



Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars

MAY 2021

No. 10

GENERAL ORDERS

2020 – 2021 Series

1. **Section 214:** Posts in violation of Section 214 of the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure (solicitation of funds) are subject to suspension. Contracts must be forwarded to and approved by Department of Texas VFW State Commander. Currently we have an exclusive 10-year contract approved by the Council of Administration in 2017-2018 with V-Sweeps. Eight-liners, skill machines, other Sweepstakes and similar devices are not authorized at this time.
2. **Post Nominations/Election of Officers:** In accordance with Section 217 of the Manual Procedure, nominations of Post Officers should have been opened in March and election of Officers shall be concluded in April. **NOTE:** Post election reports should be filed shortly after the final nomination and election of officers at the April meeting by going to the Online Membership System (OMS) on the National VFW website. For those Posts who cannot complete the election report, please forward it to the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters.
3. **District Nomination/Election of Officers:** Elected Officers shall be nominated and elected at their respective District Convention and shall be conducted in accordance with the Manual of Procedure. Officers shall not assume office if they are in arrears in their yearly dues. Any Officer who during their term of office does not pay their dues when due, will be removed by National Headquarters and will not be able to assume any office for the remainder of the current calendar year. District Commanders, District Senior and Junior Vice Commanders, District Adjutants and Quartermasters once upon being elected and installed will provide a copy of their discharge papers (DD-214s) to the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters. **NOTE:** Check with the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters to confirm if your DD-214 is already on file by contacting Wyonda Laurence, Department Secretary: wyonda@texasvfw.org.
4. **Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers:** All Posts, Districts and Departments should be reminded of the provisions of Sections 216, 416, and 516 of the Manual of Procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed, or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Adjutant and properly reviewed.

5. **Resolutions for Department of Texas VFW State Convention:** VFW Posts desiring to submit resolutions for consideration by their District prior to convening of the State Convention must present the resolution to their District in time for their District Convention and upon approval by the District, copies of the resolution must reach the Department of Texas VFW State Adjutant, Dan West, in time to be prepared for the State Convention.
6. **ALL-AMERICAN DEADLINE:** The deadline for All-American for Posts and Districts is June 30th. Go to the Department of Texas VFW website link below and view page 12:
https://9e0828bf-16ea-40c4-b5ed-1941b1f50033.filesusr.com/ugd/2fb318_c6e11c124aa944ed900349b03683ae4d.pdf
7. **Department of Texas VFW Headquarters in Austin is currently closed to visitors until further notice.**
8. **MODIFICATIONS TO QUALIFICATIONS FOR ALL-STATE:** Due to the length of time the State of Texas was closed for COVID regulations, I am modifying the All-State Program to allow for any Post, even those who are late on a program item, to qualify for All-State.

This applies mainly to VPR's & Community Service and you must submit the missing program on the correct report form, preferably online: <https://www.texasvfw.org/>.

You cannot get credit for Voice of Democracy or Patriot's Pen if you did not do them. You will also be disqualified from being in the top 4 of your Membership Division, meaning that you would not receive your All-State recognition items for free, you would have to purchase them if you want them.

I have also extended the deadline date for All-State out to June 30th. This to afford Posts an opportunity to attain their membership goal and still become an All-State Post.

Those qualifying for All-State after May 2nd will be recognized at the Department Officer Training Seminar in July.

9. **The Texas VFW Foundation:** The Texas VFW Foundation is currently ready for the large influx of assistance claims for individual veterans who have lost wages or been adversely affected due to the February 2021 Texas Winter Storm Uri, to COVID-19, and the 2020 Hurricane season. Refer veterans to the Texas VFW Foundation website for financial assistance: <https://www.texasvfw.org/foundation>.

10. VFW Posts needing assistance to repair damages due to the February 2021 Texas Winter Storm Uri: VFW Posts in Texas can apply for the Post Disaster Assistance due to the February 2021 Winter Storm Uri. ONLY ONE GRANT PER VFW POST IS AVAILABLE — NOT TO EXCEED INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE. The purpose of this application for the Post Disaster Assistance Program is to assist Texas VFW Posts to cover the costs of repairs to Post property due to a man-made or natural emergency. Go to <https://www.texasvfw.org/> and complete the application by clicking on Disaster Assistance at the top of the main webpage.

