



Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars



1103 N. Blackwelder Ave. OKC. OK 73106
405 525-2680/ www.vfwok.org

July 2019

2019-2020 Series

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

-Excerpt from United States Declaration of Independence"

**DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA HEADQUARTERS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

General Orders No. 1

2019-2020 Series

- 1. Posts that have not sent in a Post Election Report Form listing the Post Officers for 2019-2020 should do so immediately for matter of record and so mailings can be made to the proper officers within the Post. Not doing so will subject the Post to actions within our National By-Laws to include suspension. Posts currently with no election report are:

POST # 9126 CHEYENNE, District # 15
POST # 3077, COLLINSVILLE, District # 5
POST # 4415, HOBART, District # 15,

POST # 2976, CLAREMORE, District # 5
POST # 11539, FT. COBB, District # 14
POST # 3707, TAHLEQUAH, District # 1

- 2. Pursuant to Article VII, Sec. 703 National By-Laws, requires that each accountable officer shall be bonded with an Indemnity Company as surety and the By-Laws places the responsibility for adequate bonding upon the Commander. In any business it is customary to bond any officer handling funds. The Department Headquarters carries a schedule bond for the bonding of Department and Post Accountable Officers. This bond runs for a year from September 1 to August 31st premium payment are made on that basis. All bonds expire on August 31 and premium for the year is due on September 1.

- 3. Pursuant to Section 516 ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS; CHAIRMEN AND COMMITTEES. Department officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant. Additionally, Department commanders, Department Senior Vice Commander, Department Junior Vice Commanders, Department Adjutants and Department Quartermasters shall submit proof of eligibility to the Adjutant General. Department officer shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the Department Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation of office. In the event an elected

or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility with thirty (30) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited, the office declared vacant and the eligibility qualification of such officer shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National By-Laws.

4. Pursuant to Article V, Sec 3 of the Department of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars By-Laws, "A delegate registration fee established by the Council of Administration will be paid by each Post for every delegate to which it is entitled and by others authorized to cast a vote as defined by the National By-Laws. This fee may be increased/decreased at each succeeding convention by the Council of Administration. Said fees shall be paid to the State Quartermaster 15 days prior to the opening session of the Department Convention. Anyone wanting to register after this date will be assessed an additional fee of \$1.00 for each delegate registered. Post delegate fees are due and payable regardless of convention attendance. Post that do not pay prior to the convention will be assessed the delegate fees at the plus \$1.00 rate." A listing of Posts currently in arrears of delegate fees are listed below.

Town	Post #	Fees Due	Town	Post#	Deg Fees Due
Alva	2847	\$12.00	Anadarko	2847	\$12.00
Atoka	4859	\$12.00	Broken Arrow	10887	\$24.00
Cheyenne	9126	\$6.00			
Claremore	2976	\$48.00	Coalgate	1198	\$12.00
Crescent	7740	\$12.00	Edmond	4938	\$30.00
Elk City	3669	\$18.00	Ft. Cobb 18&19 dues	11539	\$6.00
Henryetta	539	\$24.00	Hobart	4415	\$12.00
Mannford	8676	\$24.00	Skiatook	7977	\$12.00
Tahlequah	3707	\$30.00 18&19 dues	Tishomingo	4869	\$18.00
Webbers Falls	4609	\$12.00			

BY COMMAND OF

DARRYL MABRY
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /

Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant

FROM THE COMMANDER

Comrades and Auxiliary; I ask again, isn't this a wonderful time to be part of our great Department and organization? I send my greetings to all.

Again, I give my thanks to all that have been major contributors to our success this year and hope that you are able to continue your support of our great organizations. To everyone, thanks for everything you have done to make your post and our VFW and Auxiliary as successful as we have been. Your continued support is very valuable, and much appreciated. Thanks for everything you have done and will continue to do.

During this time of the year it's important to stay cool and start refocusing on the wonderful work you can do for your post and our great organization this VFW year. Let's remain focused on making your post and our organization the best in the nation. Let our focus remain VFW initiatives, programs and ideals not personalities and other things we can control.

I want to thank all of the Comrades, Sisters and Brothers that came and participated in our convention activities. I send well deserved kudos to the convention committee for the excellent work and assistance in ensuring we had a fun, successful convention because of all of them. For those that weren't able to make it; you missed a truly outstanding program. The displays were excellent, the energy was great and I hope all had just as much fun as I did. A giant kudos with a hearty fist bump goes to the committee chairs for their excellence in getting the info in on time to complete our certificates and organize the program.

If there were any issues with the hotel that wasn't resolved be sure to get with someone as so we can get it taken care so your next experience can be more enjoyable. From the initial comments I received, Ms. Bandi, Ms. Melissa and the rest of the event staff did an outstanding job. We have already coordinated for some of our events this year to take place at the hotel. Look the annual schedule presented in this newsletter.

