



Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars



P.O Box 1126 OKC. OK 73101

405 525-2680/ www.vfwoklahoma.org

May 2021

2020-2021 Series

“Honor to the Soldier and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country’s cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause.

Abraham Lincoln

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

General Orders No. 11

2020-2021 Series

1. **Installing officers are directed to see to it that the Post Election Report forms have been completed and submitted to National Headquarters.** If a Post Election Report form has not been forwarded to National Headquarters at the time of installation, the installing officer shall complete and forward such report at the time of the installation of Post Officers no later than June 1. We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters. Additionally, Section 413 of the National Bylaws requires that a properly completed District Election Report be submitted to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention.
2. **Post, District, Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters are reminded of the requirements of Sections 216, 416 and 516 of the Manual of Procedure with regard to proof of eligibility for all newly-elected and appointed officers.** Elected and appointed officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Failure or refusal to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment shall result in the office being declared vacant.
3. **Attention is called to the provisions of Section 703 of the National Bylaws** which require that 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.

4. **Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure** requires that the Post Commander shall see that the Post Trustees Reports of Audit are properly prepared and submitted each quarter.

5. **Attention of incoming Post Officers** is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure which outlines the duties of various Post Officers.

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

7.

DS T	POST #	CITY	3-31- 21 Good Stand Mem b #	# of Delegat es	Pos t Cdr Vot e	Delegat e Fees Due by 27 May 21	Post Cdr Vote	Post + Cdr Vote Dues by 27 May 21	Late Post Dues After 27 May 21	Late Post Cdr Dues After 27 May 21	Late Post & Cdr Dues
13	382	EL RENO	346	12	1	\$60.00	\$5.	\$65.00	\$72.00	\$6.00	\$78.00
2	474	MUSKOGEE	140	5	1	\$25.00	\$5.	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
7	539	HENRYETTA	83	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
5	577	TULSA	394	14	1	\$70.00	\$5	\$75.00	\$84.00	\$6.00	\$90.00
14	1015	ANADARKO	28	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
4	1048	BOSWELL	19	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
7	1098	MC ALESTER	300	10	1	\$50.00	\$5	\$55.00	\$60.00	\$6.00	\$66.00
8	1118	CUSHING	121	5	1	\$25.00	\$5	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
7	1189	OKMULGEE	110	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
14	1192	DUNCAN	218	8	1	\$40.00	\$5	\$45.00	\$48.00	\$6.00	\$54.00
15	1193	LAWTON	241	9	1	\$45.00	\$5	\$50.00	\$54.00	\$6.00	\$60.00
4	1198	COALGATE	34	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	1201	PONCA CITY	180	6	1	\$30.00	\$5	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
10	1202	ADA	27	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	1317	SHAWNEE	334	12	1	\$60.00	\$5	\$65.00	\$72.00		

