



**Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars**
P.O Box 1126 OKC, OK 73101-1126
580 515-0567/ www.vfwoklahoma.org



June 2025

2024-2025 Series

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

~Mahatma Gandhi

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

General Orders No. 12

2024-2025 Series

1. Attention is directed to: **National By-Laws, Sec 503, Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.** Each Department shall hold one Convention each year, which shall begin no earlier than ninety days prior to the convening of the National Convention and shall be concluded no less than thirty (30 days prior to the conclusion of the National Convention. The minimum number of delegates required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a Department Convention shall be not less than one delegate each from ten Posts in the Department unless the Department Bylaws may prescribe a different number of delegates required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
2. 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."

/os/
DAN FULLER
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /
Heidi Teeter
Adjutant

Commander Dan Fuller

Greetings Comrades,

As this will be my last entry as Commander for the GOs. I would like to thank everyone for their great work in reaching the Commander-in-Chief's goal of a 102% plus for the state. We were able to achieve that because of all the hard work the individual Posts and Districts have put forth. I am so thankful for the enthusiastic efforts that I have seen at events, contacting and recruiting qualified members.

For those posts that are still trying to attain the membership requirement. I feel like you will be able to do it with a push these last weeks, with many events such as Flag Day and the Army's birthday (this will be the 250th year of service).

It has been an honor and certainly a privilege to be able to visit the numerous Posts throughout the state. I'm always humbled by the great work that we do daily. And the amount of dedication by our members and auxiliaries.

I would like to thank the Council of Administration for their work throughout the year and their ability to solve problems and come to a consensus on decisions that the Department needed to make.

I want to congratulate all returning Commanders and officers in the Posts and Districts and to acknowledge any new member that has taken the challenge to lead from the front. I hope you have a great and wonderful year.

I know that we commemorated Memorial Day across the State and I've seen many reports and heard of great work that our organization has committed to the Gold Star families and service members.

I would like to send a special thanks to the District 5 Honor Guard, which travels all across the state, numerous times during the week to provide memorial rights to those service members that have fallen. Also in addition, I would like to thank them for their participation in the ringing of the bell at the Bat Fish Memorial, that acknowledges the submarine service throughout the history of the Navy.

I encourage as many of you who can attend our State Convention to do so. We'll have a great program. I am looking forward to bestowing all the well-deserved and hard-fought-for awards that many of the Posts and Districts have earned.

Keep wearing your own kind of hat and good luck in your future endeavors

Respectfully,
Dan Fuller
State Commander
Department of Oklahoma

Senior Vice Commander

Jeff Harris

Greeting Comrades

Wow, it's finally June and Oklahoma membership is really going strong. Commander Dan Fuller, along with the members of Oklahoma VFW have met the goal of 102%. If your post or district is still needing members to get to 102 %, please don't quit.

Getting All-American and All-State Post or District is a goal that all Commanders want to achieve! So please don't quit.

The State Convention is coming up soon and I hope that everyone is excited as I am. I have got a program book done and committee members selected if I win the office of State Commander. The programs have changed a little but the programs I have selected will be good.

I pray that no one has been hurt by the weather we have been getting. It seems the rain will not stop. Here in SE Oklahoma where I am, Lake Eufaula is 10 feet above its limit. So please, if you are on the water anywhere, be very careful. With the level of water, it may just cover something on land.

I was invited by Commander Karl Laeger of Post 3658 Antlers, where he and members of the Post and Auxiliary set a box up for tattered and worn flags to be disposed in. Thanks, Karl, for the invitation.

In closing comrades, I will be running for office of State Commander, and your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,
Jeff Harris
State Sr. Vice Commander

Junior Vice Commander

Tony McGrew

Greetings Comrades,

Summer is here!!! This time of year, calls us to become more energetic and active, thereby increasing our potential as members of this great organization. Summer is a time of energy, growth, expansion, and productivity. With it's long daylight hours and vibrant atmosphere, summer is often associated with energy and productivity. Similarly, vibrant/strong

members exhibit energy, drive, and a focus on achieving results, moving projects forward and keeping teams engaged.

Summer is a time of growth, both for nature and for individuals. Those who embrace this spirit cultivate growth in their teams, encouraging development and providing opportunities for learning and advancement.

Summer should be a time for exploration and new ideas, innovative and forward-thinking. Seeking new ways to approach challenges and explore different perspectives, while inspiring teams to think outside the box.

While summer may be a time of great activity, it's also a good time for reflection and planning, especially as the season transitions to autumn. Similarly, members who take time to reflect on their progress, assess their strategies, and plan for future challenges are more likely to succeed.

Post and District Leaders/Members should foster a culture of collaboration, delegation, and effective communication within their organizations.

I know all of you have heard the old saying “Grow where you are planted.” Consider this a challenge from me to make the Oklahoma VFW Better, Stronger and More Productive.

Respectfully and gratefully,

Tony McGrew

Candidate: State Senior Vice Commander.

Adjutant/Quartermaster Heidi Teeter

Greetings Comrades,

Well, another VFW year is coming to an end. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve this great organization and all the amazing members. My fellow members, Post, District, Department, and National leaders have taught me many things over the year.

State Convention is right around the corner. If you haven't already booked a room, they need to be booked by the 5th to get the Department rate. Banquet tickets are on sale and will be available until June 19th. I will not be able to accept any orders after that because I have to give the hotel the final count by the 20th. If you are mailing an order in and are not certain that I will receive it before the 19th, just call, text or email me and let me know how many you are ordering and which meals. The agenda for State Convention will be included in these GOs.

The relief committee will be holding another fundraiser during the convention. Comrade Duncan will have the details of it to me in the coming days and I will get them out to the members. I can tell you this will be another fun one.

Comrade Danny Medley is asking any Districts that did not bring something to raffle for the National Home to please bring it to State Convention. Please contact him to let him know if you are bringing something or if you have any questions at 918-752-4127.

You will notice SOI/OTS in the Dates to Remember section of these GOs. There will be more details coming in the following weeks.

Pursuant to Section 416: "Additionally, District Commanders, District Senior Vice Commanders, and District Junior Vice Commanders shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant." I would ask that ALL INCOMING District Commanders, District Senior Vice Commanders, and District Junior Vice Commanders please send their proof of eligibility to me PRIOR to the convening of the State Convention.

COMMANDERS & ADJUTANTS: Pursuant to MOP, Sec 222, Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31st. Comrades, on 31March 25, I will go into the Online Membership System (OMS) and obtain the members in good standing for each Post within our department. Shortly after, I will be publishing a delegate strength roster showing the number of delegates for each Post. This will be your delegate strength for all conventions at District, Department, and National Level. Included on the form will be the Department Delegate Dues owed by each Post. A delegate worksheet is also available with these General Orders. Delegate worksheets must be mailed, emailed, or turned into the Department registration table prior to convention voting.

Pursuant to **VFW-Oklahoma Bylaws, Article 5,**

Section 2, Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31st.

Section 3, 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 Bylaws. 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. Posts that do not pay prior to the convention will be assessed the delegate fees at the plus \$1.00 rate.

In the links with these general orders, you will find the DEPARTMENT delegate worksheet. As stated above, your delegates should be elected at the same meeting in which you

elect post officers. This worksheet should be filled out and sent back to me at vfwhqokqm@outlook.com, vfwokadj@outlook.com, or mailed to the Department at PO Box 1126, OKC, OK 73101. I am still needing several Delegate worksheets. Please try to have these back to me before the State Convention so that the delegate badges can be prepared in advance.

As a reminder whether your Post attends the State Convention or National Convention or not the delegate dues are required to be paid. National dues are \$25 for the first delegate and an additional \$10 for each added delegate. The Department dues for each post can be found in the “Post Delegate Dues” link. These dues should be received by the Department by June 12th. Any dues not received by this date will incur an additional \$1.00 fee.

