

Department of Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars



P.O Box 1126 OKC. OK 73101-1126 580 515-0567/ www.vfwoklahoma.org

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July 2024

2024-2025 Series

"Believe in what you do, do what you believe in."

Al Lipphardt Commander-in-Chief - elect <><><>

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

General Orders No. 01 2024-2025 Series

Attention is directed to Section 230102 of the National Bylaws concerning the Purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. 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.

/os/ DAN FULLER STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os / Heidi Teeter Adjutant

Newly Elected Officers for Department 2024-2025:

Department Commander > Dan Fuller > Tulsa Post 577

Department Senior Vice Commander > Jeff Harris > Eufaula Post 8798

Department Junior Vice Commander > Tony McGrew > Blanchard Post 3608

Department Quartermaster > Heidi Teeter > Clinton Post 4465

Department Chaplain > Jason Burns > Duncan-Marlow Post 1192

Department Judge Advocate > Randy Traxler > Ft. Sill Post 5263

Department Surgeon > Larry Hurd > Altus Post 4876

Department Budget & Finance Committee Member (3-year) Ancil Davis > Post 4938

Commander Dan Fuller

Greeting Comrades,

I am very honored and humbled to be your State Commander for the year of 2024-2025.

We accomplished many things last year such as hosting the Southern Conference and assisting members and Posts with weather events. We proudly kept to our mission to assist members and veterans with service officer assistance and core programs. We also attended and hosted many other many Americanism events.

As we start this year, I will personally assist any Posts that have any issue with election reports or audits, and any other issues that keep the Post from running as well as it should.

I am confident that the Department of Oklahoma will support and achieve the National Commander Al Lipphardt's goal of 102% in membership for each department. I am eager to hear and participate in your recruiting drives and events. I and my membership team will also help with information mining of members that are unpaid or have relocated into your area. We also need to strive to retain the members that we have by providing quality programs and event management at your Posts and Districts.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at your Post meetings and District meetings. As well as the upcoming schools of instruction and officer training. I would also ask that the Posts and Districts with Auxiliaries work hand in hand this year to assist each of us in our programs and our missions. I know that we can work together to achieve our mutual goals.

I have asked that each District Commander lists any events or programs for the next 30 days in the General Orders. I am hopeful that if we all know what our adjoining Posts and Districts are doing, we can support each other in their efforts.

I will publish my Allstate and Membership Program very soon. I invite any questions or comments on ways for us to meet our goals.

I wish everyone a great 4th of July weekend. Please be safe and take care of each other. While you're at it, recruit a member! I know the 4th of July has a very deep meaning for all of us and brings back memories of the 4th of July while we were on deployment or other memories of celebrating it upon our return.

I am looking forward to attending the 4th of July celebration weekend at VFW Post 2592, in Bernice. I will be participating in their famous golf cart parade on Saturday the 6th.

Wear your own kind of hat,

Dan Fuller

State Commander

Department of Oklahoma

Senior Vice Commander Jeff Harris

Greeting Comrades,

First of all, I want to thank all the comrades that supported me in my run for State Sr. Vice Commander, thank you so much. I am sure the new officers will have a great year with the VFW.

The 125 National Convention will be in Louisville Ky. this year from July 27 to Aug. 1. I am looking forward to getting with the other State Sr. Vice Commander to go over things that we have planned on doing as we move up through the chairs.

Our biggest goal is to work with the National home and help them to put in a store. I will know more about this in time.

I will be getting out to come to your Post and Districts, so if any help is needed with anything please let us know. Look forward to seeing you soon.

Jeff Harris
State Senior Vice Comi

State Senior Vice Commander Department of Oklahoma

Junior Vice Commander Tony McGrew

Comrades.

The VFW Year 2023-2024 has come to a close and what a year it has been. It has been my honor and privilege to serve you as your Department Surgeon and I look forward to serving

you as the 24-25 Junior Vice Commander. Special thanks to now Past Commander Traxler for all the hard work and many hours of telephone conversations and in person visits with members. We all know that being the Commander is not an easy task and she tackled it with gusto, determination and impartiality. The plan she put before us worked to our benefit. Congratulations to the Posts and Districts who went above and beyond and garnered National and State recognition at our convention. Another special thanks to the Department Leadership who stepped up, encouraged, motivated and set an example for us to follow.

With a New Year comes New Leadership Who You Elected, and I encourage all to support Department Commander Fuller with enthusiasm, courage, gusto and loyalty for the program he set forth for a successful year for the Department.