8	1320	SAPULPA	120	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
15	1335	WOODWARD	126	5	1	\$25.00	\$5	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
9	1719	CHANDLER	56	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	1843	GLENCOE	81	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
8	2027	STILLWATER	108	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
9	2270	ENID	170	6	1	\$30.00	\$5	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
1	2592	BERNICE	93	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
13	2847	ALVA	43	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	2855	BLACKWELL	116	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
5	2976	CLAREMORE	242	9	1	\$45.00	\$5	\$50.00	\$54.00	\$6.00	\$60.00
5	3077	COLLINSVILLE	75	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
7	3085	HARTSHORNE	49	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
1	3573	LOCUST GROVE	75	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
10	3608	BLANCHARD	108	4	1	\$20.00	\$50	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
3	3649	WILBURTON	162	6	1	\$30.00	\$5	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
8	3656	BRISTOW	67	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
4	3658	ANTLERS	31	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
15	3669	ELK CITY	57	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
5	3689	SAND SPRINGS	37	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
1	3698	WESTVILLE	28	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
1	3707	TAHLEQUAH	60	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
4	3916	DURANT	112	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
3	4446	STIGLER	105	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
13	4465	CLINTON	85	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
3	4518	SALLISAW	90	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
14	4574	ARDMORE	144	5	1	\$25.00	\$5	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
9	4578	GUTHRIE	159	6	1	\$30.00	\$5	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
7	4609	WEBBERS FALLS	26	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
4	4777	IDABEL	114	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
4	4859	ATOKA	31	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
4	4869	TISHOMINGO	55	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
15	4876	ALTUS	660	22	1	\$110	\$5	\$115	\$132	\$6.00	\$138
3	4884	SPIRO	76	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
14	4888	MARLOW	30	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	4890	NORMAN	104	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
9	4938	EDMOND	116	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
14	5263	FORT SILL	616	21	1	\$105	\$5	\$110	\$126	\$6.00	\$132
1	5307	SALINA	62	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
4	5805	FORT TOWSON	13	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
13	5914	THOMAS	13	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
13	6141	FAIRVIEW	29	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
13	6143	WEATHERFOR	81	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00

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15	7092	BOISE CITY	26	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
5	7180	OWASSO	156	6	1	\$30.00	\$5	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
10	7192	MIDWEST CITY	198	7	1	\$35.00	\$5	\$40.00	\$42.00	\$6.00	\$48.00
12	7203	OKEENE	23	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
5	7441	MANNFORD	84	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
9	7740	CRESCENT	39	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
8	7966	PAWNEE	20	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
5	7977	SKIATOOK	64	3	1	\$15.00	\$5	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$6.00	\$24.00
4	8316	HUGO	53	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
1	8380	GROVE	141	5	1	\$25.00	\$5	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
3	8384	MULDROW	118	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
3	8403	HEAVENER	38	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
14	8580	ELGIN	51	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
15	8676	HOLLIS	17	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	8706	MOORE	126	5	1	\$25.00	\$5	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
7	8798	EUFULA	304	11	1	\$55.00	\$5	\$60.00	\$66.00	\$6.00	\$72.00
5	9126	GLENPOOL	20	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
9	9265	OKLAHOMA CITY	402	14	1	\$70.00	\$5	\$75.00	\$84.00	\$6.00	\$90.00
10	9969	DEL CITY	241	9	1	\$45.00	\$5	\$50.00	\$54.00	\$6.00	\$60.00
1	1009										
1	9	DEWEY	114	4	1	\$20.00	\$5	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$6.00	\$30.00
1	1082										
1	9	STILWELL	16	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	1087	OKLAHOMA CITY	37	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
5	1088	BROKEN ARROW	128	5	1	\$25.00	\$5	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$36.00
10	1119										
10	4	KONAWA	173	6	1	\$30.00	\$5	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$6.00	\$42.00
14	1120										
14	1	CHICKASHA	20	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
14	1153										
14	9	DAVIS	16	1	1	\$5.00	\$5	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$12.00
10	1210										
10	3	LEXINGTON	34	2	1	\$10.00	\$5	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$18.00

8. ATTENTION DISTRICT & POST COMMANDERS:

ALL STATE POST AND DISTRICT CHECKLISTS:

Please take note of the All-State District checklist & the All-State Post checklist that are an attachment in this month's email along with these General Orders.

/os/

MICHAEL L. MERIT
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /

Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant

Candidates for Department High Office 2021-2022:

Department Commander > Jim Bassett > Moore Post 8706
Department Senior Vice Commander > Jeremy Owen > Eufaula Post 8798
Department Junior Vice Commander > Phil Rose > Ardmore Post 4574
Department Junior Vice Commander > Stacy Reddig > Glencoe Post 1843
Department Quartermaster > Curt Watts > Stillwater Post 2027
Department Chaplain > Rick Willey > Hollis Post 8676
Department Judge Advocate > Gordon Wheeler > Del City Post 9969
Department Surgeon > Erica Wilson-Traxler > Ft. Sill Post 5263



