

THE KANSAS BULLETIN

VFW

THE OLDEST STATE PUBLICATION IN THE VFW

Volume 91, Issue 1

State Commander
James Ratcliff

August 2022

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VFW Kansas Website

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**“Integrity First,
Service Before
Self”**





State Commander

Comrades,

I would like to thank all of our members that attended the Department of Kansas VFW Mid-Summer meeting August 10-12. The attendance was outstanding and we had some very informative presentations and pleasant social interactions throughout the entire weekend. On behalf of myself and our Auxiliary President Karol Goodin I want to thank everyone for your support and kind words of encouragement during the Banquet Saturday evening.

Shout out to all of you that responded to the Action Request in support of passing the PACT Act Toxic Exposure bill. VFW members across the country, and especially those of us in Kansas did a fantastic job getting the word out and pressuring the Senate to complete the job and PASS THAT BILL.

Additionally, I want to recognize all of our VFW Riders within the Department of Kansas for the hard work organizing and participating in the Vander Clute Memorial Ride on July 16, 2022 during the National Convention. No words can do justice to the inspiration shown by all of those veteran Riders to their comrades struggling to get the services and benefits that they have earned serving this Nation with honor and devotion to duty.

In Comradeship,
James Ratcliff
Commander
Department of Kansas





State Sr. Vice Commander

Comrades of Kansas,

Yup a new year of programs is among us. I hope each of your posts took advantage of CIC Tim Borland's amnesty program. My goal to is to see all 105 Department of Kansas post 102%, which is the goal of the CIC.

If you have to ask yourself: WHO IS MY MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, you are wrong. I am your membership chair, you are your membership chair, the person to the left and right of you at your post, district and department meetings are your membership chairman. WE must all be in this together, or we will not survive. Membership gives us a voice in the state and national legislature.

I am here to help in any way I can to assist you and your post with membership and any other areas that you need my help with. I am just a phone call or email away. I look forward to working with every MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN in this state.

Kansas State Fair is right around the corner, so let's support our Districts as well as our state. State fair assignments are as follows:

SEPTEMBER 9: DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

SEPTEMBER 10: 1ST DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 11: 6TH DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 12: 7TH DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 13: VOLUNTEERS AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

SEPTEMBER 14: 3RD DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 15: 4TH DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 16: 5TH DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 17TH & 18TH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS.

As of right now the Eisenhower Vigil is a GO and scheduled for October 14-15. Watch times are as follows:

1630-1700 Dept Commander/Auxiliary President

FRIDAY OCT 14

1700-1900: 2nd District

1900-2100: 5th District

2100-2300: 1st District

2300-0100: 7th District

SATURDAY OCT 15

0100-0300: 6TH DISTRICT

0300-0500: 4TH DISTRICT

0500-0700: 3RD DISTRICT

Let us make this an awesome year, one for the books.

SVC James SARGE Langley



State Jr. Vice Commander

Greetings Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

I want to wish all newly elected and appointed Officers and Chairpersons a successful year. I am truly humbled to have been elected your Department of Kansas Jr. Vice Commander and look forward to assisting you in any way I can. I have already seen many Community Service reports and I want to encourage all of you to keep submitting them.

In Comradeship,
Terry Fletcher
Department of Kansas VFW JVC





State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Comrades:

It is that time of the year when we start over for most things A/Q's do and most of them just reload and forge ahead. The bonding information has been sent to the Quartermaster's for renewal of the yearly bond for Quartermaster's and other Post employees. If for some reason, you did not receive yours, go to the State VFW website, (vfwks.org) and click on resources and at the top of the dropdown box click on all bonding forms and it will have the particular form you need and the pricing for those forms.

If you should get a large payment and will be having a similar expenditure shortly afterwards, contact us as it may not be necessary to change your bond status.

Please check out the Kansas Website as there are new features that are very helpful and virtually everything is at your fingertips.

