



Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars



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

August 2019

2019-2020 Series

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, & working together is success"
Henry Ford

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

General Orders No. 2

2019-2020 Series

1. Pursuant to Article VII, Sec. 703 National By-Laws, requires that each accountable officer shall be bonded with an Indemnity Company as surety and the By-Laws places the responsibility for adequate bonding upon the Commander. In any business it is customary to bond any officer handling funds. The Department Headquarters carries a schedule bond for the bonding of Department and Post Accountable Officers. This bond runs for a year from September 1 to August 31st premium payment are made on that basis. All bonds expire on August 31 and premium for the year is due on September 1.

2. Pursuant to Section 516 ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS; CHAIRMEN AND COMMITTEES. Department officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant. Additionally, Department commanders, Department Senior Vice Commander, Department Junior Vice Commanders, Department Adjutants and Department Quartermasters shall submit proof of eligibility to the Adjutant General. Department officer shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the Department Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation of office. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility with thirty (30) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited, the office declared vacant and the eligibility qualification of such officer shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National By-Laws.

DARRYL MABRY
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:
/ os /
Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant

FROM THE COMMANDER

Comrades and members of our Auxiliary, isn't this a wonderful time to be part of our great Department and organizations? I send my greetings to all and pray that all remains well with everyone.

I offer a prayer to all that are afflicted or have loved ones with pains or ailments, I pray for a speedy recovery for everyone. Remember this year as expressed by our Auxiliary National President is "Family". Let's live by and up to that by treating each other as such. With that, I hope that you are able to continue your support of our great organizations and each other. As always, thanks to everyone for everything you have done to make your VFW post and Auxiliary as successful as they have been. Your continued support is very valuable, and much appreciated. A special thanks goes to all of the Comrades, Sisters and Brothers that ventured to Orlando to participate or just to be there for our National convention. It was a little wet, but hopefully you enjoyed yourself as much as I did. We had some great numbers. Hopefully we will have just as much or more in Reno, Nevada next year. Again, thanks for everything you have done and will continue to do.

Now, since we have recharged ourselves with all of the info our national headquarters have to offer, it's time to disseminate and pass all this great knowledge forward. Our Comrade Information forums (Schools of Instruction) have been scheduled for 10 Aug (for post and districts west of I35) at the Wyndham Hotel in OKC and 17 Aug (for post and districts east of I35) at Post 8798 in Eufaula. Both are scheduled to begin at 9am. This year, we are looking to even take certain personnel to Boise City and conduct some training with that post also on 24 Aug. My intent for the year and the annual Commander's program book will be presented at these forums/ schools. As part of the All-State program, post and districts wishing to compete for honors must have the Commander, Quartermaster, one (1) trustee and the Jr or Sr Vice Commander present for the forum. We are coordinating a pay as you go buffet style lunch with the hotel. During that time, there is also a spaghetti meal being served at our OKC post (9265). We continue in coordinating some way for all to assist Eufaula on getting back on solid footing while we are there. Our conventions and meetings will have purpose and fun this year.

Let's remain focused on making your post, district and our organization the best in the nation. Let our focus remain VFW initiatives, programs and ideals not personalities and other things we can control.

Again, I want to mention that we are looking to have a few meetings with some themes this year. Of note, a mystery and a Valentine's "pink and red" social are in the works. We are also looking at a chili cook off and other competitions to spice things up a bit. More to follow at our Schools of Instruction. Bring suggestions and ideas with you.

"ALWAYS A VETERAN, ALWAYS FOR A VETERAN"

Darryl Mabry
Commander
VFW Department of Oklahoma

FROM THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

Comrades,

First of all, I hope all are doing well and getting off a great start to the new administrative year. Now is the time to put all your plans for the year into motion. As you will soon find out, our National Commander in Chief and our State Commander have some great program plans for you to utilize as a guidepost throughout the year. So, do the great work I know you all are capable of doing.