FROM THE COMMANDER



**Michael L. Merit
State Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Oklahoma**

Comrades,

May 1st 2021

First, I hope this finds all of you and your family healthy and well. If not, I pray for a speedy recovery. Greetings from the Majestic Mirage Resort Punta Cana in the beautiful Dominican Republic! Here we are with just over a month to go until the State Convention. **WE DID IT!!! WE MADE 100%! GREAT JOB EVERYONE!** But we're not just stopping at 100%. Now, let's focus on getting **ALL** the Posts and Districts to 100%. We've only got a few left to go. We got this **TEAM OKLAHOMA!** Let's **Git-R-Done©!!!**

As we're nearing the end of the year, Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch has made another challenge for the month of May 2021. This time, we want to see all of our Posts increasing their total membership percentage. This means new members, renewing members, reinstated members, dues-paying transfers – bring those members into the Post and help us with that burst of effort as we draw closer to the finish line. The top Post in each Division, based on increase in membership percentage during May, will receive a \$1,000 award deposited into their Post account. But that's not all! At the end of the month, *every* Post who has reached 100% or more in membership *and* has recruited five or more new members in the month of May will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 award! There is a lot of people out there we can bring back into the fold. Remember, COVID has impacted a lot of veterans financially. If they cannot afford the membership dues, you can use your Relief Fund to help them out by purchasing their membership for them. You might even consider getting them a life membership so they will not have to worry about dues again. I know we harp on membership a lot, but the bottom line is more members means more dues returned to the Posts and the Department and for some Posts, that is a big shot in the arm.

Membership Update. April end numbers are as follows: Southern Conference, Oklahoma is #3. Nationally, Oklahoma has climbed up #4. We increased our membership by 412 members. That is awesome. Keep up the great work. Quartermasters, please ensure you are entering a recruiter number when putting in new members, so the right person gets the credit for them. We now have 70 of 84 Posts and 7 out of 11 Districts at or above 100%. Our overall breakdown is 289 new members, 527 reinstates and 81 new life members.

Concerning working with your town to make it a Purple Heart City, I remind everyone that you **must contact Mitch Reed with the Military Order of the Purple Heart prior to any action being taken!** His contact information is in the packet attached to these General Orders.

Our Department Convention is June 10th-13th, 2021. There will be more to follow on the Convention as the committee turns from the Centennial to it. Please be on the lookout for that information. If you did not get a chance to purchase a centennial coin, we will have Centennial Pins available during the convention and throughout the rest of the year. The pins are 1.5 inches with dual attachments on the back and are similar in design to the coins. They will be \$5 each and all proceeds raised between April 16th and June 30th, 2021 will go to purchasing a bench at the Mission 22 War at Home Memorial in Broken Arrow.



Finally, as we wind down the last part of the year, I want to thank each and every one of you who remained steadfast in our commitment to veterans. All of you have done a remarkable job and I could not have asked for a better group of veterans to work with. You all are the reason the VFW still exists and will continue to exist in Oklahoma well into the future. Great job to all of you. Remember, we are TEAM OKLAHOMA, and we are always First to Fight for Veterans!

FROM THE STATE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

State Senior Vice Commander
National and State Legislative Chair
Bylaws/Resolutions Chair

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 26 April, 2021

Seeking WW II veterans!



OPERATION SEPTEMBER FREEDOM is an old fashioned barnstorming event that is coming to Oklahoma. Dream Flights wants to give FREE rides to WW II era veterans in

WW II era in open cockpit Stearman Biplanes. To do this, we need to let the WW II veterans. **We need WW II era veterans to register online.**

This event is scheduled to start August 1st and run to September 30th, 2021. The VFW is sponsoring this and we are collaborating with

Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to make this happen. Information on the organization is available at <https://dreamflights.org/about-osf/>.