As always, if anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Charlie Mike,
Heidi Teeter
State Adjutant/Quartermaster
Department of Oklahoma

*Judge Advocate
Randy Traxler*

To My Comrades,

Preparing for our Convention in a few weeks I am reflecting on the past year serving as your Department Judge Advocate, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank each of you who have taken the time to reach out—whether to seek guidance, offer insight, or simply check in as a fellow battle buddy.

To those who have shared their questions and concerns about bylaws and governance, thank you. Your willingness to engage, to ask hard questions, and to work toward clarity shows your dedication not only to the rules that guide us, but to the integrity of our Posts and Districts. Every conversation we’ve had—whether navigating the complexities of National, Department, or Post-level bylaws, or simply determining the best course of action under Robert’s Rules—has been a reminder that leadership doesn’t mean having all the answers but being committed to finding them together.

To those who have collaborated with me to find workable solutions, your openness and respect for the process are deeply appreciated. You’ve reminded me that our strength as an organization comes not just from our service records or our charters, but from our mutual respect and shared mission to support veterans, families, and communities.

And to those who’ve called just to check in—not with a question, but with concern or camaraderie—I thank you just as deeply. In a world that often feels disconnected, your calls

have meant more than you know. They have affirmed that our bonds are strong and that the values of fellowship and support we carried in uniform continue today.

It's an honor to serve with you, to learn alongside you, and to be part of an organization where service still defines us. My door, my phone, and my time will always remain open to you.

V/r

Randy Traxler

Judge Advocate
Department of Oklahoma
989-482-3876

***Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen
Teacher of the Year
Jim Bassett***

Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year, and Patriots Pen time is coming up in a few months. National has already released the themes for next year. They are:

Voice of Democracy:

“How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”

Patriot’s Pen:

“How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support For Our Country?”

Now is the time for District and Post Commanders to select their Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen Chairs. Send me their names and valid email and we can add them to Scholar App (<https://scholarsapp.com/>). As posts and district are enrolled, the Quick Response codes will be generated and available. If you enrolled last year, your QR codes are still valid but update me with your current chair’s info. We are allowed to have Auxiliary members entered in as chair or cochair in the system. My contact information has not changed, bassettj15@yahoo.com.

Jim Bassett

State VoD/PP/ToY Chair

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

Bylaw

noun

plural noun: bylaws (taken from Oxford Languages Dictionary)

1. a rule made by a company or society to control the actions of its members.

"the expulsion comes as a result of violation of the fraternity's constitution, rules, and by-laws"

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a bylaw is "a rule adopted by an organization chiefly for the government of its members and the regulation of its affairs."

And according to The Law Dictionary:

Bylaw

Definition and Citations:

(Sometimes also spelled by-law or byelaw) can refer to a law of local or limited application, passed under the authority of a higher law specifying what things may be regulated by the bylaw, or it can refer to the internal rules of a company or organization.

The podium edition of our CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER, BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE, AND RITUAL contains our bylaws. Our rules and regulations that control how, where, when, and why we do things. They are not up for debate or considered a suggestion. They are our internal rules. If you have questions about them, don't go off what was done in the past or I think it's this, read the current book. A new one comes out every year. If you have questions about what they say, the Department of Oklahoma has three people who I consider experts on the bylaws, talk to them and ask. Ask Gordon Wheeler, vfw9969@gmail.com, James Dockemeyer, XXXXXXXX, or Randy Traxler, randytraxler@icloud.com. And a reminder, each officer at Post, District, and Department are required to have one in their possession. If you use the PDF version, make sure it is available during meetings.

So why do we have bylaws, simple. If you read and live the purpose of our organization, we need rules so that we can work together to achieve them. Working together to achieve the goal shows a united front. It also allows individual members to know they are working on their part of the goals

So, what is our purpose? Meetings? No, they allow us to develop a plan to meet the goals. Our purpose is:

The purposes of the corporation are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational, and are:

1. to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members;
2. to assist worthy comrades;
3. to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans;
4. to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws;

5. to foster true patriotism;
6. to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and
7. to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies.

Notice, personal gain is not part of the purpose. Our job, our mission is to support the VFW towards these purposes. When your post thrives, the VFW thrives.

I also want to remind everyone that new members are invited to join but must prove their eligibility to join. Which happens to be in the bylaws. A post must vote the member in and they should honor them with an induction ceremony where the Members Obligation is administered. If you don't, you are denying them their ceremony which lessens their obligation.

MEMBER'S OBLIGATION

In the presence of Almighty God -- and the members of this order here assembled -- I, (name), do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise and declare that:

I will bear true allegiance - to the Constitution of the United States of America - and I will always be loyal thereto. I do further solemnly promise and declare - that I will comply with the Congressional Charter -- Bylaws and Ritual of this order -- and I will always be loyal thereto -- that I will never wrong or defraud this organization – nor a member thereof -- nor permit any wrong to be done to either -- if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership - - any person not eligible -- nor one whom I know to be unworthy. I will never make known to anyone -- not authorized to receive it --- any of the work of this order. Should my affiliation -- with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States -- cease in any way -- I will consider this pledge -- as binding outside of the order -- as though I had remained a member of same. All this I promise and pledge -- upon the honor of a true comrade -- and a member of our great republic.

Remember your obligation.

Respectfully,

Randy Traxler

State Education Co-Chair
Department of Oklahoma

Jim Bassett

State Education Co-Chair
Department of Oklahoma

Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services
Tony McGrew and Jim Bassett

The Oklahoma City VA Hospital is open to visits. If your post or district is interested in doing a visit. It is easier if you coordinate the visit with the VAVS members. So, if interested, contact Tony McGrew, tony.vfw8706@gmail.com. Or Jim Bassett, bassettj15@yahoo.com.

Let us know where you would like to volunteer. Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services are looking for volunteers. They need drivers, book carts, popcorn or, well almost anything to include just visiting.

So, if interested, contact Tony McGrew, tony.vfw8706@gmail.com. Or Jim Bassett, bassettj15@yahoo.com. Let us know where you would like to volunteer.

They hold meetings on a regular basis so information will be released about events at each location.

Tony McGrew

Jim Bassett

State VAVS Chairs
Department of Oklahoma

DISTRICT MEETING INFORMATION

Will be announced with the July General Orders

DATES TO REMEMBER:

US Army's 250th Birthday >> June 14th

Flag Day >> June 14th

Juneteenth >> June 19th

2025 Oklahoma State Convention >> June 26th – 29th >> Embassy Suites, Norman, OK

VFW National Home 100th Anniversary Celebration >> June 28th >> Eaton Rapids, MI

Independence Day >> July 4th

SOI/OTS >> July 18-20th >> Embassy Suites, Norman, OK

VFW National Convention >> August 9-13th >> Columbus, OH

EMAIL PHISHING

Randy Traxler

Scammers are working harder than ever to steal personal information through phishing emails and text messages (smishing). As part of the **VFW Oklahoma** community, we want to ensure you stay informed and protected.

How to Recognize and Handle Phishing Attempts

◊ **If You Receive a Phishing Email:**

- **Do NOT click on links or open attachments**—they may contain malware.
- **Verify the sender**—look for misspellings or unusual addresses.
- **Report the email:**
 - Use your email provider's "Report phishing" option.
 - Forward it to **reportphishing@apwg.org** (Anti-Phishing Working Group).
 - If it appears to be from a trusted company, report it directly to them.
- **Mark as spam and delete** the email.
- **Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)** on your accounts for added security.