Speaking of National, Oklahoma had a great turnout down in Orlando. It was great to be there to honor all of our award recipients on both the VFW and Auxiliary side. Congratulations go out to all of them! I can only hope to see even more of you receiving those awards at the next National Convention in Reno. So, I challenge each of you to exceed beyond what you accomplished last year as a Post or District. It can be done with teamwork, well laid plans and perfect execution of orders.

I will touch only lightly on specific programs. If you have not already, it is time to get out your VOD/PP/Teacher information to your schools so they can fit it into their curriculums and/or get the word out to their students. We have some great recruiting events coming up that the state is conducting and will need your help with. More information to follow. I will be traveling to Washington, D.C. next month for our annual Fall National Legislative Conference. If there is anything you would like me to address, please let me know and I will be more than happy to. Additionally, we will be continuing our District Legislative Chair Program. There will be some significant changes to how it will be run, so please look for that in the coming weeks. District Commanders, as before, I look to you to recommend who you want to be your District Legislative Director.

Finally, we had a great State Convention held there at the Wyndham Garden in June. We will be returning there for one of our Schools of Instruction, Cootie meetings, Fall Festival, Mid-Winter Conference and the next State Convention among other things. As your convention chair, I look forward to any and all input you may have. We want to continue to strive for better and better events so please, send your ideas my way.

Keep up the great work!

V/R,
SVC Mike

Michael L. Merit
State Senior Vice Commander
VFW Department of Oklahoma

FROM THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

From your State Jr Vice, Jim Bassett

We have had a busy month. I would like to congratulate our new National Commander in Chiefs, William J. "Doc" Schmitz, Senior Vice Commander, Hal Roesch II, and Junior Vice Commander, Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic. It was a busy convention but I'm home and looking forward to meeting as many members as I can.

I do have a request, I need your help. I'm looking for your events to add to our online shared calendar. These can be parades, fairs, or any public gathering. I need the event name, location, times, and a person to contact (if available).

Fall Festival is our next state event. Please keep up with the news in the General Orders as there is a lot of good information.

July 26th was the last OKC Dodgers Military Appreciation Night. I want to thank those who came out and supported us. We signed up several new members and had good time. It was a fun time watching the game and talking to veterans and active duty personnel. September will be an extremely busy month and we are seeking volunteers for multiple events.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities and Events:

August

3: Yellow Ribbon in Tulsa

September

12: 24 hour memorial vigil on Tinker AFB, 20 minutes shifts with 2 people minimum, sign up info – <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/805094ea4af22a3fe3-powmia>

13: Tinker AFB 911/POW/MIA Memorial Run, if interested in running for the event go to <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=463897&k=066741017250>

12 – 22: Oklahoma State Fair (see note below)

26 – 6 Oct: Tulsa State Fair begins (see note below)

28: 45th IBCT Fallen Heroes Run (<https://www.45ibctfallenheroes.org/>)

October

6: Tulsa State Fair ends (see note below)

17 – 20: Southern Conference in Baton Rouge Louisiana, for information go to <https://vfwdeptla.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=52974>

November

1 – 3: Fall Fest in Oklahoma City

December

TBD: multiple Family Days/Holiday Parties for members of the National Guard and their families. Great chance for recruiting both VFW and Auxiliary members and supporting their efforts through the MAP program. The MAP grant request and post event report are fillable on line.

<https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/veterans-and-military-support>

Fair Note:

Volunteers are needed to make this a success!!! Shifts have been set up in three 4-hour rotations per day. Fair rules state the resource table must be staffed at all required times or our invitation to participate will be revoked without future reinstatement.

The Special Olympics is always looking for volunteers. need coaches, assistants, chaperons, and cheering When you're out volunteering for the VFW, please wear that identifies you as a VFW or Auxiliary member; it helps public awareness. Sign up to help, better yet, have your post sign up to support or sponsor them. Apply at <https://www.sook.org/>.

Special Olympics
Oklahoma



They are in sections. something increase

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.



SportClips Help A Hero Scholarship is currently taking applications. This is a scholarship that is in addition to any Tuition Assistance or scholarship they may already be receiving. <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support>.

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/>

FROM THE STATE SERVICE OFFICER

Service Officer Training!!

