

# THE KANSAS BULLETIN

## VFW

THE OLDEST STATE PUBLICATION IN THE VFW

Volume 91, Issue 4

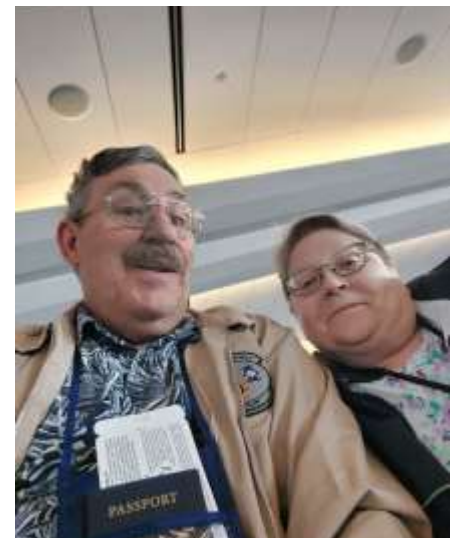
May 2023

### State Commander James Ratcliff

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VFW Kansas Website



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





## State Commander

Comrade Brothers and Sisters,

Last July Congress passed the most important piece of Veterans legislation in the last 50 years with the PACT ACT. Now we have to keep a watchful eye on the implementation of this legislation by the Veterans Administration. But while we are celebrating the passage and tracking the implementation processes for fair and balanced administration by the VA, we have another problem on the horizon. The Congressional Budget Office, which is an office within the Executive Branch of the Government and operates out of the West Wing, has been floating future ways to trim the federal budget and close in on a balanced budget. It appears that the CBO has begun to champion two initiatives that would put a very large

burden of these cuts on the backs of Department of Defense and Veterans benefits. I have already had discussions with David Shearman, Senator Moran's Veterans Liaison in the DC office about an article that surfaced on the CBO and possible methods to achieve the cuts. Mr. Shearman has assured me that they are aware of the CBO possible budget cut recommendations impacting veterans. David assured me that the sentiment on any legislation on budget cuts to VA, DOD, and other veterans related legislation is on their radar and dead in the water at this time in both sides of the aisle on the Veterans Affairs Committees. That said, I am asking all Kansas VFW members to keep a watchful on social media, news articles, and televised media for anything on the Congressional Budget Office and Congressional activity. Share this information with fellow Kansas veterans, VFW members and other Veterans Service Organizations in Kansas. Encourage contacting our House and Senate representatives in Washington DC about these budget issues. Let them know we are watching and have concerns about negative impacts on ALL veterans.

In Comradeship,

James Ratcliff

Commander

Department of Kansas





## State Sr. Vice Commander

Department of Kansas Comrades,

Here we are 50 days from the end of the MEMBERSHIP YEAR. At the time of this article, we are 145 members short of 100%. Let's make a big push and knock on doors or pick up a phone to get that 100%. Let's pull together to get Commander Ratcliffe and the Department of Kansas 100%. We have several posts at or over 100% and I congratulate them.

The Convention Corp. has been dotting the I's and crossing the T's in preparation for the Department Convention which is in Garden City on 8-11 June. If you have not got your convention packets sent in, you need to get it done. The RBC band will be the entertainment Saturday after the banquet. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Garden City.

The Commander/Presidents picnic will be in Liberal at post 3166 on 8 July. Meal provided by THE ALL-AMERICAN BEEF BATTALION. The Beef Battalion travels and feeds RSG's, welcome homes, and other special events, and works solely on donations. When you fill out your RSVP, they ask that we have a good number as to the number of steaks to prepare. In their words "Every wasted steak is a steak that a VETERAN does not get to have". We will have cornhole, ping pong, pool, and other forms of entertainment.

The National Convention is 22-27 July in Phoenix, Az. I hear it's a dry 110. Make sure you are registered as a delegate from your post. We will have a department Caucus on Friday 21 Aug. We will be choosing our Western Conference JVCIC designee at this convention so please be informed and educated on who you cast your vote for.

If you have not heard, Debbi Guay is retiring. Debbi will be around until after the Department Convention and may be called upon with big things if needed (HINT HINT). With that being said, we welcome back Jessica Boose. Jessica worked for the Department a few years back and is already at HQ getting up to speed. Welcome back Jessica.

Let us finish the year strong so we have momentum going into the swing of things once we return from Phoenix. Hope to see everyone in Garden City in June.

FOUGHT FOR COUNTRY  
FIGHTING FOR VETERANS  
SVC LANGLEY



## State Jr. Vice Commander

Greetings Comrades of the VFW and Brothers and Sisters of the VFW Auxiliary,

As many of you know we started our new Community Service reporting year on April 1<sup>st</sup>. I would like to give you an update of last years efforts.

We as a TEAM had an outstanding year last reporting Community Service with over 3,300 reports submitted. This was a 10 percent increase from the 2021-2022 reporting year. Thank you all for supporting our veterans and their families and your local communities.

It has been an honor serving as you as JVC this year. I appreciate all of the support and mentoring you have given me. With that said, I will be a candidate for SVC in June and I appreciate your continued support. I hope to see all of you at our Department Conven-

tion.

Keep up the outstanding work Team Kansas.

Respectfully,

Terry Fletcher  
Dept. of KS VFW JVC







## State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Comrades:

As we wind down towards the Department Convention in Garden City, June 8 through 11, we need to be aware to the fact that is our Post eligible or not to be able to vote on issues and candidates at the Convention. If your Post is in the arrears on Audits, (all four of the audits for this year need to be on file), your current election report turned in to National and Department, if your Post is in the **arrears for money owed to District, Department, or National, and your Post doesn't have at least one member registered for the Department Convention**, then Your Post is ineligible to vote. This can be rectified at any time by taking care of the discrepancies right up until the actual time to vote.