When it comes to reporting your programs that are part of the tracking on National's Dashboard via vfw.org you can learn a lot spending time there and reports on what your Post has done in the different programs over the years are right in front of you! Also this is the site where the Post Adjutant should be reporting VOD, Patriot's Pen, and etc., plus you can also make your donation to VMS on this site also. For those that have centurions in their Post, you can request a citation for them and it will be done so at no cost to you!

If you spend time on these two websites, you will find an immense amount of opportunity for you and your Post to grow!

Do not hesitate to visit our Kansas VFW Website which is vfwks.org where you can find out information on all of the programs, file a Community Service report, fill out a Post Surgeon's report, fill out a Post audit and find audit training, and many helpful other resources.

The employees at Department Headquarters work for you and are always willing to assist you if at all possible.

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

August 2022 State Legislature

Comrades:

First of all, if you haven't submitted a Legislative report yet this Kansas VFW Program year, (April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023) you may do so by reporting that members of your Post voted in the Kansas Primary Election which was held on August 2, 2022. Poll your Post members as to whether or not they voted or check on the percentage of voters in your area for this election and figure a bit higher as Veterans always vote at a higher rate and then figure an hour for each member voting and you can easily calculate the mileage. This is an important part of our reporting so we can show Legislators when we ask for their help on Veterans issues that we not only talk the talk, but walk the walk.

Also, do not forget the General Election coming up November 8, 2022, as it is easy to do so since it is a mid-term election. Here is another reporting opportunity for your Post and also allow you to vote for your candidates. Remember when attending political rallies do not be afraid to wear your VFW caps and memorabilia, but make sure that it does not imply that you are supporting one candidate/position or another. You are free to support your candidate/position, just make sure it does not imply that the VFW as an organization at the Post, District, State, or National levels is endorsing these positions.

When the new Kansas Legislature convenes in January 2023 we will be asking them to restructure our Grant Program which should allow both partners in that program an added flexibility to better assist their Veterans. We will be contacting you at that time to urge your State Legislator to support this legislation.

The employees at Department Hq. work for you and are always willing to assist you if at all possible.

In Respectful Comradeship,
Herb Schwartzkopf
Department of KS Adjutant/Quartermaster
Department Legislative Chairman





State Chief of Staff



Past State Commander

Comrades,

The New Year is now up and running. The programs have been presented and posted. It is time to ensure that your Post is on track to complete as many as possible.

The complete National Membership Program has been posted on the Kansas VFW website. To find the page go to PROGRAMS on the main header on the home page, next click on PROGRAMS in the drop down box, at the bottom of the selections you will find not only the KANSAS 2022-2023 Program Book you will also find the National Membership Program.

I will always try to keep you up to date on the current happenings on the website at time I might overlook an item. Please don't hesitate to contact me or Headquarters to add or correct anything.

I have changed the location of all the Bonding Forms to make them easier to find. It is at the top of the drop down box under RESOURCES.

Working for you,
Lee Hursey, PSC





State Chaplain

The Servant

“...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28

The more I hang around with Veterans and Veteran Organizations, i.e. VFW, the more I see our Brothers and Sisters helping and serving each other.

It is so easy to become annoyed and bothered with some people and it is sometimes quite a struggle to bite our tongue and turn the other cheek.

However, for the most part we trudge along and try and help and assist where we can. There is always the “Pain in the *%\$#&” that pushes us to our limit and our tendency is to reply back with a short and sharp rebuke. But that doesn’t solve the issue or help the problem of our discontented and annoyed person. Our Politicians and Government and an endlessness number of Bureaucrats create problems and Red Tape that just rubs everyone the wrong way. Then, their problems impose ridiculous restrictions and inconveniences on us and cause us to enter into the array of discontent and frustration. It’s time we broke this destructive cycle. Breaking this cycle is as easy as taking the time to find out what the person causing the disturbance really wants or need and then providing the solution. So many times they just need someone that will listen to their problem and nothing else. Sure, we all know people who love to complain. In their case, you need to maybe say, “Sir/Madam, what would you like me to do? I refuse to argue with you but if you would let me know what you think I should do, I will do my best to comply.” I am proud of the amount of cooperation and helpfulness we have in our organization. Our Brother and Sister Veterans seem to go out of their way to help someone less fortunate. For the most part we put Politics and Religion aside and work together to help those who need assistance.

