

Department of Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars



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

December 2019 2019-2020 Series

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

Author Unknown

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

General Orders No. 6 2019-2020 Series

- 1. Pursuant to Internal Revenue Services Non-Profit Organization laws, all VFW entities with a non-profit status are to have their tax returns (Form 990) filed no later than 15 November in order to maintain their Non-Profit Status. Failure to file form 990, 990 N etc. for a period of 3 years will have their non-profit status automatically revoked by the IRS. If needed, an extension can be requested by the Non-Profit Organization by filing an IRS Form 8868 and returning it to the IRS.
- 2. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Trustees." Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ends December 31, 2019. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager, Bingo Chairman and VFW Riders Groups. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.
- 3. Pursuant to Department Requirements, Post Officers may access our VFW Oklahoma On-Line reporting through our department website at **http://vfwoklahoma.org/** Once there go to the "Resources" menu, then VFW-OK On-Line Reporting to access your Post's reporting.
- 4. VFW-OK Headquarters and our VFW VA Regional Office will be closed from 23-27 December 2019 in observance of the Christmas Holiday. Both offices will re-open on 30 December 2019.

/os/

DARRYL MABRY STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /
Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant

FROM THE COMMANDER

Comrades and members of our Auxiliary, I hope all had a very joyous Thanksgiving and hope your Christmas and New Year is just as joyous and prosperous. I'm so thankful for being a part of this great organization and team. I'm equally thankful for all the team does and strives to do. I sound off again by saying "we are truly blessed as a Department that has such wonderful people and great times together". I send my greetings to all and pray that everyone within our organizations remains well and their loved ones and friends remain safe and healthy during the holiday season and throughout our time together. "TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES AND EACH OTHER". We need you all.

Again, I offer a prayer to all that are afflicted or have loved ones with pains or ailments, I pray for speedy recoveries for all.

We are coming up on our "halftime" which means got to go into the new calendar year with maintaining momentum and keeping pace. Habitually, this has been the time where we drop off our push for membership; let's change that this year. I as all post to use this time of the year to get more members and give awareness of your presence by conducting membership and "Buddy Poppy" drives throughout your communities. Have a station set up as you perform your great community interaction events. As I visited some posts over the Thanksgiving weekend, I noticed the excellent interaction but no VFW/VFWA information being distributed. At a couple of posts, I was the only one in VFW headgear or identified as VFW. We are doing the work so let's sell ourselves with all that free advertisement so our guest will begin identifying and ask about us. The smiles I seen were priceless.

Hopefully your post participated in the National Commander-in-Chief's October and November membership challenges. I hope the \$1000 offered can come to all our posts, I know of at least one post in Oklahoma that is due to receive the stiffen with meeting the challenge. We all can do it!

Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year and the Patriotic Art programs are in full swing. Hopefully we had maximum participation from all. Now is the time to sift through and find ways to award as many participants as we can. Hope the National "buy out" program was minimally used and not substituted for providing these students and opportunity to excel. So, now let's show these student's greatness and determine some Oklahoma Best.

As briefed by our Junior-Vice Commander, Jim Bassett, we have had and are constantly showing some great Department sponsored and post community engagement events. Now is definitely the time to get with the units and discuss the MAP program as well as identify potential unmet needs candidates. However, remember the programs put out just as much as we put in so don't forget your donations to these programs.

Commanders, as mentioned before; know what the VFW Oklahoma Foundation is for. Learn how you at the Post and District levels can support the foundation. Research and ask how you can help build our foundation so it can help local Veterans and their families and even a post. Remember, donations by Post individuals (Comrades and Auxiliary) to the Oklahoma Foundation will count towards the Post **or** District requirement for All-State recognition provided that person specify whom they are supporting. I still encourage everyone to open your hearts and support the relief efforts of our foundation whether for credit or not. Let's remember what our core existence is. If you can't greet every Veteran you meet and be able to offer the right kind of assistance across the board, then what is your real purpose as a VFW?

I again ask you to emphasize the programs and benefits the VFW offers in all your meetings. Talk about the stock we put into giving to our Veterans, their families and the community. VFW half-time is approaching. As other teams go into the locker room to take a break, we are looking to do what the champions do; take a sip of water or bubbly and the return to the field with more vigor and an adjusted plan for success. Comrades, I'll tell you now we have the lead as we approach the break. We just can't get complacent and must continue strive. The second half determines what "bowl game" we'll be in at the end of the season.