We will have a Post and District Service Officer training in September. **The training will be held on September 21, 2019 at Shawnee VFW Post 1317, 811 E. MacArthur St. Shawnee, OK from 10:30 – 3:30.** This will be the main training class for the upcoming year. If other classes are needed, they will be conducted at the VARO office in Muskogee during the Day. I encourage all Post and District Service Officers to attend. Since there has been numerous changes within the VA and the VFW National Program, **all Service Officers will be required to attend the training this year even if they have attended during the past year.** I am working with a sponsor to provide lunch at this training. Please RSVP with who will be attending so we can get a headcount. Send that response to my email jdock13@yahoo.com or call Post 1317 at 405-273-7098 option 1 104.

James Dockemeyer

FROM THE STATE CHAPLAIN

I pray everyone had a safe trip to and from Orlando, FL. I hope everyone enjoyed National Convention and were able to see old Comrades and make some new friends.

I want to be brief with this month and express my goal for this month. That being, I would like to have a generated list from all Posts of Comrades and Auxiliary who have passed this year. You can email them to me so I can start a list to present to the Commander at the end of this year. Also, I will be traveling to some Posts to attend as many functions as I can to meet with you and continue to build on the fundamentals in which the VFW has bestowed upon us all. Please feel free to contact me by email and I will do my absolute best to get

back to you ASAP. Thank you all and may God bless each of you.

Joe Roman
Chaplain
VFW/ Oklahoma
gi_joe_roman@yahoo.com

Joe Roman
Chaplain
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars
(580) 481-4244
gi_joe_roman@yahoo.com

“No one does more for Veterans”



FROM THE OKLAHOMA-VFW FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Comrades,

I hope that everyone had a great month of July. Although the Foundation leadership has been very busy with the State and National Conventions, the Oklahoma VFW Foundation is currently working on developing programs to make sure that veterans have access to legal services and to ensure that military honor guards are available at funerals for all eligible veterans. Once we have these two programs finalized, we can start

searching for grants and other specific funding sources for these specific programs. Our Foundation Board will also be meeting with the leadership of the Texas VFW Foundation in late August for a strategic planning workshop. The Texas VFW Foundation has been a great partner and resource for our Foundation, and we are excited to work with them and learn from them as they help us evolve to the next level.

As a reminder, if your Post is aware of a grant but the donor needs to work with a 501(c)(3) type of organization, please contact us so we can help make sure you get those funds. Also, if your Post is aware of a grant but has no one at the Post level to help you fill out the grant application, let us know, as many of our Board members have grant writing experience and we will help you. Our goal is to be a resource for Posts when it comes to fundraising through grants and corporate donations.

Has your post or auxiliary benefitted from the \$1,000 community service grants available from the National VFW Foundation? The application window for these grants open on September 1st. This is a great resource to help your Post be more active and visible in your community. Although this grant has a very simple application and reporting process, if you are not sure how to fill it out or want some ideas on how to use this grant to get your Post more visible, please contact us. We can help you with the application process and give you ideas on how other posts have used these funds.

Finally, don't forget that you can donate to the Oklahoma VFW Foundation by doing things that you already do. When you purchase items on Amazon, instead of the main Amazon website, go to the Amazon Smile website instead (smile.amazon.com). It has the same login as the normal Amazon website, the same products for the same prices. The difference is you can choose a charity and Amazon will donate a small percentage of the purchase to that charity. Search for "Oklahoma Veterans" and you will find the Oklahoma VFW Foundation as a charity you can give back to through your Amazon purchase.

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: (715) 212-5140
Email: okvfwfoundation@outlook.com

FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN

Community Service Funding Update

Thank you for all you do not just for veterans, but for your Communities as well. The general public's perception of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is slowly transforming from a bunch of old war horses smoking Camels and drinking PBR to an effective and motivated group of veterans dedicated to the service and support of our Communities.

This trend presents many new opportunities for funding for our Posts and our volunteers. Many corporations and foundations have stepped forward to provide support to our organization and our projects. While many of you may be quite familiar with these programs, some may not. Here are a few items you might consider.