We have started our centennial year. We owe a sincere thank you for those that helped create our organization. They worked hard, organized, with a focused purpose, and eventually created the Department of Oklahoma. These individuals were looking to the future. Our present. 100 years of purpose. 100 years of supporting a mission. 100 years of working to see that, their vision did not wither away. 100 years of Excellence. 100 years of service. 100 years of supporting the veterans in Oklahoma. Not just the veterans, but also their families and their communities. 100 years of Excellence and Service, I for one am proud of our history and our present. I am also looking forward to watching our organization continue to grow, like those 100 years ago; I am looking to the future for more service and excellence.

The Department is reviewing the dashboard to start the process of recognizing the posts that deserve the recognition as All State Post. Not everyone is inputting their events or hours. Please, if you are unsure of how to accomplish this, ask.

Keep yourself informed on the issues that influence veterans, easy to do, register at <https://votervoicenet/VFW/register>. Help in the fight to stop the eradication of veteran's benefits continues. Facebook, Twitter, or other Social Media sites do not always tell the truth so do not get wrapped up on hearsay or social media truths. Register with To do this, simply register to receive the

Action Corps newsletter. This is a simple and easy way to stay informed. You can register at <https://votervoicenet/VFW/register>.

RETAIN, RETAIN, RETAIN!!! What is your post's retention rate? What are you doing to help retain post members? Recruiting is half of the battle on our membership. We need to keep the members that we currently have as well as bring in new members.

Founded in 1881, the American Red Cross has been helping and supporting the military and their families. Now we can help the American Red Cross. During this pandemic, their food pantry and clothing locker are still operating and helping those in need. Their main offices have closed or moved to minimal staff. They need food and clothing donations so they can continue to help.



DONATE!! DONATE!! Our next blood drive will be at our State Convention in June. The particular day(s) and times have not been determined yet. If you happen to be setting up an event for the public, you might consider asking the Oklahoma Blood Institute

to come out with you for a blood drive. They are always in need of new blood. This is another way that we can help our veterans, families, and communities. If you do donate blood, please submit a report to the Supreme Military Order of the Cooties. They set up an online report of blood donated. They will send you a certificate of recognition 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.

The Special Olympics have taken their events the virtual world. Baseball, golf, bowling, dancing. Yes, virtual dances. Even in the virtual world, they are still looking for volunteers. They are in need of coaches, assistants, chaperons, and cheering sections. Volunteering or even sponsoring, either individually or as a post, go to <https://www.sook.org/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>. When you are out volunteering for the VFW, please wear something that identifies you as a VFW or Auxiliary member; it helps increase public awareness. I have spent time with some of the Special Olympians. They are some great people and a lot of fun to be around.



The Oklahoma VFW Foundation has need of volunteers! We are looking for people that enjoy engaging with businesses or other entities that donate money to worthy causes. The board feels that helping the veterans of Oklahoma is the greatest cause of all. We need help reaching out to businesses. Help us help the foundation grow so that it can support us in our

mission to help veterans.

Like any organization, vacancies occur. If you are interested in serving your fellow veterans, please submit a letter with your fund raising and non-profit experience for consideration. We have also asked the Department to vote two members into the board. Please send your experience letter to Jim Bassett, bassettj15@yahoo.com. I will ensure the board reviews all letters.

Be Visible!

By now, you should have noticed that I want the VFW involved in our communities. When we are out there working in our communities, people notice. More importantly, they remember. When the time comes for them to think about support of a veteran organization or a veteran, they send them to the VFW. When you have a relative that calls and asks what veterans organization should they donate money to, and then mention several prominent ones from TV. I was stunned to say the least. I told them to donate to the VFW. The post near them was not active and they were not sure if the VFW as a whole still existed.