Remember, support those that support you. Our Veteran's strength is only as strong as we make it. Kudos to those that help to build a Veterans' home in the Enid area as well as those that provide assistance and support to the families of the service personnel affected by the downed aircraft also in that area. Those events show that we don't have to lead in every quest, our support to the quest is just as important. Thanks for all you have done.

By supporting those that support Veterans'. Remember what your relief fund is for. Know how and when to use it. Buddy Poppies and boards are in. The boards are a great fundraising tool throughout the holiday season. Contact the Department Quartermaster, Curt Watts for yours.

Our Fall-Festival at the Wyndham Hotel in OKC (Nov 1-3) was a success. I commend all that took time and listened to the myriad of guess we had present. The National candidates came with different messages, but all had a common theme; growth of the VFW. During our end of year conference, we'll be asked who were going to endorse as a Department. You vote matters, so take heed to the messages that were presented.

As far as hotel issues. Yes, there were and are some communication and coordination snafus. We are handling those during our break in meetings. As many that were there saw, the hotel was also dealing with a new staff of leaders. With all said, everyone will be ready to execute by our Mid-Winter Conference in February (Valentine' Weekend). So, get ready for the "Pink N Red" event. As always plan for a great event. A little different and little new to get interest and participation. Like we say, it's about us taking care of business with hopefully some hospitality rooms, some relaxing and socializing just like a family should. There might even some surprise giveaways like before.

Let's remain focused on making your Post, District and Our VFW the best in the nation. Let our focus remain VFW initiatives, programs and ideals not personalities and other things we can control.

As always; be safe, be fun and take care of the business of assisting and providing for those that are having issues as you can. For all that need it.....GET WELL SOON!!

FROM THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

First, I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving! Christmas is just around the corner so please make sure to be with the ones you love and check in on those you haven't heard from in a while. This is that time of year when we loose more of our comrades than any other point. Sometimes just reaching out and saying hello brings them back from the brink. So, please, take the time to make a phone call or two.

The latest estimates for our VOD/PP/TOY looks like we have doubled the total number of entries for the Department, so way to go everyone! I notified all of the District Commanders that the deadline to have all the entries sent to State Headquarters is December 31st. Please notice I said the State Headquarters. Please do not send them to my personal address. Judging will take place at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater on January 11th, 2019 at 1pm in the Student Union. I will be entering all of the Post and District participation into the All American Dashboard as soon as I receive all of the packets. I can't wait to see who our winners are going to be!

At the end of November, I sent a letter to every one of our State Representatives and Senators concerning our VFW and Auxiliary specialty license plates. Each of those letters contained a copy of both pieces of legislation. These are the only two pieces we will be pushing this year. However, now is the time. We have to have it picked up by someone in both chambers before the 15th of this month. So, I strongly urge each and every one of you to contact them and encourage them to sponsor our bills. If you would like a copy of the bills or would like information on how to contact the legislature, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will provide that to you.

Finally, as this calendar year draws to a close, I want to thank each and every one of you for the effort you have made thus far. We only have seven more months to go in this business year, so please keep up the great work! We still have a long way to go on membership, but I know we all, as a team, will cross that finish line. Merry Christmas and please have a safe and Happy New Year!

Michael L. Merit State Senior Vice Commander VFW Dept. of Oklahoma

100th Anniversary Coin Design Contest

Oklahoma VFW turns 100 April 16th, 2021

We will be selling 500 limited-edition
100th Anniversary Coins to raise money for
Our 100th Anniversary Weekend
Which will be attended by
Commander in Chief
Hal Roesch

Anyone can enter at no cost!

Your entry will be judged by a committee!

Winner will be announced at 2020

State Convention Banquet

Where the coin will be revealed!

Design winner will receive

Special Coin Prize!

Please submit all entries to SSVC Mike Merit No later than COB OK Mid-Winter Conference 2020

FROM THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

State Junior Vice Commander
Public Affairs
Veterans and Military Services Committee Chair *Jim Bassett*

Tis the season to give!



No, I haven't lost my mind, well maybe I have, but it is the time to give. We are entering the holiday seasons. A lot of organizations are already advertising on TV and radio asking you for your money. I'm asking for you to give to an organization that has helped numerous veterans and military members and their families' right here in Oklahoma. Veterans and Military Services (VMS). VMS is the organization that donates money for MAP grants, Unmet Needs, Help-A-Hero Scholarship, and disaster relief. VMS has supported this state with a large amount of money to help us host Adopt-A-Unit and MAP grant events. If you would like to donate to them, please follow this link:

https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

By the way, did I mention that VMS is part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars?

