



Oklahoma

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Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

This communication is intended to update and provide guidance regarding our status as of the treat and concerns of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Oklahoma. Of recent, the Governor and many local Mayors have declared State(s) of Emergency and have forced closure of various facilities that included some of our posts as social gathering areas.

First and very important, take care of yourselves. Adhere to the mandates established in your local area. Be extremely vigilant in reducing the exposure and the spread of germs and viruses.

Secondly, use this time to really show our worth to our Veterans and our communities. However, the canteens being closed for socialization, the Post can still accomplish VFW programs and expectations such as Service Officer Assistance, Veteran/ community outreach, membership goals, audits and elections. Most of the mentioned can be accomplished within the social-distancing guidelines expressed by the CDC and most local mandates. All Posts will sanitize daily all areas used for work prior to the opening/ closing for any business stated above. Again, the rules you have developed, posted and enforce will minimize potential issues. Remember the Veterans within our communities that are living in Veterans' Homes or just home alone need our assistance more so than before. Let's figure out ways to continue assisting.

Third, as mentioned, elections remain a requirement prior to our State Convention. The state convention remains scheduled for 18-21 June. More information will be disseminated as it develops. Post elections are still required as with District elections by your May meetings. Consider alternative methods. Video teleconferencing such as Facetime or any other visual recognition media for meetings can be accepted if membership can be verified for the member(s) present on the video. Members must be physically present on video to be counted present and cast votes. Audio conferencing alone is not authorized since membership cannot be verified; voice recognition alone is not authorized. Rather by media, in person or combination thereof, a quorum of



members, Posts or Districts must be met to proceed. If Posts or Districts can't elect in time, current leadership will remain until a feasible time is achieved.

Lastly, ensure your Post and employees are taken care of. Use this time for clean-up and maintenance. Adhere to mandated guidelines. Based on findings from our Legislative Chair, employees affected by closures and not receiving pay should file for temporary unemployment quickly. The Governor recently passed a bill waiving the one (1) week wait thus expediting initial payments. Regarding Posts losing income, a financial survey must be completed, and non-profit funds will be distributed as funding becomes available. The survey must be completed to receive compensation. Walk-through instructions will be available on our VFW Oklahoma and Legislative webpages.

We at the VFW Oklahoma Headquarters will continue to disseminate and update everyone as the situation continuously evolves. Further guidance may be forthcoming. Again Comrades, thank you for your time; but most of all, thank you for your service to Our Country and Veterans.

Always a Veteran, Always for a Veteran

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DARRYL MABRY
Commander
Department of Oklahoma