So I ask what are you doing in your communities to stand out? When you sponsor an event, does everyone know that you are part of the VFW? Do you have Post or District banners letting people know? Are your members wearing something presentable with VFW or Auxiliary on them? When I was younger, yes before I qualified for the VFW, the VFW Posts were the heart and soul of most communities. I cannot think of any reason that posts cannot be that again. Yes, it is harder in some locations but mostly you just need to go out and do things in the community. Need help with a blood drive, let me know and I will help. Clothing, food, or school supply drives can easily be set up and communities notice.

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

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



Oklahoma

Comrades,

28 April, 2021

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, Mike Merit. With continued lockdowns and uncertain futures, we have pressed on with the mission. Our membership numbers are continuing to increase and our programs are seeing increased participation across the state, despite the hardships imposed on us. Without Commander Merit'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. Therefore, this is the official call to all Districts, Posts, and members within our department to voluntarily send a monetary donation to the State Quartermaster, Curt Watts, for Commander Merit'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 should recognize our State Commander and show the appreciation he deserves.

Please send all donations to the State Headquarters, Attn: State Commander Gift. The address is P.O Box 1126, Oklahoma City, OK 73101. All donations must be received no later than June 10th, 2021.

I appreciate any and all donations that make, and I'm sure Commander Merit will be as well.

Jim Bassett

Jim Bassett
State Sr. Vice Commander

FROM THE STATE JUNIOR. VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

We as a Department have achieved 100 percent membership, let's go team Oklahoma! I hope those who attended the centennial celebration had a great time. I know I did. I want to say congratulations to all the officers who have been elected to offices in post and district elections, remember to get your election reports filled and turned in! This has been a tough year for us but we pushed through and succeeded. Make sure to give praise to all members for thinking outside of the box and getting things done. We are in the end stretch for this year but don't quit now. Without you members we would be nothing. I hope everyone is in great health and I am looking forward to seeing and visiting with a lot more of you during the district conventions being held all over this great state in the coming weeks.

Yours in comradeship,

Jeremy J Owen
State Junior Vice Commander
Department of Oklahoma

FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

TO ALL

PLEASE NOTE THE MAILING ADDRESS FOR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN CHANGED TO:

**VFW DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 1126
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73101**

NOTICE: Sale of Department Safe. The Council of Administration has approved the sale of the department gun safe to the highest bidder. It is a Stack-On Armorguard gun safe that holds 64 rifles and several pistols that we no longer have a use for. Brand new, they are around \$2,100. Currently the highest bid is \$750.00. If you or anyone is interested, please contact Department Quartermaster Curt Watts at vfwhqokqm@outlook.com or 405 590-8577.

FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Development: April 15 Appeal: Partners in Patriotism quarterly statements to nonmember donors. April 16 Appeal: April dormant reengagement email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.

Communications: Tell Your #StillServing Story in America, we know veterans are #StillServing and rising to meet the challenges of this uncertain time. We want to share your stories and maybe even inspire others across the country to do the same. Contact: VFW Communications Manager Randi Law, RLaw@vfw.org. The C&PA director joined other members of the VFW D.C. staff in hosting a press conference outside the VFW Memorial building in Washington, D.C. U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Marco Rubio (R-FL), U.S. Representatives Raul Ruiz, M.D, (D-CA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), celebrity Jon Stewart, and other veterans rights advocates held the joint press conference to announce the Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act. VFW NLS Associate Director for DAMA Kristina Keenan gave remarks on behalf of the VFW. More than 30 members of the media were on hand for the event. **Administrative Operations:** There are currently 57 Posts under suspension, four of which are new. We are currently working one new Post institution, one Post charter consolidation, one Post charter surrender pursuant to Sections 201, 209, and 210 of the National Bylaws, respectively. We have completed three Post charter consolidations and two Post charter surrenders and one Post charter revocation. The organization currently has 6,021 active chartered Posts. Administrative Operations is engaged in 17 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, seven administrative actions and four pending

