



Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars

September 2023

GENERAL ORDERS & TALKING POINTS - *REVISED*

No. 2

2023 – 2024 Series

September 1, 2023

1. **Announcement:** Starting on September 1, 2023, the previous Department of Texas VFW website will migrate to the new web platform located at: www.txvfw.org.

2. **District Meetings/Trainings for September and October 2023:**

- District 2 Sept 9th Post 1839-Cleveland
- District 14 Sept 16th Post 6974-Burnet
- District 4 Oct 14th Post 581-Houston
- District 8 Oct 14th Post 8878-Wichita Falls
- District 29 Oct 14th Post 2148-Waco
- District 30 Oct 14th Post 3894-Waxahachie
- District 3 Oct 15th Post 5076-Garland
- District 6 Oct 21st Post 2375-Kingsville
- District 25 Oct 21st Post 7208-Midland
- District 13 Oct 22nd Post 8562-Eagle Pass
- District 9 Oct 28th Post 4818-Hereford
- District 19 Oct 28th Post 8568-Livingston
- District 28 Oct 29th Post 4443-Oak Hill/Austin

3. **Candidates for Department Office 2024-2025:**

- State Commander, Robert Martinez, Jr., Post 2059, Kirby, D-20
- State Senior Vice Commander, Dave Walden, Post 10427, Leander, D-28
- State Junior Vice Commander, Chris B. Davis, Post 5872, D-29
- State Junior Vice Commander, Benny Guerrero, Jr., Post 2466, Lubbock, D-9
- State Junior Vice Commander, Eddie Terry, Post 10429, Benbrook, D-21
- State Quartermaster, Ben Lowrance, Post 1475, Amarillo, D-9
- State Chaplain, Michael “Foy” Day, Post 12223, Montgomery, D-17
- State Judge Advocate Steve Evans, Post 2466, Lubbock, D-9
- State Surgeon, Gerard P. “Jerry” Greene, Post 6796, Dallas, D-3

4. **Patriot Day, September 11th**: September 11th is designated as “Patriot Day.” The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States.

5. **Announcement**: The Manual of Procedure amendment passed by the 119th National VFW Convention modified Section 1001(25) to read: “The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited.”

6. **Reminder-Dates for Veteran Project Participation Reports (VPR’s):**

- **September 2nd** VPR for Victory Over Japan (VJ Day)
- **September 11th** VPR for Patriot Day
- **September 15th** VPR for POW/MIA Day
- **October 9th** VPR for Start of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Afghanistan 2001
- **October 18th** VPR Recognition of Women in the Military
- **October 23rd** VPR Beirut Bombing

7. **Deadlines to submit items to the Department of Texas Headquarters office:**

- **September 1st**
To register Post & District Quartermaster Blanket Bond or Bond
- **September 30th**
To submit VPR for Operation Iraqi Freedom at Texas VFW HQs
- **September 30th**
For Posts owning property or operating a business enterprise. A Post must submit a copy of their current Certificate of General Liability Insurance and Liquor Liability Insurance Policy if the Post has a Canteen Policy showing the Department of Texas VFW and National VFW as additional insured.
- **October 3rd**
To submit VPR for Victory Over Japan (VJ Day)
- **October 10th**
To submit VPR for Patriot Day
- **October 20th**
To submit VPR for POW/MIA Day
- **October 31st**
To submit 1st Quarterly Post Audit

8. Dates the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters office will be closed:

- **Monday, September 4th for Labor Day**
- **Monday, October 14th for Columbus Day**

9. Reminder: We are required to be registered with IRS as a 501(c)(19) Veteran Non-Profit Service Organization. This applies to all Posts and Districts. Please refer to <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/other-non-profits/veterans-organizations>. If you have questions please email the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters at: support@texasvfw.org for guidance.

10. Status Sheet Updates: Please continue to check Status Reports for updates on the new Department of Texas VFW website (www.txvfw.org) and send any questions to support@texasvfw.org. Thank you for your patience during the transition to the new Department of the Texas VFW website.

11. Progress Report on Status Reports: The Minimum Requirements, VPR, and Community Service Status Reports are complete with continual reconciliation of data from the previous website and items submitted by mail. All-State Minimum Requirements and Extra Points Reports are currently being built and are scheduled to be online by September 15, 2023.

