

THE KANSAS



BULLETIN

THE OLDEST STATE PUBLICATION IN THE VFW

Volume 87, Issue 1

State Commander Patrick Briggs

August 2018

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VFW Kansas Website



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State Commander

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

Thank You for giving me the opportunity to be your Department Commander. I will give you 115% to push this Great Organization Forward. We have a “Great Team Kansas” and I’m looking forward to working with you Comrades. To the Auxiliary President Kristi Meid and her staff, I believe that we can accomplish many great things within our communities, to serve our veterans and families in Kansas. (COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE)

We need to get back to the basics within our communities and “TELL OUR STORY”. To accomplish that primary mission, we have to work through, around and past those distractions that slow us down. Membership struggles, managing a Post with canteen, Personality Conflicts are all problems to what we are all about. WE need to Work Together to strength our organization not only in Membership, but to Change the Image of what civilians perceive the VFW is really about.

Changing mindsets, old habits and procedures is not always well received, but in our situation, it is necessary to grow, improve and survive. IT IS TIME TO MENTOR our younger members and turn over the responsibilities of running this great organization. Society has changed and we must change with it in order to remain viable. Each generation faces their own challenges of what it takes to support and assist the future veterans and their families.

The Mid-Summer “School of Instruction” I thought went extremely well. Comrades, the motivation and desire to succeed was unbelievable. The attitudes of Department Staff, District Commanders and those in attendance, there is no way that the Department of Kansas will not succeed in MEMBERSHIP, POSTS REACHING ALL STATE, POSTS REACHING ALL AMERICAN AND DEPARTMENT MAKING ALL AMERICAN. The Officer Training and Quartermaster Training that was provided Friday evening was extremely successful for those who attended. THANK YOU COMRADE GERALD MARVIN, Department Chief of Staff and Trainer and Herb Schwartzkopf, Department Adjutant/Quartermaster.

AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE STAFF AND AUXILIARY OF POST 1254 ARKANSAS CITY FOR AN OUTSTANDING JOB WELL DONE. THAT BANQUET WAS UP AND BEYOND OUTSTANDING, PERFECT, ETC, ETC, ETC. “Thanks a Million. Commander and Auxiliary President.

“I CAN’T HELP YOU IF YOU DON’T ASK AND THERE IS NO “I” IN TEAM”.

“NOW IT’S TIME TO SLIDE AND GLIDE, MOVE AND GROVE”

“LET’S PUT THAT TEAM KANSAS ON THE MOVE AND HAVE A GOOD 2018-2019”

Patrick Briggs, State Commander

VFW Department of Kansas





State Sr. Vice Commander

Comrades,

Now we have returned from the State Mid-Summer meeting its time to focus on VFW programs.

The State of Kansas has been relatively successful in recruiting young members. The only way to make the Department of Kansas successful is to retain those members, recover past members, and recruit new members. We must improve the way we communicate with our members on all levels. Let's get back to basics, our first priority is taking care of our comrades and the community as a whole.

Post goals should be to recruit new and recover unpaid members, Retain and mentor existing membership, Boost life and Legacy Memberships.

The members we sign up today is our future tomorrow.

In Comradeship,
Lee Hursey
State Sr. Vice Commander



State Jr. Vice Commander

Comrades,

I wish to thank you for electing me Jr. Vice Commander, I will do my best to uphold the standards set by those before me.

Community Service is my main concern this year, my motto this year is who benefits in your reports to me and 31 March 2019, is the closing of the 2018-2019 reporting period. No reports from 2018-2019 will be accepted after that time.

So far this year 64 posts have submitted reports out of the 116 posts in the State. If you are having problems reporting or do not have a computer contact your District Jr. Vice Commander for assistance or contact me at (316) 721-3630, also when you see me at District Meetings or any function feel free to speak about your problems. Lets all work together to have 100% reporting of all posts for the 2018-2019 year.

Ken Allred
State Jr. Vice Commander





State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Comrades:

Now is the time, if you haven't already done so, to properly bond your Post Quartermaster, and Club Employees, if applicable. Your old bonds will expire on August 31, 2018, at midnight.