So as we start another year, let each of us be a “Servant” and do our best to help others. Some people are difficult to love and be nice to and those people, most of all, need our love and compassion and understanding.

It is a Privilege to be elected as your State Chaplain for another year and I thank you for your support. Please take the time to visit my Podcast Page where you can find short Podcasts on all kinds of subjects. The Podcasts come out every Monday Morning and each is under 10 minutes.

You will find it at: TheChaplainsCorner.net

Always feel free to call me or email me with any concerns or Prayer needs you may have.

May You Have A Blessed Day,

Department Chaplain Terry Warner



State Surgeon





State Judge Advocate

First congratulation to all newly elected officers at all levels even thou you have reelected to the same position.

I want to say thank you to the comrades of Kansas VFW for allowing me to be he State Judge Advocate once again. As I have said in the past any time you need help please don't hesitate to contact me. I am more than willing to assist you in anyway that I can so that you and the Kansas VFW won't look bad to others.

I did draft a CODE OF ETHICS for all officers at all levels employees, volunteers and members to maybe not make a mistake that would possibly be a chance for someone to bring charges against you or your post.

We in the Leadership positions of the Kansas VFW must always sit the example for every member in the Kansas VFW and others. Sometimes we forget that little Joe Snuffy downtown knows that you are the Commander of the local post and if you foul up they think everyone that belongs to the VFW is the same way. Guilty by association. Not True. You may not even know who little Joe but he sure knows you. As the leadership our conduct must maintain a reputation above reproach.

My personnel belief is how would I want some one to represent me and try to return the same respect that I expect of them.

Bobby Cox
State Judge Advocate



State Inspector

Greetings Comrades and Members of the Auxiliary,

I am glad to be your State Inspector. Jim asked me to do this position, and I was honored to accept this position.

When your District Commander gets the post inspection reports out to the people to do them, if you need help don't hesitate to call me. If I don't have the answer, I know where to get the answer.

I hope all the District Commanders have a great year.

John Hooker
State Inspector
Department of Kansas VFW





1st District Commander



2nd District Commander

Greetings Comrades and members of the Auxiliary,

First off, I hope this finds you well and in good spirits. Welcome to a new membership year! Department and District SOI has been held so now it's time to work the programs.

Last year we hit 100%+ in membership and it's the goal of the district to do this again. Get out in the community to knock out some recruiting opportunities and events. Follow up on your expired members and find out why they did not renew.

School has started so it's time to start pushing Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher programs. Start working these now and not wait till the end of October when they are due to the post. Also, LEO/FF, and EMT programs should also be in the works as they are due before the end of the year.

Our next District meeting is Oct 1st at 1000 hours in Ottawa. Please ensure you have a post representative attend. Also in October is the Eisenhower Vigil in Abilene. District 2 is scheduled for Oct 14th from 1700-1900 hours. Please volunteer to attend and help the district out.

Yours in Comradeship,
Jason Parkes
District 2 Commander





3rd District Commander

Comrades:

I want to note that all members taking office this year should not just fill the position but learn the position and do the best they can do. As officers, you should attend as many district & department functions as possible. Having gone from 17 posts in the district when I was first district commander, to 13 and possibly losing more, I'm concerned. I'm looking forward to this being a very productive year.

And remember, no one does more for veterans than the VFW.

In comradeship,
Charlie Cravens



4th District Commander





5th District Commander

Greetings Comrades and members of the Auxiliary,

It is an exciting time as we roll through the summer months and begin the new program year. It was nice to see a good turnout and to visit with everyone at the Commander/President's picnic.

