



BINGO, Electronic Gaming, Raffles, and Games of Chance

The information in this slideshow does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information is for general informational purposes only. Please refer to the statutes listed for the most up-to-date reference and call your local enforcement agencies.



Fact or Fiction



1. You don't have to have a Post home in order to host Bingo.
2. You can have unlimited raffles throughout the year.
3. You can give alcohol as a prize in a game of chance.
4. Your Bingo Chairperson can't play Bingo during a session they are chairing.
5. You can't spend Bingo proceeds on upkeep.
6. You must keep at least \$50,000 in a Bingo account.
7. You can combine your Bingo account with any other bank account.
8. Your Bingo Chairperson can also be your Bingo Operator in the same session.
9. You can host as many Bingo sessions as you want with no set schedule and unlimited pay outs under your license.
10. All Bingo workers must be licensed.
11. You can raffle \$100,000 cash or \$100,000 single item.



Bingo Overview



Texas VFW is the largest bingo license holder in Texas with 75 licenses.

Texas Lottery Commission issues bingo licenses and administers operations; Quarterly reports required (electronic submission encouraged) “about amount and use of proceeds collected from bingo games” IAW Bingo Enabling Act (1981).

LaDonna Castanuela, Director of Charitable Bingo Operations Division

LaDonna.Castanuela@lottery.state.tx.us; 512-344-5155

Alice.Banke@lottery.state.tx.us; 512-344-5117



Bingo Legislation



Legislative Bingo issues on the horizon:

- (1) electronic pull-tab bingo is considered gambling and prohibited by law--bingo interests seeking to change this;
- (2) potential impact of sports wagering and casino gaming (bills for both in 2021; same for 2023; constitutional amendment required).



Charitable Raffles



Charitable Raffle Enabling Act of 1999: *“Raffle means the award of one or more prizes by chance at a single occasion among a single pool or group of persons who have paid or promised a thing of value for a ticket that represents a chance to win a prize.”*

Prohibited: using paid advertising to promote a raffle (e.g. radio ad, Facebook ads or boosts, newspaper ad); promoting a raffle statewide (other than on the organization’s website, newsletter, or own social media); sell or offer to sell tickets.

Allowed: conducting a raffle that awards alcoholic beverages (Texas Attorney General’s opinion, June 13, 2017).



References



Charitable Bingo:

www.txbingo.org

Bingo Enabling Act:

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/OC/htm/OC.2001.htm>

Attorney General Opinions:

<https://www2.texasattorneygeneral.gov/opin/opinions.php?headingID=4>

Charitable Raffle Enabling Act:

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/OC/htm/OC.2002.htm>

Attorney General Charitable Raffles/Casino Nights:

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/divisions/financial-litigation/charitable-trusts/charitable-raffles-and-casinopoker-nights>



Fact or Fiction



1. You don't have to have a Post home to host Bingo. **FACT**
2. You can have unlimited raffles throughout the year. **FICTION**
3. You can give alcohol as a prize in a game of chance. **FICTION** (exception=raffles)
4. Your Bingo Chairperson can't play Bingo during a session they are chairing. **FACT**
5. You can't spend Bingo proceeds on upkeep. **FICTION**
6. You must keep at least \$50,000 in a Bingo account. **FICTION**
7. You can combine your Bingo account with any other bank account. **FICTION**
8. Your Bingo Chairperson can also be your Bingo Operator in the same session. **FICTION**
9. You can host as many Bingo sessions as you want with no set schedule and unlimited pay outs under your license. **FICTION**
10. All Bingo workers must be licensed. **FACT**
11. You can raffle \$100,000 cash or \$100,000 single item. **FICTION & FACT** (donations)



**Contact us with
any questions!**

Instructors: Mitch Fuller and Marcey Phillips



402 – Canteen House Committees

Instructor Stephen Biehl

Canteen House Committee



Section 216(d) of the National Bylaws authorizes the creation of required committees.

The Post Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Post or as may be required by Post Bylaws.

The National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure do not give much more information on committees, specifically as to which committees should exist or what their membership, roles and duties are.

Post Bylaws should be written to authorize common, perpetual, committees. Post Standing Rules should be written to govern the specific actions of these committees.

Some common, recommended, committees are;

- 1. House Committee:** Regardless of what your Post calls your House Committee (House Committee, Executive Committee, etc.), it is the committee that oversees the daily functions of the Post. Every Post should have a House Committee. Whether you have a Post home or not. Whether you have any canteen operations or not. Whether you have Bingo or not. The House Committee would decide on recommendations to the Post membership of future actions of the Post. Whether they be fundraising events, community service events or to address emergency situations with the Post. If the Post has a home, then a discretionary budget may be in order for the House Committee, for incidental expenses between meetings. This budget **MUST** be accounted for on the Quartermaster's report and **MUST** be audited by the Trustees. All expenditures **MUST** be brought to the floor for approval (although this may be done after the expenditure, depending on the verbiage of your Standing Rules).

Canteen House Committee



2. **Canteen Committee:** Regardless of what your Post calls your Canteen Committee (Bar Committee, Events Committee, etc.), it is the committee that oversees the daily functions of the Canteen. Obviously, not every Post will have a Canteen Committee... If you don't have a Canteen, then there's not much need in a Canteen Committee. The Canteen Committee is the delegated management of Canteen Operations. Canteen Committee members should be cognizant of TABC laws and regulations. The Canteen Committee should be responsible for the Canteen staff. The Bar Manager should be a member of the Canteen Committee, if that Bar Manager is a member in good standing of the VFW.
3. **Bingo Committee:** The Texas VFW holds the greatest number of Bingo licenses in the State of Texas. If your Post is a holder of one of these licenses, then you should have a Bingo Committee. The Bingo Committee is responsible for overseeing Bingo operations, whether they are held at a Post-owned facility or at a unit Bingo facility.
4. **Community Service Committee:** Community Service is part of what we do. If your Post is a 501(c) organization then the IRS is going to require a certain amount of Community Service. Relying on individual Post members to report their own Community Service is a recipe for failure. Assign a Community Service Committee and chair to ensure that community service projects are being done and reported, in a timely fashion. The chair should also be encouraged to ensure that a Community Service Record Book is published, annually.