As a side note, Posts do not have to Bond through the VFW/Tallman Insurance. They can be bonded by an outside Company, but, they must show proof that they are bonded and we need a copy of that proof at Kansas

VFW Hq.

As of this time, the 2018-19 Kansas VFW Programs have been posted on the Kansas VFW Web site, vfwks.org. Familiarize yourself with them and now is the time to read what it takes to become an All State Post and prepare your plan to become one.

One last hint, for those Posts that want to also go for All American, it is mandatory that your Post participate in all three of the following: Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher Award, along with other mandatory qualifications. You can view these on National VFW's web site.

The employees at Kansas VFW headquarters work for you! If you are having trouble with programs, audits, or other problems pertaining to the VFW, contact us and we will do our best to assist you.

In Comradeship
Herb Schwartzkopf
Department of Kansas Adjutant/Quartermaster

2018 State Legislative Bulletin Report

Comrades:

Will have more information coming your way in future Bulletins as the new Legislative year takes shape. The Primaries have been completed and now you need to educate yourself to vote for the candidate in the different offices that you feel will do the best job for "your Community and State". Whomever you vote for is your business, but, "MAKE SURE YOU VOTE"!

Make sure that you attend candidate forums, town hall meetings held by State Legislators and U.S Senators and Representatives. Make sure you take time to introduce yourself before or after the meeting so they know you personally and yes, "Wear your VFW cover", so they know whom you represent. Remember, it is your right to disagree, but do so respectfully!

In Comradeship
Herb Schwartzkopf





State Chaplain

Greetings Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

I pray that this note finds Posts and Auxiliaries off to a great start for the new year. I thank all of you who attended and those who took part in our Annual State Memorial Service. I know that many were touched in a special way by the service and many comforted and encouraged. A special prayer for those who during this past year have lost a loved one and/or those near and dear in heart to you. May the memory of them live in your heart and always be special to you.

Congratulations to Chaplain Lane Smith from Post 846 Overland Park. A “Chaplain of the Year” Award will be awarded again this year. Details can be found in the Chaplain Program. I am asking for you to send me questions and thoughts concerning Chaplains and their role within the Local Post and Community. I am seeking to enrich the workshops to be more relevant in addressing concerns and issues that confront local Post Chaplains. I am looking for Posts who will step up and pick a date for a workshop, confirm it works for me and then we will get it on the calendar and Department will broadcast it for us. Any Member of the VFW or Auxiliary are welcome to attend (do not have to be a Chaplain to attend). My prayer is that we move forward in unity as we seek to demonstrate the goal of the VFW in our Posts, Communities and the State of Kansas.

May God richly bless the Kansas VFW.

Chaplain Jim Jenkins

913-302-7620



State Inspector

Comrades,

As we are beginning our new business year I would like to take this opportunity and say that I am honored to be appointed as the State Inspector for the Department of Kansas VFW. As the new business year begins we have two important milestones very early on. First of all, the last quarter closed out on June 30th. Quarterly audits are due to Department by August 31st. The audits being completed and filed are key to meeting the requirements of the insurance company that provides the Post QM bond. The first thing they look at should you have a claim is that quarterly audits are completed and properly signed or it could negatively impact any loss claim. Secondly, if your Post has the QM bond through the VFW Insurance Program, those bonds are due to be renewed by August 31, 2018. If QM Bond is through another insurance company, please take time to review the policy to insure the bond is renewed before it expires.

I would also like to explain my philosophy on the State Inspection Program. The three pillars I believe the program is built on is Education, Assistance, and Compliance. The education and assistance to those posts requesting it are the most important thing that I can offer to the members to enhance post’s viability. My goal is to assist any and all Posts to complete required documentation to maintain vote eligibility during Department business meetings. It is also important to understand that inspection requirements for audits, bonding, incorporation documents and reports to the State of Kansas are key in maintaining the Post Non-Profit status and protecting Post assets and Post Officers from legal and financial loss issues. I am available to assist Districts & Posts in any way I can. Let’s start strong and have a great year Comrades.

