



Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars



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

October 2019

2019-2020 Series

When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.

Henry Ford

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

General Orders No. 4

2019-2020 Series

1. Pursuant to Department of Oklahoma By-Laws, the Department Commander is hereby calling a Council of Administration meeting to be held on Saturday, 2nd of November at 1000hrs at the Department Headquarters located at 1103 N. Blackwelder Ave. OKC OK.
2. 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 to the IRS.

/os/

DARRYL MABRY
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /

Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant

FROM THE COMMANDER

Comrades and members of our Auxiliary, this is a truly wonderful time to be part of our great Department. 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. If you haven't heard it lately, I will say it; "TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES". We are losing far too many Veterans and their family and friends needlessly. Get your check-ups and stay in the fight.

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

We are off and running now. As your Commander, I see the great work being done. I've noticed our increase in community engagements and I'm loving our current status of public outreach. Special kudos go out to the Department Senior-Vice and Junior-Vice Commanders this time. Their hard work has and paying off within the respective fairs in their areas. I think the booths served a value for us and is a success. For those that haven't taken advantage of the recruiting drive credit that I offered, you still have an opportunity while the Tulsa State Fair is thriving. Contact our Senior-Vice Commander, Mike Merit to set up a day your post can get All-State credit.

As mentioned, our Junior-Vice Commander, Jim Bassett has just finished his stint with the OKC State Fair and the memorial runs for Tinker AFB and the 45th NG. Now is preparing for some "Yellow Ribbon" events as well as information booths at some sporting events. So please show your support by getting involved and participating in some of our planned events. Who knows, another support and participation credit might be offered; so, check your calendars so you don't miss out.

Regarding membership successes; I want to give public thanks to all that recruited over fifty (50) Veterans into our folds. Your excellence will be awarded and is greatly appreciated throughout our ranks. "Big Kudos" to you. Everyone else still have an opportunity. So, get out and start telling everyone else how great the organization can be if they were a part of it. Let them know that there are benefits for family and non-family members also. For October, the National C-in-C has issued a challenge: "For this month's Commander's Challenge, the top ten Posts in each Division with the highest increase in total membership percentage between October 1st and October 31st will be entered into a drawing for \$1000 to be deposited into the Post account!"

This is the time to push our Patriot Pen, Voice of Democracy and the new Auxiliary Patriotic Art programs. There's still time to engage the local schools and public if you haven't already. Remember the turn-in deadlines are the end of this month.

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. Foster support to all levels of our organization. Spread the knowledge throughout your community so they know what you have to offer so they can help support your post and us as a VFW organization. I also ask that you help ensure we hit all the gates in remaining successful and minimize our risk. If your Service Officer hasn't attended their required training, stop their actions and find other options until we can get them the required brief/training. Don't be the one that causes an undo legal issue for the Department. Let's get in front of this before the next set of monthly meetings.

The only way our organizations can get bigger and better is to become more diverse and remember our Veteran commitment. In remembering our commitment, I would like for us to show solidarity by not only supporting Veterans but also supporting those that support Veterans'. Remember what that relief fund is for. Know how and when to use it.

Now, since we have recharged, let's get moving on our membership drives and begin some teambuilding of ourselves. Fall-Fest at the Wyndham Hotel in OKC (Nov 1-3) will be our first progress check. We have planned for a great event. Something different and new to get you all to come and participate and enjoy. Just to be clear, I'm talking taking care of business, hospitality rooms, partying (relaxing) and the whole bit just like a family should. Plans are to have a tail-gate party that involves a chili cook-off and a karaoke (twisted off course). Hopefully we have a convention type turnout to show our presence within the state. So, don't miss out on a great VFW/ Auxiliary time. Prizes will be given. I might even have some surprise giveaways.

"From my seat, we have a great team of leaders and Comrades which will hopefully continue and show as "Our" Department achieves All-American honors."

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.

"ALWAYS A VETERAN, ALWAYS FOR A VETERAN"

FROM THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

Here we are already in October! From all I have heard, the Oklahoma State Fair went very well. As of this writing, we are four days into the Tulsa State Fair, and we are having a great success. Over 2000 poppies have been handed out, 197 active engagements about the VFW, 57 strong possible recruits, two new life members, 77 active engagements for VOD/PP and \$100 in donations. We still have seven days to go. It is really turning out to be a great event. A big shout-out to all the Posts and Auxiliaries that have lent a helping hand making sure the booths are filled. As all of you have seen by this point, National scrubbed the lifetime memberships of 88,000 members, so we have a lot to gain back. Keep getting out there pushing membership.

We are only thirty-one days away front the VOD/PP/TOY deadlines to have the entries to the Post. Now is the time to start following up with your schools to find out if they have or will have any entries and remind them of the deadline. I truly hope all of you have actively engaged the schools even more so than before. It would be great to have even more entries and a better possibility of seeing them receive the top prize at National. So, burn up those roads, cell towers and inboxes and keep at it promoting these great programs.

