COMMANDER



COMRADES; Sisters and Brothers

I hope all continue to be happy, joyous, and warm as we begin to transition into the summer season. I am very excited that some sort of normalcy has come back to our society and we are able to begin that cautious move forward. As we progress with our business, I ask that all exercise true caution in everything you do. Let us achieve all we can in a very safe and healthy manner. For all those that are and have become sick or afflicted, I pray for your speedy recoveries so your able to spread continual joy to others. I want to also express my sincere condolences to anyone that may have lost a loved one. Bless us all.

Thank to everyone for a great year. I know a lot of hard work was put into making our organizations successful. I appreciate all that spread joy and assisted in making our organizations a common topic, Veteran discussions of support, fellowship, and support. I ask that you identify through your District Commander any person that has stood out as a “workhorse” of our team. I would like to recognize their efforts as we come together for our Department Convention. The VFW convention this year will be non-traditional due to the current health situation. In attempts to minimize gathering size, provide adequate space for social distancing all while keeping the voting voices of our members, we have decided to use the headquarters building and a hotel to conduct our business. As expressed in other distribution, the VFW Department Convention will be held 19 - 21 June with the lodging being the Embassy Suites by Hilton (formally the Towers Hotel) on Northwest Expressway. Since the Wyndham Gardens will not open until after June, we had to coordinate a space large enough to conduct a meeting safely. The Embassy graciously agreed to open during that weekend with a special lodging discount on King Studio rooms (\$109 +tax) and some amenities for our comfort. I hope all will come to participate as we must have a minimal showing of posts on Saturday (20 Jun) to be present to elect and vote in a traditional manner. All health and safety protocols are being considered to ensure all accomplish our closeout business in a safe and deliberate manner. So please grab your mask and let the hotel be your shelter for the weekend. Masks, sanitizer and other health and safety items will be available. If you cannot make it; the meetings will be available on zoom. However, zoom participants can’t vote. Again, all attempts are being made to keep the voice with the members during these trying times. Bear with our leaders and be the positive to help make us successful.

As we close this wonderful year, I want to thank all that gave their support to our cause. There are a lot of personal thanks and kudos I will have to give later; however, publicly I want to thank and give and unrelenting, sincere thanks to Mike (SR-Vice), Jim (Jr-Vice), Curt (QM/ADJ), Harry (C of S), James (1193) and all the Past Department Commanders (Robbie, both Docs, Jay, Bill, Coral, both Bobs, Ken and Ron S.) for staying in my ear and keeping us grounded during this term. I'm happy with the progress we as an "Organization" have shown and am very confident that those that will success into seats of greater responsibility will do well. I hope that as we move forward, that all members take heed to "our ritual" and adopt into their lives. Trivial and pettiness might exist throughout our lives, however, should not amongst us as true patriots of Veterans (ourselves). Our cause must remain common with our direction agreed upon. We should agree that we might disagree; but must agree to agree as an organization in the end. Remember, all for that common cause.

I love each and every one of you as a "play cousin". Again, I appreciate what all have done this year. However, hopefully you will buy more raffle tickets and be ready to win some of the remaining prize money at the convention drawings (lol) if you haven't already.

As always, be safe, be fun and take care of the business of assisting and providing for those that are having issues. For all that need it.....GET WELL SOON!!

"ALWAYS A VETERAN, ALWAYS FOR A VETERAN"

Darryl Mabry
STATE COMMANDER

FROM THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

As we come to the close of this administrative year, I hope that all of you are doing well and surviving this extraordinary situation we are in. It has been a harrowing experience trying to continue to conduct our business and take care of our number one priority, helping veterans. I want to thank all of you that stepped up the way you did to make that happen. I know it wasn't easy, but I also know those that were on the receiving end appreciated it.