Don't give up on receiving a grant simply because your Post is not a 501(c)3 entity. There is a simple solution and it costs you nothing. I can assist you with that. The National Organization has template letters that can be used to document donations and has a wealth of fundraising materials that are available to you. If you want to research funding opportunities in your Community, the National Organization can assist. They will research the opportunities available in your area and provide you with the information you need to submit on an application.

Community Service Grant applications will be accepted by National beginning 1 Sept. Applications are available online. Call if you need any assistance. You can receive a \$1000.00 grant for just about any Community project and be awarded an additional \$500.00 if you partner with a recognized VFW sponsor such as Humana or Walgreens. Home Depot is currently providing grants up to \$5000.00 for Post improvements and renovation. You MUST use volunteer labor. You receive a gift card which can be redeemed for materials at any Home Depot. Applications are available.

The most important word in fundraising is ASK! If you don't ask, you probably won't be considered. Keep in mind that a Foundation's primary mission is GIVING AWAY MONEY. It's what they do. If you provide a service that meets their criteria and aligns with their focus, you need to apply.

Our Post received over \$127K in grants last year alone. Almost every application was met with a positive response. We received because we asked. We did not beg for money, we offered an opportunity to partner together for a very worthwhile cause.

The money is out there, somebody is going to get it, it might as well be you.

Let me know if I can be of assistance.

Gary Miles, Community Service Coordinator
580.761.2431
milesga@cableone.net

VFW OKLAHOMA MEETING SCHEDULE 2019-2020

NATIONAL CONVENTION (20-24 JUL 2019)
ORLANDO, FL

SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

10 AUG 2019 (OKC)

17 AUG 2019 (EUFAULA)

23-24 AUG 2019 (BOISE CITY) (SELECTED PERSONNEL)

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE (17-20 OCT 2019)
BATON ROUGE, LA

FALL FEST (1-3 NOV 2019)
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

MID-WINTER (14-16 FEB 2020)
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

STATE CONVENTION (18-21 JUN 2020)
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

Oklahoma VFW Shirts \$40

Department Fundraiser



Moisture wicking polo shirts with left sleeve pen pocket available in multiple colors.

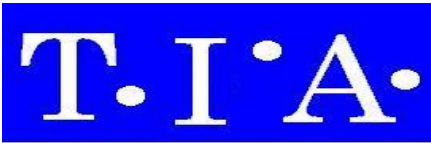
6.5 oz. pique adult tactical wicking polo. Made from a 100% polyester. Polo features anti-microbial BLU-X-DRI protection, stain release, snag resistancy, matching buttons, a rib knit curl-free collar, side vents and hemmed sleeves. It also offers a raglan sleeve, mic clips on the center placket and shoulders, 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.



Contact Jim Bassett (bassettj15@yahoo.com).



Tallman Insurance

A.1 Employee/Volunteer Theft (Dishonesty Bond)

VFW APPLICATION FOR CLUB EMPLOYEES & BINGO
TO BE COMPLETED BY BONDED INDIVIDUAL

TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA

Bond Term: October 1, 2019 to October 1, 2020

1. a) Name of Post _____ Post # _____

b) Post Address _____

2. a) Name of Person to be Bonded _____

3. Position to be Bonded _____ Bond Requested \$ _____

4. Number of Persons Bonded 1

5. Number of Locations 1

6. Post Annual Income _____

7. Has the post had any bond losses over the past three years? _____

If Yes, provide a description along with the date and amount of loss.

8. a) Have you ever been bankrupt or insolvent? _____

b) If yes, please give details in a separate confidential letter to the Insurance Company

9. a) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor? (Other than Traffic Violations) _____

b) If yes, explain _____

IF BOND IS NOT RENEWED, TERMINATED, OR CANCELLED AT EXPIRATION DATE OF 10-1-2019, THE POST HAS ONLY 90 DAYS TO SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FOR PRIOR TERM, AFTER 90 DAYS PRIOR COVERAGE CEASES.

If this is a replacement for a current position bonded, please advise what person you are replacing

_____.

Signed this _____ day of _____, _____.
(day) (month) (year)

Signature: Person to be Bonded

Form # 4B