



Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars

AUGUST 2021
No. 1

GENERAL ORDERS
2021 – 2022 Series

1. **The Department of Texas VFW Headquarters office in Austin is currently closed to all visitors until further notice.**
2. **Section 709 of the VFW National By-Laws:** Concerns Disposition of Real Property, i.e., Post Homes. Written notice of such proposal has first to be given to each member of said unit and the Department Commander ten (10) days prior to such regular or special meeting at which the proposal is to be considered, and then only by two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval of those present and voting at such regular or special meeting.
3. **Section 214:** Posts in violation of Section 214 of the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure (solicitation of funds) are subject to suspension. Contracts must be forwarded to and approved by Department of Texas VFW State Commander. Currently, we have an exclusive 10-year contract approved by the Council of Administration in 2017-2018 with V-Sweeps and amended with a 5-year extension in June of 2021 by the Council ending in June of 2031. **Eight-liners, skill machines, other Sweepstakes and similar devices are not authorized at this time by any Post.**
4. **Reminder for Post Commanders (per State Commander Macey):** Reminder for all Post Commanders of Section 218(a)(1) Paragraph c. Insist that Post business and activities be conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment upon the Post, its members, or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
5. **Chain of Command:** Use your chain of command if there are issues at your Posts. It is asked that you start with the Post Commander, then the District Commander, and finally the State Commander. Most situations or problems can be rectified and resolved at the Post level.

6. **Post Commanders:** Are directed to Section 103 of the Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the way applications for membership will be handled. Applications for membership of new, reinstated or transfer members must be voted on by the members present at a regular Post meeting.

7. **Politics:** Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or Auxiliary within Texas shall not make any statement to the news media concerning pending VFW sponsored legislation on a State or National level, or anything relevant to VFW policies of a State or National nature without first obtaining permission from Department of Texas VFW Headquarters.

8. **Texas VFW Foundation:** The Texas VFW Foundation is continuously ready for the influx of assistance claims for individual veterans who have lost wages or been adversely affected due to COVID-19, and for the upcoming 2021 Hurricane season. Refer veterans to the Texas VFW Foundation website for financial assistance: <https://www.texasvfw.org/foundation>.

9. **District Meetings/Trainings for August and September 2021:**

- District 3 Aug 7th Post 6796-Dallas
- District 4 Aug 7th Post 8790-Houston
- District 5 Aug 7th Post 8315-Schertz
- District 8 Aug 7th Post 8929-Anson
- District 9 Aug 7th Post 1475-Amarillo
- District 12 Aug 7th Post 8560-Sulphur Springs
- District 20 Aug 7th Post 8541-San Antonio
- District 21 Aug 7th Post 2399-Mineral Wells
- District 29 Aug 7th Post 2148-Waco
- District 28 Aug 8th Post 2527-Bastrop (training)
- District 16 Aug 7th & 8th Post 8551-Sweeny
- District 6 Aug 14th Post 9170-Beeville
- District 17 Aug 14th Post 9182-Katy (training)
- District 1 Aug 15th Post 6205-Muenster (District meeting)
- District 13 Aug 15th Post 688-Boerne
- District 14 Aug 21st Post 8557-Copperas Cove
- District 10 Aug 28th Post 8550-El Paso
- District 28 Sept 12th Post 2410-Harlingen
- District 2 Sept 25th Post 2775-Orange

10. **Candidates for Department Office 2022-2023:**

- State Commander, Lynn Toomer, Post 10429, Benbrook, D-21
- State Senior Vice Commander, Larry Sanders, Post 10241, Lytle, D-20
- State Junior Vice Commander, Anson Booker, Post 3892, Harker Heights, D-14
- State Junior Vice Commander, Andrew Camplen, Post 688, Boerne, D-13

- State Junior Vice Commander, Larry Levy, Post 5873, New Boston, D-12
- State Junior Vice Commander, Ben Lowrance, Post 1475, Amarillo, D-9
- State Junior Vice Commander, Robert Martinez, Jr., Post 2059, Kirby, D-20
- State Judge Advocate, Keith King, Post 3278, Brownwood, D-8
- State Judge Advocate, Larry Velasquez, Post 8932, Corpus Christi, D-6
- State Surgeon, Gerard P. “Jerry” Greene, Post 6796, Dallas, D-3
- State Surgeon, Randall Johnston, Post 4376, Seven Points, D-30
- State Surgeon, Cindy Unerfusser, Post 2772, Sherman, D-1
- State Chaplain, Timothy Anderson, Post 3894, Waxahachie, D-30
- State Chaplain, Michael “Foy” Day, Post 4692, Bryan, D-17
- National Council Member, Inge Conley, Post 12075, Humble, D-4
- National Council Member, Keith King, Post 3278, Brownwood, D-8

11. Candidate for National VFW Office for 2022-2023:

VFW National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Larry Velasquez, Jr., Post 8932, D-6

12. Section 901 of the National By-Laws, “Discipline of Members”: Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to Disciplinary Action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned. In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another’s ability to participate in VFW events. All members will be treated with dignity and respect.