I do have a request, I need your help. I'm looking for your events to add to our online shared calendar. These can be parades, fairs, or any public gathering. I need the event name, location, times, and a person to contact (if available). To view the calendar, go to https://teamup.com/ksjfgock6aemi328ey

Mid-Winter is our next state event. Please keep up with the news in the General Orders as there is a lot of good information.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities and Events:

December

6

TBD: Currently we have 3 holiday parties scheduled. One in Mustang, Durant, and Lawton. I anticipate many more. These Holiday Parties are for members of the National Guard and their families. This is a great opportunity to get to know potential VFW and Auxiliary members. 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

The Special Olympics is always looking for volunteers. need coaches, assistants, chaperons, and cheering When you're out volunteering for the VFW, please wear that identifies you as a VFW or Auxiliary member; it helps



They are in sections. something 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/.

Be Visible!

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 1103 N. Blackwelder Oklahoma City Oklahoma 73106 405.664.3929 Bassettj15@yahoo.com http://vfwok.org/











FROM THE OKLAHOMA VFW FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION: The Oklahoma VFW Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, assists Oklahoma veterans and their families, promotes patriotic programs, provides relief for veterans and veteran support organizations, and provides educational scholarships.

Comrades,

As Thanksgiving has now passed, the holiday season is upon us. It seems that we are all bombarded for requests for money from various charities whether it be phone calls, emails, or through "snail mail". There is a reason for that, this is the season of giving. In addition, people start thinking about their annual taxes and often wait until the end of the calendar year to get those tax-deductible donations done. Therefore, I would be remiss if I didn't ask that as you are considering which charities are worthy of your giving spirit, that you consider the Oklahoma VFW Foundation.

We are currently offering thank you gifts for your donations including t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats or duffle bags with a very nice "Oklahoma Veteran" logo on them. We had these items at the Fall Fest and will bring them to Mid-Winter as well. You can also receive them for making a donation through our website (www.okvfwfoundation.org), information on this is available on our Facebook page. I even did a video showing the items.

We are looking to rolling out our FOUNDING DONOR program shortly, watch the General Orders, the Foundation website and our Facebook page for more information on that.

From all of us at the Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Holidays and give you all of our best for the upcoming New Year!!

John H. Fischer President/Executive Director Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation 1103 N. Blackwelder Avenue

Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Office: (405) 525-2680 (OK-VFW Headquarters)

Mobile: (405) 443-7265

Email: okvfwfoundation@outlook.com

FROM THE STATE CHAPLAIN

There will be a Chaplains Workshop hosted by Post 4876 on January 8th, 2020, at 5pm. This is for all Post and District Chaplains.

The purpose of this workshop is to help revitalize the Chaplaincy as a whole and raise the standards this position. It is vital that we are all on the same page with the same mission in mind. Helping each other stay focused and accomplishing the mission is our priority.

I would also like to have a Post be able to host a Chaplains Workshop on the East side of the State so that others can attend and not have to travel as far. Please consider sending your Chaplain to this Workshop and help spread the word so that we can move forward to better ourselves as a whole.

God Bless each of you and Thank you!

Joe Roman State Chaplain Dept of Oklahoma VFW Post 4876 500 N. Veterans Dr. Altus, OK 73521 (580) 481-4244

"No one does more for Veterans"

FROM THE STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE

Public Servant Award nomination packages are due to the Department Chairman by Jan 1, 2020. See the Department Website or the VFW National website for rules and nomination forms. Nomination packages should be mailed to Gordon Wheeler, 2114 Woody Lane, Choctaw, OK 73020-8007.

Gordon Wheeler State Judge Advocate

FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

National Council Member Update

National Council Member Input for December 2019 GO

Development: This week's Development campaigns consist of Nov 20 Appeal: Planned Giving survey follow-up email to those who have shown interest in estate and will planning. Nov 22 Appeal: November holiday card package to member and nonmember donors.