Legislatively, I am not going to go over too much. A legislative report/newsletter is in the works and will soon be sent out this month. If you would like to receive that newsletter, please contact me and I will add you to my distribution list. In short though, the Fall Legislative Conference was mixed on results due to extreme partisanship on both sides of the aisle. There are some actions in the works, and I hope to be able to let you know about them soon.

Fall Festival: We are in the final planning stages for Fall Fest. As before, we will be at the Wyndham Garden in Oklahoma City. We have some new events this year including a chili cook-off. Come ready to accomplish great things and have fun at the same time. Make sure to make your reservations now. I hope to see all of you there.

Oklahoma, you're doing great! Keep up the great work and make this year the best it can be!

V/R,

Michael L. Merit

State Senior Vice Commander

VFW Dept. of Oklahoma

FROM THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

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

We have had a very busy month. The Oklahoma City fair was a success. The Tinker 911, POW/MIA Memorial Run was also a success. The Tulsa fair is underway. As part of the Oklahoma State Fair we recruited quite a few people. I will be visiting the post to hand over the new applications. We also had at least three post commanders and quartermasters reach their All State recruiting goals. In addition to recruiting for the VFW and Auxiliary, we emphasized the community aspect through Patriot Pen/Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year, Scouting and first responder recognition. I will be curious to see what impact that has on our programs this year.



I do want to thank all of the volunteers who helped staff the fair booth, both VFW and Auxiliary members.

Both Memorial runs were successful and the best part, we were sponsors for both of them.



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>

Fall Festival 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:

October

5: 138th Fighter Wing and 219th EIS Family Day. District 5 is handling this event.

6: Tulsa State Fair ends (see note below)

17 – 20: Southern Conference in Baton Rouge Louisiana, for information go to

<https://vfwdeptla.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=52974>

26: Military Souse 101.

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>

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

public awareness. Sign up to help, better yet, have your post sign up to support or sponsor them.

Apply at <https://www.sook.org/>.

Special Olympics
Oklahoma



They are in
sections.

something
increase

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

FROM THE STATE SURGEON

From the State Surgeon , Comrades as the months vastly are coming along I urge all posts to get out and get the VOD and Patriot Pen programs out to the schools and to the communities to show just the kind of presence the VFW has in each one of our communities! Even though the EMT, Teacher of the Year, Fire Fighter, Law Enforcement and Scout of the Year is not due, yet I Ask you ALL, DONT WAIT TIL THE LAST MINUTE! Make sure you're doing your Community Service Monthly reports! Don't be holding up your post!

The last thing that I will leave you with is, " MEMBERSHIP "! The state of Oklahoma made 100% last year and I know that with hard work and determination we darn well can sure do it again this year to, " HIGH SPEED LOW DRAG, PRIDE AND PROFESSIONALISM! " OORAW

Stacy Reddig
State Surgeon



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 veterans support organizations, and provides educational scholarships.

After a very productive, full-day strategic planning session with the leadership of the Texas VFW Foundation, the Oklahoma VFW Foundation established its mission statement (above). Some of the guidance they provided was there is value in the philosophy of learning to walk before you run. Based on that, our Foundation plans to set up two to four programs that fit within that mission statement to focus on. With specific, defined programs with clear goals; fundraising for those programs will be much easier because we can clearly answer the question “what will you do with the money we donate or grant you for this program?” We can then use the record and success of those programs as a building block for future larger programs and grants.

Currently, the Foundation Board is brainstorming program ideas with each Board Member being asked to provide basic program ideas they think the Foundation should use as a starting point. The hope is to have a list of 20-25 various programs that the Board can then discuss in detail and narrow down into two to four that we think that we can do and do well based on our

staffing and resources. If you have a possible program you would like to see the Foundation consider, please feel free to email me at okvfwfoundation@outlook.com and I will add it to the list of programs that the Board will discuss.

As always, if your Post or District (or Auxiliary) is working on a grant and the donor will only work with a 501(c)(3), contact us as we can help by being the conduit for that grant. Also, if you are aware of a grant but are not sure how to apply, contact us as we can help with the application process as many of our Board members have experience in grant applications. Finally, have you (and your auxiliary) applied for the \$1,000 community service grant that is available from the National VFW Foundation? If not, why not? The application is by far one of the easiest that there are.

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

Foundation Board Members are:

John Fischer, Executive Director
Weydan Flax, Assistant Executive Director
Curt Watts, Secretary/Treasurer, Director
Dr. Curtis O. Bohlman, Director
Jim Bassett, Director
Darryl Mabry, Director
Robert (Bob) McGill, Director
Michael Merit, Director
Ron Slowik, Director



VFW OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT FALL-FEST FUNDRAISER

PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD 2019-20 NATIONAL
COMMANDER'S AND PRESIDENT'S WALK PATH AT
THE NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

PARTICIPANTS MUST ENTER NLT 20 OCTOBER.

