



Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars

NOVEMBER 2020

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 4

2020 – 2021 Series

1. **2021 Mid-Winter Conference:** The Department of Texas VFW Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel (January 20-24, 2021). The Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher Awards Banquet will be held on board the U.S.S. Lexington on Saturday, January 23, 2021. The "tentative" Conference agenda, hotel reservation link, Awards Banquet form and menu, are now posted on the Department of Texas VFW website: <https://www.texasvfw.org/>
2. **Department of Texas VFW Headquarters closed to visitors:** Due to Travis County COVID-19 restrictions, the Texas VFW Headquarters office in Austin is closed to ALL visitors until Tuesday, December 15, 2020. You may request an "in-person appointment" by calling the office at 512-834-8535.
3. **The Texas VFW Foundation:** The Texas VFW Foundation is ready for the large influx of assistance claims for individual veterans who have lost wages or been adversely affected due to COVID-19 and the 2020 Hurricane season. Refer veterans to the Texas VFW Foundation website for financial assistance: <https://www.texasvfw.org/foundation>
4. **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 Junior Vice Commander, William Shaffer, Post 2427, Tomball, D-4
 - 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

5. **Candidate for National VFW Office 2020-2021:**

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

6. **VFW National Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming:**

The VFW National Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming that was scheduled to be held in August 2020, has been rescheduled for March 24-28, 2021, in Portsmouth, Virginia.

7. **VFW Posts with 8-Liner Vendors:** In the last few years, the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters staff has had the opportunity to look at two (2) different contracts that were signed by VFW Posts with an 8-liner vendor. Both of these contracts had the following paragraph in them: "At all times, Proprietor agrees to operate the Games and conduct redemption in full compliance with all city, county, state, and federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to Chapter 47 of the Texas Penal Code".

In layman terms, this is a complex area of State Law in Texas. The key legislation is Penal Code Section 47.01(4). Sometimes 8-liners conform to the definition of this law. However, more often they do not. As per this law, 8-liners that are strictly used for amusement are legal. This means that the players can only win novelty items or cash prizes up to a maximum value of \$5. Any 8 liner that pays out cash more than \$5 is illegal.

So basically, as a Post, you are agreeing that any prizes will be in accordance with Chapter 47 of the Texas Penal Code. Chapter 47 includes language that exempts certain electronic machines solely for bona fide amusement purposes. They meet that definition if the "contrivance rewards the player exclusively with noncash merchandise prizes, toys, or novelties, or a representation of value redeemable for those items, that have a wholesale value available from a single play of the game or device of not more than 10 times the amount charged to play the game or device once or \$5, whichever is less".

The Vendor of the machines is washing his hands if you get busted because within his contract you, the Post Officer who signed the contract agreed to operate them in accordance with state law. Good luck getting those vendors to pay your legal costs if and when you get busted. The Vendor takes on no liability here, the Post does. All a Vendor is going to say is "I did not know they were paying cash!"

8. District Meetings for November & December 2020:

• <u>District 1</u>	<u>November 15th</u>	<u>Post 1922 – Gainesville</u>
• <u>District 9</u>	<u>November 14th</u>	<u>Virtual Meeting</u>
• <u>District 12</u>	<u>November 14th</u>	<u>Post 5398 – Pittsburg</u>
• <u>District 16</u>	<u>November 7th</u>	<u>Post 3903 – Rosenberg</u>
• <u>District 21</u>	<u>November 1st</u>	<u>Post 4746 – Weatherford</u>
• <u>District 25</u>	<u>November 14th</u>	<u>Post 4372 – Odessa</u>
• <u>District 28</u>	<u>November 1st</u>	<u>Post 3377 – Austin</u>
• <u>District 3</u>	<u>December 13th</u>	<u>Post 6796 – Dallas</u>
• <u>District 18</u>	<u>December 13th</u>	<u>Post 9194 – Laredo</u>
• <u>District 20</u>	<u>December 12th</u>	<u>Post 9186 – San Antonio</u>
• <u>District 24</u>	<u>December 5th</u>	<u>Post 4146 – Victoria</u>

9. District Commanders: As we are fast approaching the inclement weather months, if you are going to cancel a District meeting please notify not only your Posts respectively but also the State Adjutant, Dan West, so that the Department Representative can be notified. Also, notify the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters if meeting is rescheduled. We do not want anyone to have an accident during inclement weather.

10. Post Audits: The (original) signed copy should be mailed or emailed to Department of Texas VFW Headquarters. Deadline dates for Post Audits for the remainder of the 2020-2021 Administrative Year:

- 1st Quarter Post Audit Report was due by October 31, 2020
- 2nd Quarter Post Audit Report is due by January 31, 2021
- 3rd Quarter Post Audit Report is due by April 30, 2021

11. Deadline to submit 2019 IRS form: December 31, 2020, is the deadline to submit a copy of your Post IRS Form, 990, 990EZ, or 990N. Copies should be mailed or emailed to Department of Texas VFW Headquarters.