James Ratcliff

State Inspector





State Judge Advocate

Comrades,

Just a friendly reminder that all officers at all levels should order a new by-laws and manual of procedure book as there have been quite a lot of changes that were adopted at national convention.

Remember as we get further into August and September that most schools are in session and we need to be extra careful in school zones as the kids will be out in force.

It is now the time to contact your schools about VOD PP and Teachers awards. The sooner the better.

Anytime you may need help with the new by-laws call before you act as maybe the old ones no longer apply.

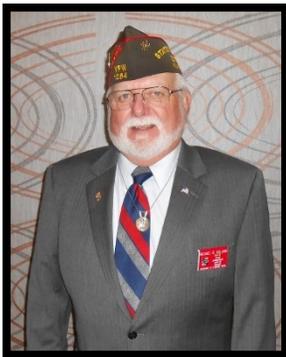
Bob Cox
State Judge Advocate

National Council Member

Comrades,

At the end of this month I will be in K.C. for the council of administration meeting and hopefully will find out more on what is transpiring at the national level to keep you informed of that.

Bob Cox
KSNM



Past State Commander





State Surgeon



State Chief of Staff

Welcome VFW and Auxiliary members to 2018/2019,

Congratulations to State Commander Pat Briggs and State President Kristi Meid our new Team Kansas leaders and their leadership teams.

Pat has appointed me as Chief of Staff. That is the listening board and go between Commander and members. The biggest job of Chief of Staff is to listen to Post/District/Department problems and concerns then suggest possible solutions to the Commander and work to help solve these problems. Another is to train the membership in proper procedures to be followed and mediate disputes before they get to the Commander level.

My goal is to help as many Posts or Districts solve their problems at the lowest level possible and to share feedback and actions taken with the Commander.

The number one (1) goal is to help get the Department of Kansas to 100% for the first time since 1994. Go Team Kansas. We can do this.

Gerald Marvin
Chief of Staff





1st District Commander

1st District just completed an All-American year and we have our sights set on repeating that achievement. We have an energetic Command Team at the District level and some great teams at Post level who are expanding the impact of the VFW throughout their communities. Priority one in the District is to ensure we continue to support Veterans and their families in our communities. Priority two is to sustain and expand our membership. It is essential to the viability of our Posts that we continue to grow in numbers. Our membership program has three pillars:

- 1) Set membership goals for each Post, including Life, New, Reinstate, Continuous, and Legacy
- 2) Empower all members to be recruiters and prepare them to answer three questions when visiting with a potential member: What does the VFW do?, What can I do for the VFW?, and Am I eligible to join the VFW?.
- 3) Monitor our continuous members and seek them out when their annual membership is coming due. We want to keep all our current members and aggressively look for new members.

Our third priority is to ensure the viability of our smaller Posts. We must collaborate with and assist any of our Posts who are not meeting their responsibilities, whether that be reporting and administration of the Post or having no programs.

As we move into the fall we will focus on community engagement through our various programs. We have some motivated Chairpersons at both the District and Post levels. Youth Programs in our schools, engaging with our local First Responders, sponsoring community events, showcasing Veterans from our communities are all essential core tasks for each VFW Post.

I am honored to serve as the 1st District Commander this year. The entire 1st District team is committed to strengthening our Posts, supporting other Kansas Districts, and getting the Department of Kansas up and over the 100% membership goal.

In comradeship,

Steve Davis, 1st District Commander

{ 1 }



2nd District Commander

{ 2 }



3rd District Commander

All newly elected officers. Although some new officers and some reelected officers were not planning to be officers this year you should take your job as an officer in the VFW very seriously and do the best job you can and not just wear the hat. Everyone should work on membership, community service, VOD, Patriot's Pen, Firefighter award, Officer of the year, EMT, Scout, just to mention a few of the programs sponsored by the VFW. Anything I can do to assist I will. Whether you are in the 3rd District or any other District. My phone number is in the book.