Canteen House Committee



5. **Public Relations Committee:** To ensure proper cooperation with local government agencies (i.e. City/County government, Chambers of Commerce, etc) each Post should appoint a Public Relations Committee. The 'public face' of your Public Relations Committee should be adept at public speaking.
6. **POW/MIA Committee:** POW/MIA Day is the third Friday in September. The POW/MIA Committee should be charged with appropriate ceremonies and commemorations on that day. However, our purpose, as an organization, extends beyond a single day for POW/MIA remembrance. This committee should also be charged with maintaining and presenting the missing man table. And other such observances throughout the year as the Chair, Commander and/or Post deem appropriate.
7. **Buddy Poppy Committee:** Buddy Poppies are an integral part of the VFW. This program is specifically called out in the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Appoint a Buddy Poppy Committee (and chair) to ensure sufficient and appropriate Buddy Poppy drives are conducted throughout the year. To ensure appropriate stock of Buddy Poppies. To liaise with the Auxiliary for Buddy Poppy displays.
8. **Youth Programs Committee:** Whether your Post adds all of these to one committee or stands up independent committees, ensure that there is a responsible entity for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Teacher of the Year, Scouting Programs, JROTC awards, and even though this is not Youth related, include Law Enforcement, Fire Fighter and EMT recognition, as well as Community Volunteers.



Contact us with any questions!

Instructors Information



404 – Special Functions

Instructor Stephen Biehl

Special Functions



How do we fund the business of our VFW Posts?

Each Post has expenses that must be paid. Even if you do not have a Post home, you still should have liability insurance (even if it is for individual Post-sponsored events). The Post has a requirement to purchase Buddy Poppies. The Post is required to hold a Quartermaster's (or Blanket) Bond.

Depending on the size of your Post, this may not constitute a large amount of money, however, this just represents the bare minimums. This does not take into account real operating funds, having funds to purchase Bylaws and/or officers' covers. Funds available for supporting veterans and their surviving spouses and orphans. Rent of facilities or equipment, etc.

There are a few ways that we can legally obtain funds for our Posts.

1. **Solicit donations:** Unfortunately, donations won't typically support most Posts. To be able to solicit significant donations requires a true salesperson, whether that "sales pitch" is written or spoken, be prepared to deal with disappointment.
2. **Charitable Bingo:** Depending on your local community, charitable Bingo may be a lucrative endeavor, but... remember that name. Charitable Bingo. Ensure that you are following Bingo regulations regarding proper expenditures of those funds.

Special Functions



3. **Raffles:** Raffles can bring in significant amounts of money, depending on the merchandise being raffled. Again, ensure that you are following local laws (and IRS directives) regarding raffles. You must own the object being sold (via raffle) or post a bond for the full amount of the value of the prize, with your local County Clerk. Only 2 raffles may be conducted annually.
4. **Hall Rentals:** If your Post has a Post home facility that has sufficient resources to host hall rentals, this can be a reliable source of income for the Post. It is imperative that you have a rental contract drawn up that clearly states the rates for hall rentals as well as all potential incidentals (rental deposit, cleanup fees, damage deposit, waitstaff, bar staff). Ensure that your rental contract explicitly states rules in compliance with any TABC license that you may have. Ensure that you have valid, current, liability insurance (with the Department and National organization listed as additional insured). Ensure that your contract specifically defines what liability the Post does and does NOT have, during the rental. Ensure that you have clauses clearly defined and enumerated for donated rentals.
5. **Dances/Concerts:** You MUST have current, valid, liability insurance (with the Department and National organization listed as additional insured). Ensure appropriate contracts exist between the music provider and the Post. If 'canned' music is to be used, ensure proper licensure is in place. Ensure full compliance with any TABC license that the Post may have.

Special Functions



HALL RENTAL CONTRACT

Date and Time*: _____

Name of Renter: _____

Home Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

Description of Event: _____

Number of People: _____

Bartender required in hall: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Specify: Cash Bar ☐ Open Bar ☐ Tab ☐

Kitchen Use: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Fees:	Fees Included or Reduced?	\$ Amount
Non-Refundable deposit paid at time of contract agreement to reserve date, special orders and support	Required	500
Hall rental fee due seven (7) days prior to the event	Required	3000
Cleaning fee (non-refundable)	Required	300
Security fee (two officers@\$100 per hour)		
Satellite Bar fee (one (1) bartender) \$100		
Bartender fee if open bar (\$30 per hour)		
Auxiliary room rental (\$300 per day) (\$100 per day with hall rental)		
Acreage behind hall with hall rental (\$350 per day)		
Acreage behind hall without hall rental (\$1500)		
Kitchen Area Fee (\$100 per day one Kitchen worker included)		
Advertising/Slideshow (\$100 for 4 hr)		
	Total	
	Amount Paid	
	Amount Owed	

*Date is not guaranteed until non-refundable deposit is paid. Otherwise, the date will remain open until deposit is made

Special Functions



Included in Hall Rental:

100 six (6) foot white tables

400 chairs

Rental Hours – 12pm-1am

Bar to include one (1) Bartender

Beer, Wine, Wine Coolers, Water and Soft drinks available.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If the event is cancelled and the amount has been paid in full, all monies will be refunded except for the \$500 deposit fee.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY: In consideration of the right to use the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post xxxx hall, applicant, applicant's family, heirs, successors, representatives and/or assigns do hereby release, forever discharge, and agree to hold harmless Veterans of Foreign Wars Post xxxx, its officers, agents, employees, or representatives from any and all claims, demands, causes of action or suits of whatsoever kind or nature as a result of injuries or damages arising directly or indirectly from the use of the facilities or activities conducted herein, except for claims based on the sole of willful negligence or misconduct on the part of the VFW or its agents.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Special Functions





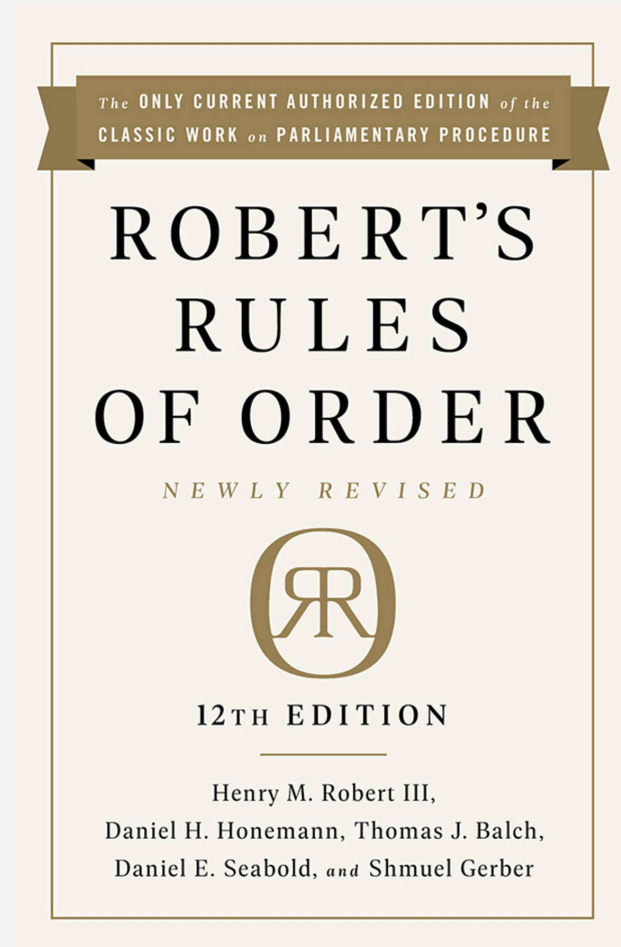
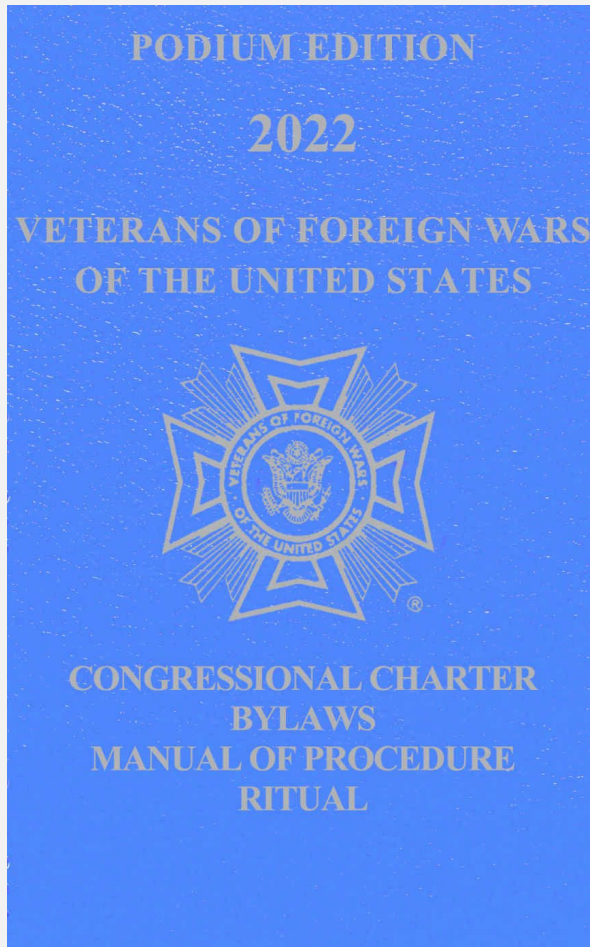
Contact us with any questions!