The deadline for all All-State items except membership was March 31, 2023, while the deadline for most All-American items is June 30, 2023. As far as the All-State qualification goes, all eleven slots were filled at the April 20<sup>th</sup> judging. In fact the Commander awarded fourteen Posts the All State award and that program is closed. We currently have eleven Posts that have qualified for All American and several more still have the opportunity to be qualified.

Make sure you have someone from your Post in attendance at the Department Mid-Summer School of Instruction so they can learn what the different programs will be and any changes to those programs. I know, because of the severe price increase of the cost of Poppies that the Buddy Poppy program will have an immense change, especially when it comes to All State qualifications.

The deadline for Endowment Applications has arrived and the Endowment Committee judges judged the applications and fifteen students were each awarded \$2,000.00 scholarships; (\$1,000.00 per semester). Twenty-six students turned in Scholarship applications. This is one of the best kept secrets out there. We need to work with our High School Counselors to identify and assist eligible applicants.

Do not hesitate to visit our Kansas VFW Website which is [vfwks.org](http://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

## Legislative

Comrades:

The 2023 Kansas Legislative year has been a whirlwind to say the least. First off I want to THANK all of YOU who helped make things happen by contacting your State Legislators and asking for their support on various bills. Next, I would like to Sincerely Thank Kansas Legislative Co-Chair Jim Karleskint for his help, for without him, nothing would have been possible nor accomplished. With his Legislative experience and where-with-all, we were able to be where we needed to be when we needed to be to take the appropriate actions needed to complete the missions.

Currently the omnibus budget is on the Governors desk to be signed and it does include the \$150,000.00 increase that Kansas VFW asked for, but because of outside interference, it will go to the VCAP budget with it's division to be decided by the KCVAO. Your Kansas VFW has given a proposal that should satisfy all parties involved and do the key reason we are here, "To help Veterans", to a greater extent than we currently are. We should know within a month as to whether or not this is a go. At this time, there is no further action required on your part unless you want to send a "Thank You" to your local Legislator thanking them for their support of the Omnibus Budget in both the Senate and House. All of these actions by you and your Post should be reported on the Kansas Web Site reporting system under either Veterans Service, or Legislative Service. Thanks to all of you for "ALL YOU DO"!!!

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

In Respectful Comradeship

Herb Schwartzkopf

Kansas VFW Legislative Co Chairman





## Past State Commander

Comrades,

It has been a pleasure in serving you and the Department these last continuous 9 years as an Officer on Department Council in one position or the other. We have come a long way in communications, resources, and being accessible to all Kansas VFW members. We strive to help one another in helping you to succeed for no one wishes anyone to fail in their endeavors. There will be new officers elected throughout the

State and your State leadership will be there to help in any way they can. It is not weak to ask for help, if and when you do ask, to me it means you care and want to be the best you can be. I might be going off the council but you can contact me at any time day or night for anything at all. I will always be accessible to anyone who asks.

In Comradeship,  
Lee Hursey  
Past State Commander



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## 5th District Commander

5th District Commander:

Greetings Comrades and members of the Auxiliary,

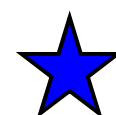
We are coming to an end of the membership year and I would like to congratulate all of the members of 5th District for helping the District achieve 100% in membership! As I write this, we have 7 posts at 100% or greater and 5 posts needing less than 10 to reach 100%. It is still possible for all of the posts to achieve 100% by the end of the membership year. Pick up the phone today and reach out to your expired members. Sometimes it just takes a quick conversation

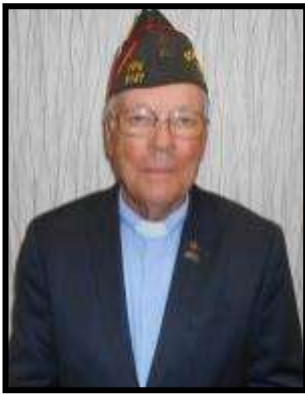
to get a renewal.

Congratulations to Wellington Post 881, Wichita Post 3115, Haysville Post 6957, & the 5th District for being All-American eligible!

I would like to say thank you to all of the Officers and Chairpersons of the 5th District for their hard work and dedication this year. I look forward to seeing everyone in Garden City for our Department convention.

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





## State Chaplain

### VFW Chaplain Training

Have you looked at the [Department of Kansas VFW Website](#) lately?

After clicking on the above link, then click on the “Resources” tab, then scroll down until you find

“Chaplain’s Corner.”

When you get to that page, scroll down a little more and you will see, “[Monthly Chaplain’s Online Report Form](#).” Click on that link.

That will take you to your Monthly Online Report Form for VFW Chaplains and you can fill the Form out using your cell phone, tablet, or computer. Then hit “Submit” and SHA-ZAM!, your MONTHLY REPORT is sent to me immediately. :D)

Go ahead and give it a try. Just fill in the blanks and in the notes, just say you are testing the form. I will receive your report, send you a “Thank You” notice and then when the next month goes by, all you will need to do is send in another report.

If you still want to send it by regular mail, just let me know and I will make sure you get a written form. Currently, out of 106 Posts, I will get 4 forms. (Hopefully, this next month will fill my inbox)

Okay, back to the “Chaplain’s Corner” web page and scroll down a little more and you will see a link for: “[Revised Chaplain’s Handbook](#).” This is a complete Chaplain’s Handbook and was revised in 2023 by Rev. Peter Hook, Past National VFW Chaplain.

Scroll down a little more and you will see the list of ZOOM Training Webinars being presented by our current National Chaplain Deborah Halter. Just below that is the ZOOM link you will need to click on to join the monthly training. (Link not posted because of spam sites.) Just click on the link yourself.

Scroll down some more and you will find a link to the [Missouri VFW Chaplain’s Corner](#). They have a lot of articles and links for you to use in your responsibility as a Chaplain.

Continue to scroll down some more and you will find the [Chaplain’s Guide](#) for the State of Pennsylvania. You will find this website full of helpful articles as well.