On the Legislative front, state wise, the legislature basically shutdown and only handled top priority/COVID related legislation. What that means is our license plate bill, along the Auxiliary's died in committee. We passed one chamber and were looking to pass the second on the way to the Governor's desk when all of the shutdowns started. I have expressed my desire to the incoming legislative chair to continue this work along with a few other issues we want to tackle. Federally, as most of you know, the biggest things that Congress has been working on is COVID related issues. There are still some of the bills we have been pushing slowly making their way through, but I fear unless the House picks up the pace, most will die

when this Congress adjourns. Lastly, if you or your Post is still needing assistance with the Personal Payroll Protection Program, please do not hesitate to ask. This is vital funding that can help out your business or your Post as we begin the reopening process.

The convention is still on, though at a different location. We have been there before. It is the old Tower Hotel, now known as the Embassy Suites by Marriott. Though we may not be doing a lot of the frills we normally do, please know that we are still going to be there to conduct the business we need to. The HQ has worked diligently trying to ensure that we still can have a great convention under the circumstances. We will be following all of the CDC guidelines for sanitary and social distancing concerns. Please, make every effort you can to attend. I look forward to seeing you there.

I want to commend all of you for the outstanding effort you have put into this last year. We have faced many challenges, but I believe, for the most part, we have come out of them ahead. Please continue to do what I know you do best and that is showing our veterans and their families the Oklahoma Standard of service. Thank you for allowing me to serve you going up the chairs. It has been my honor and I hope you will see fit to elect me to the high office of State Commander 2020-2021. We have a great year planned and I look forward to walking every step of the way with you as we are the "First to Fight for Veterans!"

-SVC

Comrades

As we near the end of our administrative year, I ask each of you to reflect on what a great year we have had under the stewardship of our State Commander, Darryl Mabry. Our membership numbers are continuing to increase and our programs are seeing increased participation across the state. Without Commander Mabry's leadership, we would not have been able to accomplish any of this.

It is tradition to present a gift to the outgoing state commander at the end of their term on behalf of the entire state. So, this is the official call to all Districts, Posts and members within our Department to please send a monetary donation to the State Quartermaster Curt Watts for Commander Mabry's gift. It can be in an individual's name or on behalf of a group. This is not a requirement. However, I believe it fitting we show our state commander the appreciation he deserves.

Please send all donations to the State Headquarters Attn: State Commander Gift. The address is 1103 N. Blackwelder Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73106. All donations must be received NLT June 10th, 2020.

I appreciate any and all donations you can make as I am sure Commander Mabry will as well.

V/R,
Michael L. Merit
State Sr. Vice Commander

FROM THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

State Junior Vice Commander
Public Affairs
Veterans and Military Services Committee Chair
Jim Bassett

SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY. Keep healthy!!! The restrictions are being lifted, that does not mean it is safe. Please keep the masks and hand sanitizer handy! Continue to watch out for the wackos that are offering you miracle cures for this. If you want to throw money away, give it to the Foundation. At least there it will do some good.

The Department has decided how to manage this year's convention. Many Departments have canceled theirs. We have a location change, the new hotel is the Embassy Suites by Hilton, 3233 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK 73132. It is the former Tower Hotel. We have on proposed bylaw and multiple candidates for three key positions, please read up on them and make your own choice. Please, if you are not attending, make sure you let your Post Commander, or someone from your post who is attending, who your choices are. Also, keep an eye out for increases in the Covid numbers, it is always a possibility that we are forced to cancel. A lot of good information has been passed around, stay informed on what your VFW is doing! Read the General Orders.

Normally, this is where I begin to let you know about our upcoming events. With the quarantine procedures just now being lifted, I'm keeping in touch to find out which events will be rescheduled or possibly canceled. The Oklahoma City Thunder have canceled their season. The Oklahoma City Energy has suspended their season and they are waiting on the League to determine the rest of the season. Likewise, the Oklahoma City Dodgers will have their season but the start date is unknown right now, expected to begin in July when the American and National Leagues start. So the Military Appreciation Nights are unknown for both organizations. As soon as I find out I will get word out. If you have not attended one of these events, you should. They are a lot of fun.

The quarantine has impacted a lot of us on recruiting. I know that members of the Department are more than willing to help on any membership drives. There are several other outstanding recruiters out there to ask. We also offer great opportunities to recruit. Let us know.