11. Mandatory VPR's for May & June:

- May 1, 2021 – Loyalty Day
- May 25, 2021 – Memorial Day
- June 14, 2021 – Flag Day

12. State Commander Shawver's Homecoming: State Commander Shawver's Homecoming is scheduled for June 3-6, 2021, in San Antonio. Tickets are currently \$25.00 and will be \$30.00 at the door. Events will be held at VFW Post 2059 in San Antonio. The agenda and hotel information are now posted on the Department of Texas VFW website: <https://www.texasvfw.org/upcoming-events>

13. 101st Annual State Convention-Department of Texas VFW: The 101st VFW State Convention will be held in Durant, Oklahoma, at the Choctaw Casino & Resort Convention Center (June 16-20, 2021). Hotel rooms for Friday & Saturday nights are sold out. The details for hotel link, awards banquet tickets, agenda and overflow hotel options are now posted on the Department of Texas VFW website: <https://www.texasvfw.org/upcoming-events>

14. Officer Training Seminar (OTS): The 2021 Officer Training Seminar (OTS) will be held in Austin (July 15-17, 2021) at the Renaissance Austin Hotel. Hotel reservation information, OTS registration form and tentative OTS agenda is now posted on the Department of Texas VFW website: <https://www.texasvfw.org/upcoming-events>

15. Attention Post Commanders: You need to ensure that your Post is represented at District meetings which is part of your duties as a Post Commander. Failure to fulfill your responsibilities will have consequences.

16. Candidates for Department Office 2021-2022:

- State Commander, Norman Macey, Post 4816, Porter, D-17
- State Senior Vice Commander, Lynn Toomer, Post 10429, Benbrook, D-21
- State Junior Vice Commander, Larry Levy, Post 5873, New Boston, D-12
- State Junior Vice Commander, Larry Sanders, Post 10241, Lytle, D-20
- State Quartermaster, Dan West, Post 3413, San Marcos, D-5
- State Judge Advocate, Keith King, Post 3278, Brownwood, D-8

- State Surgeon, Gerard P. “Jerry” Greene, Post 6796, Dallas, D-3
- State Chaplain, Timothy Anderson, Post 3894, Waxahachie, D-30
- State Chaplain, Michael “Foy” Day, Post 4709, Conroe, D-17
- State Chaplain, Carl Lilly, Post 8878, Wichita Falls, D-15
- State Chaplain, Angel Ramirez, Post 4443, Austin, D-28

16.Candidates for National VFW Office 2020-2021:

- VFW National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Larry Velasquez, Jr., Post 8932, D-6

17.District Meetings for May 2021:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • <u>District 2</u> | <u>May 1st</u> | <u>Post 5621-Liberty</u> |
| • <u>District 6</u> | <u>May 1st</u> | <u>Post 8621-Alice</u> |
| • <u>District 12</u> | <u>May 1st</u> | <u>Post 3992-Mount Vernon</u> |
| • <u>District 29</u> | <u>May 1st</u> | <u>Post 4819-West</u> |
| • <u>District 16</u> | <u>May 2nd</u> | <u>Post 8248-La Marque</u> |
| • <u>District 28</u> | <u>May 2nd</u> | <u>Post 8587-Georgetown</u> |
| • <u>District 9</u> | <u>May 8th</u> | <u>Post 2466-Lubbock</u> |
| • <u>District 20</u> | <u>May 8th</u> | <u>Post 8541-San Antonio</u> |
| • <u>District 10</u> | <u>May 15th</u> | <u>Post 8919-El Paso</u> |
| • <u>District 1</u> | <u>May 16th</u> | <u>Post 4852-Bonham</u> |
| • <u>District 21</u> | <u>May 16th</u> | <u>Post 6111-Arlington</u> |
| • <u>District 25</u> | <u>May 22nd</u> | <u>Post 4372-Odessa</u> |
| • <u>District 4</u> | <u>May 22nd</u> | <u>Post 9187-Houston</u> |

18.Department of Texas VFW Membership: The Department is currently sitting at 94.67% with 61,840 members as of May 6, 2021.