Keep checking back to the Department of Kansas website as I will be adding some more information and States that will be helpful to you as you continue to serve as a VFW Chaplain. (Cooties included. Especially through Department of Pennsylvania.)

Lastly, I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your Department Chaplain and I look forward to your support for another year.

“May the Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

Just ask Him Into Your Heart Today, Chaplain Terry Warner





## **Robert J. “Bobby” Lovergne Jr.**

National Council of Administration

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

**Robert J. “Bobby” Lovergne Jr. was elected to a four-year term on the VFW’s National Council of Administration on July 21, 2022, at the 123rd VFW National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, representing the Department of Louisiana.**

He served in the United States Air Force from 1983 to 2002, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. In recognition of his service, he was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal with two devices, Air Force Achievement Medal with three devices, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with five devices, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with five devices, Air Force Expeditionary Medal with one device, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three devices, Saudi Arabian Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait, and the Kuwait Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait, among several other decorations.



Bobby joined the VFW in 1991 at Post 1736 in Alexandria, Louisiana, later transferring to Post 3750 in Luling, Louisiana, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as the Department of Louisiana Commander in 2020, in which he achieved

All-American status. On the national level, he has served on the Veterans Service Resolutions Committee, Programs Committee, Finance and Internal Organization Committee, and has served as Special Aide-de-Camp and National Deputy Chief of Staff.

He attended the NCO Leadership School in 1989, received his Associate of Applied Science degree from the Community College of the Air Force, and was a certified Air Force recruiter. Bobby retired from the United States Air Force as a technical sergeant and is employed as the Professional Learning Center coordinator for the St. Charles Parish School Board.

He is a member of the American Legion, Military Order of the Cootie, and is a Third Degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

Bobby and his wife, Nellie, reside in Luling, Louisiana.







## Mary Spindler

*National Hospital Ambassador  
2022-2023*

Mary Spindler of Robinson, Illinois currently serves the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary as the 2022-2023 National Hospital Ambassador.

A Life Member of Crawford County Auxiliary 4549 in Robinson, Illinois, she joined on the eligibility of her husband, J.D. "Butch" Spindler, who served in the United States Marine Corps from 1967 to 1968 during the Vietnam War. Her husband is a Past State VFW Commander (2003 to 2004) and served six years on National Council of Administration.



Mary has served the organization in many capacities, including as Auxiliary, District and Department President and Program Chairmanships.

Mary has an associate degree from Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Illinois and a Bachelor of Science degree in business education from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois. She is employed with their family-owned business, Spindler Financial Services.

Mary and her husband's family includes a son, daughter and two grandchildren.

In her spare time, Mary and her husband like to travel, especially to different countries, and her favorite hobbies are reading and scrapbooking. She is a member of Amvets, American Legion, Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA), and a life member of the VFW National Home for Children.



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# DEPARTMENT CONVENTION - VFW & AUXILIARY

June 8-11, 2023

**\*\*REVISED 3-27-2023 SCHEDULE\*\***

## Thursday, June 8, 2023

- 4:00 PM - Post 2279 Open
- 5:00 PM - Budget & Finance Meeting – **North**

## Friday, June 9, 2023

- 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Registration –
- 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM - Auxiliary Council Meeting – **South Central**
- IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AUXILIARY COUNCIL MEETING** – Auxiliary Floor Practice – **South Central**
- 10:00 AM - Buddy Poppy & Record Book Displays –
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Convention Corporation Meeting – **North**
- 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM - Resolution Meeting – **North**
- 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM - Rules of Order Committee – **North**
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM - VFW Council Meeting – **North**
- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM - Lunch – Buffet available at hotel –
- 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM - VFW Business Meeting – **North**
  - (a) Assign Resolutions - Time & Place for meetings
  - (b) Introductions of guests
  - (c) Nomination of Officers
- 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM - Auxiliary Business Meeting – **South Central**
  - (a) Auxiliary Credentials
  - (b) Opening Ceremony
  - (c) Nomination of Officers
  - (d) Candidates Forum
- 2:00 PM - **Veterans Service Meeting – North**
- 4:00 PM - Post 2279 Open
- 5:00 PM - **Hospital Workshop – Garden Terrace**
- 6:00 PM - VFW District Caucuses – **District Commander's Choice**
- 6:30 PM - Past State Auxiliary Presidents Dinner – **The Frances**

## Saturday, June 10, 2023

- 8:00 AM - Memorial Service - VFW & Auxiliary – **North**
- 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Registration –
- 8:00 AM - Buddy Poppy & Record Book on Display removed by 12:00 Noon –
- 9:00 AM - Auxiliary Business Meeting – **South Central**
  - (a) Business Meeting Reconvenes
  - (b) Committee Reports
- 9:00 AM - VFW Business Meeting – **North**
  - (a) Committee Reports
  - (b) Introduction of guests
- 11:30 AM - Past State Commanders Luncheon – **The Frances**
- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM - Lunch – Buffet available at hotel –
- 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM - Auxiliary Business Meeting – **South Central**
  - (a) Committee Reports Resume
  - (b) Nomination of Officers
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM - VFW Business Meeting – **North**
  - (a) Other unfinished business
  - (b) Nomination of Officers
- 3:00 PM - Awards (followed by Raffle winners) – **North**
- 4:00 PM - Post 2279 Open, **Dance at 8:00 PM**
- 6:30 PM - Convention Banquet – **North & South Central**

## Sunday, June 11, 2023

- 8:00 AM - Past Commanders Club Meeting – **North**
- 8:45 AM - Closing of Auxiliary Credentials – **South Central**
- 9:00 AM - VFW Business Meeting – **North**
  - (a) Nomination, Election & Installation of Officers
- 9:00 AM - Auxiliary Business Meeting – **South Central**
  - (a) Nomination, Election & Installation of Officers
- IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INSTALLATION OF AUXILIARY OFFICERS**
  - Auxiliary Council of Administration Meeting – **South Central**
- IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INSTALLATION OF VFW OFFICERS**
  - Endowment Association Meeting – **North**
- 11:00 AM - Convention Corporation Meeting – **North**
- 11:00 AM - Lunch – **on your own**
- 12:00 PM - VFW Department Council of Administration & Luncheon – **The Frances**