Does your post have a greeter? Someone to welcome everyone and talk to them? Someone that can identify a new member at the meeting? It is the little things that people notice. Current and new members feel welcome when they are greeted, and we want them to feel welcome. This is also a good way to get to know current and new members, keeping them engaged. Talk to them, get them engaged with projects. Do you communicate with members to see how they are doing? Are you talking to them at events and making them feel welcome? Are you challenging them to be active members and engaged on your events?



DONATE!! DONATE!! Our plans for Blood Drives at our events have fallen apart. When things settle down we can start rescheduling the blood drives. In the meantime, the American Red Cross and Oklahoma Blood Institute are running low. Donate

some blood if able, help our community. The Supreme Military Order of the Cooties has set up an online report of blood donated. 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.

Just because we are quarantined during this doesn't mean our military are locked in their homes also. They are still doing the mission. We should be doing our mission of taking care of them. They still deploy, overseas and at home. We can still be there to help. Talking to some of the Post and Auxiliary members that participated in the family parties with the Oklahoma National Guard, they seemed to have had fun. Let's see, have fun and a chance to recruit? What could be better? I know that I enjoy attending some of these events.



Remember to donate to VMS! VMS sponsors so many programs that help everyone. Help-A-Hero Scholarship and Unmet needs are just two of the programs. Did you know that in Oklahoma alone, they have granted 28 Scholarships for a total of \$119,600? And helped 173 for a total of \$126,997? If you would like to donate to them, please follow this link. https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities and Events:

June:

18 to 21 June, State Convention, **LOCATION CHANGE!!!** Embassy Suites by Hilton, 3233 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK 73112 **LOCATION CHANGE!!!**

July:

~~3 July~~, Pending new date, Military Appreciation Night with the Oklahoma City Energy FC against the El Paso Locomotives, open to any VFW and Auxiliary members. Great recruiting event! If you would like information on helping, contact me, Jim Bassett, 405.664.3929 or bassettj15@yahoo.com.

~~40 July~~, Pending new date, Oklahoma City Dodgers Military Appreciation Night, open to any VFW and Auxiliary members. Great recruiting event! If you would like information on helping at this game, contact me, Jim Bassett, 405.664.3929 or bassettj15@yahoo.com.

~~18 to 23 July, 121st VFW National Convention~~ has officially been canceled. The 122nd VFW National Convention will be held in Baltimore, Maryland from 31 July to 5 August, 2021. DEPARTMENT CONVENTION IS NOT CANCELED!!

August:

Pending events

September:

17 to 27, Oklahoma State Fair, Bennett Exposition Hall, looking for volunteers to staff the event. Plan is three shifts a day, at least three people per shift.

Tinker AFB 9/11/POW/MIA Memorial Marathon, details to follow

26th, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Fallen Heroes Memorial Marathon, Home 2 Suites, 4311 SW 15th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73170. We will be setting up around 0500. If you have questions or want to participate, contact me for details.

October:

1 to 11 October, Tulsa State Fair, looking for volunteers to staff the event. Plan is three shifts a day, at least three people per shift.



We are planning on attending the Fair again this year. concentrating on recruiting, but we will also be encouraging participation in all VFW and Auxiliary might also mention that several posts met the All State requiring requirement during the fairs.

Time is approaching for the Oklahoma State Fair, 17 to 27 September, the Tulsa 1 to 11 as well as State Fair, October.



We will be events. I



The Special Olympics schedule has been modified due to Covid 19, but they are always looking for volunteers. They are in need of coaches, assistants, chaperons, and cheering sections. When you're out volunteering for the VFW, please wear something that identifies you as a VFW or Auxiliary member; it helps increase public awareness. Sign up to help, better yet, have your post sign up to support or sponsor them. Apply at <https://www.sook.org/>.

Be Visible!