12. Deadline for all Post Inspections due by December 31, 2020: Post Inspections should be completed and received (mailed or emailed) to the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters no later than December 31, 2020.

13. 2021 Podium Edition: The 2021 Podium Edition of the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are now available. Copies of the revised edition are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters: <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22690>

14. Proof of VFW Eligibility of elected and appointed positions: Deputy State Inspectors will be reviewing all proof of VFW eligibility for all elected and appointed positions during their scheduled visits to Posts and Districts.

- 15.**Post Inspections:** Post inspections will only be done by one of the following: District Commander, District Senior Vice Commander or District Junior Vice Commander.
- 16.**Deadline to receive Veteran Project Participation Report (VPR) for Operation Enduring Freedom:** November 8, 2020, is the due date for the VPR for Operation Enduring Freedom to be submitted to Department of Texas VFW Headquarters.
- 17.**Deadline to receive Veteran Project Participation Report (VPR) for Women in Military Service:** November 17, 2020, is the due date for the VPR for Women in Military Service to be submitted to Department of Texas VFW Headquarters.
- 18.**Deadline Dates:** Refer to the Texas VFW Standard Operating (SOP) procedures 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>
- 19.**Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2020:** November 11th, is designated as “Veterans Day” to recognize the fortitude and sacrifice of our veterans through public ceremonies and private thoughts and prayers. Veterans Day is a “mandatory VPR”.
- 20.**John Jowers, Data Management Specialist, Department HQs:** John Jowers is the newest staff member of the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters. He has taken over all the status sheet reporting as of October 16, 2020.
- 21.**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 VFW program and operational deadlines. Status sheets are available at: <https://www.texasvfw.org/status-sheets>
- Please be patient:** Status sheets are updated once a week at around 1400 and there is often some backlog in our data entry queue. Please allow us a few days to review an 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
- 22.**Dates to Remember (Department of Texas VFW HQs will be closed):**
November 11th -Veterans Day
November 26th & 27th - Thanksgiving Observance
December 24th & 25th - Christmas Observance
December 31st - New Year's Eve Observance

23.National VFW HQs Non-Paid Appointments 2020-2021:

National Deputy Chief-of-Staff

- John E. Shipley, Post 6970, Poteet, D-20
- Eddie L. Terry, Post 7835, Granbury, D-21
- William E. Smith, Post 8541, San Antonio, D-20
- Larry Velasquez, Jr., Post 8932, Corpus Christi, D-6
- Willie E. Keller, Jr., Post 3892, Harker Heights, D-14
- Preston Rich, Post 8273, Frisco, D-1

Assistant Inspector General

- David A. Walden, Post 10427, Leander, D-28
- Shenna R. Lawless, Post 8273, Frisco, D-1
- Lupita Perez, Post 12178, Weslaco, D-18
- Glenn J. James, Post 8551, Sweeny, D-16
- James E. Bransom, Post 2399, Mineral Wells, D-21
- Jerry W. Grantland, Post 10429, Benbrook, D-21

Special Aide-de-Camp

- Robert H. Dodd, Post 8568, Livingston, D-19
- Gilbert R. Uriegas, Post 1533, San Antonio, D-20
- Benny Guerrero, Jr., Post 2466, Lubbock, D-9
- Carlo S. Davis, Post 9191, Killeen, D-14
- Phillip J. DuBois, Post 4692, Bryan, D-17
- Katie Baillio, Post 2772, Sherman, D-1

National Aide-de-Camp

- Joseph D. Ramon, Post 4676, Universal City, D-20
- Don Kirkley, Post 3983, Nacogdoches, D-19
- Anson L. Booker, Post 3892, Harker Heights, D-14
- James Masters, Post 3278, Brownwood, D-8
- Jessica Cavender, Post 9299, Alvarado, D-21
- John D. Foster, Post 5620, Carthage, D-19
- Robert Martinez, Jr., Post 2059, Kirby, D-20
- Matthew D. Lutz, Post 12104, Bastrop, D-28
- Robert P. Maldonado, Jr., Post 1533, San Antonio, D-20
- Lavern H. Terbl, Post 7873, Pottsboro, D-1
- Christopher R. Williams, Post 3278, Brownwood, D-8
- Thomas E. Anderson, Jr., Post 4008, Belton, D-14
- Carlos Sustaita, Post 6378, Dickinson, D-16
- Angel A. Ramirez, Post 4443, Austin, D-28
- Wayne W. Cooley, Post 9078, Round Rock, D-28