Yours in Comradeship.
Charlie Cravens
District 3 Commander

{ 3 }





4th District Commander

I would like to start by thanking you for your support with coming the 4th district commander. I know this is my second time but things have changed with combined 4th and 6th districts and we have new faces since 2010-2011. I want every one to know that all of you are important to me not just the big posts, the little posts have a special spot in my heart. My first time through post chairs in Bamberg, Germany was a small post and we worked hard in the community as I know you do as well.

Please keep your focus on our mission to take care of veterans and the community. I have a new incentive program for membership. 1st to 100% with 5 new or reinstated members receives \$100.00, 2nd \$75, and 3rd \$50 for the post. The President of the Auxiliary has big plans as well. Looking forward to working as a TEAM to make our goals.

Thank you,
Vince VanCleave, 4th District Commander

{ 4 }



5th District Commander

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary members,

Congratulations to all the 2018 – 2019 VFW and Auxiliary officers. Rest assured the 5th District is here to assist all TEAM KANSAS endeavors.

Great things are happening within our Department and District, one our return to the State Fair and two the 5th District Coffee Tour.

5th Districts day to staff the booth at the fair is Thursday September 13th from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm. All are welcome to volunteer.

The 5th District Coffee Tour is scheduled for Friday October 26th thru Sunday October 28th. Post Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents please encourage your members to join us when we visit your Post during the Tour. We would love to see every member there.

Post inspections are under way. Commanders if you haven't received your notice yet you will soon, as we are trying to get these done in a timely manner.

Our 5th District goals this year are high, but achievable.

1. Be "Number One" in Membership
2. Better Community Service Reporting
3. More VOD and PP entries
4. Increase the Law Enforcement, EMT and Firefighter entries
5. More entries for Teachers Awards
6. Finally, to have the 5th District become **"All American"**

Every Post should have goals they want to achieve this year to support the Districts and Department goals. If any Post needs help on any of these there are many of us just a phone call or email away to assist.

Thank all of you for your support of this great organization and let us together make this a great year for the 5th District.

In Comradeship,
Terry Fletcher
5th District Commander

{ 5 }





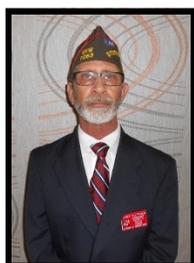
6th District Commander

{ 6 }



7th District Commander

{ 7 }



State Rider Chairman

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary members,

The VFW Riders and Posts, Districts and Departments did a bang-up job raising money for the Annual Past National CIC Howard Vander Clute Memorial Ride. Almost \$33K was raised for our active duty, their families and Veterans with all monies raised going to our VMS Program.

Leavenworth Post 56 Awesome Job! Leavenworth raised almost \$6K

The Department of Virginia raised \$15,001 beating their last year record by 1 dollar.
This year we had 125 people participate and 100 bikes.

The ride was approximately 100 miles starting at Leavenworth Post 56 where Howard's widow Susan greeted us and thanked us for carrying out the tradition. Then we were escorted by the Leavenworth PD to the National Cemetery for a short ceremony at Howard's grave site. From there we went to Post 1000 in Independence MO. for lunch then on to Lenexa Post 7397 from which we were escorted by the Jackson County Sheriffs to the WWI Museum in Downtown KC. They did an excellent job blocking off a major highway so that we weren't merged into the KC traffic.

I want to thank Lynn Rolf Jr. and Chris Stergos for their co-coordination and making this a safe and memorable event. We started planning this early last fall and without theirs and others assisting we couldn't have made it the success it was. TEAM KANSAS set the bar high for all future Vander Clute Rides.

I ask all Posts and/or Districts to donate to the VMS program and when you send in your check... in the memo write "Vander Clute"

Well it's time to start working with Florida to get them started for next year's ride in Orlando

Everyone ride safe
In Comradeship,
Terry Fletcher



Veteran's Memorial at Pittsburg State University



Any questions or for more info about
this Memorial contact:
Chuck Main
chuckmain16@yahoo.com

Dear VFW Endowment Scholarship Committee,

I wanted to take the opportunity to greatly thank you for selecting me as one of the recipients of a VFW Endowment Scholarship!