◊ **If You Receive a Phishing Text (Smishing):**

- **Do NOT click links or reply**—this confirms your number is active to scammers.
- **Report the text** by forwarding it to **7726 (SPAM)** and to the **FTC at reportfraud.ftc.gov**.
- **Block the sender** on your phone.
- **Check with the company directly** if the message claims to be from your bank, service provider, or another organization.
- **Keep your phone updated** to protect against security threats.

What to Do If You've Already Been a Victim

If you've clicked on a phishing link or shared sensitive information, take action immediately:

- Change your passwords** for any affected accounts.
- Contact your bank or credit card company** if you shared financial information.
- Report identity theft** to the **FTC at www.identitytheft.gov**.
- Scan your devices for malware** if you clicked on a suspicious link.

By staying vigilant, we can protect ourselves and each other from cyber threats. If you suspect a phishing attempt targeting VFW members, please report it immediately.

VFW DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA 2024-2025 BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT #1

The VFW Department of Oklahoma Bylaws committee met on 31 January 2025 at 1300hrs at VFW Post 9969 (Del City). All members of the committee consisting of Curt Watts (Post 2027), James Dockemeyer (Post 1317), and Gordon Wheeler (Post 9969) were present for the meeting. All proposed bylaw changes that had been submitted to the Department Adjutant prior to the committee meeting held on above said date were reviewed and discussed in detail on the merits of the proposed change. Once discussion was complete, committee members voted on each proposed bylaw change individually. The committee voted for one of three recommendations; approval, dis-approval, or submitting an amendment to a proposed bylaw change. It is the plans of the committee to meet again after the department deadline for all proposed bylaws changes having been submitted by Posts prior to the department Adjutant prior to the Department convention in June.

Below are the results of the committee's recommendation(s) on each proposed bylaw change submitted to date.

Proposed Department Bylaw Changes submitted by the Department Headquarters

- **SB 1: Article IV Section 3 Paragraph 3**

- **Currently reads:**
 - “The elected officers of this Department shall be a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, 1 Year Finance Committee Member, 2 Year Finance Committee Member, 3 Year Finance Committee Member, and Immediate Past Commander. “
- **Change proposed:**
 - Remove Immediate Past Commander
- **Would read:**
 - “The elected officers of this Department shall be a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, 1 Year Finance Committee Member, 2 Year Finance Committee Member, and 3 Year Finance Committee Member”
- **Reason for change:**
 - Recommendation by the National Inspection team. The Immediate Past Commander is an ex-officio member of the Council of Administration.

This committee voted to recommend approval of the above proposed bylaw change.

- **SB 2: Article IX Section 2**

- **Currently reads:**
 - Conference and Convention Committee:
 - A. A Conference and Convention Committee shall be appointed by the State Commander to conduct the business affairs of the Department Convention, Fall Festival and Mid-Winter Conference.
 - B. The State Adjutant/Quartermaster shall notify all Posts, Districts, State Officers and Past State Commanders within the Department at least fourteen (14) days prior to the convention and other Department meetings of the room rates, registration fees,

banquet rates and all other necessary costs, fees and special conditions or limitation governing rates and conduct during the aforesaid Convention and other Department meetings.

C. The Conference and Convention Committee shall investigate and recommend to the Council of Administration suitable sites for the Department Convention, Fall Festival, and Mid-Winter Conference. The committee shall make their recommendations not later than the Mid-Winter Conference for sites for two years from the following June. The Council of Administration is to have final determination of the convention location.

- **Proposed Change:**

- Remove paragraphs B and C.
- Create SOP with further information and details.

- **Would read:**

- Conference and Convention Committee: A Conference and Convention Committee shall be appointed by the State Commander to conduct the business affairs of the Department Convention, Fall Festival and Mid-Winter Conference.

- **Reason for change**

- Recommendation by the National Inspection team.

This Bylaws committee voted to recommend approval of the above proposed bylaw change.

Furthermore, the committee recommends that the Department Commander immediately appoints and directs the Conference & Convention Committee to write an SOP. Once created, the committee will submit the SOP to the Department Adjutant for review and approval by the Council of Administration; upon approval the Adjutant shall maintain a copy of the approved SOP in Department records.

- **SB 3: Article IX Section 3**

- **Currently reads:**

- “The Veterans Service Committee:
 1. Shall consist of the State Commander, Immediate Past State Commander, and three (3) members appointed by the State Commander.
 2. The Committee through the State Commander shall have full control of the service work of the State. It shall appoint and prescribe the duties of all officers and employees of the Department Veterans Service office.
 3. Additionally, they shall be responsible for recommending the hiring, termination, disciplinary or other personnel actions of all other non-elected paid employees under the Department Veterans Service office.

- **Proposed Change:**

- Remove paragraphs 1, and 3.
- Create SOP with further information and details.

- **Would read:**

- “The Veterans Service Committee: The Committee through the State Commander shall have full control of the service work of the State. It shall appoint and prescribe the duties of all officers and employees of the Department Veterans Service office.

- **Reason for change:**

- Recommendation by the National Inspection team.

*This Bylaws committee voted to **recommend approval** of the above proposed bylaw change. Furthermore, the committee recommends that the Department Commander immediately appoints and directs the Veteran Service Committee to write an SOP. Once created, the committee will submit the SOP to the Department Adjutant for review and approval by the Council of Administration; upon approval the Adjutant shall maintain a copy of the approved SOP in department records.*

- **SB 4: Article IX Section 4**

- **Currently Reads**
- Budget and Finance Committee:
 - The Budget and Finance Committee shall consist of the State Commander, State Senior Vice Commander, State Junior Vice Commander, State Quartermaster, and three (3) members. The three (3) members shall be elected at the Department Convention for terms of one (1), two (2), and three (3) years and thereafter one (1) member shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years.
 - The Budget committee shall assist the State Quartermaster to review and submit a proposed annual budget to the Council of Administration for approval at the School of Instruction immediately following the Department Convention. Said budget shall include proposed expenditures for all Department meetings.
 - The Budget and Finance committee shall assist the State Quartermaster to review and submit a proposed annual budget to the Council of Administration fifteen (15) days prior to the beginning of the State Convention. The Council of Administration shall consider and take action on the proposed budget at its meeting following the Department Convention. Said budget shall include proposed expenditures for all Department meetings.
 - The Department Budget and Finance Committee members shall be responsible to audit the books of the State Quartermaster once each quarter.
- **Proposed change:**
 - Replace paragraphs A, B, C, and with “Budget and Finance Committee will assist with budget preparation and be responsible with auditing the books of the State Quartermaster.”
 - Create SOP with further information and details.
- **Reason for change:**
 - Recommendation by the National Inspection team.

*This Bylaws committee voted to **NOT recommend approval** of the above proposed bylaw change. Due to the nature and importance of the Budget & Finance Committee's duties and fiduciary responsibilities, this bylaws committee feels that Article IX, Section 4, should stand firm within the current Department bylaws which explicitly states the duties and responsibilities of the Budget & Finance Committee.*

This committee recommends a proposed amendment of its own to Article IX, Section 4.

- **Currently reads** The Department Budget and Finance Committee members shall be responsible to audit the books of the State Quartermaster once each quarter.
- **Proposed change.** Insert “three elected committee” after finance, and before members.
- **Proposed change:** The Department Budget and Finance “**three elected Committee**” members shall be responsible to audit the books of the State Quartermaster once each quarter.
- **Reason for change:** When this bylaw change was adopted approximately three or four years ago, and the State Senior Vice Commander and State Junior Vice Commander were

added to the committee, it was not the intent of the convention delegates to have all committee members audit the books of the Quartermaster, only the three elected committee members along with the Commander. Due to an administrative error, the words “three elected committee ” was not adopted in the wording of the bylaw change that was submitted and approved by the National organization.