membership eligibility challenges. This past week we received 10 new Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review. We also reviewed and approved 10 total Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions and currently have 23 submissions pending review and approval. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 14 days. The online Post Election Report is up and running with 584 reports being submitted to date. The online District Election Report is rolling with 18 reports being submitted to date. **Meetings and Events:** National Convention in Baltimore is cancelled. Awaiting additional information from National Hqs. I expect a much smaller convention-style gathering **is** being considered. More data to follow. **National Legislative Service:** Last April the VFW tallied responses to our COVID-19 survey and used that data to advocate for veterans with Congress and VA. The VFW has developed a follow-up survey to evaluate your health care experiences, how your health care may have changed in the last six months, and your perceptions of your overall physical and mental health over the past 30 days. Your feedback is vital to our advocacy efforts and to compile a report on this important topic. Help the VFW hold VA and Congress accountable by taking this short survey regarding your experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. VFW currently supports 19 pieces of legislation pending before the 117th Congress. **National Veterans Service** NVS notified VFW service offices around the country of veterans under their jurisdiction who are on the “non-actionable” list for compensation and pension exams. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many veterans reported that they were unwilling or unable to report for C&P exams due to COVID-19. VA ordered its contract vendors to hold all these exams instead of processing denials. Today, VA faces a backlog of C&P exams due to “non-actionable” exams. The goal is for VFW Service Officers to assist in proactive outreach to veterans who are considered “non-actionable” to restart the exam process and complete their benefit claims. NVS joined the VA Secretary’s Center for Strategic Partnership virtual stakeholder meeting to discuss efforts driving cancer treatment innovation and mental wellness in the workplace. NVS participated in the breakout session about wellness in the workplace and shared concepts that the VFW and its network of service officers have implemented to address the mental health challenges of VFW clients and service providers. NVS participated in the new biweekly meeting with Veterans Benefits Administration and the major VSOs to discuss key priorities for VBA and provide updates on recent policy changes. NVS VFW’s National Pre-Discharge Representatives continued to provide virtual benefit briefings to transitioning service members around the country. This week, NVS is hosting briefings at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall and participating in the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency VSO virtual fair. **D.C. Operations:** This week, D.C. Ops attended the monthly Defense Health Agency VSO/MSO meeting to discuss the change in the DOD’s approach to military health system reforms, which were required in the recent National Defense Authorization Act, as well as the Chapter 701 reforms included in the 2017 NDAA. D.C. Ops also attended the monthly Army VSO/MSO call for the Army Talent Management briefing. D.C. Ops continues to research and prepare a daily report and recommendations for the VFW leadership regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GREAT DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA FOR BENG 100+ IN MEMEBERSHIP!

Robbie Clark
National Council Member
Department of Oklahoma

FROM THE STATE SURGEON



STACY REDDIG: VFW OKLAHOMA STATE SURGEON
GENERAL ORDERS: MAY 2021

Hello Comrades, Sisters and Brothers:

One of the many jobs of State Surgeon is always check on Post and VA Hospitals to see what “needs” need to be met. I recently have put out on social media site (estate sales, garage sales, etc.) “Operation helping Veterans” and have obtained many more wheelchairs, crutches, shower chairs and lots more items. Please get ahold of me if your Post is needing any of these items. Have 5 motorized wheelchairs, which they need batteries. Batteries Plus company is possibly going to work with me in donating the batteries or receiving a good discount on them. The owner of Batteries Plus stated that they are going to highly work with the VFW members on batteries for motorized wheelchairs/scooters. They will try to donate to the Veterans that are NOT on Medicare or not going through the VA. Batteries Plus does accept Medicare.

Also don’t forget to get the information out about Hearing in America which provides VFW members and their extended families free hearing screenings, a Low-Price Guarantee, and other benefits for hearing aid purchases. For more information on Hear in America benefits for VFW members and their families or to sign up for your free hearing screening with no enrollment fee or premiums, call 1.800.286.6149 or visit www.vfw.org/join/member-benefits/medical-services.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) proudly announced today it has joined forces with Team Red, White & Blue (Team RWB) through a memorandum of understanding focused on increasing veterans’ access to a combined health and wellness network, while offering camaraderie and support from fellow service members, veterans, and their families. VFW members are encouraged to download the Team RWB App to start connecting and be sure to register for the upcoming Marching Orders National Event – an 8-day commitment to reach a daily step goal.

