



Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars

OCTOBER 2021
No. 3

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 4 restrictions.**
- 2. **Deadline for VFW Post Stand Down form extended to December 1st:**
Commander Macey has extended the deadline to submit the form for VFW Post Stand Down to December 1, 2021.
- 3. **Deadline for Post Inspections has been extended to December 31st:**
Commander Macey has extended the deadline to submit the form for Post Inspections to December 31, 2021.
- 4. **2021-2022 District (for extra points only):**
Per Commander Macey, it is highly encouraged that all District Commanders appoint the following: Membership, Homeless Veterans, Legislative, and POW/MIA. This includes submitting a Teacher of the Year entry to Department for judging. **These extra points are for DISTRICTS not for VFW Posts. For Post requirements see page 5 of your Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) All-State Program.**
- 5. **Congratulations to Ben Lowrance as the new State Quartermaster:**
Ben Lowrance was elected and installed as State Quartermaster at a Special Called Meeting of the Council of Administration on September 26, 2021. Quartermaster Lowrance is a Gold Legacy Life member of Post 1475 in Amarillo.
- 6. **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.
- 7. **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.**

8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **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.**
11. **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.
12. **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 2021 Hurricane season. Refer veterans to the Texas VFW Foundation website for financial assistance: <https://www.texasvfw.org/foundation>.
13. **District Meetings for October 2021:**
 - District 8 Oct 2nd Post 3278-Brownwood
 - District 29 Oct 2nd Post 4694-Mexia
 - District 6 Oct 9th Post 3837-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** **Via Zoom-contact District 13 Commander**
 - District 21 Oct 31st Post 4746-Weatherford

14. 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, Robert Martinez, Jr., Post 2059, Kirby, D-20
State Quartermaster, Ben Lowrance, Post 1475, Amarillo, D-9
State Quartermaster, William “Bill” E. Smith, Post 8541, San Antonio, D-20
State Chaplain, Timothy Anderson, Post 3894, Waxahachie, D-30
State Chaplain, Michael “Foy” Day, Post 4692, Bryan, D-17
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
National Council Member, Inge Conley, Post 12075, Humble, D-4
National Council Member, Keith King, Post 3278, Brownwood, D-8

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. 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)

18. 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

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

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

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

Choctaw Conference Center
Durant, Oklahoma

21. 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

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. 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)

25. STAT SHEETS: Starting on Thursday, October 7, 2021, stat sheets will be posted only once a week. John Jowers, Data Management Specialist at Department Headquarters will be sending out supplemental information that will be addressing Administrative and Program requirements only.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. 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)

29. 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

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.

Congratulations to Ben Lowrance, our new State Quartermaster who was elected at a Special Called meeting of the Council of Administration on September 26, 2021, at my home Post 4816 in Porter, Texas. I also made a few new appointments at that meeting:

- Lupita Perez, State Adjutant
- John Shipley, State Chief of Staff
- Phillip DuBois, State Inspector
- Kevin Bost, Deputy State Inspector

Let us always remember that the measure of a leader is not the number of followers he or 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