On another note, I know everyone is aware that November is fast approaching and that leads us into Leadership again not just for the VFW but, for our Country, State and Communities. It is your privilege, honor and duty to know who is vying to represent us in the coming years and to vote your beliefs. Here are a couple of ideas where you may make a difference.

- 1. Volunteer as a Poll Worker
- 2. The VA Hospitals are in need of volunteers.

There are about 300K Veterans in Oklahoma surely, we can make a difference.

Respectfully,

Tony McGrew

State Junior Vice Commander
Department of Oklahoma

Surgeon Larry Hurd

Hello from the paw-paw patch in southwest Oklahoma. First, I would like to thank the membership from all of the posts and districts that voted for me to represent you as the state surgeon. It is an honor for me to fill the surgeon position. I am currently on the Oklahoma Veterans Affairs Council and at this meeting I receive a lot of valuable information from the VA, ODVA and our state and federal legislators. For me to get this information out to our membership I use the department slack program. Slack can be found on Google Play or App store. After downloading the app look for Department of Oklahoma. I will also use the general orders to get the information out to the membership.

Here is some information from our last VAC meeting, The OKC VAMC Director: Director Vlosich: Spoke on testifying in front of congress about healthcare for rural veterans. Part of the Northside clinic is opened. The pain clinic is moving back to North May Clinic. The new location for the women's clinic will be across the street from Baptist Integris Hospital in the Homeland Security Building. The Norman clinic is at capacity and they are looking at a new location. The new Yukon Clinic is opening soon. Vanita and Claremore are opened. They are moving to the second floor at Tinker AFB Clinic. There have been 7,530 new users enrolled this year. The south clinic will be opening a dental clinic in August. The ORICU is under construction along with other projects.

A report from Jack C. Montgomery VAMC: Director Denning: Shane Glover spoke on the Tulsa Hospital construction is still on target for a 2026 opening. The Cherokee Nation is partnering with the Vinita Clinic. Provided an update on the recent PACT Act events.

FEDERAL ISSUES: Veterans Omnibus Introduced. After months of waiting, a comprehensive legislative package of veterans-related bills has finally been introduced. H. R. 8371, the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, combines serval bipartisan and bicameral proposals to reform and improve the delivery of healthcare, benefits, and services at the VA for veterans, their families, and survivors into a single package. Provisions in H.R. 8371 would expand economic opportunities for veterans, improve mental health care access and facilitate better oversight of the VA by Congress. Most important, the bill includes the entire Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act which: Increases the expenditure cap for non-institutional care alternative programs from 65 percent to 100 percent of nursing home care costs; Expands access to VA's home and community-based services to veterans at all VA medical facilities, as well as to veterans living in U. S. Territories and Native veterans enrolled in the Indian Health Service or tribal health programs; Requires the creation of centralized website to disseminate information and resources related to home and community-based programs and help veterans and caregivers determine their eligibility; Requires the VA to review staffing and resource needs, accessibility, and other aspects of the

Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care and the Caregiver Support Program Office to make certain they are appropriately serving veterans and their caregivers; Create a pilot program to provide home health aide services for veterans and caregivers who are discharged from or ineligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

The bill also contains revised language from the Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act (H.R. 1815/S. 495), which would test VA's ability to pay for veteran's care at assisted living facilities. Currently, the VA can refer veterans to assisted living facilities, but it cannot directly pay for that care. Language in H.R. 8371 would allow VA to carry out a three-year pilot program, no later than two years after enactment for 60 eligible veterans in two Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) to assess the effectiveness of providing assisted living services to eligible veterans and assess the satisfaction of the program. At the conclusion

of the pilot program, participating veterans will be given the option to continue receiving assisted living services at their assigned site, paid for by the VA. We believe this would help veterans and the VA alike by giving greater access to assisted living and reducing costs for long-term care, allowing more veterans to receive assistance.

The weather is starting to heat up all over the state. Take precautions by drinking plenty of fluids, stay in the air conditioning and out of the sun and check up on your relatives, neighbors and the VFW comrades. Wear light weight loose fitting clothing and a hat or ball cap and take frequent breaks. Stay cool, stay hydrated, stay informed and enjoy the Fourth of July and your summer activities.

Respectfully,

Larry Hurd

State Surgeon

Department of Oklahoma

Past State Commander Erica Traxler

Comrades,

I hope this new VFW year finds you well. Going into this next year I will be assisting on all post suspensions and administrative committees. I will be assisting posts that are updating their bylaws so if that is something you seek to do, please reach out so that I may assist.