Instructors Information



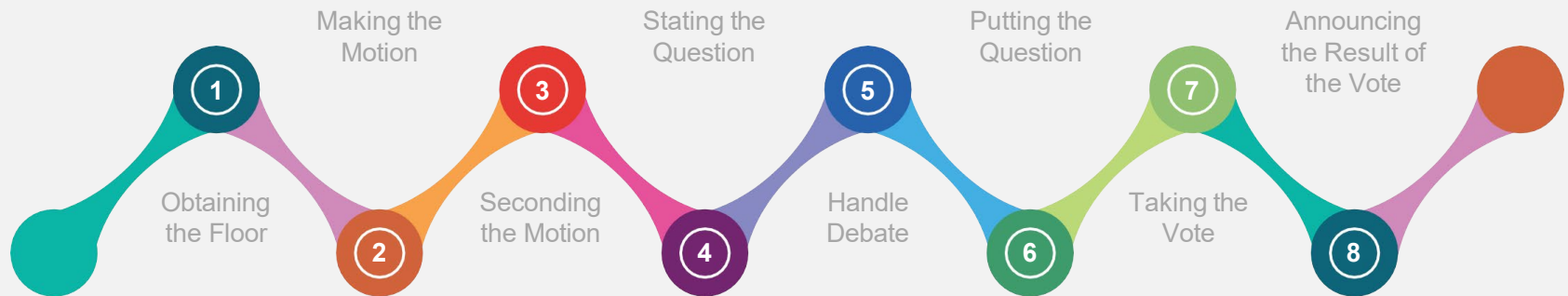
405- Bylaws and Parliamentary Procedure

Rules of order for all VFW meetings



The Proper Steps to Handling Motions

A Step by Step Guide



The Proper Steps to Handling Motions

A Step by Step Guide

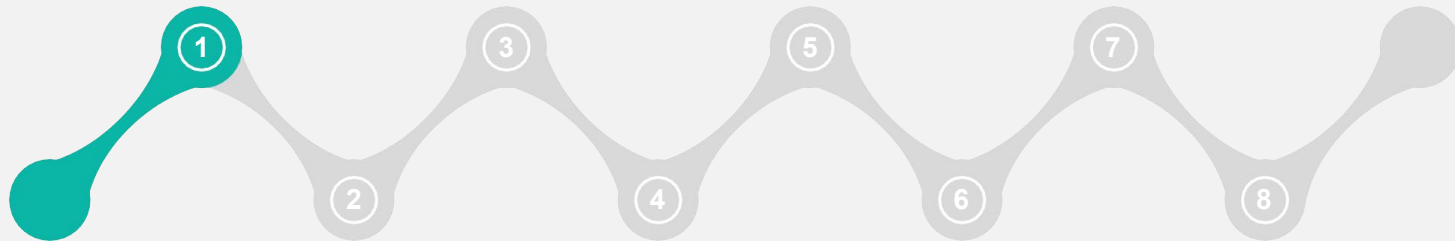


01

Obtain the Floor

When no one is speaking, a comrade rises and is recognized by the Commander

MEMBER(rising from chair and saluting): Comrade Commander
Commander: Comrade <Member's Name>



The Proper Steps to Handling Motions

A Step by Step Guide

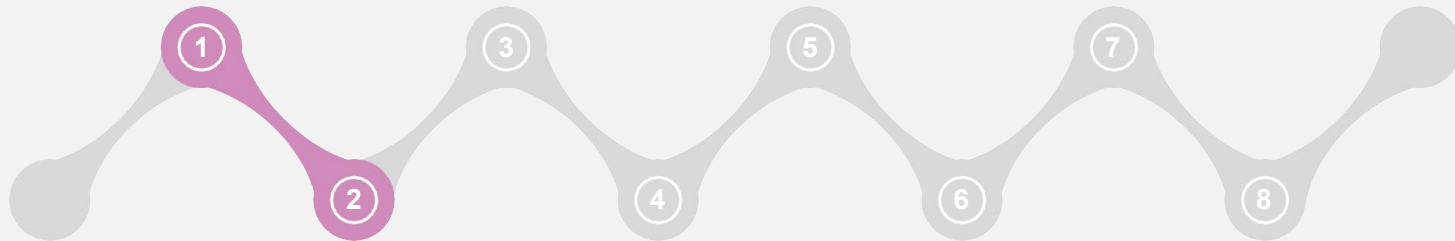


02

Making the Motion

The member introduces the motion. The motion is a call for action or to express the will of the assembly. The motion should be provided in writing, if necessary.

MEMBER: I move that <motion>



The Proper Steps to Handling Motions

A Step by Step Guide

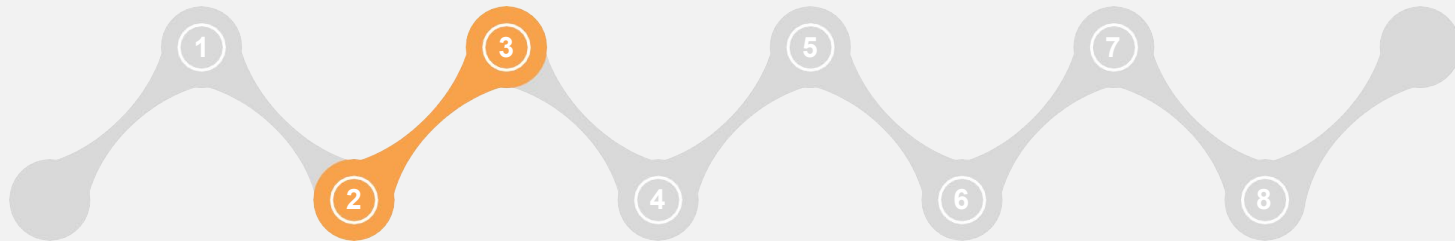


03

Second the Motion

Without recognition, another member of the assembly agrees with the consideration of the motion.

ANOTHER MEMBER: Second!



The Proper Steps to Handling Motions

A Step by Step Guide

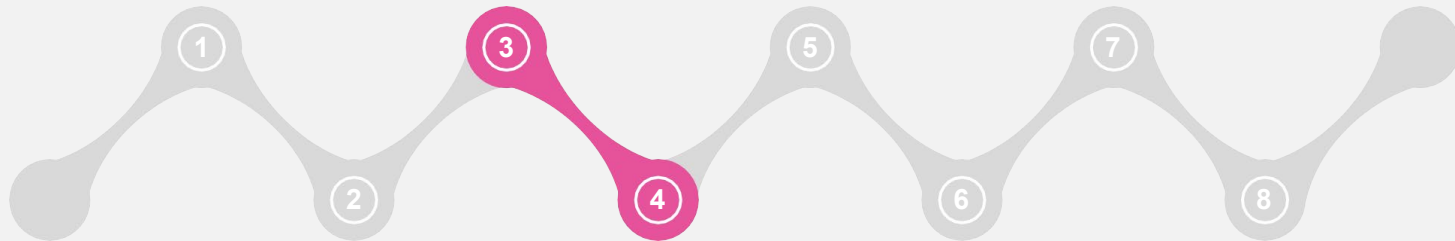


04

Stating the Motion

The motion is placed before the assembly by the Commander by restating the question.