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# VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

## Thursday, June 8, 2023

4:00 PM - Post 2279 Open

## Friday, June 9, 2023

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Registration -  
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM - Auxiliary Council Meeting - **South Central**  
*IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AUXILIARY COUNCIL MEETING –*  
Auxiliary Floor Practice – **South Central**  
Buddy Poppy & Record Book Displays –  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Lunch – **Buffet available at Hotel –**  
11:30 AM - 3:30 PM - Auxiliary Business Meeting – **South Central**  
1:00 PM - Auxiliary Credentials  
Opening Ceremony  
Nomination of Officers  
Candidates Forum  
4:00 PM - Post 2279 Open  
5:00 PM - **Hospital Workshop – Garden Terrace**  
6:30 PM - Past State Auxiliary Presidents Dinner – **The Frances**

## Saturday, June 10, 2023

8:00 AM - Memorial Service - VFW & Auxiliary – **North**  
8:00 AM - Buddy Poppy & Record Book on  
Display removed by 12:00 Noon –  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Registration –  
9:00 AM - Auxiliary Business Meeting – **South Central**  
Business Meeting Reconvenes  
Committee Reports  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM - Lunch – **Buffet available at Hotel –**  
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM - Auxiliary Business Meeting – **South Central**  
Committee Reports Resume  
Nomination of Officers  
3:00 PM - VFW Awards (followed by Raffle winners) – **North**  
4:00 PM - Post 2279 Open, Dance at 8:00 PM  
6:30 PM - Convention Banquet – **North & South Central**

## Sunday, June 11, 2023

8:45 AM - Closing of Auxiliary Credentials – **South Central**  
9:00 AM - Auxiliary Business Meeting – **South Central**  
(a) Nomination, Election & Installation of Officers  
*IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INSTALLATION OF AUXILIARY OFFICERS –*  
Auxiliary Council of Administration Meeting – **South Central**  
*IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INSTALLATION OF VFW OFFICERS -*  
Endowment Association Meeting – **North**



2023

STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEES

*ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY COMMITTEE MEETING*

**RESOLUTION/BY-LAW COMMITTEE**

*Chairman – Bobby Cox / Vice – Dallas Love*

David Gunn	Jay Boyle
Jason Parkes	Jerry White
Charlie Cravens	Gerald Marvin
Dale Nelson	

**RULES OF ORDER COMMITTEE**

*Chairman – Clyde Lindsey*

**COMMUNITY SERVICE &  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

*Chairman – Terry Fletcher / Vice – Lee Hursey*

Jeff Falley	Preston Pelkey
Bob Teetsel	Chris Stegman
Bruce Clemens	Dewayne Watson
Gary Keil	Terry Warner

**VETERANS SERVICE &  
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

*Chairman – Jim Langley / Vice – Pat Briggs*

Allen Barnes	Brandon Kultgen
Jamie Cox	Ken Allred
Todd Schroeder	David Tinsley
David Kennedy	Mike Ogle
Lynn Rolf, Jr.	





Resolution No. 2  
**CODE OF ETHICS FOR KANSAS VFW MEMBERS**

**WHEREAS**, the conduct of some VFW members at Post, District, and State Conventions/meetings has been questionable, now, therefore

**BE IT RESOVED**, that we petition the Department of Kansas VFW Convention to adopt the following Code of Ethics for all Kansas VFW members at Post, District, or Department Conventions/meetings and at special events within these Conventions/meetings such as but not limited to Caucuses, Banquets, Hospitality rooms, and so forth.

**Code of Ethics for Kansas VFW Officers, Council Members, Employees, and Members**  
Officers, Council Members, Employees, and other persons in the Department of Kansas VFW shall be governed by the following Code of Ethics:

**PERSONAL CONDUCT AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY**

1. Display personal integrity, avoid misrepresentation and always be honest with others;
2. Act in a professional manner at all times;
3. Promote an environment where honesty and open communication are valued;
4. Resolve differences of opinion in a professional and mature manner;
5. Respect the confidentiality of privileged information;
6. Refuse to engage in or tolerate any form of discrimination or harassment toward members, employees, volunteers, or other officers;
7. Exhibit respect and fairness toward all members/people;
8. Speak highly of the organization and its members; and
9. Promote the VFW and support the activities of the organization.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

Members and donors have placed their trust in the leadership of the organization to use funds to best fulfill the mission of the VFW. The officers, Council Members, employees and members of Kansas VFW shall:

1. Refrain from using Kansas VFW's resources for any purpose that does not benefit the organization;
2. Ensure that travel, entertainment and related expenses that are incurred on behalf of Kansas VFW are for the benefit of the organization and not for personal gain or interests;
3. Make objective and informed decisions concerning the proper use of funds or assets of Kansas VFW; and
4. Regard the assets of Kansas VFW with the same consideration and same care as personal assets when making decisions.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

To avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest which would tarnish the image of the organization, no one serving as an officer, Council Members, employee or in any leadership position shall take personal advantage of his or her leadership role by allowing a situation to exist that is, or may be perceived to be, a conflict of interest. All officers, Council Members, employees, and other members of Kansas VFW must:

1. Make all decisions based upon the best interests of Kansas VFW;
2. Refrain from the use of Kansas VFW resources for personal gain;
3. Timely disclose any direct or indirect relationship with a person, or interest in a business or other entity, that may benefit from a decision in which they have a vote or over which they have an ability to influence;





4. Refrain from influencing the selection of vendors who are relatives, personal friends, or persons who are affiliated with, employ or are employed by, a person with whom such officer, employee, or member has a personal or professional relationship;
  5. Avoid any conduct that could directly or indirectly benefit the officer, employee, or member and refrain from using such positions, directly or indirectly, for private gain or to advance personal interest or that of any family member, personal friend or other person with whom a personal relationship exists.
  6. Decline any extravagant gift, travel, entertainment, gratuity, favor or extraordinary discounts on merchandise in the performance of Kansas VFW duties from anyone, and under no circumstances, should any of the aforementioned affect business decisions. \*
  7. Ensure that outside employment and other activities do not adversely affect the performance of Kansas VFW duties; and
  8. Avoid any situation that may have an appearance of a conflict of interest.
- The definition of "extravagant" or "extraordinary" is anything that might be deemed excessive in the normal course of business. Entertainment and travel provided by vendors or associated organizations that directly relate to Kansas VFW business is acceptable.