As mentioned, our calendar for the year is presented as so all can begin early coordination. I apologize for not getting it posted sooner but there was still some initial date synching with the hotel being done. District Commanders; look at the dates and plan accordingly. Note that some frequencies shifted because of availability. I would like for all posts and districts to consider I35 as your guide for the school of instruction. All west of come to OKC on 10 August and all east come to Eufaula on 17 August. We are coordinating a pay as you go buffet style lunch with the hotel and figuring some way for all to assist Eufaula on getting back on solid footing when there. Our conventions and meetings will have purpose and fun this year. We are looking to have a few meetings with themes this year. Of note, a mystery and a Valentine's "pink and red" social are in the works. We are also looking at a chili cook off and other competitions to spice things up a bit. More to follow at our Schools of Instruction.

In closing:

Coral,

I appreciate all we have accomplished our years together going through the seats. Your tenacity has been unrelenting and your heart has been totally dedicated to our organizations. We've had discussions and conversations that took us on both sides of the coin and probably every area between happy, sadness, agree and disagree. But most of all we remained friends and were able to move forward. I wish all that observed that, take heed. Regardless the discussion, our focus didn't change and therefore the year has brought accolades and much happiness. I'm glad we have served as line officers in the State of Oklahoma together. Hopefully will continue working together for our continued strive for successful years.

Darryl Mabry

Commander

VFW Department of Oklahoma

FROM THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

First of all, I want to thank all of you for your vote of confidence electing me your next Senior Vice Commander. It will be an honor and a privilege to serve with you for the next year. And a great year it is going to be!

For all the new leadership and those who were re-elected, now is the time to take the reins, put your plans into effect and take off running, never looking back. As we begin the new year, remember that every member has a voice. If they're not talking, ask them why and what can be done to get them involved. Our membership is the foundation of our organization.

If you have not already reached out to the schools in your area concerning ALL of our youth programs, now is the time to do so. Send them reintroduction packets and meet with them face to face. The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow and we must reach out to them, encourage and offer guidance through these programs. They are the greatest legacy we can leave.

Legislatively, we will have a new State Legislative Chair and they will do a great job. Congressionally, because of your continued engagement with Congress, we won our biggest fight in a couple years getting the Blue Water Navy Bill passed and signed into law! If you are a blue water Navy veteran or know someone who is, start the claim process now if you or they haven't already. The Senate has passed the latest Defense Authorization Act with a 3.1% pay increase for active duty. Please contact your US Representatives and urge them to promptly pass the Act now and send it to the President's desk.

Finally, a big shout out to all of our out-going officers on all levels. It has been an historic year for our Department and the organization. Congratulations to PDC Porch and her staff. It was an amazing year. Now, let's get out there and do even better.

V/R,
Michael L. Merit
State Senior Vice Commander
VFW Department of Oklahoma

FROM THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

I appreciate your confidence in electing me as your Department Jr Vice Commander, I will endeavor to meet or exceed your expectations. After the success of this year's State Convention, I'm looking forward to our next statewide event, Fall Fest. As a reminder, please keep up with the news in the General Orders as there is a lot of good information. During the Council of Administration, it was mentioned that there are a multitude of fairs and events that we can attend to enhance our public outreach and recruiting efforts. If you are aware of an event, please send me the dates and I will help you set up resources tables.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities and Events:

July

- 26: OKC Dodgers Military Appreciation Night
- 20 – 24: National Convention in Orlando Florida
- 28: Family Day for HHC 1-179 in Edmond

August

Events in the works

September

- 12 – 22: Oklahoma State Fair (see note below)
- 26 – 6 Oct: Tulsa State Fair begins (see note below)
- 28: 45th IBCT Fallen Heroes Run
- TBD: Tinker AFB 911/POW Memorial Run

October

- 6: Tulsa State Fair ends (see note below)
- 17 – 20: Southern Conference in Baton Rouge Louisiana

November

- 1 – 3: Fall Fest in Oklahoma City

December

TBD: multiple Family Days/Holiday Parties for members of the National Guard and their families. Great chance for recruiting both VFW and Auxiliary members and supporting their efforts through the MAP program. The MAP grant request and post event report are fillable on-line. <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/veterans-and-military-support>

Fair Note: Volunteers are needed to make this a success!!! Shifts have been set up in three 4-hour rotations per day. Fair rules state the resource table must be staffed at all required times or our invitation to participate will be revoked without future reinstatement.

The Special Olympics is always looking for volunteers. They are in need coaches, assistants, chaperons, and cheering sections. When you're out volunteering for the VFW, please wear something that identifies you as a VFW or Auxiliary member; it helps increase public awareness. Sign up to help, better yet, have your post sign up to support or sponsor them. Apply at <https://www.sook.org/>.

When you're out volunteering for the VFW, please wear something that identifies you as a VFW or Auxiliary member; it helps increase public awareness.



SportClips Help A Hero Scholarship is currently taking applications. This is a scholarship that is in addition to any Tuition Assistance or scholarship they may already be receiving.
<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support>.