19.Congratulations to the following Texas VFW Posts for reaching 100%+ in Membership as of May 6, 2021, for the 2020-2021 VFW Year:

DIVISION 1

- Post 8541-San Antonio (121.19%) Commander William E. Smith

DIVISION 2

- Post 1475-Amarillo (114.65%) Commander Terry J. Avey
- Post 9174-San Antonio (109.40%) Commander Juan Martinez, Jr.
- Post 2150-McKinney (103.15%) Commander Ray Richardson
- Post 8905-Cypress (102.08%) Commander Joshua M. Wilcox
- Post 6378-Dickinson (101.89%) Commander Duane C. Mastellar
- Post 8790-Houston (100.93%) Commander Michael D. Flanagan
- Post 7110-New Braunfels (100.70%) Commander Martin Monceballez

- Post 9182-Katy (100.27%) Commander Donald H. Byrne, Sr.
- Post 8315-Schertz (100.22%) Commander Henry R. Conway

DIVISION 3

- Post 1922-Gainesville (114.98%) Commander Dennis Kretzschmar
- Post 12041-Lytle (114.05%) Commander Larry L. Sanders
- Post 2775-Orange (104.78%) Commander Edwin McIntyre
- Post 6111-Arlington (103.66%) Commander Manuel D. Leal, III
- Post 4376-Seven Points (103.63%) Commander William Fuzi
- Post 4146-Victoria (103.45%) Commander Andy Rosalez
- Post 4443-Austin (103.35%) Commander Joseph E. Touchet
- Post 2772-Sherman (103.18%) Commander Jeremy Ford
- Post 7873-Pottsboro (101.85%) Commander Samuel J. Kurtin
- Post 6386-Ingleside (101.39%) Commander Greg Dalin

DIVISION 4

- Post 688-Boerne (126.63%) Commander Andrew Camplen
- Post 2410-Harlingen (123.70%) Commander Narciso Villela, III
- Post 9170-Beeville (120.20%) Commander Luis Pulido
- Post 10454-Grapevine (120.00%) Commander Joseph W. Campbell
- Post 8273-Frisco (119.70%) Commander Shenna R. Lawless
- Post 5621-Liberty (103.39%) Commander Richard L. Overbay
- Post 7843-Duncanville (102.88%) Commander Ricky L. Williams, Sr.
- Post 4746-Weatherford (102.56%) Commander Patrick Clark
- Post 3903-Rosenberg (102.25%) Commander Kenneth R. Dillon
- Post 5400-Alta Loma (101.17%) Commander Robert R. Young
- Post 1514-Village Mills (101.14%) Commander Richard L. Moore
- Post 5619-Houston (101.07%) Commander Carl W. Dunn
- Post 4816-Porter (100.90%) Commander John G. Koller
- Post 3972-Cuero (100.55%) Commander Bobby R. Schley
- Post 5074-Roanoke (100.53%) Commander Michael J. Clune
- Post 3413-San Marcos (100.49%) Commander Stephanie L. Brown
- Post 2399-Mineral Wells (100.48%) Commander James E. Bransom
- Post 10429-Benbrook (100.47%) Commander Paul E. Sights
- Post 8800-Startzville (100.45%) Commander Tyrand M. Teel

DIVISION 5

- Post 12058-Kyle (119.33%) Commander Clint Williams
- Post 7426-Farmersville (118.40%) Commander Brian R. Chapman
- Post 1406-Dallas (116.38%) Commander Reggie L. Williams
- Post 10354-El Paso (109.24%) Commander Robert Rangel
- Post 1799-Tyler (108.28%) Commander Jarrel R. Nielson