Any staff member who questions the appropriateness of the gift, travel, entertainment, favors or discounts must disclose it to their superior. In the case of management staff, disclosure should be made to the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster depending on the chain of command.

Submitted by State Judge Advocate, Bobby Cox, Department of Kansas, V.F.W.

Committee Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Action: Approved / Disapproved

Committee Action: Approved / Disapproved

D



## 2023 Department Elections

Section 517 of our National By-laws and Manual of Procedure states, in part: (a) The elective officers of each Department shall be a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and if election is required by Department By-Laws the Judge Advocate, Surgeon and Chaplain.

In addition to those offices required by our National By-laws to be elected at our annual Department Convention, we will also be electing one 5 year member of the VFW Endowment Association, one 3 year member of the Board of Directors for the Convention Corporation and one 5 year member for the Veterans Service Committee.

Department elections will be held at the State Convention in Hays on Sunday, June 12, 2022.

Delegate voting strength of a Post is determined by one delegate for each thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post as of the end of March 2022. Additionally, Past Commanders-in-Chief, National Council Members, the Department Commander, all Past Department Commanders (who are members in good standing of Posts within the Department), all elected officers of the Department, the Chief of Staff, the Inspector, all District Commanders and all Post Commanders, shall be entitled to one vote. Any individual possessing more than one qualification to vote at the Department Convention shall have no more than one vote.

Any Post in arrears for National or Department dues, poppy money, supply money, or other financial obligations, failing to have their Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National By-Laws, failing to ensure the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709 or failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit or Post Election Report shall be deprived of all representation at Department Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

The following officers are elected positions to be filled.

Commander  
Senior Vice Commander  
Junior Vice Commander  
Quartermaster  
Judge Advocate  
Surgeon  
Chaplain  
Convention Corporation – 3 year  
Endowment Association – 5 year  
Veterans Service Committee – 5 year



## CANDIDATES FOR STATE CONVENTION



James Langley for  
State Commander



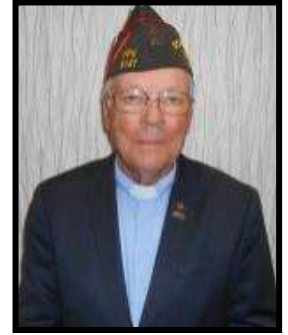
Terry Fletcher for  
Sr. Vice Commander



Charlie Cravens for  
Jr. Vice Commander



Herb Schwartzkopf for  
Quartermaster/Adj



Terry Warner for State  
Chaplain



Allen Owens for  
State Surgeon



Bobby Cox for  
Judge Advocate



Comrades,

At last year's State Convention in Hay's Kansas I announced my candidacy for National Council Member for the years 2024-2028. Now again I ask for your support for the position in next year's election. I have been a member and continually active in the Kansas VFW for 33 years and in that time I have been twice Post Commander, twice District Commander, and twice State Commander along with twice State Surgeon and State inspector having a total of 11 years of experience being a mem-

ber of the Department of Kansas Council. I feel I can represent all members of the Department equally and faithfully. I have attended many COA meetings held at the National Convention and have attended 5 Council meetings in Washington D.C. during the Legislative Conferences. I am completely aware of what this position entails and ready to represent the Kansas VFW members.

In Comradeship,  
Lee Hursey  
Past State Commander



Comrades: I would like to humbly ask for your support to be your next VFW National Council Member to represent our great comrades of Kansas. This decision I do not take lightly. As your Kansas Past State Commander from 2013-2014, Past District 1 Commander and a member and Past Commander of Post #56 in Leavenworth, KS you deserve a representative who will communicate with our Kansas membership and with National on challenges and successes of our great VFW organization. I truly believe we need a COA member who can articulate our Kansas VFW message and will not hesitate to stand up for what is right or wrong. We as the VFW have an extremely bright future and WE are the preeminent VSO in all that we do from locally to nationally. We have some challenges also. We must make the best decisions for our posts and organization. As a 3rd generation VFW member, I believe with my unique skill sets and experience from Post, District, State, Western Conference and National we will continue to voice our message together. This position is not a title and free ride, but rather it is to represent all Kansas members in a professional and accountable way. I owe so much to our Kansas VFW members and to our VFW. You gave me a new mission and truly saved my life. I want to return the favor and continue to give back to our membership. I take my sacred obligation as a true Comrade dearly and can always be reached day or night. Thanks for your support and keep **doing what you're doing daily for our Communities, Military and Veterans and our families** #VFWKansas.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Lynn W. Rolf III  
VFW Member





## The Work of a Chaplain

Each post has a Chaplain and most comrades think that all the Chaplain does is show up at the post meetings and read the ritual prayers. But that is surely not the real work of the Chaplain. In fact, most of the work done by the Chaplain takes place outside of the post meeting, and many times goes unnoticed by virtually everyone in the post but will have a positive impact on the Post and community.

**First, the Chaplain nurtures the living.** We do this by spending time with our fellow comrades, and when the need arises, we help them with life situations.

