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VFW Kansas Website

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Less We Forget

State Commander Ken Allred







August 2020



State Commander

Comrades,

It has been a year full of challenges for all of us so far this year, with the cancellation of the Conventions both state and district's. Elections were cancelled and voted on late along with voting by electronic means. Big learning curve for us all. All posts have turned in there election reports, thanks!

The Council of administration held a meeting in June that was beneficial to all, with 100 percent participation it was great to see that all the officers are taking there positions seriously in representing the membership.

The Commander's and President's Picnic held at State Headquarters on July 11 was a great success, myself and President Ryser would like to thank the following for a Great Job, Quartermaster Herb, Administrators Kim and Debbi, my Chief of Staff Lynn Rolf Jr. and the following members of POST 56, Mike Hadock and John Holmgren.

Congratulations to Post 56 as the only All-American post in Kansas, and as always MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP!

Mid-Summer School of instruction in Russell was a huge success, and much was learned. Thank you Post 6240 for going above and beyond in taking care that all went smoothly.

Now is the time to settle down and communicate with each other on an equal basis, there has been way to many conflicts between posts and auxiliaries. We need to remember we are one organization.

Ken Allred STATE COMMANDER













The Kansas Bulletin



State Sr. Vice Commander

Comrades.

The new membership reporting year now is upon us. Now is the time to reach out to your annual members to renew their memberships and to approach and encourage our unpaid comrades to return to our ranks.

It is not too early to begin your membership drives for the Department Commanders All-State program. Last year only 12 Post received the distinction for becoming an All-State

Post. This was partly due to the decline of membership during the year. We as a Department only achieved 96.86% in membership last year compared to 100%+ of membership in the year before. We have the means to reach our goals of 100% with the tools available. National VFW has tools and videos on their website, we just need to take the time and use them.

I encourage all annual members to become a Life Members, Payment plans are available through National or visit with your Quartermaster and I encourage all Life Members to become Legacy Life Members. Upgrading to one of these Life Memberships not only benefits you it also benefits your Post, District, and Department as well. Let's make Kansas proud and let National know Kansas is here.

I'm here to help you and available anytime of the day. Don't hesitate to contact me.

In Comradeship, Lee Hursey State Sr. Vice Commander



State Jr. Vice Commander

Comrades,

We are at the beginning of our VFW Program Year. Last year became a real challenge with the Covid 19 situation impacting so many events and lives. We are still facing challenges due to the continued impact of Covid with social distancing and other issues. That said, I look forward to meeting the challenges we face as an organization for the coming year. I am proud to have been elected as your State Junior Vice Commander and am here to do whatever I can to help members and posts achieve their goals this year.

Community Service Program reporting has gotten off to a good start, all things considered. We actually have one Post in the state that has already reported 10 items in the four categories of Community Service, Veteran Service, Legislative Affairs, and Youth Activities. This achievement earns bonus points towards All State Post Award.

Community Service Reporting and Community Activity programs are the primary responsibility for me as State Junior Vice Commander. I have an obligation and duty to provide assistance and training to the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Kansas. I also want to extend my interest in suggestions and concerns from the posts and/or their members on things that can be done to improve these programs or be of service to the membership. I encourage you to inform Department officers of post events you may schedule throughout the year so we can support and/or assist with these events in your communities if needed to help you meet your goals. We are all in this together as we strive to meet the needs of the veteran community and our youth in America.

James Ratcliff State Jr. Vice Commander











State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Comrades:

This is a really busy time for our VFW Posts to start off the year. One of the first orders of business is to make sure the Qm, and all employees and officers who handle money are properly bonded. A Post does not have to bond through the VFW, but, they must send proof of their bond/s to Department Headquarters to keep on file.

Now is also the time to plan your programs so you will have adequate participation to be eligible for All State and All American. If you haven't already, you need to get the forms for V.O.D., Patriot's Pen, Teacher Award, and Emergency Services Awards to the proper entities so there will be ample time for the participants to complete their entries.