- **SB 5: Article IX Section 5:**

- **Currently reads:**

- “Committee on Native American Relations
 - A. A Committee on Native American Relations shall be appointed by the State Commander. The Chair is given full authority to appoint members and/or consultants to carry out its prescribed duties. However, at no time shall a member and/or consultant be paid for services rendered without express permission of the Council of Administration.
 - B. Committee duties include but are not limited to: Establish relations with each Tribe in the State of Oklahoma.
 - C. Establish relations with all Native American veterans’ organizations in the State of Oklahoma.
 - D. Relay information between Native American tribes/organizations and the Department.
 - E. Encourage Native American combat veteran’s membership in the VFW.
 - F. Relay benefit information between Tribes and the Department.”

- **Proposed change:**

- Replace paragraphs A, B, C, D, E, and F with “The committee will be tasked with building relations between the Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Native American Tribes of Oklahoma.”
 - Create SOP with further information and details.

- **Would read:**

- “Committee on Native American Relations: The committee will be tasked with building relations between the Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Native American Tribes of Oklahoma.”

- **Reason for change:**

- Recommendation by the National Inspection team.

This Bylaws committee voted to recommend approval of the above proposed bylaw change. Furthermore, the committee recommends that the Department Commander immediately appoints and directs the Committee on Native American Relations to write an SOP. Once created, the committee will submit the SOP to the Department Adjutant for review and approval by the Council of Administration; upon approval the Adjutant shall maintain a copy of the approved SOP in Department records.

- **SB 6: Article IX Section 6:**

- **Currently reads:**

- Committee on Women Veteran Affairs:
 - A. A Committee on Women Veterans Affairs shall be appointed by the State Commander. The Chair is given full authority to appoint members and/or consultants to carry out its prescribed duties. However, at no time shall a member and/or consultant be paid for services rendered without express permission of the Council of Administration.
 - B. Committee Duties include, but are not limited to:

1. Monitor information from multiple entities across the State and Nation and relay information to women veterans within the VFW Department of Oklahoma.
2. Monitor Women Veteran recognition programs as well as medical information.
3. Establish relations and flow of information with women veterans' organizations and the VFW.
4. Develop communication channels between the Veterans Administration, Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, and other governmental agencies.
5. Disseminate relevant information to VFW members.
6. Encourage women combat veterans' membership in the VFW.

- **Proposed change:**
 - Replace paragraphs A and B with "The committee will be tasked with building relations between women veterans and the Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars and define current issues faced by women veterans."
 - Create SOP with further information and details.
- **Would read:**
 - "Committee on Women Veteran Affairs: The committee will be tasked with building relations between women veterans and the Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars and define current issues faced by women veterans."
- **Reason for change:**
 - Recommendation by the National Inspection team.

This Bylaws committee voted to recommend approval of the above proposed bylaw change. Furthermore, the committee recommends that the Department Commander immediately appoints and directs the Committee on Women Veteran Affairs to write an SOP. Once created, the committee will submit the SOP to the Department Adjutant for review and approval by the Council of Administration; upon approval the Adjutant shall maintain a copy of the approved SOP in Department records.

- **SB 7: Article IX Section 7**
 - **Currently Reads:**
 - "State Fair Committee
 - A. A State Fair Committee shall be appointed by the State Commander. It shall have two Co-Chairs representing the Oklahoma State Fair and the Tulsa State Fair. The chairs are given full authority to appoint members and/or consultants to carry out its prescribed duties. However, at no time shall a member and/or consultant be paid for services rendered without express permission of the Council of Administration.
 - B. Committee Duties include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Prepare and propose to the Budget and Finance Committee an annual budget for the purpose of hosting a membership booth at both State Fairs.
 - 2. Obtain and maintain a fair kit to include, but not limited to, a VFW canopy complete with sides, tables, chairs, carpets, handouts, and merchandise.
 - 3. Maintain contact with both fair authorities throughout the year and
 - 4. Develop and maintain schedules for volunteers.
 - 5. Encourage volunteerism, recruiting and programs promotion."
 - **Proposed change:**
 - Replace paragraphs A and B with "The committee will organize and manage recruiting and informational booths at both the Oklahoma State Fair and Tulsa State Fair."

- Create SOP with further information and details.
- **Would read:**
 - “State Fair Committee: The committee will organize and manage recruiting and informational booths at both the Oklahoma State Fair and Tulsa State Fair.”
- **Reason for change:**
 - Recommendation by the National Inspection team.

*This Bylaws committee voted to **recommend approval** of the above proposed bylaw change. Furthermore, the committee recommends that the Department Commander immediately appoints and directs the State Fairs Committee to write an SOP. Once created, the committee will submit the SOP to the Department Adjutant for review and approval by the Council of Administration; upon approval the Adjutant shall maintain a copy of the approved SOP in Department records.*

- **SB 8: Article VI**
 - **Currently reads:**
 - “The Department shall have a minimum of three (3) meetings a year. The Fall Festival, Mid-Winter Conference, and Department Convention, with the exception of the Department Convention, which shall be three (3) days, total, and the other meetings shall be two (2) days in length. The Commander-Elect may, at their option, hold their reception at a site place and date of their choice.”
 - **Proposed change**
 - Replace “Fall Festival” with “fall meeting” and “and the other meetings shall be two (2) days in length” with “and the other meetings shall be one (1) day in length”
 - **Would read:**
 - “The Department shall have a minimum of three (3) meetings a year. The fall meeting, Mid-Winter Conference, and Department Convention, with the exception of the Department Convention, which shall be three (3) days, total, and the other meetings shall be one (1) day in length. The Commander-Elect may, at their option, hold their reception at a site place and date of their choice.”
 - **Reason for change:**
 - By changing Fall Festival and Mid-Winter to one day each we will save the Department money by limiting the cost to one day meeting room rental and eliminates a majority of hotel room rental. This also saves the membership money for them not having to stay overnight to attend meetings.

*This Bylaws committee voted to **recommend approval** of the above proposed bylaw change, especially due to the rising costs of hotel rooms, meeting room space and banquet expenses. Furthermore, the committee feels that if this proposal is adopted, then the savings accrued would help fund the Department Veteran Service Program and other mission-related activities vital to the Department.*

- **SB 9: Article VII Section 1 Paragraph A Subparagraph 2**
 - **Currently reads:**
 - “Voting Members
 - 1. Appointed officers: Adjutant, Inspector, and Chief of Staff.”
 - **Proposed change:**
 - Include Service Officer after Chief of Staff.
 - **Would read:**
 - “Voting Members

1. Appointed officers: Adjutant, Inspector, Chief of Staff and Service Officer.”
- **Reason for change:**
 - The department council of administration regularly makes decisions that affect the Veteran Service Officer program; the State Service Officer should have a vote on matters that affect the overall service officer program within the department.

This Bylaws committee voted to recommend approval of the above proposed bylaw change.

Proposed Amendment to Department of Oklahoma Bylaws proposed by VFW Butch O’Neal Post 4876, Altus, Oklahoma.

- **SB 10: Article V - Department Convention, Section 4, sentence 2**
 - **Currently reads**
 - Three (3) consecutive days shall constitute the maximum time for holding a Department Convention
 - **Proposed change** Amend Article V, Section 4, Department Bylaws, After the second sentence by adding, if required, the Department Convention may start on Thursday due to the amount of business required to be completed during the convention. Three or four (3 or 4) consecutive days shall constitute the maximum time for holding a Department Convention. The rest of section 4 remains unchanged.
 - **Would read:** if required, the Department Convention may start on Thursday due to the amount of business required to be completed during the convention. Three or four (3 or 4) consecutive days shall constitute the maximum time for holding a Department Convention.

This Bylaws committee voted to recommend dis-approval of the above proposed bylaw change. This committee feels that this change allowing four (4) days of convention would put an undue burden not only on the department coffers, but also on all convention delegates representing the Post, District, & Department. Furthermore, once prior arrangements with the hotel/hosting agency have been completed and contracts signed, this could cause legal and/or planning consequences on all parties involved.