Commander: It has been moved and seconded that <reads the motion>



The Proper Steps to Handling Motions

A Step by Step Guide

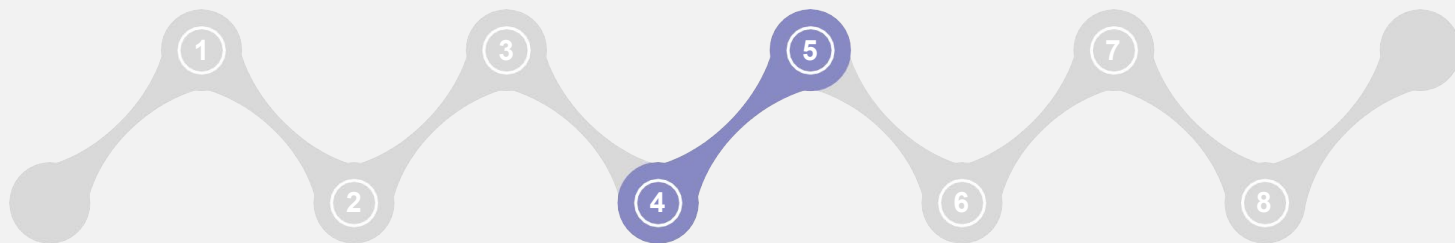


05

Debate

The Commander recognizes first the maker of the motion, then other members to speak for and against the motion per the assembly's rules.

Commander: Are you ready for the question?
MEMBER (obtains the floor – see step 1)
<repeat until no more speakers or limit reached>



The Proper Steps to Handling Motions

A Step by Step Guide



06

Putting the Question

The Commander places the final version of the motion before the assembly.

Commander: The question is on the adoption of the motion to <read exact question>



The Proper Steps to Handling Motions

A Step by Step Guide



07

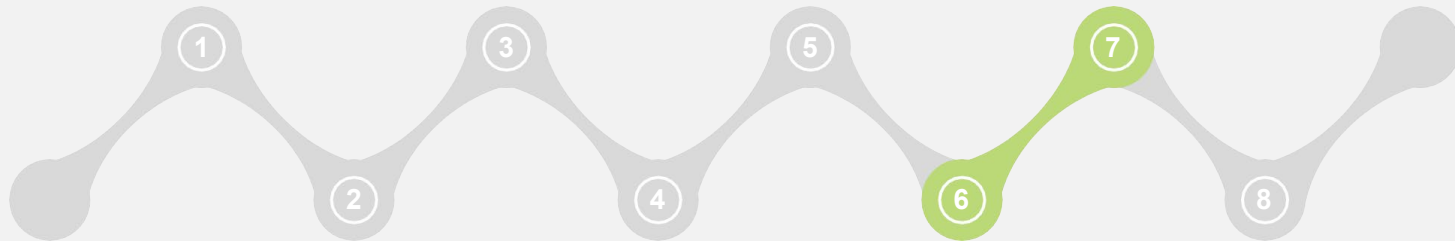
Voting

The Commander handles the voting by the appropriate method. Usually a voice vote is called for.

Commander: Those in favor of the motion say Aye.

<pause>

Those opposed say no <pause>



The Proper Steps to Handling Motions

A Step by Step Guide



08

Announcing the Result of the Vote

Depending on the Voice Vote:

Commander: The ayes have it and the motion is adopted. <state implication of result>

Or

Commander: The noes have it and the motion is lost.

