



Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars

FEBRUARY 2021

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 7

2020 – 2021 Series

1. **All-State Recognition Community Service Deadlines:** No Post Commander or Post will be disqualified from attaining Department Commanders All-State recognition for failing to meet the Community Service deadlines as listed in the By-Laws of the Department of Texas provided, they are completed, reported, and credited by May 2, 2021.
2. **State Commander Homecoming:** The Homecoming for State Commander Dick Shawver is scheduled for March 11-13, 2021 in San Antonio. VFW Post 2059 in San Antonio will be the Host Post for the Homecoming. The Homecoming agenda and the information on the hotel will be posted on the Department of Texas VFW website soon.
3. **101st Annual State Convention-Department of Texas VFW:** The Annual State Convention is scheduled for June 16-20, 2021 in Durant, Oklahoma, at the Choctaw Conference Center. The agenda and information on the hotel will be posted on the Department of Texas website soon.
4. **Department of Texas VFW Headquarters Closed to Visitors:** Due to the Austin, Texas, and Travis County COVID-19 restrictions, the Texas VFW Headquarters office in Austin is closed to ALL visitors until further notice. You may request an “in-person appointment” by calling the office at 512-834-8535.
5. **The Texas VFW Foundation:** The Texas VFW Foundation is still 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>.
6. **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

7. Candidates for National VFW Office 2020-2021:

- VFW National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Larry Velasquez, Jr., Post 8932, D-6
- VFW National Chaplain, Allen “Al” Lowe, Post 4008, D-14

8. VFW National Commander-in-Chief’s Homecoming:

The VFW National Commander-in-Chief’s Homecoming has been rescheduled for March 24-28, 2021, in Portsmouth, Virginia.

9. District Meetings for February & March 2021:

- District 1 February 21st Post 2772-Sherman
- District 2 February 6th Post 1839-Cleveland
- District 3 February 21st Post 6796-Dallas
- District 5 February 20th Post 8456-Geronimo
- District 6 February 13th Post 9170-Beeville
- District 8 February 6th Post 6873-Abilene
- District 9 February 6th Post 1475-Amarillo
- District 12 February 20th Post 7523-Mineola
- District 13 February 21st via “Zoom” (contact DC-13) for link.
- District 15 February 20th Post 2476-Windthorst
- District 16 February 6th Post 880-Galveston
- District 17 February 20th Post 4458-Caldwell
- District 25 February 6th Post 4372-Odessa
- District 4 March 20th Post 10352-Spring/Aldine
- District 10 March 27th Post 8550-El Paso

10.Membership: The Department is currently sitting at 88.35% with 57,762 members as of January 29, 2021.

11.Creation of a new position for Governmental and Public Affairs: The Council of Administration approved the creation of a new position for Governmental and Public Affairs that will interact with Federal, State and Local legislators and officials on a full-time basis.

12.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.

13. Congratulations to our 2020-2021 VFW Smart/Maher Teacher of the Year winners:

- K-5 grades:
Heather Marie Kaldis of Brenham, Texas
Brenham Elementary, Brenham, Texas
Sponsored by: Post 7104-Brenham & District 17
- 6-8 grades:
Esther Millette of Clyde, Texas
Eula Secondary School, Clyde, Texas
Sponsored by: Post 6873-Abilene & District 8
- 9-12 grades:
Ronald Castro of Houston, Texas
YES Prep Academy-White Oak, Houston, Texas
Sponsored by: Post 8790-Houston & District 4

14. Congratulations to our 2020-2021 Patriot's Pen winners:

1st Place

Kate A. Kunkle of Boerne, Texas
Awarded \$1,500.00
Donated by Department of Texas VFW Auxiliary Scholarship
7th grader-Boerne Middle School, Boerne, Texas
Sponsored by Post 688-Boerne & District 13

2nd Place

Bayley C. Pitts of Giddings, Texas
Awarded \$500.00
Donated by Paul Hayslip Memorial Scholarship, Spring Branch Post 8790-Houston,
8th grader-Round Top-Carmine High School-Carmine, Texas
Sponsored by: Post 5254-La Grange & District 28

3rd Place

Holden M. Smith of Plano, Texas
Awarded \$500.00
Donated VFW District 4-Department of Texas VFW Scholarship
8th grader-Prince of Peach Christian School, Carrollton, Texas
Sponsored by Post 6796-Dallas & District 3

4thPlace

Kaitlyn D. Van Holten of Abilene, Texas

Awarded \$500.00

Donated by Adobe Walls VFW Post 1789 Borger Memorial Scholarship

8th grader-Wylie West Jr. High School, Abilene, Texas

Sponsored by Post 6873-Abilene & District 8

15. Congratulations to our 2021 Voice of Democracy Top Ten winners & finalists:

1st place

Jacqueline R. Halldorsson of San Antonio, Texas

Awarded \$10,000.00

Donated by V-Sweeps Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 8541-San Antonio & District 20

2nd place

Grace A. Ross of Beaumont, Texas

Awarded \$8,000.00

Donated by Texas VFW Foundation Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 1806-Beaumont & District 2

3rd place

Allyssa E. Standifer of Paris, Texas

Awarded \$7,000.00

Donated by Department of Texas VFW Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 3990-Paris & District 12

4th place

Emily S. Hill of Idalou, Texas

Awarded \$6,000.00

Donated by Per Stirling Capital Management Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 2466-Lubbock & District 9