Thank you for everything you do for your veterans, their families, and your communities. Please reach out if you need anything, now and in the future

Erica Traxler

Past State Commander Department of Oklahoma

Adjutant/Quartermaster *Heidi Teeter*

Comrades,

First off, I want to thank everyone who supported me in my run for State Quartermaster. As I said in my campaign speech, the members of this organization have given me a lot of support and I want to give back. That being said, if anyone ever needs anything please do not hesitate to reach out. As I like to say you can call, text, email, smoke signals, carrier pigeon or any other method you choose. I can be reached via email at wfwokadj@outlook.com or wfwhqokqm@outlook.com and I can be reached via phone at (580) 515-0567, if I do not answer your phone call please feel free to text.

Moving on to business, as Adjutant my goal is to have the General Orders out by end of day on the last day of the month prior to the month that the General orders apply to, and at the very latest by COB on the first day of the month that the General Orders apply to. If anyone has anything they would like published in the General Orders, I ask that it be submitted to vfwokadj@outlook.com by the 25th of the month.

Once the commander has his appointments made, I will be putting together a Department Directory. I will send it out via Constant Contact, and I will work with our Public Relations officer to have it available on the website; vfwoklahoma.org.

In accordance with Section 703 of the National Bylaws "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.

The last page of these General Orders is the questionnaire for the <u>VFW Accountable</u> <u>Officer Bond</u>. The accountable officer bond is for September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025. Again, this is for the VFW Accountable Officers only, the questionnaire for the Clubroom, Canteen, and Bingo Employees will come at a later date, those bonds are for October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025. I will send this questionnaire out again with the August General Orders. The rates for the bonds are as follows:

- \$4.50 per thousand for \$3,000 \$99,000
- \$3.50 per thousand for \$100,000 \$250,000
- \$2.50 per thousand for \$251,000 \$299,000
- \$2.00 per thousand for \$300,000 \$600,00

Your April 1- June 30 quarterly audit is due by July 31. Also, if you are fiscal (July 1 – June 30) tax filer your annual 990 can be done anytime from July 1 – November 15. The IRS deadline is November 15. My recommendation is don't wait, especially if you are a 990N (epostcard) filer. If you use a CPA, get your files to them as soon as possible. Once you have it filed email or snail mail a copy to vfwhqokqm@outlook.com or PO Box 1126, Oklahoma City, OK 73101.

We have our first School of Instruction coming up on July 20 at post 577 in Tulsa, as reminder Schools of Instruction are open to all members. We also have officer training coming on August 17th and 18th at the Embassy Suites on South Meridian in Oklahoma City. You probably noticed it is earlier in the year this year. Commander Fuller felt if we held it earlier in the year, we would have a better chance of setting each officer up for success. We want you all to have a successful year and want to do what we can to help you succeed.

I look forward to working with each one of you throughout the year. Again, if you need anything please reach out.

Charlie Mike,

Heidi Teeter

State Adjutant/Quartermaster
Department of Oklahoma

Judge Advocate Randy Traxler

Effective committee utilization is the cornerstone of a thriving VFW Post. Committees allow us to harness the diverse talents and experiences within our membership, achieving far more than individual efforts alone. Imagine a team of veterans – a retired financial advisor leading fundraising, a former communications specialist spearheading outreach, and a logistics expert managing event planning. By forming committees around specific VFW initiatives, we can leverage this expertise for maximum impact.

Committees are more than just efficiency boosters. They foster a culture of collaboration and shared purpose. Working together on meaningful projects strengthens the bonds of camaraderie within the Post. Committee members develop a deeper understanding of VFW goals, not just from a big-picture perspective, but also through the lens of their specific area of contribution. This fosters a sense of ownership over the Post's success. A member who actively contributes to a successful Buddy Poppy drive, for example, feels a deeper connection to the VFW's mission of supporting veterans and their families. This translates into increased engagement, improved morale, and a more vibrant Post community.

Think of committees as microcosms of the VFW itself. By providing a platform for veterans to collaborate and share their unique strengths, committees not only ensure the smooth operation of VFW initiatives, but also cultivate a strong, united VFW family. Let's empower our members through committees, and together, watch our Posts flourish. This is an effective way to engage younger veterans while creating a collaborative culture in your posts, districts, and department.

I am also the TACOM static display Co-Chair with Comrade Michael Schafer (his role is rifles). Please reach out to confirm your static display has been verified and your post information updated with TACOM. My email is randytraxler@icloud.com.