**Second, the Chaplain cares for the dying.** Whether in the hospital or at home, the Chaplain is there to offer supportive care to dying comrades and their families.

**Third, the Chaplain honors the dead.** Working closely with the immediate family, the Chaplain ensures there is a proper burial and memorial service for the deceased. According to Section 418 of the Congressional Charter By-Laws and Manual of Procedure Ritual, during the annual District Convention, the District Chaplain shall see that a fitting tribute is paid to our departed comrades. Memorial Services are also held each year at the National Convention, Conference Meetings, and at the State Conventions.

*"Integrity – Commitment – Service"*

## Rev. Jim Jenkins

### Military Service

- Served in the U.S. Army – Volunteered for the Draft in 1969
- Served with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam 1970
- Received Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Air Medal

### Experience

- Ordained - March 1981
- Youth Pastor
- Church Pastor
- Pulpit supply
- Bible Teacher
- Served in all areas of Church Leadership
- Senior citizen ministries since 1981

National Chaplain 2019-2020  
Post Chaplain 1999-2000, 2022-2024  
Post Cmdr-6 times-All State three times  
Post Adj – since 2003 minus 1 year  
Dist Cmdr 2006-2007  
Dist Chaplain – 2007-2018, 2020-2021  
Aide de Champ – three times  
Nat'l Conv Committees – 4 times  
KS State Chaplain 2009-2021  
KS State Budget & Finance – since 2021  
Western Conf Chaplain 2018-2020  
VA Hosp Vol-over 1000 hours  
MOC Pup Tent Sky Pilot since 2010  
MOC CCDB since 2012  
MOC Grand Chaplain 2014-2017  
MOC 9th Dist Chaplain 2015-2017

*"Integrity – Commitment – Service"*

## Campaign Promise

In the role as **National Chaplain** and **Western Conference Chaplain**, Jim will work with the Department Chaplains and function as a resource person and coach to help them carry out their responsibilities to minister effectively to District and Post Chaplains so that they may effectively minister to Post members and their families to be a positive impact on their communities.

### Periodic Emails and Education

Jim will send out emails to encourage Department Chaplains in their responsibilities. He will send out resources and aids to help Department Chaplains in order to educate District and Post Chaplains in order for them to be effective Chaplains in their Post and Community. Zoom meetings will be scheduled to help with training. When this happens, you will see a positive impact upon the membership in your Post and Auxiliary.

### Web Based Resources

Jim will continue to point Chaplains to various resources to aid them in their duties as Chaplain to their Post.

The Chaplain's Resource Page on the PA and MO Department Website <https://vfwpa.org/> and <https://movfw.org/> are two of the resources for Chaplains.

*"Integrity – Commitment – Service"*

## Biography

Jim is a native of Kansas. Moved to KC KS area after serving in the Army. He has lived the last 40 years in Bonner Springs, KS. He received his BS degree from Kansas State University. He attended New Tribes Mission Bible School in Jackson, MI. Jim received Masters of Ministry Degree from Bethany Theological Seminary.

In January 2017 Jim retired from Scott Rice Office Works after 42 years. He worked in various positions and the last 20 in admin dept.

Jim joined VFW 7285 in Nov of 1970 upon returning home from Vietnam. He has been a VFW life member since 1984 thanks to his father. Jim began his active part in the VFW in 1998 when he transferred his membership to Post 6401 in Bonner Springs. Jim started out as Post Chaplain and since has served in various Offices in the Post, District and Department. When elected as State Chaplain in 2009 he began to conduct Chaplain Work Shops for local VFW and Aux Chaplains. Jim saw the importance of helping to equip local chaplains to be able to effectively serve their Post and community.

**Family:** Wife: Eva – Married March 1985, An Auxiliary life member and Past District President. One daughter, five sons, three grandsons and three granddaughters. Son in Law is a Marine Veteran. One son is a 6-year Air Force Veteran and VFW life member. A son and a daughter-in-law are currently serving in the US Air Force. (Both are VFW life members). His father was WWII Veteran and a VFW Life Member having served in various offices within VFW Post 7285.

*"Integrity – Commitment – Service"*

*"Integrity – Commitment – Service"*



**Rev. Jim Jenkins**

Candidate for  
National Chaplain

2023 – 2024

*"Integrity – Commitment – Service"*

## Priorities

**Integrity** in all dealings with others.

**Commitment** to VFW ideals and programs.

**Service** to all Veterans.

### Endorsements Received

**Home Post:** Post 6401 in Bonner Springs, KS

**District 2 of Kansas VFW**

**Department of Kansas**

**Past VFW KS State Commanders**

- Lewie Cooper 1994-1995
- K. Doug Musick 2007-2008
- Herbert Schwartzkopf 2008-2009
- Bob Cox 2011-2012
- Bruce Fischbach 2014-2015
- Dallas Love 2015-2016
- Gerald Marvin 2016-2017
- Michael Holland 2017-2018
- Patrick Briggs 2018-2019
- Lee Hursey 2019-20, 21-22

Past National Chaplain, Rev. John Holland  
Past National Chaplain, Rev. Peter Hook

### Contact Information

kschaplain@att.net  
Cell 913-302-7620

*"Integrity – Commitment – Service"*





## Candidate for Jr. Vice Commander 2023-2024

I joined the Army April 15, 1969 and immediately went to Fort Polk, La. for basic training.

I received my HAWK A.I.T at Ft. Bliss, Tx., El Paso.

Because I requested HAWK missiles when I enlisted, I was guaranteed 1 year in Key West, Fl.,  
(I served 26 months).

I got bored and volunteered for Korea. I arrived in Korea the 1st time on Christmas eve 1971.  
& Left in January 1973.

My next duty station was El Paso, Tx. 1973-1974  
While I was there I completed NBC training & the NCO academy @ Ft. Sill, Ok.  
I was also the Battery Reenlistment NCO.

My next duty station 1974-1977 was Baumholder, Germany  
While in Germany I received the rank of SSG E-6 & served as the Firing PSG For about 1 year.

