



Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars

DECEMBER 2021
No. 5

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 3 restrictions.**
2. **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.
3. **2021-2022 District (for extra points only):** Per Commander Macey, it is highly encouraged that all District Commanders appoint the following: Membership Chair, Homeless Veterans Chair, Legislative Chair, and POW/MIA Chair. This includes submitting a Teacher of the Year entry to Department for judging. These Chair appointments must be completed on the District Election Report in OMS to receive the extra points. **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.

4. **Post Incentive:** Post leading Division in membership by December 31, 2021, will receive two (2) VIP tickets to attend the Mid-Winter Awards Banquet on the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi, Texas. Refer to Page 4 of the Texas VFW Membership & All-State Program for 2021-2022.
5. **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.

6. **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.**

7. **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.

8. **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.

9. **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.**

10. **Politics:** Members cannot represent the Veterans of Foreign Wars or Auxiliary within Texas 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.

11. **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>.

12. District Meetings for December and January 2021:

- District 18 Dec 5th Post 9175-Roma
- District 3 Dec 12th Post 6796-Dallas
- District 29 Jan 8th Post 6008-Hewitt
- District 21 Jan 9th Post 9299-Alvarado
- District 14 Jan 15th Post 9192-Killeen
- District 19 Jan 15th Post 6899-Trinity
- District 25 Jan 29th Post 4372-Odessa
- District 30 Jan 29th Post 4133-Trinidad

13. District Commanders: As we are fast approaching the inclement weather months, if you are going to cancel a District meeting, please notify not only your Posts respectively but also the State Adjutant, Lupita Perez, as soon as possible so that the Department Representative can be notified. Also, notify the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters the rescheduled District meeting date. We do not want anyone to have an accident during inclement weather.

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. 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 consist 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 and have the right to appeal.

16. Mandatory VPR's for 2021-2022:

- May 1, 2022 (Loyalty Day)
- May 30, 2022 (Memorial Day)
- June 14, 2022 (Flag Day)

17. Reminder – Deadline Dates for Veteran Project Participation Reports (VPR's) to be submitted to the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters:

- **December 10, 2021** – Deadline to submit VPR for Veterans Day
- **January 5, 2022** – Deadline to receive VPR for Pearl Harbor Day
- **February 25, 2022** – Deadline to receive VPR for Vietnam Peace Accord

18. Post Audits: The 2nd Quarter Post Audit Report (for 2021-2022 Administrative Year) will be due January 31, 2022, on Trustee's Audit forms. The (original) signed copy can be mailed or emailed to Department of Texas VFW Headquarters. The 3rd Quarter Post Audit Report will be due on April 20, 2022.

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

The 2022 Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Corpus Christi starting on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, through Sunday, January 23, 2022, at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel located at 900 North Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas 78401. The Awards Banquet will be held on the USS Lexington on Saturday, January 22, 2022.

The Online Hotel Reservation Link is available at:

<https://www.texasvfw.org/2022-mid-winter-convention>

You can also purchase Mid-Winter Awards Banquet tickets online at:

<https://www.texasvfw.org/2022-mid-winter-convention>

Banquet tickets are \$65.00 per person.

Banquet ticket price includes transportation to and from the USS Lexington.

The "printable" tentative agenda is posted online; click on link below:

https://9e0828bf-16ea-40c4-b5ed-1941b1f50033.filesusr.com/ugd/a85cfb_0855e17dfc7348f7bd8d747255385857.pdf

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

Choctaw Conference Center
4216 South Highway 69/75
Durant, Oklahoma 74701

More details will be posted after the Mid-Winter Conference on the Department of Texas VFW website.

21. State Commander Macey's Homecoming: The State Commander's Homecoming will be held in Porter, Texas, on March 24-26, 2022.

More details will be posted soon on the Department of Texas VFW website.

22. Department of Texas VFW HQs office (holiday schedule):

- Starting at Noon on Wednesday, December 22nd through Friday, December 24th for the Christmas holidays.
- The office will be closed on Friday, December 31st for the New Year's Eve holiday.

23. The Department of Texas VFW Headquarters office staff will be working remotely (from home) starting on Monday, December 27th through Thursday, December 30th.

- During that time frame, the National VFW Headquarters will also be closed while we are working remotely from home.
- Normal office working hours for Department Headquarters in Austin will resume on Monday, January 3, 2022.

24. District/Post By-Laws: Districts and Posts are reminded to review your By-Laws. If it has been more than five (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.

25. 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.

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 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)

27. Stat Sheets:

Stat sheets will be posted once a week on Thursdays. John Jowers, Data Management Specialist at Department Headquarters will be sending out supplemental information that will be addressing Administrative and Program requirements only.

28. Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen/Teacher entries for 2021-2022:

The deadline for Districts to submit their winning Voice of Democracy (VOD), Patriot's Pen, and Teacher entries to the Department of Texas Headquarters was December 1, 2021.

Department Headquarters staff will contact the District Commanders before the Christmas holidays regarding the winners for:

- The "Top Ten" Voice of Democracy student winners
- Patriot's Pen winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places)
- Teacher winners (K-5th grades, 6th-8th grades, and 9th-12th grades)

29. All-American Program: Be sure to check out the All-American Program located on our Department of Texas VFW website and scroll down to 2021-2022 All American Program. <https://www.texasvfw.org/sop-training-materials>

NOTE: One of the requirements for the All-American Criteria is a Post must have a social media page "Facebook" by the end of December 2021.

30. 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” we must have members. Contact Eddie Terry, State Membership Chair, for assistance via email: eddie.l.terry@gmail.com.

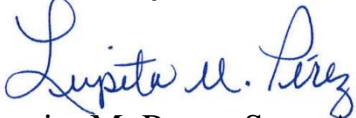
Thank you for all the hard work that everyone puts in on behalf of their Posts. Have a safe and enjoyable time with family, friends, and comrades during the Christmas holidays.

By order of:



Norman J. Macey, State Commander

Attested By:



Lupita M. Perez, State Adjutant