This money will help me cover the costs that allow me to continue my education. Again, I am very appreciative of you in selecting me as a recipient!

Thanks Again!

-Dylan Babcock, Lincoln, KS

Thanks so much.

Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Thank you again for selecting me as your recipient for the Endowment Scholarship. Your thoughtfulness in choosing me is greatly appreciated and your Scholarship dollars will be put to good use as an investment in my future. It is an honor being selected, many thanks!

- Janae Schulte



Bike Night at the V, VFW Post 1650. Photo of the helpers. We had Bob from American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Greater Kansas Chapter here with a table, the VA gave us free stuff to hand out for the crisis line. We had around 50 folks here. It was a good time. We have more photos on the Facebook page Philip Billard VFW 1650.





Dear Veterans of Foreign Wars (U.S.),

I wanted to take a moment to extend my most sincere thanks for choosing me as the Kansas VFW Scout of the Year. I was overjoyed when I was informed that I was going to be receiving this prestigious honor. It is an even greater honor to be placed in such distinguished ranks as those of the past honorees. All have made important contributions to our state and communities. I also wanted you to know that I'll be using the award money toward my college education. Thank you again and for your continuous support of the Eagle Scout program.

Sincerely,
Cody Savage

Congratulations Scout of the Year!

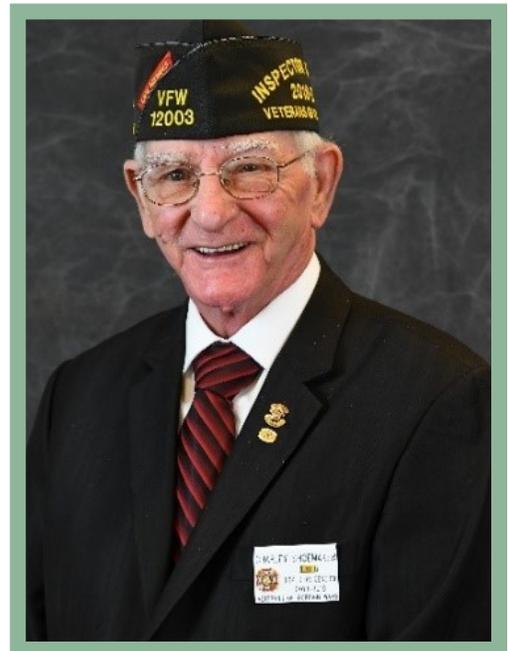
Cody Savage sponsored by

VFW Post 56, Leavenworth, KS



← Congratulations James Jenkins for being elected Chaplain of the Western Conference!!

→ Congratulations Charley Shoemaker on your appointment as National Inspector General!!



State Convention 2018 Wichita



State Convention 2018 Wichita



2018 Picnic Haysville



Past State Commanders Ray Calore, Bobby Cox, Dallas Love, State Commander Patrick Briggs, Past State Commanders Gerald Marvin and Phil Irby.

Mid-Summer Conference 2018 Arkansas City



2018 National Convention Kansas City, MO





Funeral for Willard Henry Aldridge MIA from World War II, VFW Post 7770 Ashland, Kansas is named for him.

Remains of Navy Seaman 1st Class Willard H. Aldridge, killed during the attack on the USS Oklahoma in World War II, have now been accounted for in 2018. In 2015, DPAA disinterred remains from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.