My next duty station was Homestead, Fla. 1977-1978 where I served as the training NCO  
& was awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

My last duty station was Korea 1978-1979 where I served as a firing platoon section chief.  
I was awarded the National defense ribbon, 3 good conduct medals, the Korea defense ribbon,  
& Army commendation medal.

I left the Army on June 13, 1979 & joined the VFW at Coffeyville, Ks. in 1982.

I became a VFW life member in 1995.

After retiring in January 2009, I moved my membership to the VFW in Arkansas City, Ks.

I was asked to be a trustee at my 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. (I declined).  
I was elected Jr. Vice Commander in 2012 and became post commander in 2014.  
(I skipped Sr. Vice Commander).

I have not missed any unexcused meetings since then.  
That is where I am today and will stay as long as I am needed.

I have also been honored to have been elected to 5 tenures as  
VFW Kansas 3rd District Commander.

*Charlie Cravens*  
*Candidate for Jr. Vice Commander*  
*VFW Department of Kansas*



## For Any Post who has Kansas Lottery Products or would like to have them.

**REMINDER** to notify the Kansas Lottery each year after your annual meeting to elect officers.

Just provide a list showing each officer's **First Name & Last Name** and their **current position**; specifically listing the Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer, and the person primarily handling Lottery tickets and \$ale\$, if it's a different person than one of the other four listed of-ficers.

Upon receipt, the Kansas Lottery will send a Personal Data Sheet (PDS) for each of the people on the list to complete and return.

Please know that it is a statutory requirement of each Post to update their records with the Kansas Lottery to complete the required background and tax checks for maintaining approval as a Kansas Lottery Retailer.

If you should have any questions – Contact:

Mike Todd  
Kevin Brady  
Director of Retailer Development  
Retailer Services Manager  
& Operations  
W#785.296.5753  
W#785.296.5757

OR EMAIL: [RetailerOperations@kslottery.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:RetailerOperations@kslottery.onmicrosoft.com)

**Discover the power of PlayCentral EX and start generating revenue for your organization today!**

The Kansas Lottery PlayCentral® EX is the Kansas Lottery's small-form, self-service vending machine which features a 23-inch HD touchscreen. This unit allows players to experience the excitement of all draw games. Some of the features of this unit include:

**Full-motion video and sound capabilities:**

23-inch touch screen advertising display screen with Lottery InMotion™, s-elf-service sale of draw games, Powerball, Mega Millions, Super Kansas Cash Keno, Racetrax and more

**Full terminal functionality:**

Thermal printer, playslip scanner, barcode reader, and bill acceptor

**Numerous payment methods:**

Cash, credit/debit, mobile pay (Android/Apple Pay), or coupons  
No Debit/Credit fees, all merchant service fees are --absorbed by the Lot-tery

5% Selling Commissions

1% Cashing Commission

2% Cashing Keno/Racetrax

Additional High Tier Selling Bonuses up to 10K for selling the winning Jackpot ticket.

**For Additional information, please contact:**

Mike Todd  
Director of Retailer Development  
& Operations  
Kansas Lottery

W#785.296.5757  
[mike.todd@kslottery.net](mailto:mike.todd@kslottery.net)



# Department of Kansas Picnic

Commander James Langley &  
President Mike McCandless

Saturday

July 8, 2023

11:30 a.m. – ??

LUNCH PROVIDED

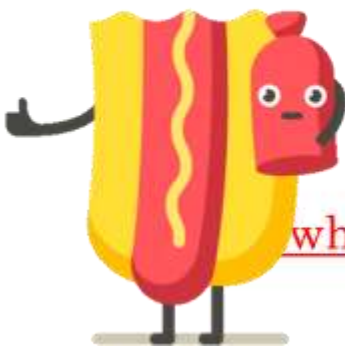
VFW & AUXILIARY

ALL WELCOME

Liberal VFW Post 3166

7569 Road 3

Liberal, KS



Please RSVP with Kim

[whq@kvfw.kscoxmail.com](mailto:whq@kvfw.kscoxmail.com) or (785) 272-6



FOOD AND FUN IN THE SUN!