- Post 7103-Athens (105.83%) Commander Eric B. Davis
- Post 8911-Fort Worth (104.96%) Commander Yolanda S. Lacey
- Post 8913-Lancaster (103.94%) Commander Kenneth B. McDaniel
- Post 4820-Port Neches (102.24%) Commander Jorg Kitchen
- Post 9190-Haltom City (101.64%) Commander Phil R. Henson
- Post 8555-Poth (101.53%) Commander Marvin Roemer
- Post 10374-Fort Worth (100.85%) Commander Lawrence K. LeMond
- Post 8551-Sweeny (100.78%) Commander Glenn J. James
- Post 4006-Navasota (100.00%) Commander Tony L. Lambert

DIVISION 6

- Post 4694-Mexia (126.58%) Commander Breck A. Lamar
- Post 2195-Allen (118.42%) Commander Pete J. Hersom
- Post 2933-Dripping Springs (112.39%) Commander Jerry L. Martin
- Post 1806-Beaumont (110.98%) Commander Lewis L. Harris
- Post 12160-Sinton (110.53%) Commander Todd T. Richardson
- Post 8564-Waco (109.00%) Commander Fernando V. Garza
- Post 5872-Fairfield (106.00%) Commander Roger S. Brooke
- Post 7208-Midland (104.65%) Commander Robert S. Thames
- Post 2375-Kingsville (104.39%) Commander Ann Marie Torres
- Post 8539-Lampasas (103.37%) Commander Daniel A. Swanson
- Post 4136-Eastland (103.33%) Commander Gary L. Gray
- Post 5254-La Grange (102.20%) Commander Andrew Kruppa
- Post 3992-Mount Vernon (101.32%) Commander Charles D. Hallman
- Post 856-Austin (101.10%) Commander Michael J. Ramirez
- Post 8397-San Antonio (100.00%) Commander Cris Vieyra, Jr.
- Post 6205-Muenster (100.00%) Commander William D. Fisher

DIVISION 7

- Post 10462-Houston (104.17%) Commander Billy D. Wilkinson
- Post 7106-Ennis (104.23%) Commander Donald R. Fritz
- Post 9167-Princeton (107.84%) Commander Jason W. Ash
- Post 8562-Eagle Pass (106.15%) Commander Ricardo Chavarria, Jr.
- Post 5873-New Boston (103.64%) Commander Larry D. Levy
- Post 8924-Palestine (103.39%) Commander J. R. Kohlman
- Post 12161-Buda (101.85%) Commander Bruce D. White
- Post 6380-Jasper (100.00%) Commander James T. Rundberg

DIVISION 8

- Post 4004-Monahans (127.03%) Commander William Andino
- Post 5237-Alvin (122.45%) Commander Kyle Swaggard
- Post 8929-Anson (122.22%) Commander Cecilio R. Bernal

- Post 6074-Bloomington (121.74%) Commander Adelaido Z. Posada
- Post 5683-Merkel (111.11%) Commander Jesus Moreno, Jr.
- Post 6014-Hamlin (110.71%) Commander Raymond L. Jenkins
- Post 3891-Hondo (110.53%) Commander Tony B. Johnson
- Post 10358-Hearne (109.68%) Commander Robert Boggan
- Post 6119-Three Rivers (107.41%) Commander Mark L. Dobbins
- Post 8569-Comfort (106.25%) Commander Kenneth M. Rusch
- Post 6717-Odessa (106.25%) Commander George F. Willard
- Post 12178-Weslaco (106.25%) Commander Eduardo Manicas
- Post 3079-Mathis (102.56%) Commander Guadalupe F. Pedraza
- Post 1907-Normangee (102.38%) Commander Wallace D. Dunkin
- Post 3530-Richardson (100.00%) Commander Ralph E. Rizzo
- Post 9195-Pearsall (100.00%) Commander Jose I. Hernandez
- Post 9318-Taft (100.00%) Commander Guillermo Martinez
- Post 9213-McQueeney (100.00%) Commander Trason A. Willemin
- Post 6715-Gilmer (100.00%) Commander Charles W. Watson
- Post 9022-Dumas (100.00%) Commander Jason A. Dennis