**Continued prayers for all comrades
and auxiliary we have lost and
to all Comrades deployed**



Auxiliary News

STATE PRESIDENT



Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

We are off to a great start!! National Convention in Kansas City was a wonderful experience and we had a good number of delegates representing Kansas. Next stop was Department School of Instruction in Arkansas City, thank you to all who attended and to the Post and Auxiliary for hosting the event. Department Program Chairmen gave excellent presentations on their respective programs and we got a jump start on the new "Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation" training which is National President Sandi Kriebel's special project. All Auxiliaries will receive a copy of this training manual and training will occur at all levels (Auxiliary, District, and Department) throughout the year. This training will allow for consistency across the board for our Auxiliaries and give confidence to our members on the inner workings of our organization to include officer and chairman duties on each level. Membership is always a priority in order for us to continue our efforts to assist veterans, service members and their families. Check out the Department Membership Challenge that I signed at Department School of Instruction!! Let's get that 100% plus in membership this year so I can "strut my stuff" in pink at Department Convention next June. Financial obligations are a way to get credit for program participation. Donations to the National Home Health and Happiness fund, Patriotic Art Scholarship fund, and General Hospital Fund are all ways to get credit for program participation. Last but not least, work together with your VFW Post on projects and events such as Buddy Poppy Distribution, Family Freedom Festivals, and Recruiting events. One VFW, One Team, Team Kansas. We Can do it! Hooah! Wishing you all a successful and productive year! See you all soon.

Always loyal,
Kristi Meid
President
Department of Kansas
VFW Auxiliary



Auxiliary News

STATE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Hello Brothers and Sisters:

Ready for another busy year? "WE CAN DO IT!!!" This year we need to be sure and get our membership to 100% plus. It is time to get hold of those members who have lapsed for awhile, men's auxiliary members to join us and our annual members. It is so easy to set up a Malta account so you can renew your membership on-line. You may still get your cash or checks to your local Treasurer and pay them if you do not choose to do it on-line.

We have a very important election coming up in November so please study all of the candidates and vote accordingly since primary elections are over. We need legislators that want to support our Veterans.

Looking forward to traveling to District School of Instructions and Fall District meetings to get to know each member much better. You all do so much for our great organization!

Please work all of our programs so we are doing our part to support our Veterans, their families and all of your communities.

God Bless You All!

Gail Vance
Sr. Vice President
Dept of KS VFW Auxiliary

STATE JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Jane Ryser

2018-2019 Department Officers

Commander

Patrick Briggs
1018 S Grand Ave
Lyons 67554
620-474-1896

Sr. Vice Commander

Lee Hursey
622 N Young St
Wichita 67212
316-644-4441

Jr. Vice Commander

Ken Allred
1452 Melrose Ln
Wichita 67212
316-721-3630

Adjutant/ Quartermaster

Herb Schwartzkopf
P.O. Box 1008
Topeka 66601-1008
785-272-6463

Judge Advocate/

National Council Member

Bob Cox
1504 Manchester Street
McPherson 67460
620-241-7475

Surgeon

Robin Ray
701 E 56th St S
Wichita 67216
316-522-7483

Chaplain

Jim Jenkins
647 N. Nettleton Avenue
Bonner Springs 66012
913-441-1234

Chief of Staff

Gerald Marvin
PO Box 37
LaCrosse 67548
785-222-6748

Inspector

James Ratcliff
109 E Yauger St
Lincoln 67455
620-253-0759

Past Department Commander

Michael B. Holland
919 N 11th St
Arkansas City 67005
620-446-0045

District Commanders:

1st District

Steven Davis
2124 S 19th St
Leavenworth 66048
913-775-3840

2nd District

"Big" Mike Petersen
14622 W 85th Ter
Lenexa 66215
913-636-1527

3rd District

Charles Cravens
4769 182nd Rd
Winfield 67256
620-222-4846

4th District

Vince VanCleave
1513 Bel Air Dr
Junction City 66441
785-375-9442

5th District

Terry Fletcher
501 E Pecan Ln
Derby 67037
316-619-8193

6th District

Richard Wahlmeier
PO Box 31
Ellis 67637
785-726-1294

7th District

James Langley
PO Box 5
Rolla 67954
620-544-1786



About Us

Our mission is very simple. We foster camaraderie among United States veterans of conflicts overseas, we serve our veterans, the military, and the communities, and we advocate on behalf of all veterans. We ensure that veterans are respected for their service, receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for their sacrifices that they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

Our core values are to put the interests of our members first, to treat donors as partners in our cause. We promote patriotism, honor military service, and ensure the care of veterans and their families, and serve in our communities. We always promote a positive image of the VFW and respect the diversity of veteran opinions.

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Visit us on the Web

VFW

Department of
Kansas

At www.vfwks.org

