



Department of Kansas VFW Veterans Service Sub-Committee

Initial meeting of the Sub-Committee scheduled for September 29, 2023 @ Department of Kansas HQ, 10am.

Subject: Department of Kansas Veterans Sub-Committee was established and tasked by Department of Kansas VFW Veterans Service Committee Chairman Lee Hursey on August 19, 2023 to formulate “Goals and Purposes” of the Department of Kansas Veterans Service Committee. Past State Commander Jim Ratcliff was appointed as Chairman of the Sub-Committee. Additionally, Commander Hursey appointed John Hooker and Chris Blockburger as Sub-Committee members and authorized Sub-Committee Chairman Ratcliff to appoint any additional members as needed. Commander Ratcliff appointed Allan Barnes as additional member. Once the Sub-Committee recommendations have been presented to the Department Veterans Service Committee for action, the Sub-Committee shall be dissolved.

Chairman Ratcliff formalized the purpose of Sub-Committee meeting to work on ideas and an outline on how to proceed in the process to establish the Goals and Purposes of the Department of Kansas VFW Veterans Service Committee. The proposals will include proposed revisions of Section VII of the Department of Kansas VFW By-laws to be presented to the Veterans Service Committee review and recommendations to the VFW membership for adoption at the Department Convention in June of 2024.

Notes:

1. Veterans Service Committee should develop and publish a list of 5 to 7 legislative Priority Goals every year to work with the Kansas Legislature Veterans and Military Committee in the Kansas House of Representatives. The 2024 Priority Goals shall be presented during the Department during the Mid-Winter Meeting in January 2024 and publicized to the membership during the regular business session. Henceforth, Legislative Priority Goals for the Department of Kansas VFW shall be developed and approved by the Department of Kansas VFW Veterans Service Committee during their meeting convened during the Department Convention in June of each year. This recommendation should be formalized in revisions to Article VII of the Kansas VFW By-laws.
2. The Department of Kansas VFW currently has an appointed National Legislative Committee member to focus on national legislative issues for Kansas Veterans. This individual shall be given the opportunity address the Department Veterans Service Committee during each meeting of the committee during the business year to keep them up to date on the National Legislative Committee activities on behalf of veterans.
3. The Veterans Sub-Committee will develop a process to educate and publicize the Goals and Purposes of the Department of Kansas Veterans Service Committee to Post members and District officers. Furthermore, the process needs to include publicizing the need to hear legislative desires directly from the membership. This process needs to allow for timely submission of proposed legislative actions and other veterans issues which are important to the VFW membership in Kansas.

James A. Ratcliff
Veterans Service Sub-Committee Chairman
Past State Commander – 2022-2023

Resolution

REVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE GOAL AND PURPOSES

Whereas the Department of Kansas Veterans Service Committee addressed the need to establish more specific goals and purposes for the Committee during the Department Convention in June 2023, the Committee Chairman established a Veterans Service Sub-Committee to formulate “Goals and Purposes” of the Committee. Past State Commander Ratcliff was appointed as Chairmen and Comrade John Hooker, Comrade Chris Blockburger and Comrade Allen Barnes were selected as Sub-Committee members. Once the Sub-Committee recommendations have been presented to the Department Veterans Service Committee for action, the Sub-Committee shall be dissolved.

Whereas the Department of Kansas Veterans Service Sub-Committee has determined through its deliberations specific goals and purposes being recommended by this Sub-Committee must be codified in Article VII, Department of Kansas By-Laws. To be effective and ensure continuity and application of said recommendations by the Veterans Service Committee as new members are elected or appointed to a term on the Veterans Service Committee, it is necessary to revise Article VII.

BE IT RESOLVED, that we petition the Department of Kansas VFW Convention to adopt the following revisions to the Department of Kansas By-Laws, Article VII as recommended by the Department of Kansas Veterans Service Committee.

Section 1: Composition: The Department Veterans Service Committee shall consist of the Department Commander and the four (4) immediate Past Department Commanders, **four (4) members to be elected by the Department Convention, each elected to a five (5) year term, and one (1) member elected that is a serving Department Service Officer or Assistant Department Service Officer for a three (3) year term.** Whenever a Department Commander shall retire at the end of **his/her** term, **he/she** shall there upon become a member of the Department of Kansas Veterans Service Committee and the senior Past Department Commander shall thereupon retire from the committee. In the event of death, disability, or refusal to act of any Past Department Commanders composing the Department of Kansas Veterans Service Committee **his/her** place shall be filled by the Department Commander last retired from the committee that is ready, willing and able to serve.

Section 7: The Department of Kansas Veterans Service Committee shall develop and publish a list of five (5) to seven (7) Legislative Priority Goals every year to work with the Kansas Legislature Veterans and Military Committee in the Kansas House of Representatives. Legislative Priority Goals shall be developed and approved by the Department Veterans Service Committee during the Department Convention and be publicized to the membership during the regular business session.

The formalized and approved goals are to be an integral part of Department of Kansas Legislative effort in such areas as Kansas House VSO strategy session every fall, and interaction with the Kansas House Veterans and Military Committee during their Legislative sessions and similar events.

Section 8: The Department of Kansas Veterans Service Committee shall develop a process to educate and publicize legislative goals to the general membership that includes channels for submitting their legislative ideas and desires to the committee. The process must allow for timely submissions of proposed legislative ideas and other veterans issues which are important to the Department of Kansas VFW general membership.

Section 9: The Department of Kansas National Legislative Committee member shall be given the opportunity to address the Department of Kansas Veterans Service Committee during each scheduled meeting during the business year on National Legislative Committee activities as deemed necessary or relative by the Chairman, Department of Kansas Veterans Service Committee

Submitted for consideration James Ratcliff, Chairman, Department of Kansas VFW Veterans Service Sub-Committee

Committee Assigned: _____

Committee Action: Approved / Disapproved