As you all are aware, I am running for State Jr. Vice Commander for the 2021-2022 year. It is my duty and honor to continue serving our Veterans, their families and community. It is the Oath I gave many years ago. The dedication to this great organization is unwavering. I am willing to help others and learn together to help better this great organization. Below are a few priority goals:

- **Veterans & their families: first and foremost**
- **Membership**
- **Family Readiness**
- **Homeless Veterans**
- **Working Programs: Scholarship, Youth Activities, Buddy Poppies, Hospital...etc.**



We are quickly approaching elections of officers. It would be my pleasure to serve as our State Jr. Vice for the 2021-2022 year. I have been endorsed by Past National Council Member Jay Bjorgo and also National Council Member Robbie Clark. I have full support of my family and friends as a candidate for this office.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call, text, or email me.

Stacy Reddig
 State Surgeon VFW Oklahoma
 405-421-1990
stacyreddig32@gmail.com

FROM THE V& MS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Veterans and Military Services Committee Chair
Tony McGrew



Hello Comrades, We have new leadership in the State and many Districts and Posts. I urge each and everyone of you to get behind and get involved with our VFW and especially the VMS 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 4 distinct stand-alone programs.

- Operation Uplink
- Unmet Needs
- Military Assistance Program (MAP)
- VFW "Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship" program

If you have any questions about any of these programs, please let me know.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities and Events:

May 2021 – There will be a Yellow Ribbon in May. Date, Time and Location is TBD.

All for One; One for All

Tony McGrew

State VMS Chair

Department of Oklahoma

Veterans of Foreign Wars

P.O Box 1126

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101

405-820-6467

Tony.vfw8706@gmail.com

<https://www.vfwoklahoma.org>

FROM THE Mr. Miss/Mrs VFW AWARD CHAIRMAN

**DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA
MR/MISS/MRS VFW
AWARD**

This award was established by Past State Commander William Beane after his candidacy for National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. At the time of the creation of this award the Department of Oklahoma agreed to administering and maintaining all funding for the award.

The Past Commanders Club of the Department of Oklahoma has accepted the responsibility and honor of sponsoring this award effective June 20, 2020.

The award is the most prestigious award that can be received from the Department of Oklahoma, and is designed as a Life Time Achievement Award. The award is to honor a member of the Department of Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars who has gone above and beyond to help and assist his/her fellow veterans and the betterment of the VFW organization.

Requirements for nomination for this award:

The nominee must be in good standing within the Department of Oklahoma, their Post and District.

The nominee must have been a continuous member for a period of eight (8) years.

Stacy Reddig	2005	staceyreddig@gmail.com
Herman Almendinger	2007	hoa92731@aol.com
Curtis "Doc" Bohlman	2009	vfwsg4x@sbcglobal.net
Harlan J. Bjorgo	2010	jaybjorgo@outlook.com
Gordon Wheeler	2011	vfwjudge@cox.net
Robert Clark	2015	f172driver@gmail.com
Ron Gimondo	2016	mondostraw@yahoo.com
Robert McGill **	2018	rdmccgill@sbcglobal.net
Kenneth Pike	2019	kpike@cableone.net
Ron Slowik	2020	rojslowik@suddenlink.net
Bill Milan		

(Deceased Award Recipients are not listed.)