The VFW and the Auxiliary used to be very active within their communities. What are you doing in your community? When you're out volunteering for the VFW or Auxiliary, please wear something that identifies you as a VFW or Auxiliary member; it helps increase public awareness. 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 Jr Vice Commander
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars
1103 N. Blackwelder
Oklahoma City Oklahoma 73106
405.664.3929

Bassettj15@yahoo.com

<http://vfwok.org/>



Oklahoma

FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Adjutant's Side: Comrades, as we move forward into our election season at the Post and district level, please ensure that once your election is held and that the eligibility of each elected officer is provided to the appropriate Adjutant. In addition, it is imperative that once the election is completed, the election report is filed on-line with VFW National Headquarters utilizing the On-line Membership System (OMS). **Please see additional information below.**

Post Commanders: Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post Election Report forms are being mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1. **NOTE: Post that need to complete election reports by paper are to email or mail them to the State Adjutant who will file the report on- line via OMS.**

Post Commanders and Adjutants, Pursuant to Article V, Sec 5 (b) of the Department of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars By-Laws,



FROM THE OKLAHOMA VFW FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION: The Oklahoma VFW Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, assists Oklahoma veterans and their families, promotes patriotic programs, provides relief for veterans and veteran support organizations, and provides educational scholarships.

The Oklahoma VFW Foundation is looking for a board member. Five of our board members are elected by the Oklahoma VFW Membership. The elected Department Commander, Sr Vice Commander, Jr Vice Commander and Quartermaster serve on the Foundation Board of Directors. There is also a board member elected by the Oklahoma VFW Membership to serve a two-year term on the board. Curtis “Doc” Bohlman was elected to serve for two years from July 2019 to June 2021. The four remaining board members are appointed by those five elected board members. Those appointed board members serve staggering 4-year terms so each year, one of those board positions comes open.

If you are interested in serving on the Oklahoma VFW Foundation board, helping to guide this young organization over the next four years, please let us know. You can email me at okvfwfoundation@outlook.com letting me know of your interest. Please include a brief summary of your background that will help show the current board members why you are the best fit. This information can also be mailed to VFW Headquarters (address below). If you know of someone who may be a great fit, tell them about this opportunity. Remember, you do not need to be a VFW member or a veteran to serve in one of these appointed board positions.

The Foundation will have two board meetings in June, one before the convention to close out the year, and one after the Convention. The appointed board member will be chosen at the second one. We will get out information on when and where these meetings will be on the Foundation’s website, Facebook page, and will ask the Oklahoma VFW to put the information out on their Facebook page as well. Feel free to contact me with additional questions you have on joining the OK VFW Foundation team.

John H. Fischer
President/Executive Director
Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation
1103 N. Blackwelder Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73106
Office: (405) 525-2680 (OK-VFW Headquarters)
Mobile: (405) 443-7265

Email: okvfwfoundation@outlook.com



VFW-OK 99th CONVENTION INFORMATION

As stated in his Call to Convention, we have worked with the hotel to ensure COVID-19 protocols are being followed in all areas of the hotel during our stay. “Hands-Free” hand sanitation stations will be available throughout the hotel, guest rooms and meeting rooms will also be cleaned pursuant to COVID protocols and social distancing will honored in the meeting rooms as well as with chairs spaced well apart. We will be utilizing Salons ABCD which provide us ample space to social distance. We have been told by the hotel, that they feel they will be less than 40% guest occupancy being their first weekend of being open. In addition, the Headquarters will be sanitized and COVID protocols will be followed during our meetings there. We will have masks and hand sanitizing material available, however we do ask that you bring a mask as well. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact State Headquarters at 405.525.2680 Ext 301 or contact me on my cell phone. Be Safe, and we hope you plan to attend.