Communications: If you're looking for new radio PSAs, National has you covered. Several new radio PSAs have been made available in the Training & Support section of VFW.org, so log in today to download and share the new messages. Contact: VFW Communications Manager Randi Law, RLaw@vfw.org. Administrative Operations There are currently 51 Posts under suspension, two of which are new. We have processed one Post consolidation and one Post charter surrender pursuant to Sections 209 and 210 of the National Bylaws respectively. The organization has 6,156 chartered Posts. Administrative Operations is engaged in 16 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 10 administrative actions and 14 membership eligibility challenges. We have 35 Bylaw/Article of Incorporation submissions in for review, 11 of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaw/Article of Incorporation submissions is approximately 14 days. Of the 242 Commander-in-Chief-directed Post suspension orders issued on July 2, 2019, for failure to submit an election report by July 1, 2019, there are currently 21 Posts still under suspension and an additional 30 Posts under suspension for reasons other than failing to submit an election report, for a total of 51 Posts under suspension. We are currently working with those Departments affected to either bring these Posts to good working order or revoke their Post charters. National VFW Foundation This holiday season, VFW members and friends are encouraged to support VFW programs and services by shopping through AmazonSmile. For each qualifying purchase, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the product price to the VFW Foundation. The VFW Foundation will benefit every time you shop on Amazon.com. Contact: VFW Foundation Administrator Richard Potter, RPotter@vfw.org. **Problem Solving** Every level of our great organization from Post thru National Headquarters is confronted with problems of one sort or another. Here are a few ideas to make problem solving easier and more effective: (Actually write down these areas and keep notes on your actions.) 1. Define the problem: Exactly what is happening?? 2. Gather information about the problem. (Who? What?, When?, Where?, Why?) 3. List possible solutions (do some brainstorming). 4. Test your possible solutions. 5. Select the best possible solution, and finally: 6. Take action(s) and then "follow up" to see if the problem has been resolved or at least improved. 7. Repeat this process until leadership and members are satisfied with the outcome. Never forget that the next higher level of the VFW is there to support and advise at any time. Oh yes, who does National Hq go to when problem solving? The Council of Administration (COA). And who does the COA go to???? The MEMBERSHIP I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! And best wishes for December's holidays and a safe and prosperous New Year Robbie Clark

FROM THE STATE SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

I know we are still doing District judging for many of our programs such as Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year; and I know that the first responder deadlines are quickly approaching. However, I want to make sure that all Post leaders are aware that the Scout of the Year program deadlines are coming up sooner than you think. Scout of the Year applications are due to your Posts by March 1st, and the Post winners need to be Department by April 1st. Your Post entries can be sent to Department Headquarters to my attention.

We have made it easier than ever to get the information you need to the local Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Venture Scout or Sea Scout unit near your Post. Go to the new and improved Department of Oklahoma VFW Website (www.vfwoklahoma.org), and under the PROGRAMS tab at the top of the page, go the Scout section. All the information you need on the Scout of the Year program can be found on this page, including the application form. You can contact your local scouting units and tell them about the website so they can get all the information needed. Please remember, that a Scout can only be sponsored by one Post, and Posts can only submit one nominee to Department.

Even though Scout nominations go straight to the Department, I wish to challenge every District to encourage their Posts to work with their local scouting groups. I will personally award the District from which the most Scout nominations come from \$100.00 and will create a travelling award for the "Scouting District of Oklahoma", provided the winning District had 2 or more nominations!

John H. Fischer (Post 3608)
Dept of Oklahoma VFW Scouting Chair
Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars
1103 N. Blackwelder Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Mobile: (405) 443-7265

Email: <u>okvfwfoundation@outlook.com</u>







District Meetings for 2018: "<u>Any Changes or corrections to Districts meetings, please notify the State Adjutant ASAP.</u>"

D-1 > 01 Feb 20	@ 11 am > Salina Post 5307 >
D-3 > 02 Feb 20	@ 11 am, > Wilburton Post 3649
D-4 > 01 Feb 20	@ 11 am > Coalgate Post 1198>
D-5 > 02 Feb 20	@ 10 am > Collinsville Post 3077>
D-7 > 01 Feb 20	@ 11 am > McAlester Post 1098>
D-8 > 02 Feb 20	@ 11am > Blackwell Post 2855 >
D-9 > 08 Feb 20	@ 10am > Enid Post 2270 >
D-10 > 18 Jan 20	@ 11am> Post 8706, New Hope Christian Church, 12323 S. Pennsylvania, OKC, 73170
D-13 > 25 Jan 20	@ 12:30 am > El Reno Post 382
D-14 > 22 Jan 20	@11 am > Elgin Post 85802 >
D-15 > 11 Jan 20	@11 am> Lawton Post 1193> Cdr. Darryl Mabry & Sr. Vice Cdr. Jim Bassett

DATES TO REMEMBER:

05 Dec>	Somalia Campaign Began (1992)
07 Dec>	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
08 Dec>	War Declared on Japan (1941)
11 Dec>	Germany & Italy Declared War on U.S. (1941)
15 Dec>	Iraq War Ended (2011)
20 Dec>	Panama Campaign Began (1989)
22 Dec>	Hanukkah Begins/Winter Begins
25 Dec>	Christmas Day
31 Dec>	Official End of WWII (1946) Kosovo Campaign Ended (2013)
01 Jan>	New Year's Day
08 Jan>	Post & District Chaplain's Workshop, Altus Post 4876, 5pm