- **SB 11: Article VI, Section 1: Department Meetings, Section 1,**
 - **Currently reads**
 - The department shall have a minimum of three (3) meetings a year. The Fall Festival, Mid-Winter Conference, and Department Convention, with the exception of the Department Convention which shall be three (3) days total, and the other meetings shall be two (2) days in length. The commander -Elect may, at their option, hold their reception at a site, place and date of their choice.
 - **Proposed change** Amend the second sentence to read, The Fall Festival, Mid – Winter Conference, and Department Convention, with the exception of the Department Convention, which will be three or four days (3 or 4) days, total, and the other meetings shall be two or three days (2 or 3) days in length and shall be in the metropolitan Oklahoma City area. The Department Convention and Conferences may be extended one (1) additional day if required due to the amount of business required to be completed during the Convention or Conferences. The Commander -Elect may, at their option, hold their reception at a site place and date of their choice.

- **Would read:** The Fall Festival, Mid – Winter Conference, and Department Convention, with the exception of the Department Convention, which will be three or four days (3 or 4) days, total, and the other meetings shall be two or three days (2 or 3) days in length and shall be in the metropolitan Oklahoma City area. The Department Convention and Conferences may be extended one (1) additional day if required due to the amount of business required to be completed during the Convention or Conferences. The Commander -Elect may, at their option, hold their reception at a site place and date of their choice.

This Bylaws committee voted to recommend dis-approval as submitted of the above proposed bylaw change. This committee feels that this change allowing four (4) days of convention and other meetings extended a day in length would put an undue burden on not only the department coffers, but also on all in attendance. Furthermore, once prior arrangements with the hotel/hosting agency have been completed and contracts signed, this could cause legal and/or planning consequences on all parties involved. Having all Conventions/other meetings in the Oklahoma City area, while possibly may be nice, hotel/hosting agencies are at a minimum in the greater OKC area. This would constrain the Conference & Convention committee from looking outside the OKC area to possibly find the best low-cost deals throughout the state which would accommodate the needs and financial restrictions of the department and/or its Auxiliary. Furthermore, this Bylaws committee voted to amend the current bylaws as follows.

- **SB 12: Article VI, Section 1: Department Meetings, Section 1, last sentence**
 - **Currently reads**
 - The Commander-Elect may, at their option, hold their reception at a site, place and date of their choice.
 - **Proposed Change:** Strike out the entire sentence above.
 - **Would Read:** The department shall have a minimum of three (3) meetings a year. The Fall Festival, Mid-Winter Conference, and Department Convention, with the exception of the Department Convention which shall be three (3) days total, and the other meetings shall be two (2) days in length.
 - **Reason for change:** This bylaws committee feels that this is unnecessary wording in the bylaws since the Department Commander has the authority to hold a “Homecoming” at their leisure and at a place and time of his/her choice.
- **SB 13: Article VII – Council of Administration, Section 3**
 - **Currently reads**
 - When necessary to conduct Department business between Department meeting, votes may be taken by email or U.S. Mail. Council members shall be informed of the results within 2 weeks of the vote and the results of such votes shall be recorded in the minutes of the next scheduled Council of Administration meeting.
 - **Proposed Change:**
 - Amend Section 3 to read When necessary to conduct Department Business between Department meetings or convention, meetings can be conducted by a Zoom Conference call or any other electronic means. The Zoom meeting or any electronic meeting will be recorded and have its own minutes to include any and all votes taken during the Zoom or electronic meeting. All minutes will be published to the Council of Administration at the next scheduled meeting or convention.
 - **Would Read:** When necessary to conduct Department Business between Department meetings or convention, meetings can be conducted by a Zoom Conference call or any other electronic means. The Zoom meeting or any electronic meeting will be recorded and have its own

minutes to include any and all votes taken during the Zoom or electronic meeting. All minutes will be published to the Council of Administration at the next scheduled meeting or convention.

This Bylaws committee voted to recommend an amended version of the above proposed bylaw change as shown below.

- **Would Read:** When necessary to conduct Department Business between Department meetings or convention, stated meetings may be conducted or attended electronically that allow participating members to communicate with each other simultaneously. The electronic meeting will be recorded and have its own minutes to include any and all votes taken during the meeting. Minutes from said meeting will be published to the Council of Administration at the next scheduled meeting or convention.

Proposed National Bylaw and Manual of Procedures changes submitted by the Department Headquarters

NB 1: National Manual of Procedures, Section 420, Vacancies' Paragraph 3

- **Currently reads**
 - The District at the next regular or special meeting, may be two thirds (2/3 vot of the members present and voting declare vacant the position of any an elected officer or elected committee member who have
 - 1. Absented themselves from two (2) consecutive meetings.
 - 2. Failed to fulfill the duties of office specified in Section 418 of the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.
- **Proposed Change:**
 - Remove the above stated sentence from Section 420 Paragraph 3 and move the above stated sentence to the last sentence of National Manual of Procedures, Section 420, Vacancies, Removal-District after A copy of the notice shall be provided to the Department Commander at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.
 - **Would Read:** A copy of the notice shall be provided to the Department Commander at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. The District at the next regular or special meeting, may be two thirds (2/3 vote of the members present and voting declare vacant the position of any an elected officer or elected committee member who have
 - 3. Absented themselves from two (2) consecutive meetings.
 - 4. Failed to fulfill the duties of office specified in Section 418 of the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.
 - **Reason for change:** This would create consistency among Sections 220, 420, 520, and 620, when declaring a position vacant or removing an elected officer.

This Bylaws committee voted to recommend approval of the above proposed bylaw change.

Proposed Amendment to the National Bylaws proposed by VFW Butch O'Neal Post 4876, Department of Oklahoma.

NB 2: National Bylaws Article II – Post

Article II, Section 215, Eligibility to Office

- **Currently reads:** All members shall be eligible to hold any office in the Post provided that proof of eligibility has been submitted and verified by the Post Commander and Adjutant prior to the installation. No member shall hold two elected Post offices at the same time but may hold one elected and one or more appointed offices. Elected committee members.....
- **Proposed Change:** After first sentence, add “each officer accountable for funds or property in the Post shall be eligible to be bonded with an indemnity company.
- **Would Read:** All members shall be eligible to hold any office in the Post provided that proof of eligibility has been submitted and verified by the Post Commander and Adjutant prior to the installation. Each officer accountable for funds or property in the Post shall be eligible to be bonded with an indemnity company. Elected committee members.....

This Bylaws committee voted to recommend dis-approval of the above proposed bylaw change. Section 703, Bonds, of the National Bylaws clearly states the requirements of each Officer accountable for funds.

NB 3: National Bylaws Article IV – Districts

Article IV, Section 415, Eligibility to Office

- **Currently reads:** Any member in a Post in the District shall be eligible to any office in the District provided that no member shall hold two (2) elected District offices at the same time but may hold one (1) elected and one (1) or more appointed offices. District officers, elected or appointed
- **Proposed Change:** After first sentence, add “each officer accountable for funds or property in the District shall be eligible to be bonded with an indemnity company.
- **Would Read:** Any member in a Post in the District shall be eligible to any office in the District provided that no member shall hold two (2) elected District offices at the same time but may hold one (1) elected and one (1) or more appointed offices. Each officer accountable for funds or property in the District shall be eligible to be bonded with an indemnity company. District officers, elected or appointed.....

This Bylaws committee voted to recommend dis-approval of the above proposed bylaw change. Section 703, Bonds, of the National Bylaws clearly states the requirements of each Officer accountable for funds.