Comrades, please see the information below for the Embassy Suites Oklahoma City Northwest (Formally Tower Hotel) 3233 Northwest Expressway, OKC OK 73112. **YOU CAN BOOK YOUR ROOMS NOW!**

- 1) The booking link is below. Guest would just “highlight” and “copy” the link into their web browser and your block with the special rates of \$109 will be listed. Above the room types it lists that the rates are available for the VFW Annual Meeting.

https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/es/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=OKCONES&spec_plan=CESVFW&arrival=20200619&departure=20200621&cid=OM.WW.HILTONLINK.EN.DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

- 2) To book a reservation by phone, the guest can call 1-800-EMBASSY (1-800-362-2779). The guest will give their arrival date/departure date and the Group Code which is **VFW**.
- 3) The guest can call the hotel directly at (405) 842-6633. Once connected the guest should press **1** and they will be connected to reservations.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Department of Oklahoma
State Convention
June 19-21, 2020
State Headquarters – 1103 North Blackwelder Avenue and
Embassy Suites by Hilton — Oklahoma City, Northwest
3233 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
405-842-6633**

VFW Contracted Room Rate per night is \$109.00 + applicable taxes (Studio King)

Friday, June 19, 2020

State Headquarters

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Council of Administration Meeting (Outgoing)

(All members eligible to attend for open discussion prior to completion)

6:00 pm OK VFW Foundation Meeting

Embassy Suites by Hilton

12:00 pm - 6:00 pm Convention Registration in Oklahoma Room

VFW Hospitality 2nd Floor Oklahoma Room

**** Remember Social Distancing****

Saturday, June 20, 2020

Embassy Suites by Hilton

8:30 am - 10:00 am Convention Registration (near Salon ABCD)

9:30 am Convention Opening

9:30 am – 11:30 am VFW General Session / Credentialing / Nominations

11:30 am - 12:15 pm Past Commander's Meeting

11:30 am - 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 - 5:00 pm Nominations / Elections / Installation

Following Installation Cootie Grand Scratch

VFW Hospitality 2nd Floor Oklahoma Room

**** Remember Social Distancing****

Sunday, June 21, 2020

Embassy Suites by Hilton

9:00 am - 9:30 am Chapel Service

State Headquarters

10:00 am – until complete Council of Administration Meeting (@State HQ / Incoming)

(All members eligible to attend for open discussion prior to completion)

After C of A OK VFW Foundation Meeting @State HQs.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 06 Jun> D-Day: Allied Invasion of Europe (1944)
- 14 Jun> U.S. Army Founded (1775)
- 19 Jun> VFW Oklahoma 99th Department Convention Begins (CofA meeting @ HQs)
- 20 Jun> VFW Oklahoma 99th Department Convention (Embassy Suites OKC NW)
- 21 Jun> VFW Oklahoma 99th Department Convention (Embassy Suites & CofA meeting @ HQs)
- 21 Jun> Father's Day
- 22 Jun> Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress (1944)
- 22 Jun> GI Bill Signed Into Law (1944)
- 25 Jun> Korean War Began (1950)
- 27 Jun> National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day
- 30 Jun> Post-9/11 GI Bill Signed Into Law (2008)

Department of Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

2019-2020 State Raffle

Tickets are ONLY \$10

GRAND PRIZE: \$1,000

Other Prizes

3 x \$500, 3 x \$250, 5 x \$150, 6 x \$100

SPECIAL EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS

For tickets purchased and money turned into State Headquarters on or before December 31st, 2019, four prizes of \$100 each will be awarded in January!! (*Early Bird winners are eligible for main drawings*)

Individual Prizes for Selling the Most Tickets

- If at least 800 total tickets are sold, the top two individual sellers will be awarded cash prizes.
- If at least 900 total tickets are sold, the top three individual sellers will be awarded cash prizes.
- If at least 1,000 tickets are sold, the top four individual ticket sellers will be awarded cash prizes.

Post/Auxiliary Prizes for Selling the Most Tickets

- In addition, Post and Auxiliary Units whose members sell tickets will also win prizes....
- 2 Posts/Auxiliaries win prizes if 800 total tickets sold, 3 win if 900 sold, and 4 win if 1,000 sold.
- If 1,000 total tickets sold, a cash prize to the VFW or Auxiliary District who sold the most tickets.

Specific Prize Drawing Information:

Early Bird: Drawings for a \$100 winner will be drawn on January 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st, 2019. (Tickets sold and turned in by 12/31/19).