Now is also the time to get your new and re-instated members that you may need to compete for All-State and All-American so you can reach 100% by December 31st or at least March 31st and then when your members renew in April, May, and June, they will help you achieve the percentage you need to be an All American Post.

Make sure that a Post officer/member is able to represent the Post at ALL District meetings. This is not only mandated in the By-Laws, but is a requirement to be an All-State Post. Another requirement for participation at District meetings is a Post shall not be in the arrears for bonding, audits, and money owed to the District or Department.

For new Post Officers, do not be afraid to ask your Department Officers or Headquarters for help. That is what we are here for! We work for you and are always willing to assist you if at all possible.

In Respectful Comradeship Herb Schwartzkopf Department of Ks. Adjutant/Quartermaster

State Legislature

Comrades:

These are really trying and uncertain times for Veteran Service Organizations, especially your Veterans of Foreign Wars. Our VCAP Grant that helps pay for our Service Offices located in Wichita, Topeka, and Leavenworth is funded by the State Legislature and work that is done by the Posts in the area of Veterans Service needs to be reported on line on our Kansas VFW web site so we can use the data to augment our Matching funds to retain this Grant. Also, if you are visiting with your Kansas Legislator during the campaign or any other time, make sure they are aware of the VCAP program and its importance to Kansas Veterans. Last year, 2019-2020, your Kansas Service Offices returned \$176.24 for every dollar received from the State of Kansas.

Now is the time of year to get out to candidate forums and educate yourselves on the candidates and issues you will be voting on in November. Make sure you are educated on not just the National elections, but remember the local, county, and state offices are equally important. Know the Candidates and Issues! It is okay and encouraged to wear your VFW cap to a Candidate forum, or Political rally, you just are not to say or do anything that may represent partiality to a candidate or an issue that may be construed as supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. If you're going to speak out on a candidate or an issue, make sure you are NOT wearing your VFW cap. You ARE allowed your opinion, it just can't be construed that the VFW supports your opinion.

When you are visiting with your Kansas Legislators, make sure you also Thank them for the VCAP Grant and remind them we have unfinished business to get another Veteran's Home in Kansas, preferably in the Northeast portion of the state. With all of the seats in the Kansas House up for grabs, it is important that the Candidates know the importance of supporting Veterans programs.

As the election dust clears, we will be working with you to educate our elected officials on Veterans programs and issues that effect you and all Veterans in Kansas and the USA.

In Respectful Comradeship Herb Schwartzkopf Kansas Legislative Chairman











State Chaplain

We are experiencing unprecedented times in our present day. This widespread pandemic has caused much pain and suffering. Thousands are sick and too many have died.

We are told to practice social distancing, wear face masks. There is a shortage of products at the stores that are open. Many businesses are closed, some permanently.

People have lost their jobs or their jobs are currently in jeopardy. Individuals are unable to see family and friends.

Who would have ever believed that we would experience all of this? Through it all, it has been difficult to remain positive. But we must try against all odds to do just that – be positive. And spread that positivity wherever you see it needed. How do we remain positive, you ask?

Keep your mind active and do not dwell on today's circumstances. Read the Bible, a poem or anything else you find uplifting. Pray. Meditate. Watch movies or read a book. Play board games or work on a jigsaw puzzle. And above all else, stay physically active. It is important to get regular exercise.

Reach out to your fellow VFW members to check on them to see how they are doing. Call, text or email your members or use the old-fashioned way: Mail a card.

Be sure to ask whether or not they have someone to look in on them and get things they may need. Pray with them. Share positive words.

If you find you are still struggling during this difficult time, reach out to your chaplain, priest, pastor or rabbi for support and encouragement.

We will get through this as we continue to work together and support those in need. God Bless America and the VFW.

Jim Jenkins Department Chaplain



State Inspector

Comrades,

I want to congratulate all the newly elected Officers throughout the state.