Commander: <Announce next item of business>



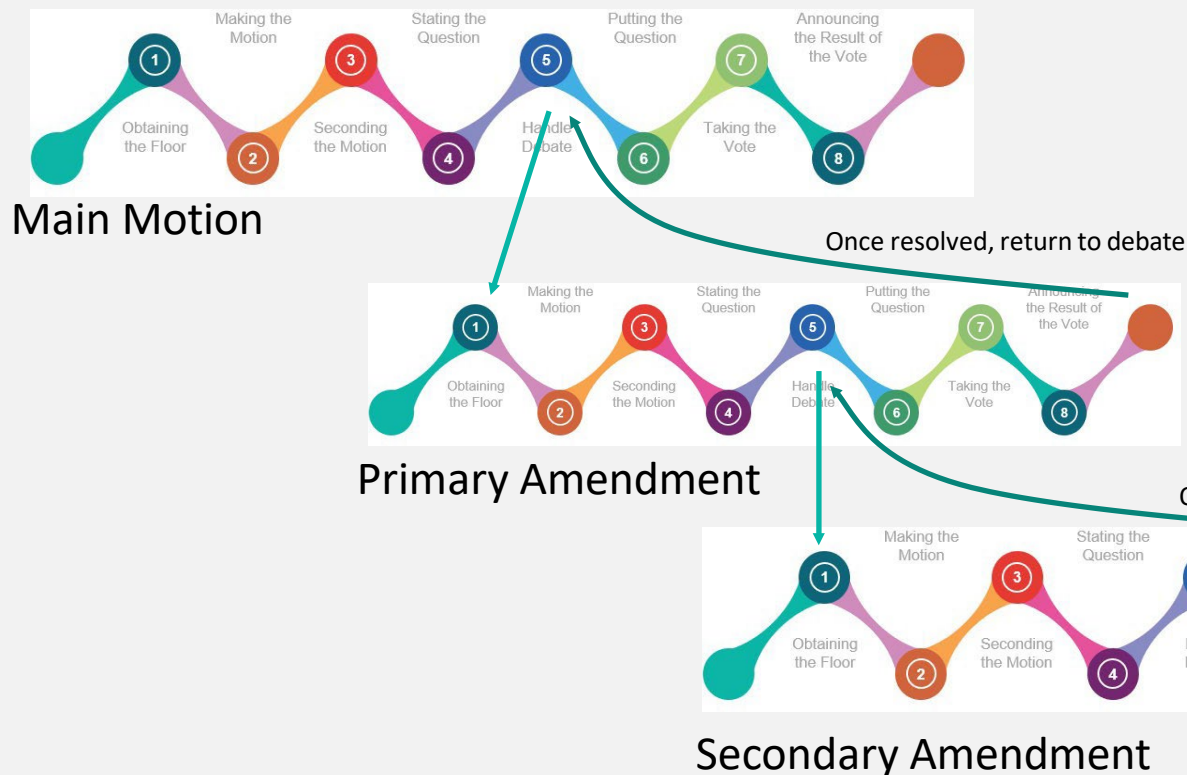
The Proper Steps to Handling Motions

A Step by Step Guide

Stacking of Motions

There are many types of motions and some can modify the motion pending. So while a motion is being debated, other motions, if in order, can be made and must be handled first. Once the new motion has resolved, you return to where you were on the previous motion.

Remember to keep track of what all is pending.



The Proper Steps to Handling Motions

The Example





VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

**Contact us with
any questions!**

Steve Evans
Steve.evanstx@att.net



JOIN THE VFW



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



**Texas VFW
Membership**

Texas VFW Membership Tip



- Recruiting new members happens when you're out in the community.
- NOTE: Posts with an impressive Community Service program have no problem recruiting.

Texas VFW Membership Stats



- Life 51, 387
- New 2,171
- Reinstated 1,110
- Annual 9,534
- TOTAL 64,202 (97%)
- Last Year 65,646 (-1,444)

Things have got to change!

What Post will be at 100%
prior to 30 June 2023?

Send me an email with your
pledge and Post # so I can
focus on the Posts that need
our help.

Texas VFW Membership Mentors



Who here is willing to be a
Membership Mentor?

Send me an email with your
name and contact information.
I will link you up with a
deserving Post.

Why is membership always a
VFW “priority”?

Purpose of a VFW Membership



- Advocacy (At every level of Gov)

Level of Gov.

VFW Level

- City.....Post/District
- County.....Post/District
- State.....Department
- Washington DC.....National

- VFW must “grow” in order to continue its legacy of honoring the sacrifice.

“NO ONE DOES MORE!”

Increase Texas VFW Membership by “+5000”

Texas VFW Membership Timeline



Our priority is Membership; the sooner we achieve our goals, the sooner Commanders can focus on other priorities.

30 June 2023

How does Texas VFW get there?



Establish
goals!
&
STAND-TO!

How does Texas VFW get there?



- STAND-TO!
- District Commanders should:
 - Appoint a Membership Chair
 - Assist Posts establish a recruiting plan
 - Maintain minimal membership
 - 500 New Members
 - 20 or more Annual-to-Life
 - 6 or more Life-to-Legacy

What is LEGACY LIFE?

How does Texas VFW get there?



- STAND-TO!
- Each Post should:
 - Conduct strategy meeting which includes;
 - Elect/Appoint Inspirational Leaders
 - Conduct two recruiting events by 31 DEC
 - 35 New members
 - 85% Retention of Annual Members
 - 3 or more Annual-to-Life
 - 1 or more from Life-to-Legacy
 - Appoint a Membership Chairman

How does Texas VFW get there?



- STAND-TO!
- Establish Individual Goals:
 - Each VFW Member should:
 - Become familiar with the History of the VFW
 - Watch the 5 Videos on YouTube
 - Share the VFW Story with family and friends
 - Dress for success
 - Make VFW your priority
 - Recruit one eligible person
 - Upgrade your membership

Tips for Recruiting



- VPRs
 - 21 Opportunities for the VFW Post to honor the sacrifice of our Combat Veteran

How can a VPR positively impact membership?

Texas VFW VPR Process



- Example:

Operation Iraqi Freedom
31 August 2022

Operation Iraqi Freedom



- Venue
- Press Release
 - Call for Names
- Program
- Poster
- Guest Speaker
- Spokespersons
- March-In of Vets
- Cert Presentation

Iraq War Vet Certificate



YOUR SERVICE MADE A DIFFERENCE
Iraq - March 19, 2003 to December 31, 2011

Presented to

With the deep gratitude of the citizens of the United States of America
and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.



Date of Presentation: _____



Service Organizations



- Example:

Purple Heart Day
7 August 2022

- Not a VPR but an important date
- 99% of Purple Heart Recipients are eligible for the VFW

First Responders



- Example:

Patriot Day (9/11)
11 September 2022

- VPR should have great emphasis on our First Responders
- Guest Speaker should be Fire/Police Chief

Service Birthday Ceremonies



- Example:

VFW Birthday

US Army Birthday

US Air Force Birthday

US Navy Birthday

US Marine Corps Birthday

US Space Force Birthday

Other Recruiting Opportunities



- Social Media
- VA Clinics
- Blood Drives
- Service Officer Support
- Pinning Ceremonies at Senior Living Ctrs
- Visiting County Judges & VSOs
- Chamber of Commerce
- Fairgrounds
- Buddy Poppy

All State/All American Programs



TEXASVFW.ORG

MEMBERSHIP
ALL-STATE PROGRAM
2022-2023



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

QUESTIONS



Benny Guerrero

(760) 470 1154

bennygrrr585@gmail.com



My Buddy and Me



In Flanders Field

By John McCrae



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you, from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,
In Flanders fields.