We had 7 posts reach 100% or more in membership for 2021-2022. We were less than 30 away from achieving that as a district. Congratulations to all of our 100% posts! I look forward to working with the posts to assist in any way possible to improve our membership for this coming year. If you are having post events or membership drives please let me know and I will do my best to attend.

The 5th District is planning a coffee tour for September 23rd – 25th. I look forward to visiting our posts and answering any questions you may have.

Our 5th District mid-summer and school of instruction will be held August 28th at 10:00 AM in Wellington Post 881. Our fall meeting will be October 23rd at 10:00 AM in Harper Post 11449.

In Comradeship,
Jay Boyle
Commander, District 5
Department of Kansas



6th District Commander





7th District Commander

Comrades, brothers and sisters,

After a successful Department Mid Summer and School of Instruction, the 7th District held our Mid Summer and School of Instruction on August 20, 2022 at Dodge City Post 1714. We were small in attendance but had 7 Posts represented. Awesome. Thanks to all that attended.

The Post Inspection has started with 4 completed already. Letters are being sent to the Post Commander, Quartermaster and Adjutant (if different from Quartermaster) to let the Post know date and time of Inspection. Please let me know if there is a conflict and we can arrange a different date for your Post Inspection.

The State Fair is September 9 to 18 2022. District 7 has Monday September 12, 2022 as our Fair Day at the booth. (Dillions card equals free admission on Monday the 12th)

Our Fall Meeting will be held in Ransom on October 1, 2022 with POW/MIA Ceremony at 9:30am and meetings to follow at 10:00am. VFW will meet in Club Room and Auxiliary will meet in the Main Hall.

The Eisenhower Vigil is October 14 and 15 2022. District 7 VFW and Auxiliary has the 11:00pm to 1:00am (2300-0100) time frame. Please attend this to help the District. Be there 20 minutes before start time to get signed in.

Karen Gilkey is our District 7 President. Please give her our support.

Lets have a great year and do great things for our Veterans, their families, our communities and youth.

Thanks
Gerald Marvin



National Council Member



Scout of the Year 2021



Ezekial Haag
VFW Post 9139 Ellis, Kansas



STATE CONVENTION AWARDS

Wayne E Richards

Paul Saliger

Elmer Jenkins

John Hermreck

Esther McComb

Marsha LaRosh



Corrections to 2022-23 Roster Book

1. Michael B Holland's email address is michaelbholland47@gmail.com
2. Post 7928 Lincoln's post commander is Eric Yates, elyates85@gmail.com—913-227-0135
3. 5th District Brandon Kultgen's phone # is 803-351-7896
4. 5th District Michael Kultgen's phone # is 803-899-3473
5. 5th District Aaron Grunden's last name was spelled incorrectly
6. 5th District Lee Hursey's email is lhursey@cox.net
7. Post 1367 Lester Crawshaw email is lrcrawshaw64@gmail.com 785-554-5790

My sincere apology for any mistakes I made!

**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)



NATIONAL COUNCIL DISTRICT MEMBER #13



We are off to a great start for our 2022-2023 year. The National Convention in Kansas City was a wonderful experience. I have to send a big “Thank You” to all the auxiliary members who worked at the convention to make it be a huge success. A very special “Thank you” needs to go to Jeanette Cox, for organizing things and making it run so efficiently. Kansas you made us proud!

Our National President, Jane Reape’s theme this year, **Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care**, perfectly describes the VFW Auxiliary. We do so much for our veterans and service members, their families, our communities and for each other. Please continue all the wonderful things that you are doing. By working together as one VFW and VFW Auxiliary family, we can do even more!

“We are not a team because we work together, we are a team because we respect, trust, and care for each other.”-Vala Afshar

Loyally,
Jane Ryser
VFW Auxiliary National Council District Member #13
Kansas and Colorado





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 News

STATE PRESIDENT



Greetings Everyone!

We have had a wonderful start to the new Auxiliary year. Thank you to everyone who attended the Department Commander and President picnic in Haysville. We enjoyed great food and fellowship, and a big **THANK YOU** goes to the Haysville VFW and Auxiliary for their hospitality.