As we begin our program year, I encourage each Post and District to submit audits on time. Also, Bonding is coming due and Post inspections will be beginning soon. Please use last year's inspection report as a checklist for the upcoming inspections.

The District along with myself are here to provide assistance, training, and support. Please reach out if we can assist you or answer any questions.

I wish each Post and District a successful year. Please stay safe during these trying times.

In comradeship, Vance Hill State Inspector State Emergency Services Director











State Judge Advocate

Thank you for electing me to the post of Department Judge Advocate, I may not have all the answers but I know comrades that will help me get to the best interpretation of the National By-Laws. Do not hesitate to contact me by either email (loved518@live.com) or phone (316-518-7170) be sure to leave a message.

The National Commander-In-Chief has issued General Orders No. 1. This was sent out via vmail, ensure all posts are complying to this order. To all the newly elected Commanders and Officers at all levels, congratulations,

now follow the By-Laws and have a great year.

Dallas Love Department Judge Advocate



National Council Member

Comrades of the great Sunflower State Kansas,

I would like to say congratulations to all of the new officers from post level up to Department and wish you much success as you go thru this years programs and events as the leaders of the State of Kansas VFW. I know that each and everyone of you will make this year 2020-2021 a great year for all. We should all support those that we elected to these positions and not put up any roadblocks that would only serve to bring the State of Kansas down. MOVE FORWARD.

DO NOT LET PETTY JEALOUSIES AND TRIVAL PERSONALITIES INFLLUNCE OUR DELIBERATIONS.

We as an organization have been thru some tough decision making times in the past months because of the Virus that has been a great concern for many. Cancelations of Conventions, Meetings, travel, some who have had to shut down their own personal business to comply with the mandates of the President as well as State and local, but we are a group of people who have had to face hardships before and adapt to the situations placed before us and for that I thank you.

As I have said before it has indeed been my honor to have served you as your representative at the National Level and hopefully I served you well. You before I . Somethings were done for the betterment of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and I believe that as long as we move forward instead of backwards we will only get stronger as an organization that NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Wishing all a safe and prosperous year 2020-2021 and lets continue the work that needs to be done for all veterans and their families. Continue to contact your congressmen and senators in Washington about veterans issues that have an impact on the quality of life for active duty and veterans and their families.

AGAIN IT HAS BEEN MY SINCERE HONOR TO HAVE SERVED YOU AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

Hoping that I may again serve as your National Judge Advocate .

In Comradeship,

Bob Cox











State Surgeon

Comrades of the Dept of Kansas,

First off, I want to thank each of you for your support as your Department Surgeon last year. It was a very enlightening experience with a tremendous amount of knowledge that I will take with me for the rest of VFW career. Kansas has some of the best Comrades hands down.

Now that we all weathered the Covid-19 social media Dept. Convention and the extremely informative School of Instruction lets get this year rolling. I have given your District

Commanders a CD with the 2020-2021 surgeons report. Please start using the updated forms once you have your District SOI. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call or email me. I am here to help you. I pray each of you stay healthy so we can do what we do best: SERVE OUR VETERANS.

I will be a candidate for the 2021-2022 Department Junior Vice Commander. I will be making as many District Conventions as I possibly can. I will appreciate your support.

James SARGE Langley Dept. Surgeon.



State Chief of Staff

I am proud to serve as your Kansas Chief of Staff. I hope to assist the Commander in whatever he needs and be a sounding board for any and all issues our membership are concerned about.

I look forward to visiting and meeting as many Posts and Members as possible. This will be a year filled with challenges and change — Let's make it a GREAT year.

Lynn Rolf Jr. State Chief of Staff lynnwrolfjr@gmail.com 913-775-1998



Past State Commander

Patrick Briggs VFW Post 3111 Great Bend











1st District Commander

First and foremost, District One want to commend all the posts in the Department of Kansas for their hard work and dedication during this difficult time. As a district, all the officers want to thank all the members for their hard work.