. Jim Bassett
State Jr Vice Commander
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars
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FROM THE STATE CHAPLAIN

First and foremost, I am honored to have been elected by the Membership to be your Department Chaplain for the 2019-2020 year. I pray everyone has a safe and productive year with great success. Let us not forget those we lost this last year and strive to carry on their Legacies by honoring them by keeping with the traditions of the VFW and speaking their names often and remembering their service to our Country and to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Let us look to their families and friends and take care of our own. I look forward to working with our Members and reassuring you that I serve you, The Membership. May God Bless each of you with health and prosperity. May he comfort the afflicted and the sick and guide us all in his divine plan. We ask this in Jesus name...Amen

Joe Roman
Chaplain
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars
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“No one does more for Veterans”



FROM THE OKLAHOMA-VFW FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I hope all of you had a great year in your VFW Posts and Districts. The Oklahoma VFW Foundation looks forward to its first full fiscal year operating as a 501(c)(3). The Foundation would like to thank Past State Commander Coral Porch and National Council Rep Robbie Clark for their service to the Oklahoma VFW Foundation as board members. Their terms on our board have ended and we thank them for their service and guidance and sincerely hope they will continue to promote the Foundation and provide our board guidance. With their departures, we would like to welcome State Junior Vice Commander James Bassett from Post 8706 Moore and Weydan Flax from Post 577 as new members of the Board of Directors. Comrade Flax was also named the new Assistant Executive Director of the Foundation. In addition, congratulations to Curtis "Doc" Bohlman to be elected by the OK-VFW membership to continue his service to the board for another two years. We also want to thank Comrade Gary Miles for applying for the open board position. Our membership elected board members took over an hour deliberating over two very well qualified and outstanding candidates. Comrade Miles has been attending Board meetings and has been a great resource for the Foundation and we hope that continues.

As the Foundation starts to actually start operations, the board is looking at few projects. One is creating a funding mechanism to help with Honor Guard expenses to ensure that all veterans have the military honors they deserve. The Foundation is also investigating the feasibility of a legal assistance program for veterans. Watch for updates as these programs are developed. The Foundation has set up a Facebook group, please like and follow it for updates.

If your Post is working on a donation or grant from a donor that requires it be run through a 501(c)(3) type of organization, please contact us so we can help you. If you are aware of a grant that would help your Post or your District, let us know and we can even help with the grant writing and application. We are here to support the Oklahoma VFW and its Posts!!

We want to thank everyone who made a donation to the Foundation during the Convention. With the silent auction, donation can, and pledges made, the Foundation had nearly \$1,000 in revenues.

Finally, do you know about Amazon Smile? Instead of amazon.com, you go to smile.amazon.com. It is the same products as amazon, same prices, same everything. The only difference is you can choose a charity and Amazon will donate a small percentage of the purchase to that charity. Please consider having the Oklahoma VFW Foundation be the charity you support with your Amazon purchases. When searching for their charities, type "Oklahoma Veterans" in the search window and you will see our Foundation on the list.

John H. Fischer
President/Executive Director
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VFW OKLAHOMA MEETING SCHEDULE 2019-2020

NATIONAL CONVENTION (20-24 JUL 2019)
ORLANDO, FL

SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

10 AUG 2019 (OKC)

17 AUG 2019 (EUFAULA)

23-24 AUG 2019 (BOISE CITY) (SELECTED PERSONNEL)

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE (17-20 OCT 2019)
BATON ROUGE, LA

FALL FEST (1-3 NOV 2019)
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

MID-WINTER (14-16 FEB 2020)
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

STATE CONVENTION (18-21 JUN 2020)
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK



Fourth of July

Military & veterans discount

20% off eligible regular-price merchandise with Balance® Rewards card*



Includes all veterans, military and their families

7/4 thru 7/7/19

*Offer valid for veterans, military and their families from 7/4 thru 7/7/19 only, with Balance® Rewards card and proof of service. In-store offer only valid in Walgreens or Duane Reade stores. Discount valid on regular-price items only. Offer is not combinable with buy 1 get 1 free, buy 1 get 1 50% off or buy 2 get 3rd FREE. Discount not valid on alcohol, dairy, tobacco, stamps, phone/prepaid/gift cards, money orders/transfers, transportation passes, lottery tickets, charitable donations, pseudoephedrine or ephedrine products, clinic services, health tests, prescriptions, pharmacy items or services, sales tax, the Prescription Savings Club membership fee, newspapers, magazines and items or services purchased by prescription and/or submitted to insurance for reimbursement or where otherwise limited by law.

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FOOD DRIVE

Join us in the fight to end hunger by participating in our upcoming Feeding America® food drive.

1 in 8 people nationwide struggle with hunger. Right here in Oklahoma, nearly 620,000 people might not know where their next meal will come from.

Local food banks and food pantries rely on supporters like you to meet the pressing need for meals in our community.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND TAG @FEEDINGAMERICA @COMPANY



WHEN:

June 10 – July 22

WHERE:

Kickoff @ VFW State Convention in OKC & Local VFW Posts in Oklahoma

CONTACT:

Jeremy Driggers - Humana
405-543-9842 OKC
Tim Larson - Humana
918-316-3900 Tulsa



Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope



Community FOOD BANK of Eastern Oklahoma