VFW Buddy Poppies



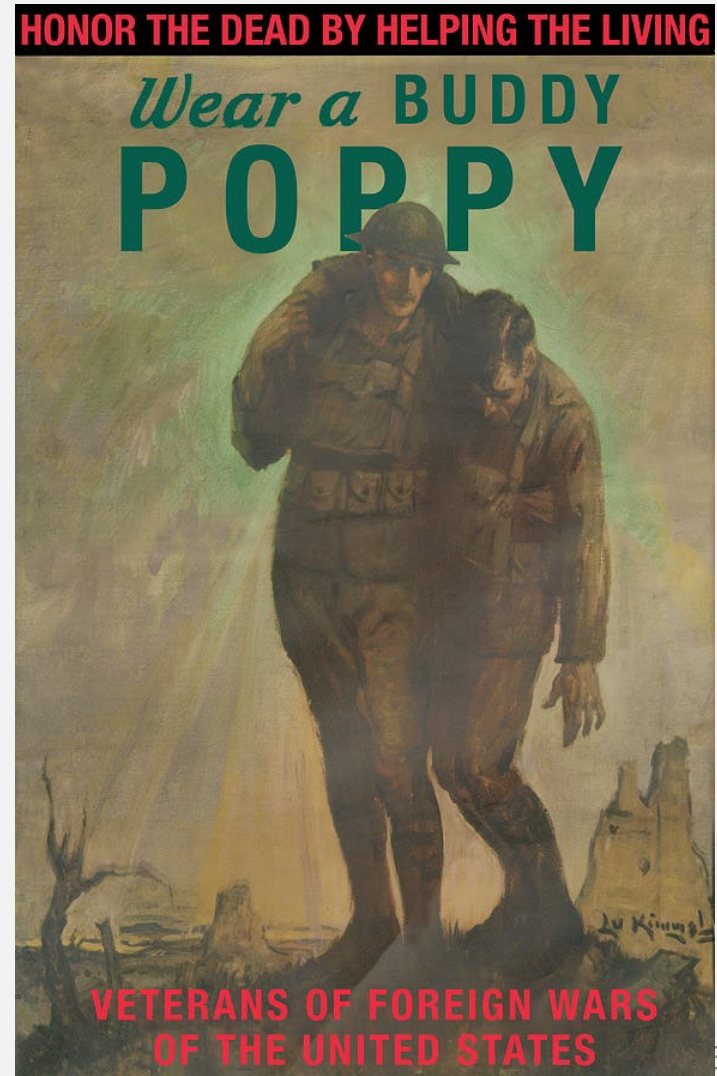
BUDDY POPPY (noun)

bud·dy | \ 'bə-dē \

pop·py | \ 'pä-pē \

plural **Buddy Poppies**

1. The official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars since 1922.
2. Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled and needy Veterans in VA Hospitals.
3. Buddy Poppies are given out (NOT SOLD) as a memorial to help the public remember the fallen. Any donations received fund the assembly of the Buddy Poppies, provide financial assistance, and partially support the National Home for Children.





Buddy Poppy Impact





Poppy Sales Benefit...



Section 711 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Bylaws and Manual of Procedure outlines the manufacture and sale of the Buddy Poppy. When each Post purchases their Buddy Poppies from National the proceeds of those SALES is as follows:

- The disabled Veterans that assemble the poppies are compensated.
- A grant in the amount of one and one half cent per poppy goes to the VFW National Home for Children.
- Any remaining net proceeds after the production/distribution costs and National Home Grant are allocated to the National Veterans Service Budget.

Posts do not sell Buddy Poppies!! We distribute Buddy Poppies and accept donations for them.



Relief Fund



Donations received from handing out Buddy Poppies go to your Post Relief Fund.

Sections 219 and 704 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Bylaws and Manual of Procedure outline how funds donated through your Post Buddy Poppy distribution can be collected and disbursed. It is important that you study these sections carefully so that you remain in compliance.





Unique Ideas



What are some unique ways your Post has found to distribute Buddy Poppies in your area?



- Local Businesses
- Local Churches
- Schools (educate)
- Partner w/ other groups (See Sec. 711)
- Recruit a “Buddy Poppy Girl/Kid” to represent the Post
- Recruiter stations
- Have Buddy Poppies at every event
- Use social media, print, & radio
- Remembrance Wall at the Post
- Buddy Poppy crafts (wreaths for holidays and memorials)



Buddy Poppy Contest



VFW National hosts a Buddy Poppy contest each year. This is an excellent opportunity for your Post and Auxiliary to work together. The Buddy Poppy is a symbol to help memorialize our past and a symbol of new life to help educate our future. This contest helps bridge the past and future into a display that will shed new light onto our organization and our mission.

You can find the entry information

We encourage every Post and auxiliary to participate and enter one of the three categories in the contest. The Post displays are judged at the District level and then advance to Department. The winner at the Department Convention has the opportunity to advance to the National Convention. The entry form can be found on the Texas VFW website on page 68-70 of the SOP.

www.texasvfw.org/sop-training-materials

Start planning now!!



Buddy Poppy Contest



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT

NATIONAL CONVENTION "BUDDY" POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST

These guidelines have been designed to place emphasis on the purpose and effectiveness of the displays. It is suggested and recommended that Department (State) contests rule be established in a like form.

RULES

- (1) Displays will be presented and judged in three categories:

CATEGORY 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign (Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)

- (a) Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW Buddy Poppy.
- (b) At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.



Buddy Poppy Contest



CATEGORY 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays (Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes)

- (a) Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
- (b) At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.



Buddy Poppy Contest



- CATEGORY 3.** Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)
- (a) Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
 - (b) At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.
- (2) Departments purchasing over 250,000 poppies will be allowed two (2) displays in **each** of the three (3) categories for the National Display Contest ... all others will be allowed one (1) display in each of the three (3) categories, no deviations.
- (3) The National Programs Committee shall have no responsibility in setting up, taking down or returning displays.



