



**Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars**
1103 N. Blackwelder Ave. OKC. OK 73106
405 525-2680/ www.vfwok.org



September 2019

2019-2020 Series

"I have a motto that if something isn't blatantly impossible, then there must be a way of doing it."

Sir Nicholas Winton

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

General Orders No. 3

2019-2020 Series

1. 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.

2. Pursuant to Special Order 2020-004.

SPECIAL ORDER 2020-004

July 24, 2019

TO: District/ Post Commanders and Service Officers

Subject: Appointed District/ Post Service Officer Training Requirements

1. Training for service officers within the state is necessary and important to ensure compliance with all updates and sensitivity guidelines from the various levels. In accordance with Department of Oklahoma, State Bylaws, all appointed service officers are required to receive annual training from a certified/ state recognized and accredited Department Service Officer.
2. To adhere to and meet the requirements mentioned above and provide the best and correct representation throughout the state, the Department of Oklahoma will require all appointed service officers to complete training no later than (NLT) ninety (90) days of being appointed.

3. Appointed service officer training will be conducted by the Department Service Officer NLT ninety (90) days of the Department of Oklahoma State Convention. All efforts should be made for appointed service officers to receive that training / information on that designated date. Annual Joint Service Officer Training (JSOT) conducted by the Veterans' Affairs is an excellent training event; however, will not be and acceptable substitute for the VFW requirement.
4. Post and/or Districts will be responsible for any fund disbursement/ reimbursement associated with this travel and attendance of this training.
5. All appointed service officers not in compliance will not be able assist in the claims process until training is completed.
6. Failure to meet the ninety (90) day requirement without plausible reason will cause the District/ Post concerned to lose eligibility for All-State honors.

I greatly appreciate your support.

/os/

DARRYL MABRY
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /

Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant

FROM THE COMMANDER

Comrades and members of our Auxiliary, isn't this a wonderful time to be part of our great Department and organizations? I send my greetings to all and pray that all remains well with everyone.

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 have gotten off to a great start. I want to thank all that was part in the planning and execution of the various Schools of Instruction. Special kudos to Post #8798 in Eufaula and Post #7092 in Boise City. Your hospitality was magnificent. Everyone that participated and attended did great and provided valuable information. To all Districts and Posts leaders; take the information for as it was presented. Simply something to help guide and assist with your successes this year. Hopefully the information provided will answer a lot of your questions or at least get you going in the right direction. Feel free to contact someone for assistance or if something just doesn't make sense to you or just doesn't look right. Looking around the rooms, I felt the discussions made a difference. Hopefully next year we will be able to grow on and get better as everyone will be better educated on VFW initiatives and programs. "From my seat, we got a great team of leaders and will hopefully continue with the Department achieving All-American honors".

Commanders emphasize the programs and benefits the VFW offers in all your meetings. Talk about the importance of giving as well as handling business so we as an organization can do what we do. 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 an organization.

Speaking of support. We are hoping for maximum support of the information booths during both fairs in OKC and Tulsa. Remember, sign-up is by "Google docs" or by contacting the Jr. Vice Commander, Jim Bassett for OKC and the Sr. Vice Commander, Mike Merit for Tulsa. More information is provided within this GO/ newsletter. I ask all to wear your caps or some type of show of recognition/ appreciation for our organizations and Veterans. This is the first of hopefully many support platforms of this size that we are participating in. Let's make it a success at all levels.

As your Commander this year, I would like us all to focus on providing that helping hand to Veterans in our communities and state. Let's remember what our core existence is. If you can't greet every Veteran you meet and be able to offer aide or assistance across the board, then what is your real purpose? I have had the unfortunate opportunity to see first-hand some of us displaying jealousies and other prejudices that are against organizational beliefs. Hopefully these actions will be identified by members and leaders at all levels and dealt with accordingly. 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. Get in your communities and see whom will help you build it.

Regarding relief; know what the Oklahoma Foundation is for. Learn how you at the Post and District level can support the foundation. Research and ask how you can help build our foundation so it can help Veterans and their families and even a post also. With the recent meetings we have had. I know that organization is a definite value and will be able to assist as the VFW might not be able to. Support to the Oklahoma Foundation is as important to support to the Department. With that, as not to cause competition between the two organizations, I announce the following: Donations by individuals 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 all to open your hearts and support the relief efforts of our foundation whether for credit or not.

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

Let's remain focused on making your post, district 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.

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,

What a great start to our new administrative year! We've had three Schools of Instruction with great participation. Along those lines, let's not forget the great training provided by our Department officers. From programs, membership, administration, etc., we have had a lot of great information passed down.

For my part as your Programs chair, you have been provided with the tools to make our V.O.D., Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year programs an excellent opportunity not only for scholarships, but also a great way to reach out into our community to show who and what we are and stand for. Each of these are great programs and I encourage you to actively pursue them.