NB 4: National Bylaws Article V – Department

Amend Article V, Section 515,

- **Currently reads:** Any member in a good standing in a chartered Post in the Department shall be eligible to any office in the Department, proved, no member shall hold two elected Department office at the same time, but may hold one elected and one or appointed offices. Elected committee members.....
- **Proposed Change:** After first sentence, add “each officer accountable for funds or property in the District shall be eligible to be bonded with an indemnity company.
- **Would Read:** Any member in a good standing in a chartered Post in the Department shall be eligible to any office in the Department, proved, no member shall hold two elected Department office at the same time, but may hold one elected and one or appointed offices. Each officer

accountable for funds or property in the Department shall be eligible to be bonded with an indemnity company. Elected committee members.....

*This Bylaws committee voted to **recommend dis-approval** of the above proposed bylaw change. Section 703, Bonds, of the National Bylaws clearly states the requirements of each Officer accountable for funds*

NB 5: National Bylaws Article V – Department

Amend Article V, Section 522 (g), Page 27,

National Bylaws, second paragraph, at the end of the first sentence after Administration Add, or electronically sent email message to all Council of Administration members and acknowledged by the majority of the members of the Council of Administration.

*This Bylaws committee voted to **recommend no action** of the above proposed bylaw change. This Bylaws Committee request clarification and/or a revised proposed amendment change.*

NB 6: National Bylaws Article VI – National

Amend Article VI, Section 615,

- **Currently reads:** Any member in good standing in a Post shall be eligible for any National Organization office, provided that no member shall hold two (2) elected Nation Organization offices at the same time but may hold one (1) elected and one (1) or more appointed National Organization offices. Nation officers.....
- **Proposed Change:** After first sentence, add “each officer accountable for funds or property at National shall be eligible to be bonded with an indemnity company.
- **Would Read:** Any member in good standing in a Post shall be eligible for any National Organization office, provided that no member shall hold two (2) elected Nation Organization offices at the same time but may hold one (1) elected and one (1) or more appointed National Organization office *Each officer accountable for funds or property at National shall be eligible to be bonded with an indemnity company.* Nation officers...

*This Bylaws committee voted to **recommend dis-approval** of the above proposed bylaw change. Section 703, Bonds of the National Bylaws clearly states the requirements of each Officer accountable for funds. In addition, many positions within the National organization are non-VFW members. The National organization is audited by an outside auditing agency yearly. Furthermore, employees within the Quartermaster General's office responsible for monetary transactions are subject to review and approval via Quartermaster General. Thorough checks & balances are in effect.*

Committee Report#1

Committee Members

James Dockemeyer

Curt Watts (Chairman)

Gordon Wheeler

Fw: Resolutions Proposals

1 message

Curt Watts OK-NCOA <VFWOKNCM@outlook.com>

Fri, May 23, 2025 at 1:12 PM

To: M Teeter <heiditeeter@yahoo.com>, Heidi Teeter <hteeter47@gmail.com>, VFW-OK Adjutant <vfwokadj@gmail.com>, Watts <vfwhqokqm@outlook.com>, Curt Watts OK-NCOA <vfwokncm@outlook.com>

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Get Outlook for Android

From: Curt Watts OK-NCOA <VFWOKNCM@outlook.com>**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 8:32:53 AM**To:** VFW-OK Adjutant <vfwokadj@gmail.com>**Cc:** Wheeler <VFW9969@gmail.com>; L Dockemeyer <jldockemeyer@gmail.com>; Curtis Watts <curtwatts09@gmail.com>**Subject:** Fw: Resolutions Proposals

Comrade Adjutant Teeter, please consider this email as the official report from the 2024-2025 Department of Oklahoma By-laws committee that we have reviewed both resolutions (GWOT Veterans Day & DPAA resolution). The Bylaws committee has unanimously voted in support of these two resolutions for their proposal to the convention delegates. There is a small administrative error on a date in the GWOT resolution as pointed out by Comrade Dockemeyer.

The Committee further requests that IAW Department of Oklahoma bylaws that all bylaw change amendments (previously submitted report) and these two resolutions submitted to the Department be published to our membership NLT 30 days prior the Department Convention start on 27 July 2025 satisfying the prior notice requirement. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Curt

Curt Watts**National Council 2022-26****Department of Oklahoma**

vfwokncm@outlook.com

405.590.8577

From: Gordon Wheeler <vfw9969@gmail.com>**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 8:23 AM**To:** Curt Watts OK-NCOA <VFWOKNCM@outlook.com>**Cc:** James Dockemeyer <jldockemeyer@gmail.com>; VFW-OK Adjutant <vfwokadj@gmail.com>**Subject:** Re: Resolutions Proposals

Okay by me.

Gordon Wheeler
Adjutant/Quartermaster
VFW Post 9969

On Wed, May 21, 2025 at 8:24 PM Curt Watts OK-NCOA <VFWOKNCM@outlook.com> wrote:

Will do.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get Outlook for Android

From: James Dockemeyer <jldockemeyer@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 7:54:37 PM

To: Curt Watts OK-NCOA <VFWOKNCM@outlook.com>; Wheeler <VFW9969@gmail.com>; VFW-OK Adjutant <vfwokadj@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Resolutions Proposals

Read both. Concur

Please review the date on the GWOT that the post dated has 069 on the version I read

James Dockemeyer

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Curt Watts OK-NCOA <VFWOKNCM@outlook.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 7:25:47 PM

To: Wheeler <VFW9969@gmail.com>; L Dockemeyer <jldockemeyer@gmail.com>; VFW-OK Adjutant <vfwokadj@gmail.com>; Curt Watts OK-NCOA <vfwokncm@outlook.com>

Subject: Resolutions Proposals

Okay all, let's try this again. These are the two resolutions that were submitted by Edmond Post after we had our Bylaws Committee meeting. Please review and give me your yeah, Na, or an amended version. We want to get these to Dept Adj Teeter asap so she can publish. Thanks gentlemen.

Curt

National Council of Administration 2022-2026

Department of Oklahoma

**NB 7: VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
RESOLUTION**

**SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM VETERANS DAY
ON AUGUST 30**

WHEREAS, the United States has been engaged in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) since September 11, 2001, with military operations conducted across multiple theaters, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and other regions; and

WHEREAS, millions of American service members have served in combat and support roles during the Global War on Terrorism, making tremendous sacrifices in defense of the nation and its allies; and

WHEREAS, over 7,000 American service members have given their lives, and tens of thousands have been wounded in the fight against terrorism; and

WHEREAS, the service and sacrifices of these veterans, including those who continue to serve, deserve national recognition and appreciation; and

WHEREAS, the United States has established March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day to honor those who served during the Vietnam War, recognizing their sacrifices and contributions; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to designate August 30 as Global War on Terrorism Veterans Day, a date which marks the official end of the U.S. combat mission in Afghanistan in 2021, as a national day of recognition for all veterans of the Global War on Terrorism; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4938, that we urge the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Oklahoma to support and submit this resolution for consideration at the national level; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States petitions Congress and the President of the United States to formally designate August 30 as Global War on Terrorism Veterans Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the VFW encourages all Americans to recognize and honor the service and sacrifices of Global War on Terrorism veterans through appropriate ceremonies, educational programs, and community initiatives each year on this day.

Submitted by: Francis Hamilton VFW Post 4938

Adopted by VFW Post 4938 on 06 March 2025
by VFW Department of Oklahoma on [DATE]

Approved

Submitted to the National Veterans of Foreign Wars for consideration at the [YEAR] National Convention.