The VFW year of 2019-2020 was a year to remember and forget at the same time. In the beginning, every post had plans in place in doing what we do best; help our communities, help our veterans in need and recruit new members into the VFW. In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic affected every post in the district and we had to close our doors to our communities, veterans and service members. As a district or a department for that matter, we could have stopped everything we did and just gave into COVID-19 pandemic but we did

not; we found a way to continue our mission.

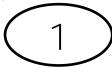
As a district and department, we used our technology and conducted the first virtual meetings, HUGE SUCCESS. All the posts worked hard to achieve 100% membership, many just coming up short by just three to four new members. This upcoming year, we will be thinking outside the box on how to recruit new members within our district.

Due to the pandemic, as a department many members were not able to attend the Departments School of Instruction in Russell, Kansas. Posts across Kansas were recognized for their hard work and dedication, the members of District One want to congratulate all the districts and posts that were recognized for their mission accomplishments.

Since, many members couldn't attend, we want to highlight a some accomplishments within our district. Post 56 in Leavenworth achieved All-American status for the fifth straight year. Post 56 and Post 11499 Basehor achieved All-State Status. District One lead the way as being largest purchaser of Buddy Poppies. District One was the awarded the Outstanding District for Community Service. Basehor Post 11499 received an award for the Outstanding Post Project. Post 56 was awarded second place and Post 7285 Sabetha was awarded third place for the Community Service Records Book; Atchison and Basehor also submitted books to the Department. This is just a few of the things we accomplished as a district.

Again, thank you for your hard work and dedication, not just as a district but as a department. We all need to remember, ONE TEAM - ONE FIGHT.

Thomas Poulter 1st District Commander





2nd District Commander

First of all, I want to thank all our past officers for their outstanding job they did last year. To all of our new officers at Post and District level, I know we will succeed in continuing the VFW mission.

There are many programs that we do in our communities: Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, Teacher/ EMT/Police and Firefighter of the Year, are a few. I encourage all the Posts to get out there and get involved with your local schools and first responders with these programs.

Don't forget about membership. Keep an eye out for the people wearing ball caps, vehicles with veteran stickers, approach and talk to them, let them know what we do for Veterans and our community.

I have some great things planned for our district. Please attend all of the district meetings to see what we will be focusing on.

In comradeship, Scott Nusz District 2



3rd District Commander

Charles Cravens VFW Post 1254 Arkansas City













4th District Commander

Comrades, brothers and sisters

I would like to thank you for electing me as you 2020-21 4th District Commander for this program year. We all have had a challenge this year with all of the events that have transpired.

I would also like to introduce the 4th District new Senior Vice Commander Jason Elwood; and Junior Vice Commander, Allen Owens. The three of us are excited about this year and the improvements we want to make to an already great district. We are here for you. In addition I

want to thank each of you that have helped throughout the years to make this district what it is today.

My goal as Commander is simple.....to continue serving our veterans and their needs. To do this we need to work together as a team. OUR (all of us in the District are recruiters) recruiting efforts to bring in our many younger veterans in the community. I encourage you when recruiting to focus on what your post does. Today's veterans need to have a new mission and understand what the VFW can do for them, other veterans, their families and our communities.

We also need to work with our great Auxiliaries, together we can all do wonderful things for our Active Duty Service Members, our Veterans, their families and the community.

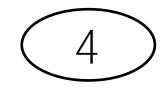
I also would like to encourage each of you to be sure to do all of the VFW Community Programs this year. Reach out to the schools, and the first responders of your community.

We will be having the 4th District Fall Conference and School of Instruction in Manhattan on August 22, 2020. I would like to invite each of you to attend as this will be a one of a kind day, unlike another.