Legislatively, I've tried to think of every way I can to increase our voice on the National and State level. Recently, at the Schools of Instruction, everyone was provided with the tools to make our legislative advocacy footprint something our legislative bodies, State and Congressional, will listen to. If you have not received this information, please contact me at: okvfwlegislative@gmail.com It takes each and every one of you to put a voice and face to our legislative advocacy so we can put weight on them when we visit them in D.C. and the State Capitol fighting for you.

State Fairs. No doubt, you have received emails concerning the upcoming OKC and Tulsa Fairs. National and the Department have invested a lot of time and money ensuring an opportunity for Posts and Districts to increase their visibility, community outreach and membership at these fairs. We ask each and every one of you to volunteer your time. There are links in these General orders to sign up. Please utilize them. Given the vast diversity of the fairs, you never know who you can grab. Please, sign up and participate. It is a win - win scenario for all of us.

Finally, this year, on the Post, District and Department level is what we all make it. It takes each and everyone of you. We are a team. Together, we win for veterans and their families. Divided, we fail them all. Let's set all petty jealousies aside and be one united voice in that fight. It is the greatest thing we can do for them.

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

FROM THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

State Junior Vice Commander

Public Affairs

Jim Bassett

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

We have a very busy month coming up, two state fairs and two memorial runs. Last year the Oklahoma State Fair had an attendance of 900,000 last year, Tulsa State Fair had approximately 1,200,000. That is a lot of people to talk with to spread the word about the VFW, what we offer and have them consider joining. We need your help at the fair. We need volunteers, VFW and Auxiliary, to volunteer at the fairs. The signup sheets have 3 shifts, 4-hour shifts for each day of the fair. The table must be staffed at all times during the open hours.

Oklahoma State Fair signup sheet:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LsxIKkWQmQg7ffdGk2JvpvJUu3Jr7CJ5bqXMexFhrdg/edit?ts=5d53625b#gid=196210180>
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Tulsa State Fair signup sheet:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6Fr12nNg-kaG53YUxSYmdPaDR6a3NGMTg2U25mY1hLZ0pv/view?ts=5d5e63a6>

If you plan on assisting at the fair, let me know before the 12 of September so that I can make arrangements to purchase vendor entry and parking passes.

Also the month of September are two memorial runs. The Department is a proud sponsor of both runs. September 13 is the Tinker AFB 9/11, POW/MIA Memorial Run. We have to be set up for the event around 5:30 AM. There will be a 24 hour vigil starting the morning of the 12th, they are looking for volunteers for the vigil also.

Tinker 9/11,POW/MIA Memorial Run:

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=463897&k=066741017250>

Tinker 9/11,POW/MIA Memorial Vigil: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094ea4af22a3fe3-powmia>

The second run is the 45th IBCT Fallen Heroes Memorial Run. This will be east of Meridian on SW 15th Street and the Oklahoma River Cruises Landing. We will need volunteers to help with the race and man a resource table.

45th IBCT Fallen Heroes Memorial Run: <https://www.45ibctfallenheroes.org/>

Attendance for the runs is expected to be around 2,000 participants.

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:

September

- 7: Family Day, 1245th Transportation Co, Norman ARC. Blanchard is the lead Post
- 12: 24 hour memorial vigil on Tinker AFB, 20 minutes shifts with 2 people minimum, sign up info – <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/805094ea4af22a3fe3-powmia>
- 13: Tinker AFB 911/POW/MIA Memorial Run, if interested in running for the event go to <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=463897&k=066741017250>
- 12 – 22: Oklahoma State Fair (see note below)
- 26 – 6 Oct: Tulsa State Fair begins (see note below)
- 28: 45th IBCT Fallen Heroes Run (<https://www.45ibctfallenheroes.org/>)

October

- 4: 138th Fighter Wing and 219th EIS Family Day. Details to follow.
- 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>

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. 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/>.



They are in sections. something increase



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 STATE SERVICE OFFICER

Service Officer Training!!

We will have a Post and District Service Officer training in September. **The training will be held on September 21, 2019 at Shawnee VFW Post 1317, 811 E. MacArthur St. Shawnee, OK from 10:30 – 3:30.** This will be the main training class for the upcoming year. If other classes are needed, they will be conducted at the VARO office in Muskogee during the Day. I encourage all Post and District Service Officers to attend. Since there has been numerous changes within the VA and the VFW National Program, **all Service Officers will be required to attend the training this year even if they have attended during the past year.** I am working with a sponsor to provide lunch at this training. Please RSVP with who will be attending so we can get a headcount. Send that response to my email jdock13@yahoo.com or call Post 1317 at 405-273-7098 option 1 104.

James Dockemeyer



FROM THE OKLAHOMA VFW FOUNDATION

Comrades,

On Friday the 30th of August, Directors from the Oklahoma VFW Foundation met at the Wyndham Garden Hotel Airport OKC with Texas Foundation representatives Dan West, Beth Creasy and Department of Texas Commander Keith King. They shared with us their success stories as well as some Don't. They were an asset to us during our meeting and we want to thank them for being most gracious with their knowledge and support.