20. Congratulations to the following Texas VFW Districts for reaching 100%+ in Membership as of May 6, 2021, for the 2020-2021 VFW Year:

- District 2 – District Commander Robert LaFleur (102.62%)
- District 1—District Commander Katie Baillio (102.08%)

21. Status of Texas State Legislative Bills: Mitch Fuller, Director of Governmental and Public Affairs & State Legislative Chairman has been attending Legislative Hearings at the Texas State Capitol. Below is the information on one of the Senate Bills:

SB 1493 (Springer)—This Senate Bill is still pending in the Senate Business & Commerce Committee after the recent hearing/testimony. Hopefully, we will see movement out of Committee next week or at least an update on progress. This is the bill that prevents Veteran Service Organizations with a TABC license from closure under section 418 of the Texas Code.

22. Reminder for Post Commanders (per State Commander Shawver): Reminder for all Post Commanders of Section 218(a)(1) Paragraph c. Insist that Post business and activities be conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment upon the Post, its members, or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

23. John Jowers, Data Management Specialist, Department HQs: John Jowers is the Department Headquarters staff member to contact for the following items noted below. You can reach him by phone at 512-834-8535 (extension 106) or by email: john@texasvfw.org.

- Action Date Reports
- Post & District Audit Reports
- Buddy Poppy Orders
- Community Service Reports
- Insurance for VFW Posts
- Post Inspection Reports
- Quartermaster Bonds
- Status Sheet Issues (Posts & Districts)
- VPR's (Veteran Project Reports)

24. Post & District Status Sheets: The stat sheets are used by Post and District Officers to gauge where VFW Post standings are at any given time as compared to other VFW Posts within their respective District and published in the VFW program and operational deadlines. Status sheets are available at: <https://www.texasvfw.org/status-sheets>.

Please be Patient: Status sheets are updated twice a week by the close of business and there is often some backlog in our data entry queue. Please allow us a few days to review and input your submitted information before calling to confirm. If you have anything you feel is not correct, email John Jowers, Data Management Specialist: john@texasvfw.org.

25. The 3rd Quarter Post Audit was due April 30, 2021: The (original) signed copy should have been mailed or emailed to Department of Texas VFW Headquarters. For more information, email John Jowers, Data Management Specialist, at the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters: john@texasvfw.org.

26. Deadline to receive Veteran Project Participation Report (VPR) for Kosovo

Campaign: April 23rd was the due date for the VPR for the Kosovo Campaign to be submitted to Department of Texas VFW Headquarters. For more information, email John Jowers, Data Management Specialist, at the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters: john@texasvfw.org.

27. Deadline to receive Veteran Project Participation Report (VPR) for Somalia

Operation: April 30th was the due date for the VPR for the Somalia Operation to be submitted to Department of Texas VFW Headquarters. For more information, email John Jowers, Data Management Specialist, at the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters: john@texasvfw.org.

28. Deadline Dates: Refer to the Texas VFW Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for VFW Post for a full list of 2020-2021 deadline dates for all programs and requirements, including VPR's. View the deadline dates online at: <https://www.texasvfw.org/sop-training-materials>.

29. The Department of Texas VFW HQs will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2021, for Memorial Day.

30. Closing Comments: Comrades, as we enter the last few months of the year and with the restrictions removal, I ask that we work together on membership. Make those phone calls or go visit your members. Remember, membership is the backbone of our organization, without it we have no voice. As you have witnessed this past year, we need that voice.

My Commander Homecoming will be held June 3-6, 2021, in San Antonio and I hope to see you there!! I am hoping many of you will be joining us at the 101st Annual Department Convention in Durant, Oklahoma, at the Choctaw Casino & Resort Conference Center (June 16-19, 2021). Let us continue to work hard for our Veterans. May God Bless you and your families, may God Bless and watch over our troops and may God Bless the United States of America!

By order of:



Richard "Dick" Shawver
State Commander

Attested By:



Dan West
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