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND

The  
Kansas Bulletin

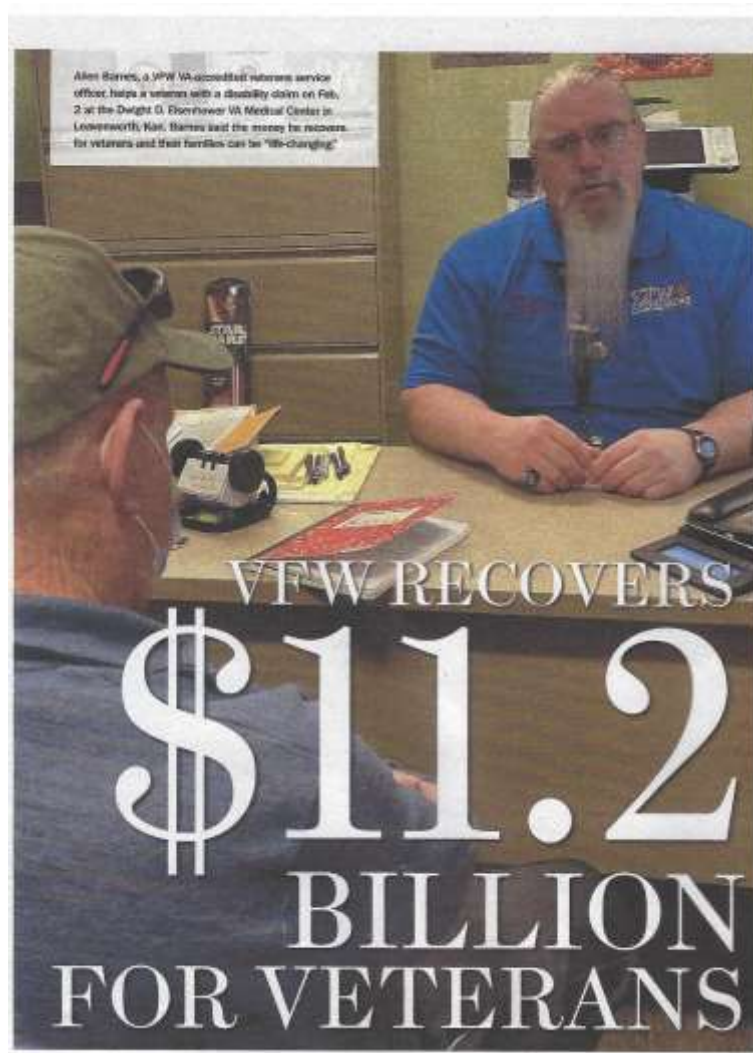




## EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR



Karen Kreger, Sponsored by Post 1714 Dodge City- 7th District





## 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](http://www.kansashonorflight.org) or by calling 620-546-2400.

**We are requesting that the MISSION of every post in Kansas is to use your IN-TEL (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](mailto:dunick@msn.com))





# Sponsorship Form

## 2023 Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. Memorial Motorcycle Ride

Ride: Phoenix, AZ VFW Post #720 Maricopa  
4853 E. Thomas Road – July 22, 2023

YES, Count me in! While I am unable to participate in the ride, I would like to join other comrades and friends in honoring the memory of Past Commander-in-Chief/Past Adjutant General Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. and helping the troops.

- |                                                             |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE BRANCH SPONSORSHIP (_____) | \$ 100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMANDER'S SPONSORSHIP            | \$ 50.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SGT. MAJOR'S SPONSORSHIP           | \$ 25.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                              | \$ _____  |

### SPONSOR A RIDER:

Rider's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Your address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT: Circle one - Mastercard Visa Discover Amex Check Enclosed

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by check, make your gift payable to VFW – Veterans & Military Support. Your completed form, along with donation, should be returned to: Programs Department, VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO 64111.  
Thank you and if you have questions, please call (816) 968-1116.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*All net proceeds from the Ride will be donated to the VFW's Veterans & Military Support Programs for support of the military and their families.*





### 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!

As we are approaching the end of this program year, I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who helped me this year along the way. Your willingness to get the job done for our veterans, families, and communities has not gone unnoticed! I have enjoyed working this year with our Commander, Jim Ratcliff, and other VFW officers and want to thank them for their service.

We are currently in the middle of elections for the year 2023-2024. I want to congratulate everyone who has taken an office or chairmanship and wish them all the best in the upcoming year. I look forward to opportunities to continue to work with you.

As always, Membership continues to be at the forefront of our work. Without you, the members, we cannot accomplish our goals. As I'm writing this, Department membership is at 95.45%, and we still need 472 members to reach 100%. With everyone's help, we can get there!

I hope to see many of you at the Department Convention in Garden City in June, where we can celebrate our accomplishments together.

Sincerely,

**Karol**

Karol Goodin  
Department President



# Auxiliary News

## STATE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Hello Brothers and Sisters:

Spring has arrived and the 2022-2023 year is drawing to a close. Auxiliaries have been busy working the programs and helping our Veterans. Election of Officers is in full swing. Thank You to those who have served this organization and Congratulations to those who have stepped up to fill positions for the upcoming year. Senior Vice President Conference was held in Kansas City in March. It was 2 days filled with lots of information and the opportunity to meet again with Senior Vice Presidents from across the United States.

Membership is a vital part of our organization. Keep working on new members and those annual renewals. I have enjoyed my year as Senior Vice President, thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Spring Convention will be held in Garden City in June and I hope to see everyone there.

Loyally,

Mike McCandless

Department of Kansas Sr. Vice President

## STATE JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Happy Spring everyone! It was so good to see all of the VOD activity going on and to see who the National VOD and Patriot's Pen winner was.....so glad to see it happening again! **Speaking of happening....my Jr. Vice Conference is set for May** and I will be traveling to Lansing, MI. I will get the opportunity to tour our National Home and to meet all of my fellow Jr. Vice friends. This is where it gets REAL I hear!!

Now on to the Patriotic and 3-D art, the Illustrating America, and the Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue. With greater participation of the Illustrating America, the Department of Kansas will be booming with Inspiring young artists. I love to see all of the young minds at work through their artwork.

As always, I am always excited to see if our own Post students come out a winner through the Continuing Ed or Endowment Scholarships. The VFW and the Auxiliary have so many opportunities for our youth and I am a proud promoter of them all. Some day, it will be them leading our organization and we can all witness their great work from the sideline.

Respectfully,

Marsha LaRosh

VFW Aux. Dept. Jr. Vice President

## 2022-2023 Department Officers

### Commander

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

### Sr. Vice Commander

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

### Jr. Vice Commander

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

### Adjutant/ Quartermaster

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

### National Council Member

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

### Judge Advocate

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

### Surgeon

Allen Owens  
PO Box 113  
Wakefield 67487  
785-307-2409

### Chaplain

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

### Chief of Staff

Patrick Briggs  
1018 S Grand Ave  
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:

#### 1st District

David Gunn  
19447 174th St  
Tonganoxie 66086  
650-228-3973

#### 2nd District

Jason Parkes  
1400 W Virginia Ln  
Olathe 66061  
334-614-6693

#### 3rd District

Charles Cravens  
4769 182nd Rd  
Winfield 67156  
620-222-4846

#### 4th District

Dale Nelson  
225 W 9th St  
Chapman 67431  
785-922-7180

#### 5th District

James Boyle  
11825 W Grant St  
Wichita 67209  
316-761-3617

#### 6th District

Jerry White  
19065 280 Ave  
WaKeeney 67672  
785-743-8275

#### 7th District

Gerald Marvin  
PO Box 37  
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.