I would also like to invite anyone willing to participate or support to attend our First Patriot March on September 11, 2020. The Patriots March is a 26.2 mile Ruck (Backpack) March in remembrance of the September 11 attacks of 2001. The event is also to recognize September as POW-MIA month. September 18th, 2020 is POW-MIA Remembrance Day. It is also a time to remember those that paid the ultimate price. There also will be a final 3 mile and a 1.5 Mile.

In Comradeship

Dan Watkins





5th District Commander
Willard (John) Herrman
VFW Post 3115
Wichita













6th District Commander Richard Wahlmeier VFW Post 9139 Ellis





7th District Commander

7th District Members and Auxiliary

We just finished Mid Summer School of Instruction in Russell. It seems like about the time I get one item finished, I find two more that need attention because of Covid-19 issues. Nevertheless, we must maintain and move forward with our Programs of serving Veterans the best we can.

We also just finished our District 7 School of instruction at Dodge City (1714). Awards were passed out and several Posts were recognized for their achievements. The State Fair has also been cancelled this year. We must not let all of the cancellations interrupt our commitment to keep serving and helping the Veterans.

School will be starting soon and we still can pursue our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Programs.

Our next item coming up in October will be the Eisenhower Vigil. District 7 has the time slot for 9 p.m to 11 p.m. However, the Eisenhower complex is currently closed due to the Covid-19 virus. I will notify everyone if anything changes.

The District 7 Team is here to help and assist you in any way we can. We are not here to dictate or push or operate your Post. If you would like to use me for a "sounding board", I will listen.

DON'T FORGET! End of Quarter – Audit Report Due – September 30, 2020 Looking forward to a GREAT Year, despite all the inconveniences thrown in our path, by serving you.

7th District Commander Terry Warner 785-259-9193



Correction for Roster Book:

State Judge Advocate **Dallas Love's phone # is 316**-518-7170

My apologies for this mistake in the roster book.









Commander & President Picnic













The Kansas Bulletin



























The Kansas Bulletin

KANSAS HONOR FLIGHT

MISSION "To transport Kansas veterans who served our country during WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War to Washington, D.C. to visit the Memorials that commemorate their service to our country at no cost to the veteran".



There has been a total of 73 flights that have provided the opportunity for over 2300 of our veterans to visit our nation's capital.

The opportunity for this memorable experience is made possible by a grateful public and a large group of volunteers. There are no tax dollars involved. Financial contributions come from many sources: civic groups, military organizations, students, churches, businesses, and individuals.

Some of our aging veterans need assistance to have a safe and comfortable experience. Guardians or helpers travel with the veterans to assist in any way needed. These guardians make a tax-deductible contribution that covers all of their travel expenses, lodging, and meals. While some of the guardians may be family members or friends, some are willing to help serve to help a total stranger.

Priority is given to the older WW II veterans, then the Korean War veterans, and then the Vietnam War veterans. For each war era, the veterans are called in the order that they've submitted their applications.

With a waiting list of over 700 deserving veterans patiently waiting, the program needs the continued support of the public and the efforts of the many volunteers.

Applications are available on the web site: www.kansashonorflight.org or by calling 620-546-2400.

We are requesting that the MISSION of every post in Kansas is to use your INTEL (you know your community and those who would like to sponsor a veteran), and your BOOTS ON THE GROUND to get a sponsor or sponsors, for the KHF Golf Tournament to send one veteran to Washington D.C. The cost to send one veteran to Washington is 800 dollars.

Let's work together to reward our Veterans, most are members of your organization and some are even members of your post. We can get this done.

We have attached information on the golf tournament, tournament sponsorship form, and a registration form to play in the tournament. If you have members of your post that play golf, we would love to have them join us for a wonderful experience.

Thank You

Duane Nickel, Kansas Honor Flight Volunteer (dunick@msn.com)









PICTURES MID SUMMER CONFERENCE



















































If your Post would like to purchase Red Friday short sleeve T-shirts, through Headquarters give Kim a call and she will take care of you, minimum prepaid order of 36 shirts. 785-272-6463





VFW Post 3166 Liberal Kansas

Texas Holdem at the VFW every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Starts at 7. Food served most nights starting at 6. Check with post because of virus 620-624-7447

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









Auxiliary Pictures

















The Kansas Bulletin

Auxiliary News

STATE PRESIDENT



Greetings to Everyone!