**NB 8: VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
RESOLUTION**

**SUPPORT FOR ADDING A 'RECOVERED AWAITING DNA CONFIRMATION'
CATEGORY TO THE DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY (DPAA) AND
IMPLEMENTING DNA MATCH NOTIFICATIONS THROUGH ANCESTRY
WEBSITES**

WHEREAS, the United States is committed to the fullest possible accounting for its missing service members from past conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is responsible for recovering and identifying missing personnel but currently lacks a formal category for remains that have been recovered and are awaiting DNA confirmation; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a 'Recovered Awaiting DNA Confirmation' category within the DPAA would provide greater transparency to families of missing personnel and allow for better tracking of ongoing identification efforts; and

WHEREAS, many American families have submitted DNA samples to commercial ancestry and genealogy websites, which have databases that could assist in identifying remains of missing service members; and

WHEREAS, implementing a system that allows these ancestry services to provide notifications to individuals if their DNA appears to be a potential match for an unidentified service member, with proper consent and privacy safeguards, could significantly aid in expediting identifications and providing closure to families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4938, that we urge the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Oklahoma to support and submit this resolution for consideration at the national level; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States petitions Congress, the Department of Defense, and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to establish a 'Recovered Awaiting DNA Confirmation' category and to explore partnerships with ancestry and genealogy databases to facilitate responsible DNA matching for the identification of missing service members; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the VFW supports the continued improvement of identification efforts for missing service members and the use of modern DNA technology to bring closure to their families.

Submitted by: Francis Hamilton VFW Post 4938
Adopted by VFW Post 4938 on 06 March 2025
Approved by VFW Department of Oklahoma on [DATE]

Submitted to the National Veterans of Foreign Wars for consideration at the [YEAR] National Convention.

VFW Redistricting Map Proposal: Key Benefits & Talking Points

📍 District Breakdown (Proposed)

District 1: 8380, 2592, 5307, 3573, 3707, 3698, 10829

District 2: 1201, 2855, 2270, 2847, 1335, 7092

District 3: 8384, 4884, 8403, 4518, 4446, 3649, 3085

District 4: 4777, 5805, 8316, 3658, 1048, 4859, 1198, 3916, 4869, 4574, 1202

District 5: 3077, 2976, 10887, 9126, 577, 7977, 10099, 7180

District 7: 474, 1189, 539, 8798, 1098, 3656

District 8: 7966, 2027, 1719, 7441, 3689, 1320

District 9: 7740, 4578, 4938, 10876, 7192, 9969

District 10: 1317, 12103, 4890, 8706, 9265, 3608

District 13: 6141, 7203, 6143, 4465, 3669, 1015

District 14: 11201, 8580, 1192, 1193, 5263, 4876

✓ Key Benefits of the New District Map

1. Balanced District Structure

- Ensures each district has at least 6 active posts.
- Eliminates struggling, underrepresented districts.

2. Growth-Oriented Planning

- Creates space for opening new posts.
- Designed with future district splits in mind.

3. County & Auxiliary Alignment

- Matches county-based post plans.
- Supports formation of District Auxiliaries in every district.

4. Stronger Collaboration & Support

- Groups posts that already work well together.
- Brings struggling posts into healthier ecosystems.

5. Balanced Delegate Strength

- Reduces risk of one post dominating district votes.
- Encourages more equitable and fair representation.

6. Administrative Efficiency

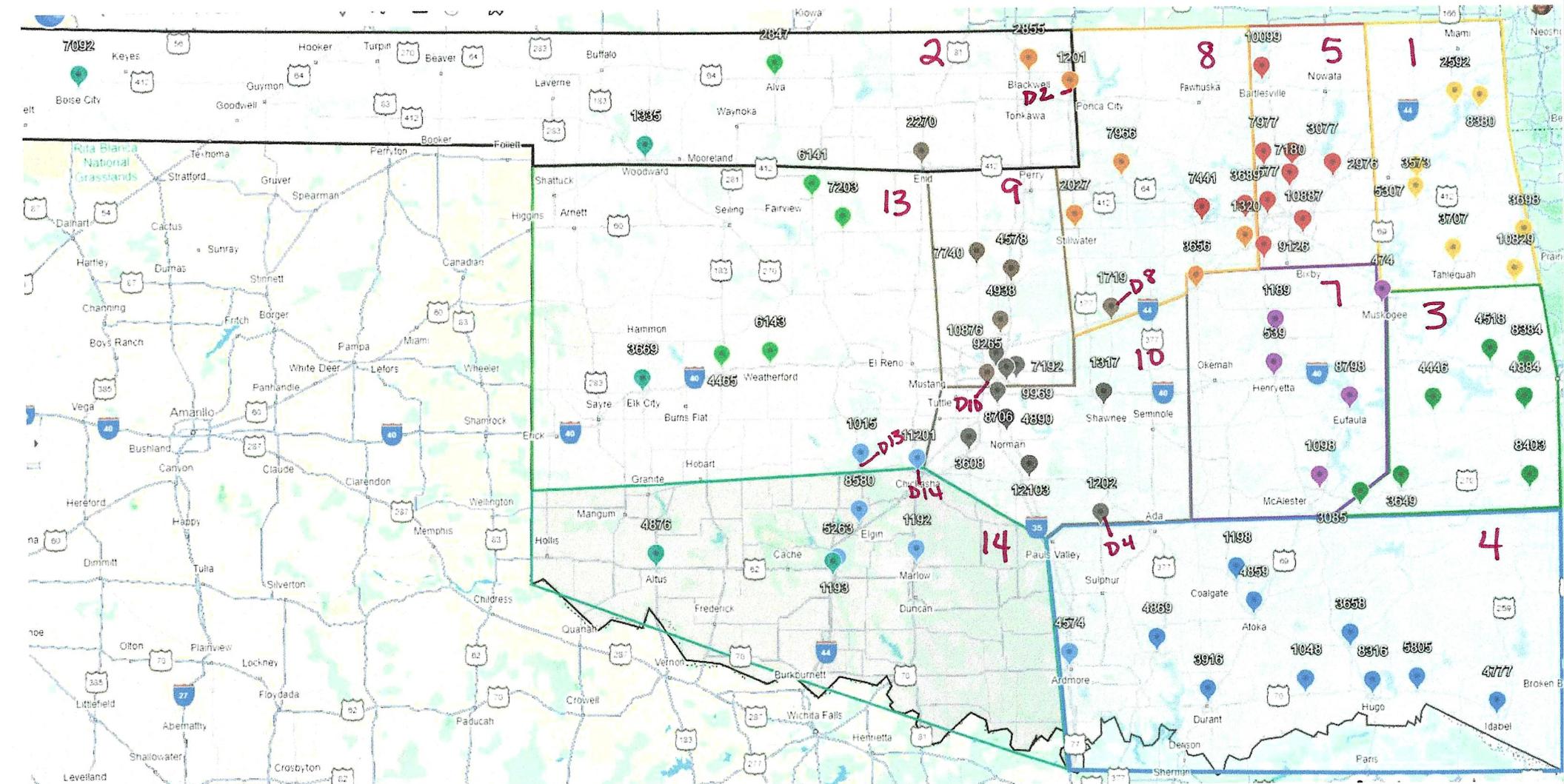
- Makes districts easier to manage.
- Enables stronger support from Department leadership.