ENTRY FEE IS JUST TEN (\$10) DOLLARS

\$5 FOR TASTING KIT. WILL RECEIVE ONE TICKET TO PICK PEOPLE'S CHOISE AWARD

JUDGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED (SURPRISE)

CHILI MUST BE PREPARED PRIOR OR WITHIN YOUR ROOM

CONTACT STATE SENIOR VICE MIKE MERIT (918) 314-3951 FOR ENTRY AND MORE INFO



Podium Edition 2020 of the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure are available for Purchase from VFW-OK

Comrades, our By-Laws & Manual of Procedures change every year. Therefore, it is imperative that you have the latest copy of the VFW Podium Edition. We at VFW-OK Headquarters have already ordered our initial supply. Departments will receive the Podium Edition prior to individuals. Order yours, your Post or District supply today from the Department. We will take your order and invoice you when we deliver or ship them to you or pick them up at Department Headquarters. Contact Department Adjutant/Quartermaster Curt Watts at vfwhqok@outlook.com or 405 590-8577.

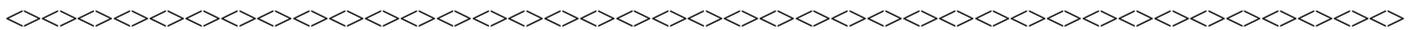
Thank you for your support.

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

- D-1 > 09 Nov 19 @ 11 am > Salina Post 5307
- D-3 > 27 Oct 19 @ 11 am, > Muldrow Post 8384
- D-4 > 09 Nov 19 @ 11 am > Ft. Towson Post 5805
- D-5 > 10 Nov 19 @ 10 am > Skiatook Post 7977
- D-7 > 26 Oct 19 @ 11 am > Eufaula Post 8798
- D-8 > 10 Nov 19 @ 11am > Ponca City Post 1201
- D-9 > 09 Nov 19 @ 10am > Chandler Post 1719
- 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 > 16 Nov 19 @ 11 am > Duncan Post 1192 or Elgin Post 8580
- D-15 > 11 Jan 20 @ 11 am> Lawton Post 1193

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 07 Oct> Afghanistan War Began (2001)
- 12 Oct> Columbus Day
- 13 Oct> U.S. Navy Established (1775)
- 14 Oct> Columbus Day (observed)
- 23 Oct> Grenada Campaign Began (1983)
- 27 Oct> Navy Day
- 31 Oct> Halloween
- 01 Nov> VFW-OK Fall Festival Begins
- 03 Nov> VFW-OK Fall Festival Ends
- 03 Nov> Daylight Saving Time Ends (Set clock back one hour)
- 05 Nov> Election Day
- 10 Nov> U.S. Marine Corps Established (1775)
- 11 Nov> Veterans Day (Signing of WWI Armistice (1918))



VFW OKLAHOMA MEETING SCHEDULE 2019-2020

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

Oklahoma VFW Shirts \$40

Department Fundraiser



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

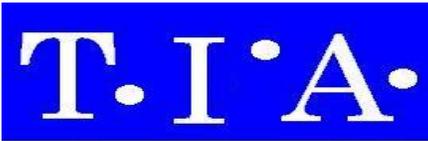
6.5 oz. pique adult tactical wicking polo. Made from a 100% polyester. Polo features anti-microbial BLU-X-DRI protection, stain release, snag resistancy, matching buttons, a rib knit curl-free collar, side vents and hemmed sleeves. It also offers a raglan sleeve, mic clips on the center placket and shoulders, 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).



Tallman Insurance

A.1 Employee/Volunteer Theft (Dishonesty Bond)

VFW APPLICATION FOR CLUB EMPLOYEES & BINGO
TO BE COMPLETED BY BONDED INDIVIDUAL

TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA

Bond Term: October 1, 2019 to October 1, 2020

1. a) Name of Post _____ Post # _____

b) Post Address _____

2. a) Name of Person to be Bonded _____

3. Position to be Bonded _____ Bond Requested \$ _____

4. Number of Persons Bonded 1

5. Number of Locations 1

6. Post Annual Income _____

7. Has the post had any bond losses over the past three years? _____

If Yes, provide a description along with the date and amount of loss.

8. a) Have you ever been bankrupt or insolvent? _____

b) If yes, please give details in a separate confidential letter to the Insurance Company

9. a) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor? (Other than Traffic Violations) _____

b) If yes, explain _____

IF BOND IS NOT RENEWED, TERMINATED, OR CANCELLED AT EXPIRATION DATE OF 10-1-2019, THE POST HAS ONLY 90 DAYS TO SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FOR PRIOR TERM, AFTER 90 DAYS PRIOR COVERAGE CEASES.

If this is a replacement for a current position bonded, please advise what person you are replacing

_____.

Signed this _____ day of _____, _____.
(day) (month) (year)

Signature: Person to be Bonded

Form # 4B