Department of Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

2019-2020 State Raffle Tickets are ONLY \$10

GRAND PRIZE: \$1,000

Other Prizes

3 x \$500, 3 x \$250, 5 x \$150, 6 x \$100

SPECIAL EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS

For tickets purchased and money turned into State Headquarters on or before December 31st, 2019, four prizes of \$100 each will be awarded in January!! (Early Bird winners are eligible for main drawings)

Individual Prizes for Selling the Most Tickets

- If at least 800 total tickets are sold, the top two individual sellers will be awarded cash prizes.
- If at least 900 total tickets are sold, the top three individual sellers will be awarded cash prizes.
- If at least 1,000 tickets are sold, the top four individual ticket sellers will be awarded cash prizes.

Post/Auxiliary Prizes for Selling the Most Tickets

- In addition, Post and Auxiliary Units whose members sell tickets will also win prizes....
- 2 Posts/Auxiliaries win prizes if 800 total tickets sold, 3 win if 900 sold, and 4 win if 1,000 sold.
- If 1,000 total tickets sold, a cash prize to the VFW or Auxiliary District who sold the most tickets.

Specific Prize Drawing Information:

Early Bird: Drawings for a \$100 winner will be drawn on January 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st, 2019. (Tickets sold and turned in by 12/31/19).

NOTE: For all other drawings, tickets must be sold and turned in to State Headquarters prior to the drawing for that date.

March 2020: \$100 Drawings on Friday, March 6th, 13th, and 20th, 2020. \$250 Drawing on Friday, March 27th, 2020.

April 2020: \$100 Drawings on Friday, April 3rd, 10th, and 17th, 2020. \$250 Drawing on Friday, April 24th, 2020.

May 2020: \$150 Drawings on Friday, May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th, 2020.

Memorial Day 2020: Two \$500 Drawings, exact date to be determined but will be between Saturday, May 23rd and Tuesday, May 26th, 2020.

2020 Oklahoma State Convention: At the banquet, \$1,000 GRAND PRIZE DRAWING, as well as \$500 and \$250 winners.

Individual Ticket Seller Prizes:

If at least 800 tickets sold, top seller wins \$250, 2nd place wins \$100. If at least 900 tickets sold, top seller wins \$500, 2nd place wins \$250, and 3^{rd} place wins \$100. If at least 1,000 tickets sold, top seller wins \$600, 2^{nd} place wins \$300, 3^{rd} place wins \$200, and 4^{th} place wins \$100.

Post / Auxiliary Unit Ticket Seller Prizes:

If at least 800 tickets sold, Post or Auxiliary unit whose members (when totals combined) sold the most tickets wins \$100, 2nd place wins \$50. If at least 900 tickets sold, top Post or Auxiliary winds \$200, 2nd place wins \$100 and 3rd place wins \$50. If at least 1,000 tickets sold, top Post or Auxiliary winds \$300, 2nd place wins \$200, 3rd place wins \$100 and 4th place wins \$50.

If at least 1,000 tickets sold, the VFW or Auxiliary District whose members (when totals combined) sold the most tickets wins \$250.

Oklahoma VFW Shirts \$40 Department Fundraiser



Moisture wicking polo shirts with left sleeve pen pocket available in multiple colors.

6.5 oz. pique adult tactical wicking polo. Made from a 100% polyester. Polo features anti-microbial BLU-X-DRI protection, stain release, snag resistancy, matching buttons, a rib knit curl-free collar, side vents and hemmed sleeves. It also offers a raglan sleeve, mic clips on the center placket and shoulders, reinforced dual pen pockets on the left sleeve. Comfortable in any environment and meeting IL-50 standards.

Available from men's small to 6 XL.

Available colors are: red, light blue, royal blue, navy blue, hunter green, white, tan, graphite and black.



Contact Jim Bassett (bassettj15@yahoo.com).

We Shall Keep the Faith

by Moina Michael

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields, Sleep sweet - to rise anew! We caught the torch you threw And holding high, we keep the Faith With All who died.



We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.



And now the Torch and Poppy Red We wear in honor of our dead. Fear not that ye have died for naught; We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought In Flanders Fields.













Honor the Dead by Helping the Living

DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA

VFW AND VFW AUXILIARY