- Robert L. LaFleur, Post 2775, Orange, D-2
- Noble J. Alix, Post 8930, Houston, D-4
- Racquel M. Glass, Post 4709, Conroe, D-17
- Paul Lester, Post 9313, San Augustine, D-19
- Mel Parker, Post 6284, Kermit, D-25
- Juan Martinez, Jr., Post 9174, San Antonio, D-20
- Henry Escobedo, Post 8932, Corpus Christi, D-6
- Lee Ann D. Davis, Post 9191, Killeen, D-14
- Miguel M. Valverde, Jr., Post 2148, Waco, D-29
- Laval Simons, Post 4403, Port Lavaca, D-24
- Todd T. Richardson, Post 12160, Sinton, D-6
- Donald C. Wells, Post 2438, Bay City, D-16
- Mickeal R. Stoutenger, Post 4816, Porter, D-17
- Jorg Kitchen, Post 4820, Port Neches, D-2
- Ricky L. Williams, Sr., Post 7843, Duncanville, D-3
- Francis R. Torres, Post 9182, Katy, D-17
- Everett L. Ison, Post 12024, The Woodlands, D-17
- John W. Heimbarger, Post 4816, Porter, D-17
- Micaela Reyes, Post 12178, Weslaco, D-18
- William J. Fuzi, Post 4376, Seven Points, D-30
- Ben Lowrance, Post 1475, Amarillo, D-9
- Reggie L. Williams, Post 1406, Dallas, D-3
- Stephen E. Biehl, Post 2427, Tomball, D-4
- Michael G. Contreras, Post 8790, Houston, D-4
- Randy M. Downing, Post 8587, Georgetown, D-28
- Polly G. Gantt, Post 12041, Lytle, D-20
- Enrique Lara, Post 9174, San Antonio, D-20
- Hector R. Giron, Post 8790, Houston, D-4
- Raymond W. Monk, Post 10429, Benbrook, D-21
- Paul E. Sights, Post 10429, Benbrook, D-21
- William Head, Post 10429, Benbrook, D-21
- Adam R. Stone, Post 10429, Benbrook, D-21
- Christopher R. Marshall, Post 8541, San Antonio, D-20
- Christopher R. Espinoza, Post 8541, San Antonio, D-20
- Narciso Villela III, Post 2410, Harlingen, D-18
- Eduardo Gonzalez, Post 2410, Harlingen, D-18
- Darrell K. Moore, Post 7426, Farmersville, D-1
- Jack F. Mageluzzo, Jr., Post 4403, Port Lavaca, D-24
- Wayne O. Dunlap, Post 4403, Port Lavaca, D-24
- Gregory P. Brannan, Post 8800, Canyon Lake, D-5
- Venus L. Emerson, Post 4011, Greenville, D-1

- Richard L. Moore, Post 1514, Village Mills, D-2
- Martin Monceballez, Post 7110, New Braunfels, D-5
- Ernie A. MonDragon, Post 5617, White Settlement, D-21

24. Congratulations to Lupita M. Perez: Lupita Perez was appointed by VFW National Commander-in-Chief, Hal Roesch, as Chairman of the National VFW Programs Committee. Her appointment will end on August 6, 2021, and she will be attending the February 2021 Legislative and VOD Conferences in Washington, D.C., and will be invited to the National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland in July 2021.

25. Attention Post Commanders (VOD and Patriot's Pen entries): The Department of Texas Headquarters is receiving numerous phone calls from students trying to submit their entries for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Please place a sign on your Post building doors noting phone numbers on who to call in case the student comes to the Post and no one is present in the Post home/building.

26. 2020-2021 Theme for Voice of Democracy:

"Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?"

Voice of Democracy (VOD) is open to 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students enrolled in public, private or parochial schools in Texas. **To qualify, all student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by the "new" due date of November 15, 2020.** The official entry form can be found on the Texas VFW website: <https://www.texasvfw.org/sop-training-materials>

27. 2020-2021 Theme for Patriot's Pen:

"What is Patriotism to Me?"

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students enrolled in public, private or parochial schools in Texas. **To qualify, all student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by the "new" due date of November 15, 2020.** The official entry form can be found on the Texas VFW website: <https://www.texasvfw.org/sop-training-materials>

28. Teacher of the Year 2021:

The VFW Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Entry Form for 2021 is to be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post. **To qualify, all entries must be submitted by the "new" due date of November 15, 2020.** The official "new fillable form" can be found on the Texas VFW website: <https://www.texasvfw.org/sop-training-materials>

29. Due dates for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher entries:

- From Students & Teachers to local VFW Posts → November 15, 2020
- VFW Post winners to Districts → December 1, 2020
- District winners to Department of Texas HQs → December 15, 2020

30. Closing comments:

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your military service to this great country and thank you for all you do for this great organization. As part of the "Together as One" team, let us continue to work hard for our Veterans and I hope to see many of you at our Mid-Winter Conference in Corpus Christi in January 2021. I would like to wish all comrades and their families a safe and "Happy Thanksgiving."

By order of:



Richard "Dick" Shawver
State Commander

Attested By:



Dan West
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

