



Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars

SEPTEMBER 2021
No. 2

GENERAL ORDERS
2021 – 2022 Series

- 1. The Department of Texas VFW Headquarters office in Austin is currently closed to all visitors until further notice. Currently Austin-Travis County is in Stage 5 restrictions.**
- 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 for September and October 2021:**

- District 18 Sept 12th Post 2410-Harlingen
- District 14 Sept 18th Post 9191-Temple
- District 2 Sept 25th Post 2775-Orange
- District 8 Oct 2nd Post 3278-Brownwood
- District 29 Oct 2nd Post 4694-Mexia
- District 6 Oct 9th Post 8932-Corpus Christi
- District 19 Oct 16th Post 1836-Lufkin
- District 30 Oct 16th Post 3894-Waxahachie
- District 3 Oct 17th Post 6796-Dallas
- District 4 Oct 23rd Post 2427-Tomball
- District 17 Oct 23rd Post 4006-Navasota
- District 25 Oct 23rd Post 4372-Odessa
- District 13 Oct 24th Post 8552-Del Rio
- District 21 Oct 31st Post 4746-Weatherford

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. Congratulations to All-American Districts for 2020-2021:

- District 1-Commander Katie Baillio (Top Ten)
- District 5-Commander Greg Brannan (Top Ten)
- District 13-Commander Andrew Camplen (Top Ten)
- District 20-Commander Armando Gonzales (Top Ten)
- District 30-Commander William J. Fuzi (Top Ten)
- District 2-Commander Robert LaFleur
- District 3-Commander James E. Briggs
- District 6-Commander Todd T. Richardson
- District 9-Commander Steve Evans
- District 16-Commander Michael S. Caballero
- District 24-Commander Jack Mageluzzo, Jr.
- District 28-Commander Dave Walden
- District 29-Commander Chris Davis

12. Congratulations to All-American Posts for 2020-2021 (Top 25 only):

- Post 688-Boerne-District 13-Commander Andrew Camplen
- Post 1406-Dallas-District 3-Commander Reggie L. Williams
- Post 1475-Amarillo-District 9-Commander Terry J. Avey
- Post 1922-Gainesville-District 1-Commander Dennis Kretzschmar
- Post 2195-Allen-District 1-Commander Peter J. Hersom
- Post 2410-Harlingen-District 18-Commander Narciso Villela III
- Post 3966-Devine-District 13-Commander Jesse Rodriguez
- Post 4694-Mexia-District 29-Commander Breck A. Lamar
- Post 4820-Port Neches-District 2-Commander Jorg Kitchen
- Post 6111-Arlington-District 21-Commander Manuel D. Leal III
- Post 6119-Three Rivers-District 6-Commander Mark L. Dobbins
- Post 6873-Abilene-District 8-Commander Ralph Rodriguez, Jr.
- Post 7426-Farmersville-District 1-Commander Brian R. Chapman
- Post 8273-Frisco-District 1-Commander Shenna R. Lawless
- Post 8541-San Antonio-District 20-Commander William E. Smith
- Post 8569-Comfort-District 13-Commander Kenneth M. Rusch
- Post 8911-Fort Worth-District 21-Commander Yolanda S. Lacey
- Post 8913-Lancaster-District 3-Commander Kenneth B. McDaniel
- Post 9167-Princeton-District 1-Commander Jason W. Ash
- Post 9170-Beeville-District 6-Commander Luis Pulido
- Post 9174-San Antonio-District 20-Commander Juan Martinez, Jr.

- Post 10454-Grapevine-District 21-Commander Joseph W. Campbell
- Post 12041-Lytle-District 20-Commander Larry L. Sanders
- Post 12058-Kyle-District 5-Commander Clint D. Williams
- Post 12152-Cleburne-District 21-Commander Monica M. Donahoe
- Post 12160-Sinton-District 6-Commander Todd T. Richardson

13. Congratulations to All-State Districts for 2020-2021 (Top 4 in each Division):

DIVISION ONE

- District 1-Commander Katie Baillio
- District 21-Commander Duane Shepard
- District 20-Commander Armando Gonzales
- District 14-Commander Carlo S. Davis

DIVISION TWO

- District 5-Commander Greg Brannan
- District 17-Commander John Velasquez
- District 28-Commander Dave Walden
- District 10-Commander Joe Vargas, Jr.

DIVISION THREE

- District 6-Commander Todd T. Richardson
- District 16-Commander Michael S. Caballero
- District 3-Commander James E. Briggs
- District 8-Commander Melvin Harper

DIVISION FOUR

- District 13-Commander Andrew Camplen
- District 9-Commander Steve Evans
- District 18-Commander Loren F. Pogue
- District 12-Commander Larry Levy

DIVISION FIVE

- District 2-Commander Robert LaFleur
- District 30-Commander William J. Fuzi
- District 29-Commander Chris Davis
- District 24-Commander Jack Mageluzzo, Jr.

