



TOPEKA, KANSAS

NEWS & VIEWS

Department of Kansas
P.O. Box 1008, Topeka, Kansas 66601-1008

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National's Position on Political Events It has always been our position that political candidates can address VFW members as, for example, during a General Election year, we had both candidates for President address us at the National Convention. There is no prohibition on our members from being at or hosting political events as long as they are not espousing a position that is clearly partisan in nature or implying an official VFW endorsement.

All members are encouraged to vote and actively campaign for the candidate(s) of their choice, if so desired. They are also permitted to wear their VFW caps as visible reminders that veterans' issues and votes matter. They are there as individuals who happen to be members of the VFW; they are not and should never misrepresent themselves or their presence as an endorsement by any official entity of the VFW. Of course, we have to initially rely on our individuals' good and professional judgment that they understand not to involve the VFW's name in partisanship activities.

October 31 - is Halloween. Is your Post planning a Youth Halloween Party?

Audits - September 30th ended a quarter and Post Trustees Report of Audit is now due. Audit reports must be signed by "All 3" Trustees and the Commander or they will not be considered valid submissions.

Reminder – Post inspections are due to Department by December 1st. All Inspections are to be sent directly to District Commanders who will then review and send directly to Department.

Buddy Poppies - Now is the time to order Buddy Poppies for fall distribution. Visit our website vfwks.org for forms and rates.

National By-Laws - and Ritual are being revised due to changes at National Convention. It is suggested that all Posts order the 2025-26 edition. Orders will be filled as soon as the new edition is received from the printer. All orders should be sent to National Emblem & Supply or order online www.vfwstore.org.

Schools - are now open. Promote the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen programs. See Administrators and students about the Teacher Program.

Veteran's Day - is November 11th and all Posts should be planning some activities within your city to let the citizens know there are veterans willing and able to help the community be a better place to live.

Endowment -Completed forms must be returned to Department Headquarters no later than February 1, 2026.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen - Post deadline is October 31, 2025. Entries should be sent to District Chairman by November 15, 2025. For eligibility for All State a Post could need an entry from either one or both of these programs, this is part of the three of ten. There is "NO" Buyout for All State eligibility. For All American eligibility a Post must have an entry from each one of these programs. There is no buyout for VOD or Patriot's Pen this year for All-American, for Kansas VFW Posts.

Teacher Program – NEW DEADLINES FOR THIS PROGRAM. Post deadline is October 31, 2025 entries to District Chairman by December 2, 2025. For eligibility for All State a Post could need one entry as this is part of the three of ten. This year (2025-2026), they have gone back to three divisions, K-5, 6-8 & 9-12. For All American you need one nomination from either division and can do two or three if you can. This would help honor more teachers. There is “NO” Buyout for All State eligibility this year for Kansas Posts.

Veterans & Military Services Donation – To be eligible for All State and All American a Post needs to donate \$125.00 to the National Veterans & Military Services Department. In the past buying a VMS pin at the National Convention or from the State VMS Chairman qualified for all or part of this donation. This no longer is the case, so now a \$125.00 donation must be made to VMS regardless of how many pins were purchased by your Post members. **THIS MUST BE DONE ONLINE WITH NATIONAL.**

All American Dashboard – Please check the All American Dashboard on “NATIONAL’S WEB SITE” periodically to see if your Post’s activities are current.

Robert’s Rules of Order – is now the official Parliamentary Procedure Book, as voted at the 2017 National Convention. It replaces Demeter’s Manual of Parliamentary Law & Procedure. It is not available at the VFW Store.

Reminder to all Posts, Surgeon reports must be sent by the 10th of each month to your District Surgeon. This gives them time to report to the Department Surgeon by the 20th of each month.

Community Service - Greetings Comrades, in case you missed the Department School of Instruction held in Arkansas City in August, I conducted a 15-minute presentation on proper Community Service reporting. The slides from the presentation are easily accessible. If you visit the VFW Department of Kansas website at www.vfwks.org and then click on the “Programs” tab, this will have a drop-down menu, please click on “Community Service.” You will see multiple resources from the 2025 – 2026 Community Program, to include a training video from Past Department Chaplain Terry Warner, as well as the Power Point presentation that was used for the Department School of Instruction this year. You can access any of these by simply hovering your mouse over each item in “Red” and click on them to either download or watch the training video.

Please pay particular attention to slides 3 thru 7 on what is considered community service. I stated during the training session, make sure you are turning in your reports in a timely manner and ensure that you are accurately taking credit for the number of total hours. If your event lasted one hour, and 5 members participated, then that would be 5 hours total. VFW National Headquarters will compute the value of those hours after it is approved at the Department level. Our reporting is critical as it is tied directly into the State of Kansas Veterans Claims Assistance Program (VCAP) as we need to report in kind dollar values for each community service event to the Kansas Office on Veterans Service (KOVs).

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at jvc@vfwks.org or call me at 913.481.2973

In comradeship,

Rick McKenna
Jr. Vice Commander
VFW Department of Kansas