12. Life Membership: Life Membership percentages should be available in OMS by early September and added back to the Status Report.

13. Reminder for Quartermasters/Adjutant-Post Election Reports: The Department of Texas VFW Headquarters are receiving numerous Post Election Reports with no date at the top of the Election Reports. **Please remember to enter a date at the top right-hand corner of the election report while you are entering changes in the Online Membership System (OMS).**

14. REMINDER: VOICE OF DEMOCRACY (VOD) ENTRIES FOR 2023-2024

- The deadline for students to submit their entries for VOD to their local VFW Posts is Tuesday, October 31, 2023; winners selected from VFW Posts to their Districts is Wednesday, November 15, 2023; District winners to the Department of Texas VFW HQs is Friday, December 1, 2023.
- The 2023-2024 theme for the Voice of Democracy is: “What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?”
- The VOD entry form can be accessed on the new Department of Texas VFW website: www.txvfw.org

15.REMINDER: PATRIOT’S PEN ENTRIES FOR 2023-2024

- The deadline for students to submit their entries for Patriot’s Pen to their local VFW Posts is Tuesday, October 31, 2023; winners selected from VFW Posts to their Districts is Wednesday, November 15, 2023; District winners to the Department of Texas VFW HQs is Friday, December 1, 2023.
- The 2023-2024 theme for Patriot’s Pen is: “How Are You Inspired by America?”
- The Patriot’s Pen entry form can be accessed on the new Department of Texas VFW website: www.txvfw.org

16.REMINDER: TEACHER OF THE YEAR ENTRIES FOR 2023-2024

- The deadline for Teacher of the Year nominees will be due to the local VFW Posts by Tuesday, October 31, 2023; winners selected from VFW Posts to their Districts is Wednesday, November 15, 2023; District winners to the Department of Texas VFW HQs is Friday, December 1, 2023.
- Review the new rules and eligibility requirements for The Teacher of the Year nominees. The entry form can be accessed on the new Department of Texas VFW website: www.txvfw.org
- All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available.

17.Posts are reminded of the provisions of Section 214-Solicitation of Funds:

Commanders at all levels must review and understand the provisions of Section 214, Solicitation of Funds, of the 2023 National VFW Bylaws. “Fundraising organizations or individuals conducting solicitations, activities or projects for a profit shall not be engaged or used by any Post for such purpose unless such engagement is made by written agreement between the Post and the organization or individual’s providing those services. The form of any such written agreement must be submitted to the Department Commander for review and approval at least thirty (30) days prior to any Post entering into any such agreement.”

Any Post fundraising that requires an agreement with a vendor must be approved by State Commander Larry Sanders and the document must be submitted to the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters office for filing.

18.Emergency Funds for Maui Wildfire Disaster:

It is with great enthusiasm that we can report the results of the electronic vote by the Department of Texas VFW Council of Administration which unanimously approved to provide Emergency Disaster Relief funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 to support the Department of Hawaii VFW.

This disaster has affected so many people there and many of them are veterans and their families. VFW National offered to match any funds sent by Departments up to \$30,000.00 which means that our \$10,000.00 is now \$20,000.00!

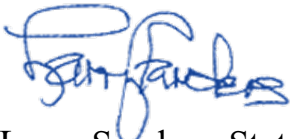
19. Welcome Juan Hawkins as new Executive Assistant-Department of Texas HQs:

The Department of Texas VFW Headquarters in Austin welcomes our newest staff member Juan Hawkins. Juan is a retired 20-year Army veteran and resides in Austin. He most recently worked for the State of Texas but wanted to work for the Texas VFW because he has a strong desire to assist veterans. He is looking forward to working with all of us here in the Department. Please welcome him and be patient with him

20. State Commander Homecoming: The State Commander Homecoming for Larry Sanders will be held on October 5-8, 2023, in San Antonio at the San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk, located at 889 East Market Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205. For more information for registration and events, please go to the new Department of Texas VFW website www.txvfw.org and click on Events. Sponsored Golf Tournament information is also available on the website for registration.

21. Closing Comments: I look forward to seeing everyone at my State Commander Homecoming next month in San Antonio. Thank you all for the hard work that everyone puts in on behalf of their respective Posts and Districts.

By order of:



Larry Sanders, State Commander

Attested By:



Jorg Kitchen, State Adjutant