13. Veterans Day: Post Commanders are urged to start planning a program for November 11, 2021, for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).

14. Patriot Day, September 11, 2021: The President of the United States is requested to issue each year a proclamation calling on the display of the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and to observe a moment of silence on Patriot Day in honor of the individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001.

15. Mandatory VPR’s for 2021-2022:

- November 11, 2021 (Veterans Day)
- May 1, 2022 (Loyalty Day)
- May 30, 2022 (Memorial Day)
- June 14, 2022 (Flag Day)

16. Post Audits: The 4th Quarter Post Audit Report (for the 2020-2021 Administrative year) was due by July 31, 2021, on Trustee’s Audit forms. The (original) signed copy should be mailed or emailed to Department of Texas VFW Headquarters. Deadline dates for Post Audits for the 2021-2022 Administrative Year:

- 1st Quarter Post Audit Report due by October 31, 2021
- 2nd Quarter Post Audit Report due by January 31, 2022
- 3rd Quarter Post Audit Report due by April 30, 2022

17. Mid-Winter Conference 2022 January 19-23, 2022

Omni Corpus Christi Hotel
900 North Shoreline Blvd.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

18. Annual Texas VFW State Convention 2022 June 15-19, 2022

Choctaw Conference Center
Durant, Oklahoma

19. Dates to Remember - Department of Texas VFW HQs office will be closed:

- October 11th - Columbus Day
- November 11th - Veterans Day
- November 25th & 26th - Thanksgiving Observance
- December 23rd & 24th - Christmas Observance
- December 31st - New Year’s Eve Observance

20. District/Post By-Laws: District and Posts are reminded to review your By-Laws. If it has been more than 5 years, you should revise them. Contact Wyonda Laurence, Department Secretary, and she can email you templates for the By-Laws. Email Wyonda for assistance: wyonda@texasvfw.org or call her at 512-834-8535, extension 103.

21. Texas VFW Standard Operating (SOP) Procedures: The SOP is available on the Department of Texas VFW website: <https://www.texasvfw.org/>.
Go to: Admin/SOP, Training Materials, Etc./Posts Books & Forms.

22. Theme for Voice of Democracy for 2021-2022: “America: Where Do We Go From Here?” The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study programs in Texas. To qualify, all student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by October 31, 2021. The official entry form can be found on the Department of Texas VFW website: <https://www.texasvfw.org/>. Go to: Admin/SOP, Training Materials, Etc./Post Programs.

23. Theme for Patriot’s Pen 2021-2022: “How Can I Be a Good American?” The Patriot’s Pen competition is open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students enrolled in public, private or parochial schools or home study programs in Texas. To qualify, all student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by October 31, 2021. The official entry form can be found on the Department of Texas VFW website: <https://www.texasvfw.org/>. Go to: Admin/SOP, Training Materials, Etc./Post Programs.

24. Teacher of the Year 2021-2022: Based on the nominees submitted, Posts will recognize one outstanding teacher in grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, supervisors, or other interested individuals. To qualify, all teacher entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by October 31, 2021. The official entry form will be posted soon on the National VFW website.

Requirements for Teacher of the Year entries:

- Completed Teacher VFW entry form
- Nomination Letter (up to 350 words)
- Teacher Resume (one page; can be both sides of one page)
- Supporting Documentation (up to 5 pages; can be both sides of one page)
- Photo (good quality head and shoulders photo)

25. Reminder of due dates for Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen and Teacher entries:

- From Students & Teachers to local VFW Posts → deadline is October 31, 2021
- VFW Post winners to Districts → deadline is November 15, 2021
- District winners to Department of Texas HQs → deadline is December 1, 2021

26. John Jowers, Data Management Specialist, Department HQs: John Jowers is the Department Headquarters staff member to contact for the following items noted below. You can reach him by phone at 512-834-8535 (extension 106) or by email: john@texasvfw.org.

- Action Date Reports
- Post & District Audit Reports
- Buddy Poppy Orders
- Community Service Reports
- Insurance for VFW Posts
- Post Inspection Reports
- Quartermaster Bonds
- Status Sheet Issues (Posts & Districts)
- VPR’s (Veteran Project Reports)

27. Closing Comments: We will continue to work on “War for Membership.” It is our biggest hope for our future. If we truly believe that “No One Does More for Veterans” (and I do) we must have members. Contact Eddie Terry, State Membership Chairman, for assistance.

Congratulations to Dan West, our State Adjutant/Quartermaster, who has accepted a position at National Headquarters as National Assistant Adjutant General. We are very proud of Dan and wish him well with this prestigious opportunity of a lifetime. I have assigned Lupita Perez, State Chief of Staff, to work with Dan at Department Headquarters for the remainder of August. She will be Interim State Adjutant/Quartermaster after Dan’s departure on August 31st.

Have a safe and happy summer with all your outdoor activities at home, on the road, in the air or on the water.

By order of:



Norman J. Macey, State Commander



Attested By:



Dan West, State Adjutant/Quartermaster