7. Future-Ready Design

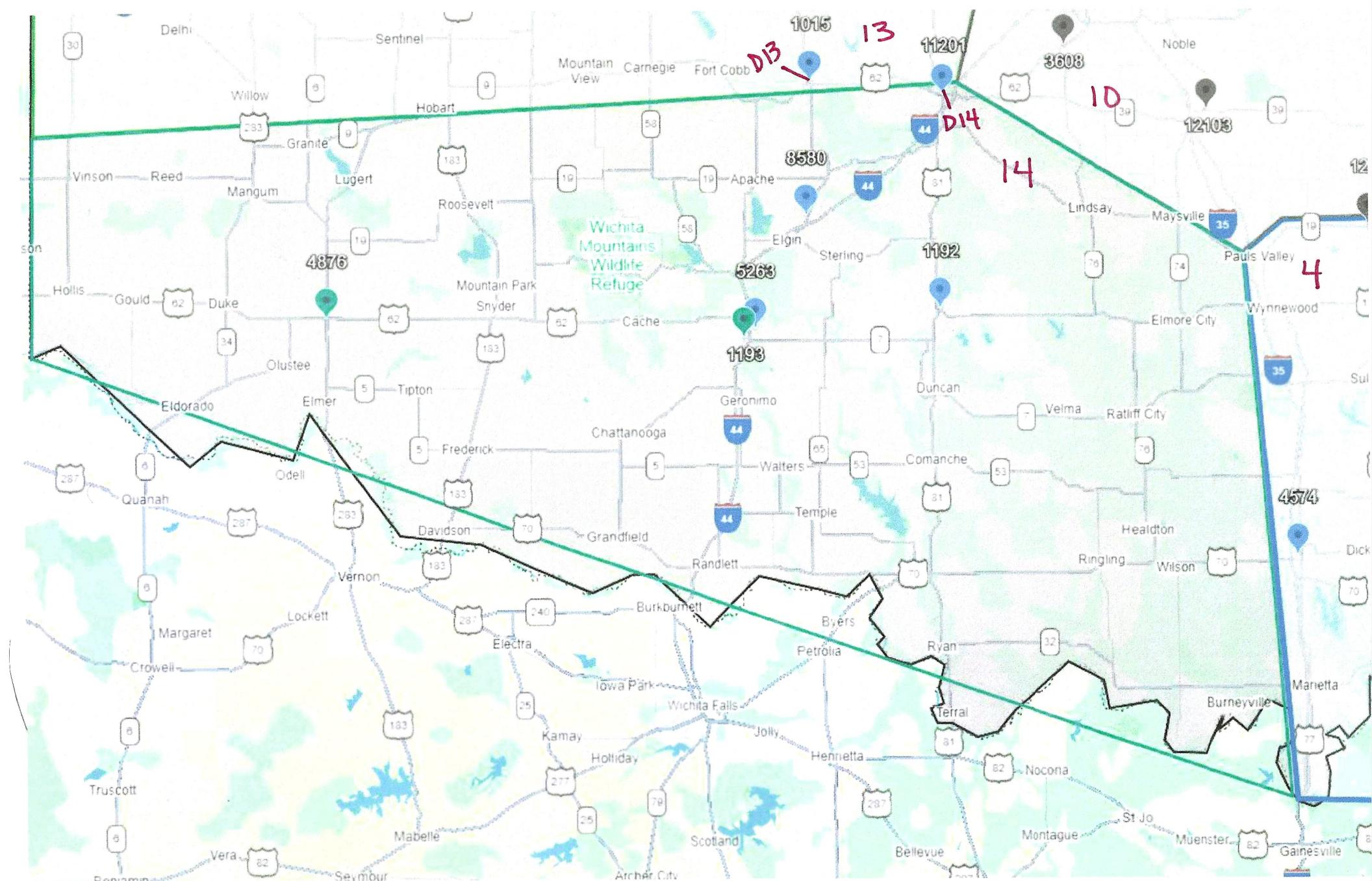
- Built for expansion—not decline.
- Helps districts scale as the VFW grows statewide.

Strong Talking Points

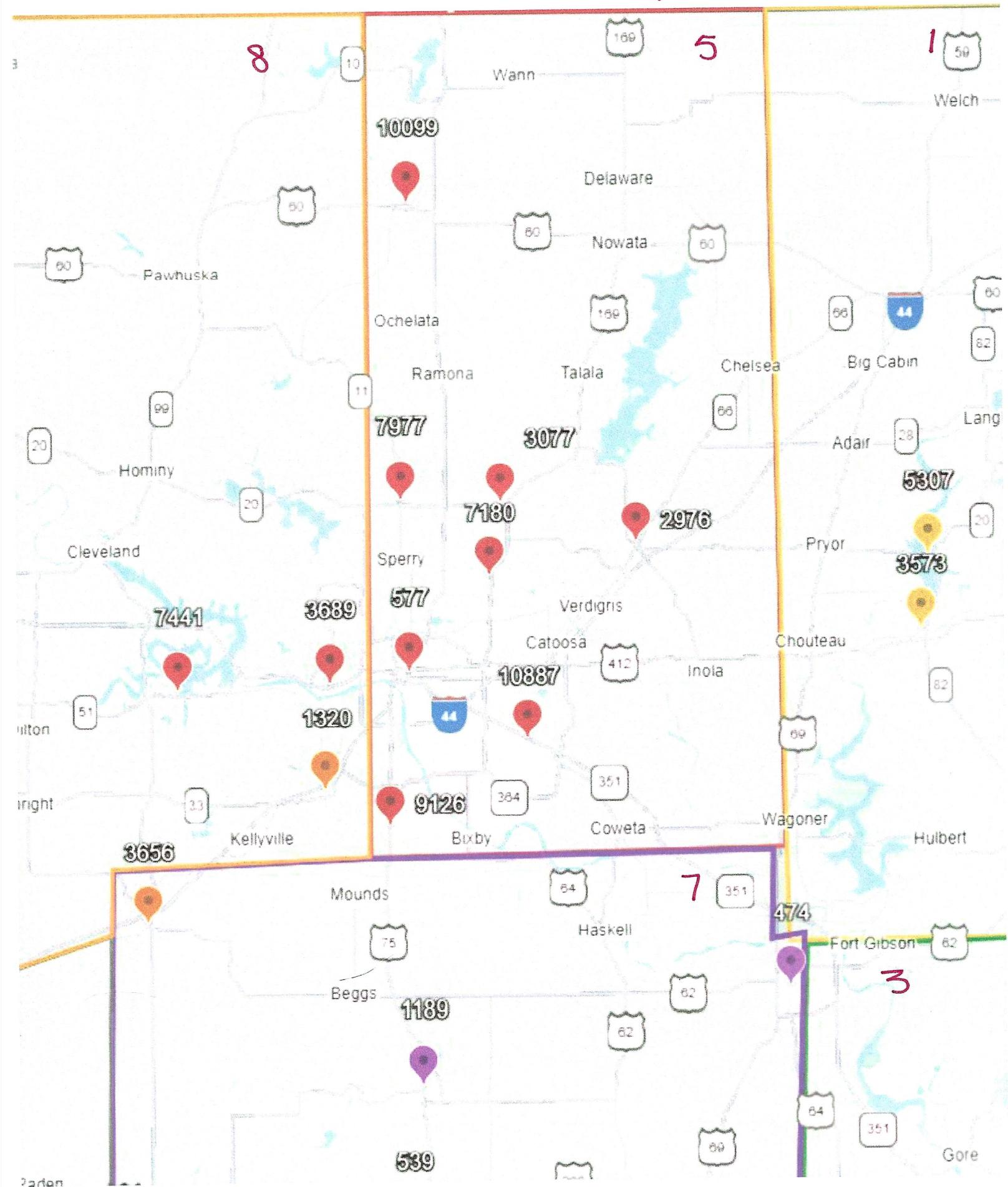
- “This map was not built to prepare for failure—it was built to support success. We’re planning for expansion, not contraction.”
- “Every district now has enough posts to form a viable District Auxiliary—bringing vital support to veterans’ families across Oklahoma.”
- “Delegate strength is now more balanced. No single post can dominate, and all posts have a voice.”
- “We aligned this with county post planning to strengthen local partnerships and improve community impact.”
- “We placed posts where they can thrive—not just survive.”
- “This structure encourages teamwork, not control. It’s built on existing relationships and regional strengths.”
- “We’re ready to grow. This is our launchpad for the next generation of the VFW in Oklahoma.”



SW - Close up



N Central Close-up



Metro Closeup