14. Congratulations to All-State Posts for 2020-2021 (Division Leaders):

- Post 688-Boerne-District 13-Commander Andrew Camplen
- Post 1406-Dallas-District 3-Commander Reggie L. Williams
- Post 1475-Amarillo-District 9-Commander Terry J. Avey
- Post 1907-Normangee-District 17-Commander Wallace Dunkin
- Post 1922-Gainesville-District 1-Commander Dennis Kretzschmar
- Post 2150-McKinney-District 1-Commander Raymond Richardson
- Post 2195-Allen-District 1-Commander Peter J. Hersom
- Post 2410-Harlingen-District 18-Commander Narciso Villela III
- Post 2933-Dripping Springs-District 5-Commander Jerry Martin
- Post 4443-Austin-District 28-Commander Joseph Touchet
- Post 4820-Port Neches-District 2-Commander Jorg Kitchen
- Post 6111-Arlington-District 21-Commander Manuel D. Leal III
- Post 7426-Farmersville-District 1-Commander Brian R. Chapman
- Post 8273-Frisco-District 1-Commander Shenna R. Lawless
- Post 8539-Lampasas-District 14-Commander Daniel Swanson
- Post 8541-San Antonio-District 20-Commander William E. Smith
- Post 8569-Comfort-District 13-Commander Kenneth M. Rusch
- Post 8577-Copperas Cove-District 14-Commander Ronald Abrahamson
- Post 8790-Houston-District 4-Commander Michael Flanagan
- Post 9167-Princeton-District 1-Commander Jason W. Ash
- Post 9174-San Antonio-District 20-Commander Juan Martinez, Jr.
- Post 10454-Grapevine-District 21-Commander Joseph W. Campbell
- Post 10462-Houston-District 4-Commander Billy Wilkinson
- Post 12041-Lytle-District 20-Commander Larry L. Sanders
- Post 12058-Kyle-District 5-Commander Clint D. Williams
- Post 12152-Cleburne-District 21-Commander Monica M. Donahoe
- Post 12160-Sinton-District 6-Commander Todd T. Richardson
- Post 12171-San Antonio-District 20-Commander Lee Rivas

15. 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).

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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)

19. Post Audits: The 1st Quarter Post Audit Report (for the 2021-2022 Administrative year) is due by October 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 remainder of the 2021-2022 Administrative Year:

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

20. Mid-Winter Conference 2022 January 19-23, 2022:

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

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

Choctaw Conference Center
Durant, Oklahoma

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

- September 6, 2021 – Labor Day
- 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

- 23. 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.
- 24. 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.
- 25. 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.
- 26. 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.
- 27. 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 can be found on the Department of Texas VFW website: <https://www.texasvfw.org/>.
Go to: Admin/SOP, Training Materials, Etc./Post Programs.

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)

28. 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

29. 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 and District Audit Reports
- Buddy Poppy Orders
- Community Service Reports
- Insurance for VFW Posts
- Post Inspection Reports
- Quartermaster Bonds
- Status Sheet Issues (Posts and Districts)
- VPR's (Veteran Project Reports)

30. Launch of new Texas VFW E-news : We are excited to launch our new Texas VFW E-news that has features that print magazines do not. What are those features?

- We can link your photos to your website or social media page thus helping the Post advertise its programs.
- We can link and embed video into stories.
- We can link advertisers to their websites so you can check them out on the spot.
- The Table of Contents is linked so you can go right to the page or story without having to flip through the magazine.
- We can link event photos and videos on our website so you can see all the photos and not just the ones we use.
- We can link candidate advertisements directly with their email account so you can email them directly.
- We can link online information with stories and historical events.
- We can show video that automatically starts playing when you turn the page.
- We can link directly to government services websites.
- We can link email addresses to all employees including our service officers.
- You can now email all your friends and relatives especially when you or your Post is in the news.

To view the Summer 2021 Texas VFW E-news issue go to: <https://issuu.com/texasvfw>

31. In memory of the deaths of 13 service members who were supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel who died on August 26, 2021, as the result of an enemy attack while supporting non-combatant evacuation operations in Kabul, Afghanistan:

- Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, 31, of Salt Lake City, Utah
- Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25, of Lawrence, Massachusetts
- Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, 23, of Sacramento, California
- Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, of Indio, California
- Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan W. Page, 23, of Omaha, Nebraska
- Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, 22, of Logansport, Indiana
- Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas
- Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, 20, of St. Charles, Missouri
- Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum, 20, of Jackson, Wyoming
- Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, California
- Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui, 20, of Norco, California
- Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss, 23, of Corryton, Tennessee
- Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio

32. 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 via email: eddie.l.terry@gmail.com.

Comrades, the Department website contains an incredible amount of information designed to make everyone’s job more helpful. Many years have been devoted to creating this site so please utilize it!

Congratulations to Dan West, our past State Adjutant/Quartermaster, who has accepted a position at National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, 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 be State Adjutant/Pro Tem Quartermaster after Dan’s departure on August 31, 2021.

Let us remember that the measure of a leader is not the number of followers he/she has but the number of people they serve. It’s amazing what can be done when no one cares who gets the credit.

By order of:

Norman J. Macey

Norman J. Macey, State Commander



Attested By:

Lupita M. Perez

Lupita M. Perez, State Adjutant/Pro Tem Quartermaster