As Directors for the Oklahoma VFW Foundation, we collectively wrote and voted on the Foundation Mission Statement, so we wanted to publish this for all to see. We will continue to build on this Mission Statement articulating the values of the Foundation and show the linkages of how the foundation will support Veterans, Oklahoma VFWs, VFW programs, and VFW and Auxiliary members within the State of Oklahoma. Remember, this is your Foundation. Please feel free to contact one of the Directors listed below if you have any questions. Thank You for your support of the Oklahoma VFW Foundation.

"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."

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

Curt Watts

ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER BOND RENEWAL TIME IS HERE!!

ARTICLE VII SEC. 703 BONDS

Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these By-Laws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department, District, County Council or Post, as the case may be, to which each officer is accountable.

The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit. Accountable Officer bonds are by position, i.e. Quartermaster, Commander, Asst QM, not the individual. Bond Costs for 2019-2020 year are: \$5.00 per thousand. Please see the enclosed application within this newsletter or contact Adjutant/Quartermaster Curt Watts at vfwhqok@outlook.com or (405) 590-8577.

Canteen Employee/Bingo Employee Bonds are also available.

Comrades, please be advised that unlike the Accountable Officer bond, which is bonded by position, the Canteen Employee/Bingo Employee Bonds are bonded by individual. Therefore, a separate bond application will need to be completed for each employee or volunteer. Canteen/Bingo Employee Bond Costs for 2019-2020 year are: \$8.00 per thousand. This bonding year runs from 1 Oct 19 to 30 Sep 20. Please see the enclosed application within this newsletter or contact Adjutant/Quartermaster Curt Watts at vfwhqok@outlook.com or (405) 590-8577.

**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 > 14 Sep 19 @ 10 am > Shawnee Post 1317
D-13 > 14 Sep 19 @ 12:30 am > Thomas 5914 >
D-14 > 16 Nov 19 @ 11 am > Duncan Post 1192 or Elgin Post 8580
D-15 > 21 Sep 18 @ 11 am > Woodward Post 1335 > Surgeon Stacy Reddig

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 11 Sep> Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance
 - 14 Sep> "Star-Spangled Banner" written by Francis Scott Key (1814)
 - 14 Sep> Ladies Auxiliary VFW organized (1914)
 - 17 Sep> U.S. Constitution Approved (1787)
 - 18 Sep> U.S. Air Force Established (1947)
 - 20 Sep> POW/MIA Recognition Day
 - 21 Sep> VFW Post & District Service Officer Training (Shawnee Post 1317) 1030-1530hrs.
 - 29 Sep> VFW Day VFW established (1899)
 - 29 Sep> Gold Star Mother's Day
 - 07 Oct> Afghanistan War Began (2001)

Comrades, I will be out of the VFW State Headquarters from 18 Sept - 23 September 2019.

Curt Watts

Adjutant/Quartermaster

VFW OKLAHOMA

MEETING SCHEDULE

2019-2020

DEPARTMENT POST & DISTRICT SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING
SEPT 21ST, POST 1317, SHAWNEE OK, 1030-1330HRS

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

ALL HANDS ON DECK

VFW and VFWA

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

The month of September we will be staffing a booth at both the Oklahoma State Fair and the Tulsa State Fair. This is an excellent time to get the word out to approximately 2 million people. To do this we need your help. There is a volunteer sign-sheet for both fairs available on-line. We are looking to staff 4-hour shifts, 3 shifts each day.

For the Oklahoma State Fair, we will need to know by September 10th the number of volunteers so that we can make arrangements for vendor entry passes and parking passes. They will not be available after the fair starts on the 12th.

Last year the Oklahoma State Fair had an attendance of 900,000 last year, Tulsa State Fair had approximately 1,200,000. That is a lot of people to talk with to spread the word about the VFW and VFW Auxiliary, what we offer and have them consider joining.

To make this a success we need your help at the fair. We need volunteers, VFW and Auxiliary, to volunteer at the fairs. The signup sheets have 3 shifts, 4-hour shifts for each day of the fair. The table must be staffed at all times during the open hours.

Oklahoma State Fair signup sheet:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LsxIKkWQmQg7ffdGk2JvpvJUu3Jr7CJ5bqXMexFhrdg/edit?ts=5d53625b#gid=196210180>
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Tulsa State Fair signup sheet:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6Fr12nNg-kaG53YUxSYmdPaDR6a3NGMTg2U25mY1hLZ0pv/view?ts=5d5e63a6>

The information Point of Contact about the Oklahoma State Fair:

Jim Bassett, 405.664.3929, bassettj15@yahoo.com.

The information Point of Contact about the Tulsa State Fair:

Mike Merit, 918.314.3915, Michael.I.merit@gmail.com.

Oklahoma State Fair vendor pass is \$6 a day and parking should be \$5. You can park anywhere where it says permit parking.

Tulsa State Fair vendor pass is free and parking should be \$10 to \$20 depending where you park. Carpooling is a good option.