Thank you and I look forward to a year of collaboration and growth.

v/r, Randy Traxler

Judge Advocate
Department of Oklahoma

District Happenings

District 4:

Post 3916 Durant has rescheduled their normal first Thursday of the month meeting (4th of July), to Thursday, 11 July, 6:30 pm meal, meeting at 7pm. Durant has the Choctaw casino fireworks show, and many others all around Lake Texoma.

Post 1048 Boswell pays for and puts on the fireworks show at the Boswell rodeo grounds, starting at dark on the 4th of July.

Post 3658 Antlers is putting on the annual Antlers Patriotic Pancake breakfast, free to the public 6 July 0830 to Noon at the VFW post building, north on High Street beyond the water plant on the right. Bring the kids' bouncy house will be on location.

Post 4777 Idabel is sponsoring an evening meal for all first responders, veterans, and widows of veterans, eating starts approx. 7 pm, kids bounce house and corn hole tourney, fireworks at dark, this event will be at dusk at the home of Post Commander Terry Hester 2100 SE Blocker Ave, Idabel Ok 74745, this event will be on the 4th of July, with the 5th of July as a rainout date. All are welcome, if you plan to attend, please give the post commander a heads up to make sure they have enough food, bring lawn chairs.

Post 4859 Atoka is hosting a picnic for all veterans and their families on 2 July from 5 to 7pm on 2 July at the Veteran's Memorial on Liberty Road off Hwy 3, everyone is encouraged to stay till dark to watch the city of Atoka's fireworks display. The post also will decorate the town with US Flags for the 4th of July, and they also will have their regular breakfast for donations on the 3rd Saturday from 0800 to 1100 at the post 231 East 1st street Atoka, OK 74525.

Post 8316 Hugo is closing their Bingo from 1 July through 7 Oct, due to health issues with the primary operators of Bingo.

District 5:

Collinsville Post 3077- June 29 Independence Day parade: starts time is 0900 July 4th put flags out at 0700 and pick up at dusk Community Breakfast July 20th from 0700-1000

District 14:

Elgin Post 8580 - July 4th putting flags on Veterans gravestones.

Ft Sill Post 5263 - 4th July Luau with Lawton Vet home starting at 5 then Comedy Show starting 7PM AT the post

13 July 1200-1500 Pup Tent 16 fundraiser bake Potatoes

15 July 1100-2pm the post cooking for CPT Career Course

19 July the Commander going Change Command on Ft Sill

Duncan-Marlow Post 1192 - 4th July parade in Duncan and Marlow.

DISTRICT MEETING INFORMATION

D-1 > August 3rd, Tahlequah, TBA

D-3 > August 3rd, Muldrow, TBA

D-4 > August 3rd, Hugo, TBA

D-5 > August 4th, Skiatook, 1300

D-7 > August 3rd, Henryetta, TBA

D-8 > August 10th, Sapulpa, 1100

D-9 > August 17th, Crescent, 1000

D-10 > September 28th, Shawnee, 1000

D-13 > September 7th, Clinton 1100

D-14 > August 31st, Ft. Sill

D-15 > October 12th, Woodward, 1100

DATES TO REEMBER:

School of Instruction >> July 20th, Tulsa Post 577, Time: 0900

National Convention >> July 27th – August 1st, Louisville, KY

Officer Training >> August 17th – 18th, Embassy Suites, 1815 S Meridian AVE, OKC,

Time: TBA

CiC Al Lipphardt Homecoming >> August 22nd – 25th, Atlanta, GA

School of Instruction >> August 24th, Ft. Sill Post 5263, Time: 0900

Dept Adjutant/QM Training >> September 12th – 15th, Kansa City, MO

Accredited SO Training >> September 22nd – 27th, Annapolis, MD

Dept Junior Vice Training >> October 10th – 13th, Kansas City, MO

Fall Fest >> Location TBD, October 18th – 20th (tentative)



PLANNING CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF VFW MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rev. June 2024 **--**

2024

July 27 - August 1	National Convention Louisville, KY
August 22 - 25	Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming Savannah, GA
September 5	National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 6 - 7	National Council of Administration Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 9 - 12	Fall Legislative Committee Meeting Washington, DC
September 12 – 15	Department Adjutant/Quartermasters Training Kansas City, MO
September 22 - 26	Accredited Service Officer Skill Level Training Annapolis, MD
September 22 - 27	Accredited Service Officer BASIC Training Annapolis, MD
October 10 - 13	Junior Vice Commanders Training Kansas City, MO
October 18 - 20	Big Ten Conference Indianapolis, IN
October 31 - November 3	Western Conference Honolulu, HI
November 1 - 3	Eastern Conference Burlington, VT
November 7 - 9	Southern Conference Nashville, TN