This year has started off somewhat different than most! I have received a lot of good feedback about the Mid-Summer School of Instruction in Russell, Kansas. So many people have told me that it was one of the most informative meetings that they have attended in a long time. Prizes were given and challenges were made! The presentations by the Department Chairmen were fun and they did an excellent job. Thanks so very much to the Officers, Past Department Presidents, and Department Historian for the hard work and time you put in to make this a great meeting. Also a "Big Thank You"

to Post #6240 Russell and Auxiliary for all the help and wonderful food!

I will be having a Contest that begins in the September Sunflower Express. It will be in three parts, this Contest will be based on the "Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation." It can be done as a group or individually all I need is your signature on the completed paper, if you are a group I need all the signatures. This Contest will be due to me by December 1, 2020 and prizes will be given!

The Department Membership Challenge is going to be a lot of fun! We all want 100% Membership so you all get to see me wear a Potato Gunny Sack to the Department Convention in June. But if it is not 100% then the District Presidents will be wearing the Potato Gunny Sacks instead of the Department President. Plus we have many more challenges out there that require different colors of hair.

Please do not forget to donate to National Home for Children, Health and Happiness, Endowment, and our General Hospital Fund plus all the other programs, this is a way to get credit for program participation. Most of all it is so very important to work with your VFW Post together on events and projects, teamwork makes dreams work! Let's Make It Happen for Our Veterans!

Respectfully,
Jane Ryser
President
Department of Kansas
VFW Auxiliary

Auxiliary News

STATE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Tessa Butcher Department of Kansas Sr. Vice President

STATE JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Greetings Everyone! And Congratulations to all the new Officers and Chairmen!

I'm so honored to be this year's Department Junior Vice President! Thank you, President Jane, for asking me to consider running for this office. I have learned so much already, but still have so much more to learn. I am looking forward to meeting and working with all members, both VFW and Auxiliary.

We just finished our Department School of Instruction in Russell, and I came home with so much information to share with our Districts and Auxiliaries. My next stop is my own District 6 School of Instruction on August 23 in Tribune. I hope to see many members there, whether in person or on Zoom. By the way, isn't Zoom a wonderful tool?

I wish everyone a wonderful year, and I thank you all for what you do for our great organization! I hope to see you in my travels across Kansas.

Karol Goodin Department Jr. Vice President

2020-2021 Department Officers

Commander

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

Sr. Vice Commander

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

Jr. Vice Commander

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

Adjutant/ Quartermaster

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

National Council Member

Judge Advocate

Dallas Love 1400 James St Derby 67037 316-518-7170

Surgeon

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

Chaplain Jim Jenkins

647 N. Nettleton Avenue Bonner Springs 66012 913-302-7620

Chief of Staff

Lvnn Rolf Jr 31216 203rd St Leavenworth 66048 913-775-1998

Inspector

Vance Hill 1550 E Sand Pointe Cir Wichita 67216 316-213-2231

Past Department

Commander

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

District Commanders:

1st District

900 Delaware St Leavenworth 66048 913-306-1682

Thomas Poulter

2nd District

Scott Nusz

12140 S Roundtree St Olathe 66061

913-486-0764 3rd District

Charles Cravens 4769 182nd Rd Winfield 67256

620-222-4846

4th District

Daniel Watkins 6030 Tuttle Ter Lot 23 Manhattan 66503 308-760-2198

5th District

Willard (John) Herrman 602 N Tracy St Wichita 67212

316-650-9943

6th District

Richard Wahlmeier PO Box 31 Ellis 67637

785-726-1294

7th District

Terry Warner 505 Washington St LaCrosse 67548 785-259-9193



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.