NOTE: ** Denotes Judging Committee Chairperson

DISTRICT CONVENTION/MEETING INFORMATION

D-1 > TBA 11am>Post 5307, Salina>
D-3 > TBA
D-4 > TBA
D-5 > TBA
D-7 > TBA
D-8 >TBA
D-9 > 08 May 21 10am>Post 1719, Chandler> St. Jr. Vice Jeremy Owen
D-10 >TBA
D-13 >TBA
D-14 >15 May 21 11am> Post 4574 Ardmore> St. Jr. Vice Cdr Jeremy Owen
D-15 >08 May 21 @11 am> Post # 4876 Altus > St. Surgeon Reddig/PSC Darryl Mabry

DATES TO REMEMBER:

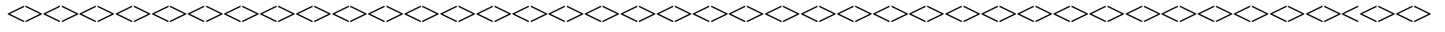
06 May> National Day of Prayer
07 May> Military Spouses Day
07 May> Unconditional Surrender of all German Forces signed (1945)
08 May> V-E Day Declared (1945)
15 May> Women's Army Corps Founded (1942) Armed Forces Day,
09 May > Mother's Day
15 May> Women's Army Corps Founded (1942)
15 May> Peace Officers Memorial Day
31 May> Memorial Day

POST # _____ DISTRICT # _____ VFW YEAR _____

Delegates and Alternates for District, Department & National Conventions

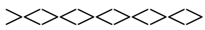
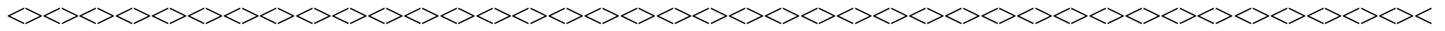
Please complete this form and return to Department Quartermaster once the election of delegates and alternates are elected. Form can be mailed to VFW Dept of Oklahoma, P.O Box 1126. Oklahoma City, OK 73101 or can be emailed to vfwhqok@outlook.com

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:** _____

CONVENTION BOOK ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Greetings from the Department of Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars:

As non-profit organizations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) depend on you and your donations to remain viable nationally and within our great state. Donations help us care for the State's Veterans and conduct programs throughout communities within Oklahoma.

As we head toward our Annual State VFW and Auxiliary Convention on June 10-13, 2021, we ask for your support by advertising in our convention/ program book or helping us to find business that would like to advertise in our convention book. Our convention/ program book is distributed to our 85 posts throughout the state and is available to over 20,000 VFW and Auxiliary members. That state-wide exposure alone will multiply your advertisement investment. An added benefit is the potential notoriety as you consider banner, booths and other mediums that are available. We have also taken a direct approach for publishing the book to assist in making your advertisement exceptionally reasonable.

The purpose of the VFW Program Book is to serve as a commemorative keepsake for the members and their families as well as provide an excellent medium for advertisement and showcasing our supporters. We appreciate what you have done for the Veterans of the state and their families. Additionally, we appreciate your business and offer a "great Oklahoma Thank you" in advance.

VFW CONVENTION PROGRAM BOOK

FULL PAGE (COLOR)	\$300.00
HALF PAGE (COLOR)	\$150.00
FULL PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	\$175.00
HALF PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	\$100.00
QUARTER PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	\$50.00
2.5 x 4 LINE (BLACK AND WHITE)	\$25.00

CONVENTION SPONSORSHIP INCENTIVE \$1000.00

Sponsorship package includes; a full page color ad, posting a banner at the convention and other VFW/ Auxiliary events for one (1) year, VFW Oklahoma website advertisement for one (1) year and ability to set up an information booth during the convention (20-23 June 2019) as well as other conference events for one (1) year.

WEBSITE ADVERTISEMENT ONLY INCENTIVE

\$25.00 PER MONTH (\$300) OR a pay upfront incentive of **\$250** for one (1) year. Feel free to visit our website at vfwok.org or searching VFW Oklahoma.

BOOTH RENTAL ONLY \$250 PER EVENT (STIPULATIONS APPLY)

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