NOTE: For all other drawings, tickets must be sold and turned in to State Headquarters prior to the drawing for that date.

March 2020: \$100 Drawings on Friday, March 6th, 13th, and 20th, 2020. \$250 Drawing on Friday, March 27th, 2020.

April 2020: \$100 Drawings on Friday, April 3rd, 10th, and 17th, 2020. \$250 Drawing on Friday, April 24th, 2020.

May 2020: \$150 Drawings on Friday, May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th, 2020.

Memorial Day 2020: Two \$500 Drawings, exact date to be determined but will be between Saturday, May 23rd and Tuesday, May 26th, 2020.

2020 Oklahoma State Convention: At the banquet, \$1,000 GRAND PRIZE DRAWING, as well as \$500 and \$250 winners.

Individual Ticket Seller Prizes:

If at least 800 tickets sold, top seller wins \$250, 2nd place wins \$100. If at least 900 tickets sold, top seller wins \$500, 2nd place wins \$250, and 3rd place wins \$100. If at least 1,000 tickets sold, top seller wins \$600, 2nd place wins \$300, 3rd place wins \$200, and 4th place wins \$100.

Post / Auxiliary Unit Ticket Seller Prizes:

If at least 800 tickets sold, Post or Auxiliary unit whose members (when totals combined) sold the most tickets wins \$100, 2nd place wins \$50. If at least 900 tickets sold, top Post or Auxiliary wins \$200, 2nd place wins \$100 and 3rd place wins \$50. If at least 1,000 tickets sold, top Post or Auxiliary wins \$300, 2nd place wins \$200, 3rd place wins \$100 and 4th place wins \$50.

If at least 1,000 tickets sold, the VFW or Auxiliary District whose members (when totals combined) sold the most tickets wins \$250.

Oklahoma VFW Shirts \$40

Department Fundraiser

A choice of emblems and three different Moisture wicking polo shirts. One with left sleeve pen pocket, and all available in multiple colors.



#1: 6.5 oz. pique adult tactical wicking polo.

Made from a 100% polyester. Polo features anti-microbial BLU-X-DRI protection, stain release, snag resistance, matching buttons, a rib knit curl-free collar, side vents and hemmed sleeves. It also offers a raglan sleeve, mic clips on the center placket and shoulders, reinforced dual pen pockets on the left sleeve. Comfortable in any environment and meeting IL-50 standards.

Available from men's small to 6 XL.

Available colors are: Red, Light Blue, Royal Blue, Navy Blue, Hunter Green, White, Tan, Graphite and Black.

#2: Ultra-light 100% polyester moisture wicking three button polo shirt has breathable mesh back, sleeve, and shoulder inserts to help you stay cool.



100% polyester embossed print smooth wicking knit with true hue technology®.

100% polyester Dry-Excel™ small grid mesh back and inserts.

Available from men's small to 4 XL.

Colors: Navy Blue, Royal Blue, White, Black, Forest Green, Graphite, Scarlet, Burgundy. Lettering will be in white.



#3: Dry-Excel™ 4.1 ounce 100% polyester moisture wicking horizontal textured stripe knit with high mechanical stretch and snag resistant technology.

Contrast color inserts.

Available from men's small to 4 XL

Color combination: black/graphite, black/light gold, black/orange, black/scarlet, black/white, brown/white, cardinal/white, navy/light gold, navy/scarlet, navy/white, forest/white, graphite/black, Kelly/white, maroon/white, purple/white, royal/light gold, royal/white, scarlet/white, university blue/white, Vegas gold/white and white/graphite.

When requesting shirt, please include the number for the shirt, the color, and which emblem (Cross of Malta or New emblem) you prefer. Shirt orders are placed when there is at least a minimum total order of 12 shirts being requested. When email requesting shirts, please provide a good contact method (phone and email). The new VFW emblem is authorized for Auxiliary members to wear.

Contact Jim Bassett (bassettj15@yahoo.com).