At the National Convention last month in Kansas City, Past Department President Tessa and the Department of Kansas were included in the prestigious Circle of Excellence. Your hard work throughout the year, and the final membership push at the end of June were key to obtaining this honor. Also at National Convention, over 30 Kansas Auxiliary members volunteered their time helping with Registration, Patriotic Art, stage help, and moving and arranging chairs – repeatedly. Thank you to everyone who volunteered!

Now on to a new year with more work to do. Districts will hold their Schools of Instruction in August, where Auxiliary members can reconnect with other members, and learn about what's coming up for the new year. I hope you are planning to attend your District's meeting.

Our National President's special project this year is 3-Dimensional Art. I will be supporting this project as well by selling chances on an 18-foot outdoor flagpole kit and a lovely handmade afghan, both of which will be given away at the Department Convention in June of 2023.

Membership will continue to be important this year! We must work hard to retain our current membership and recruit new members. We also don't want to forget those former members who may want to rejoin. Reach out to them!

I hope to see many of you soon at your District meetings, or at other events your Auxiliary may hold. Please reach out to me if there is anything I can do for you. Have a **GREAT** year!

Sincerely,
Karol Goodin
Department of Kansas President

Auxiliary News

STATE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Hello Brothers and Sisters:

In May, I had the opportunity to go to Jr. Vice Training in Michigan. We toured the National Home for Children and heard some amazing stories from past residences. I would like to encourage everyone to visit if you have the opportunity. Congratulations to those who were elected to lead the Auxiliary for the upcoming 2022-23 year. National convention in Kansas City was exciting. Those from Kansas worked registration, gave directions to functions, and helped to set up the stage. It was fun to participate in the election process for the new National Guard. We are gearing up for Department School of Instruction in Salina. This is always a weekend packed full of learning about all the programs. Looking forward to seeing everyone at their District

School of Instructions. It is never too early to start working those annual memberships. Consider getting out that first round of membership letters soon!

Loyally,

Mike McCandless

Dept. Sr. Vice President

STATE JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Greetings.

Just as I thought my year was going to be easy and care free, I found myself being chased by a swarm of old and new Department officers as the office of Jr. Vice President remained open following the first day of nominations at the June Convention. They were full of encouragement and reassurance that it was my time to step forward. The following day my name was placed for Jr. Vice President for the 2022-23 year and the rest is now History!!

I am looking forward to our Department School of Instruction to begin serving with the elite Department officers. Our 4th District School of Instruction is the following week where I will already be serving as the Department Representative for President Karol. The following week I have been assigned to District 1 School of Instruction as their Department Representative. So what I thought to be a quiet year is already off in a flurry of meetings and travel. I look forward to the learning as I prepare to lead this mighty organization in 2 years! So, if I look lost, confused or overwhelmed, please pick me up, help me shake off the dust, and remind me of those Department officers words. "No one is ever ready, but together we all can make a

difference in the lives of our Veterans and families!!"

Respectfully,

Marsha LaRosh

Jr. Vice President

2097 W. 100th Dr.

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2021-2022 Department Officers

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Jr. Vice Commander

Terry Fletcher
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Adjutant/ Quartermaster

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Surgeon

Allen Owens
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785-307-2409

Chaplain

Terry Warner
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LaCrosse 67548
785-259-9193

Chief of Staff

Patrick Briggs
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Lyons 67554
620-474-1896

Inspector

John Hooker
214 E Ave B
South Hutchinson 67505
620-474-5637

Past Department

Commander

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

District Commanders:

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David Gunn
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Tonganoxie 66086
650-228-3973

2nd District

Jason Parkes
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3rd District

Charles Cravens
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Winfield 67156
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4th District

Dale Nelson
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Chapman 67431
785-922-7180

5th District

James Boyle
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Wichita 67209
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6th District

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WaKeeney 67672
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7th District

Gerald Marvin
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LaCrosse 67548
785-222-6748



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.