5th place

Rory Isabel Dulock of Lindsay, Texas

Awarded \$5,000.00

Donated by Camp Bowie Post 708 & Auxiliary and

Robert O. Pugh Memorial Scholarships

Sponsored by Post 1922-Gainesville & District 1

6th place

Ethan M. House of New Braunfels, Texas

Awarded \$5,000.00

Donated by Thomas "Doc" Howard VFW Post 3359, Garland, Texas
Memorial Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 7110-New Braunfels & District 5

7th place

Ashley Nicole Chavez of Humble, Texas

Awarded \$5,000.00

Donated by District 17 Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 12075-Humble & District 4

8th place

Hannah G. Moreno of Breckenridge, Texas

Awarded \$4,000.00

Donated by Texas VFW Motorcycle Group Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 7767-Breckenridge & District 8

9th place

Tristan Baumgardner of Van, Texas

Awarded \$3,500.00

Donated by VFW Post 8541 Auxiliary-District 20 Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 6635-Grand Saline & District 30

10th place

Zachary M. Courreges of El Paso, Texas

Awarded \$3,500.00

Donated by Adobe Walls VFW Post 1789-Borger Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 9173-El Paso & District 10

State Finalist

Aubrey L. Miller of Rockport, Texas

Awarded \$3,000.00

Donated by Stewart-Wendell VFW Post 3904 Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 3904-Rockport & District 6

State Finalist

Jordan A. Smajstrla of Boerne, Texas

Awarded \$3,000.00

Donated by West Brazos VFW Post 8551 and

Auxiliary-Sweeny Scholarship & District 16 VFW Auxiliary Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 688-Boerne & District 13

State Finalist

Ivey A. Bassham of Colorado City, Texas

Awarded \$2,000.00

Donated by RVOS Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 2676-Windthorst & District 15

State Finalist

Hailey B. Routson of West, Texas

Awarded \$2,000.00

Donated by Jerome & Irene Henze Scholarship, VFW Post 9213 & Auxiliary

Sponsored by Post 4819-West & District 29

State Finalist

Patricia K. Castanon of Palacios, Texas

Awarded \$1,500.00

Donated by Department of Texas VFW Auxiliary Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 2438-Bay City & District 16

State Finalist

Daniel A. Hernandez of McAllen, Texas

Awarded \$1,500.00

Donated by VFW Auxiliary Post 8790, Houston Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 8788-McAllen, & District 18

State Finalist

Abigail M. Hunt of Dallas, Texas

Awarded \$1,000.00

Donated by Paul Hayslip Memorial Scholarship, Spring Branch VFW Post 8790

Sponsored by Post 6796-Dallas & District 3

State Finalist

Cole R. Wheeler of Lampasas, Texas

Awarded \$1,000.00

Donated by District 4 Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 8539-Lampasas & District 14

State Finalist

Tanner C. David of Bellville, Texas

Awarded \$1,000.00

Donated by Dallas-Love Field VFW Post 7471 Memorial Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 6522-Bellville & District 17

State Finalist

Kassie M. Plotts of Groveton, Texas

Awarded \$1,000.00

Donated by Sidney Pierce VFW Post 4476-Taylor Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 6899-Trinity & District 19

State Finalist

Madison M. Jones of Fort Worth, Texas

Awarded \$1,000.00

Donated by James "Jeff" Clark Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 8235-Fort Worth & District 21

State Finalist

Jacob K. Wachsmuth of Shiner, Texas

Awarded \$1,000.00

Donated by USAF Chief Master Sgt. Amos Hastings Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 6209-Shiner & District 24

State Finalist

Cade M. Salisbury of Lubbock, Texas

Awarded \$1,000.00

Donated by Past State Commander M. John Knapp Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 6797-Post & District 25

State Finalist

Rachel I. Schroder of Coupland, Texas

Awarded \$1,000.00

Donated by VFW Post 10428, Kingsland, and its Auxiliary Scholarship

Sponsored by Post 6115-Elgin & District 28

16. 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. His email address is: john@texasvfw.org.

17. 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 any information you have submitted before calling to confirm. If you have anything you feel is not correct, email John Jowers, Data Management Specialist: john@texasvfw.org.

18. **Post Audits:** The (original) signed copy should be 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.

Deadline dates for Post Audits for the 2020-2021 Administrative Year:

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

19. **Deadline to submit 2019 IRS form:** December 31, 2020, was the deadline to submit a copy of your Post IRS Form, 990, 990EZ, or 990N. Copies should have been mailed or emailed to John Jowers, Data Management Specialist, at the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters: john@texasvfw.org.

20. **Deadline for all Post Inspections due by December 31, 2020:** Post Inspections were to be completed and received (mailed or emailed) to the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters by December 31, 2020. For more information, email John Jowers, Data Management Specialist, at the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters: john@texasvfw.org.

21. **Deadline to receive Veteran Project Participation Report (VPR) for Pearl Harbor Day:** January 5, 2021, was the due date for the VPR for Pearl Harbor Day 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.

22. **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>.

23. **Dates to Remember (Department of Texas VFW HQs will be closed):**

February 15th – President's Day

May 31st – Memorial Day

24. **Closing Comments:**

Looking back on our 2021 Mid-Winter Conference in Corpus Christi we had a wonderful turnout of VFW members. The Awards Banquet onboard the U.S.S. Lexington was a huge success. Let us continue to work hard for our Veterans and I hope to see many of you at my State Commander Homecoming in San Antonio in March!

By order of:

Richard Shawver

Richard "Dick" Shawver
State Commander

Attested By:

Dan West

Dan West
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