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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February 28 – March 4	Voice of Democracy Washington, DC (Tentative)
March 1- 5	Washington Conference Washington, DC (Tentative)
April 10 – 13	Senior Vice Commanders Training Kansas City, MO
June 28	VFW National Home 100th Anniversary Celebration Eaton Rapids, MI
August 9 - 13	National Convention Columbus, OH
September 19	National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 20 – 21	National Council of Administration Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 25 - 28	Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming Des Moines, IA
October 2 -5	Department Adjutant/Quartermasters Training Kansas City, MO (Tentative)
October 16 – 19	Junior Vice Commanders Training Kansas City, MO
October 24 – 26	Eastern Conference Wilmington, DE
<u>2026</u>	
August 15 - 19	National Convention Salt Lake City, UT
October 22 - 25	Southern Conference Mobile, AL
<u>2027</u>	
July 31 - August 4	National Convention Milwaukee, WI
<u>2028</u>	
August 5 - 10	National Convention San Antonio, TX



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA



Dear Comrade Commander:

Questionnaire for VFW Accountable Officers Crime Coverage

August 1, 2024

One of the most important communications you will receive during the year concerns the bond of your Unit Quartermaster. Section 703 of our National By-Laws requires that each accountable officer shall be bonded with an Indemnity Company as surety and the By-Laws places the responsibility for adequate bonding upon the Commander of the post. In any business it is customary to bond any officer handling funds. THE BOOKS AND RECORDS OF THE ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER MUST BE AUDITED AT LEAST QUARTERLY BY THE TRUSTEES. THIS IS TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 218 OF THE NATIONAL MANUAL OF PROCEDURES.

The Department Headquarters carries a Crime Policy for the bonding of Department and Post Accountable Officers. This Policy runs for a year – from September 1 to August 31 – premium payments are made on that basis. Coverage for all accountable officers expires on August 31 and premium for the New Year is due on September 1.

Any unit may decide whether it prefers to take out a Policy with some other surety company or have its funds protected by the Department Headquarters Crime Policy. But the matter should be given prompt attention because if your Accountable Officer had previously been covered through the National Headquarters, a new premium payment is required by September 1, 2024 and delinquent after this date.

<u>IF THE POLICY IS NOT RENEWED, TERMINATED, OR CANCELLED AT EXPIRATION DATE OF 9-1-2023, THE POST HAS ONLY 90 DAYS TO SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FOR PRIOR TERM. AFTER 90 DAYS PRIOR COVERAGE CEASES.</u>

COVERAGES OF THE POLICY REQUIRE THAT:

- 1. You agree to make/or cause to be made, at least annually, an audit of your books and accounts, including complete verification of all securities and bank balances pertaining to each "employee and/ or volunteer".
 - If the above is not complied with, the Insurance Company will refuse to honor claim of missing funds which cannot be proven by records. Monthly audits and reconciliation of bank statements may avoid this denial of claim.
- 2. The Insurance Company will not pay for loss resulting from any unauthorized advances made by an "employee" to any member for delinquent dues and assessments.
- 3. "Employee" means any duly elected position, or any appointed officer as listed in the policy schedule.
- 4. POST MUST SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FORM WITHIN 120 DAYS FROM THE FIRST DATE OF DISCOVERY OF THE LOSS. Proof of loss resulting from dishonest acts on the part of the bonded officer is required in settlement of claims.

THIS POLICY IS ONLY FOR THE YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 TO AUGUST 31, 2025.

The funds of your Post are protected only for that year. Premium for the following year will be due September 1, 2025.

Post # and State

I hereby apply for A1. Employee/Volunteer Theft coverage in the amount of \$ ______ for the position

of ______. For the year from September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025.

Number of Persons Bonded: _1___ Number of Locations: _1__ Post Annual Income: \$ ______. Dated: _____.

Has the post had any Crime Coverage (employee/ volunteer theft of money) losses over the past three years? ____.

If yes, provide a description with date & amount of loss on a separate sheet & what changes you have made so this does not happen again.

No Coverage can be extended until Travelers reviews and approves it.

DEADLINE FOR COVERAGE IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 – AFTER THIS DATE YOU WILL BE DELIQUENT AND NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE VFW BY-LAWS.

Phone Number

FORM NO. 2

Street Address, City and Zip