Buddy Poppy Contest



- (4) Displays shall be set up in space provided in the convention facility. Prior to setting up the display, the responsible person must register with the Buddy Poppy desk and complete an entry form (unless one was forwarded earlier, approved by Department) which will show the category of competition, the number of poppies used, the purpose of the display, the Post and/or Auxiliary number and location, and the name of the person who will dismantle and remove the display at the close of the convention. **(Please be advised, all displays must be removed by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday or it will be disposed of by convention center personnel.)**
- (5) Displays may or may not be accompanied by a white card, not to exceed 4 inches by 6 inches in size, on which is lettered in black ink an explanation of the theme for the display or other information of interest to the viewers or the judges.
- (6) Post name, number, city or state (including the shape of your state) may not be visible on the displays. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
- (7) **(NEW)** Any use of non VFW trademarks or copyrighted material on your display is prohibited. These include but are not limited to names, logos, audio/visual graphics, images and/or props. The Buddy Poppy logo and name is authorized but use of any other trademark or copyrighted material will disqualify the entry from being displayed or judged.



Buddy Poppy Contest



JUDGING

Judging of displays will be on the basis of effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty and number of poppies used. Where a sample of a large number of identical items (such as corsages or wreaths) is entered, full credit shall be given for the total number of poppies used. Judging will be completed by Monday evening and the winning displays will have the appropriate ribbons placed on the display on Tuesday morning.

PRIZES

Plaques will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in each of the three categories, and will be mailed to the winning Department's Adjutant after convention.

NOTE

The Department Adjutant will have to notify the Programs Director, in writing, by **June 30** of the Posts that will represent the Department in each category. This will allow us the time necessary to ensure each entry has sufficient space to set up at the National Convention.

Please be advised, the Programs Committee cannot guarantee against theft of personal items placed on the displays. The exhibit hall is secured at night and monitored by security guards: however, they monitor a large area and are not assigned to one specific area. We strongly discourage using items of sentimental value, items of value or items considered to be irreplaceable on the Buddy Poppy displays. Thank you and good luck!

(Revised 11/14/2018)



Remembrance





**Contact us with
any questions!**

Instructor: Marcey Phillips



**Voice of Democracy
and
Patriot's Pen
Post & District**



History of VOD/PP



Established in 1947, our **Voice of Democracy** audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

Each year 1995, the VFW Youth Essay Contest (changed to **Patriot's Pen** in 2002), answered the call from Posts for a contest for middle schoolers. Each year, nearly 68,800 students in grades 6-8 enter the contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards. Each first place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!



Who can participate?



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

1. Enrolled students by the October 31, 2022, in public, private or parochial schools in the US, its territories or its possessions. Homeschooled students are also eligible.
2. US citizenship is not required BUT student must
 - ❖ Be a lawful US permanent resident
 - ❖ Or have applied for permanent residency (and not denied) and intends to become a US citizen at the earliest opportunity
3. Voice of Democracy
 - ❖ Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12
4. Patriot's Pen
 - ❖ Grades 6,7 and 8

WHO CANNOT PARTICIPATE

1. Foreign exchange students
2. PP only - Former winners that placed in the National contest
3. VOD only
 - ❖ Previous VOD Department winners
 - ❖ Over the age of 20
 - ❖ GED or Adult Education Students



Entries to Post



PATRIOT'S PEN

Typed in English

300-400 words (+/- 5 words)

Positive and clearly focused

Quotations maybe used sparingly if plainly identified

Teacher, counselor or parent may check for grammar, spelling and punctuation

Essay and completed, legible entry form received by Post no later than October 31, 2022

No color or graphics

Student's original work and thinking

No poetry

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

3-5 minute long audio essay (+/- 5 seconds)

Recording must be in student's voice in English

Body of essay must not identify student

Recording, typed essay and completed, legible entry form received by Post no later than October 31, 2022

Recorded on an electronic device

No music, signing, poetry or sound effects



Where you can find participants



Schools – Teachers, Counselors, Principals, School Board, Superintendent
4H/FFA Clubs
Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts
Homeschoolers
Sporting events
Booster Clubs
Parents' Nights
PTA meetings
Any gathering of parents
Local media (newspaper, radio, TV)
Social media



The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed the VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen programs on the [NASSP National Advisory List of Contests and Activities for 2020-21.](#)



Post Level Contest



Choose an appropriate Chair!

Check all entries for completeness when received. This gives a chance for corrections prior to October 31.

Pick your judges carefully

Provide all judges with the official score sheet

Provide a comfortable area for judging free of distractions

Depending on number of entries, it may be best to have two groups of judges or judge VOD one day and PP another

After all entries are graded, do all the math before the judges leave and ensure judges agree with the results.

All paperwork must be to the District no later than November 15.

COMPLETE ALL PAPERWORK BEFORE SENDING IT ON TO DISTRICT



Post PP Participation Form



2021-2022 POST PATRIOT'S PEN PARTICIPATION SUMMARY REPORT

CHECKLIST

Items to send with this report to District VOD Committee.

Post winner's original entry form with all signatures.

Post winner's typed essay.

This page completed with signatures.

All items on this list must be submitted with this report to your District VOD Committee by deadline of November 15, 2020. Failure to send all materials will result in disqualification of entry and no credit on Department status sheet for the Post.

Send entire package to your District Patriot's Pen Committee

☐
☐
☐

Must be received by deadline November 15, 2020.

FRAUD ALERT: Most people are not aware how the accuracy of correct reporting is important for providing official reports to VFW National Administration, the IRS, and to our donors and supporters. It is imperative that we maintain accurate and consistent information on the correct report forms. Do not allow Posts to share entries with other Posts that did not work the program as this is a violation of the National By-Laws and IRS regulations

School Name	# of Participating Students	# of Post Winners Advanced	Award Amount	Additional money spent
<i>Johnson High School</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$100</i>	<i>\$14.95</i>

GRAND TOTALS FOR POST COMPETITION:

Total Number of Schools	Total # of Students	Total # of Winners	Total amount of Awards	Total amount of Expense
GRAND TOTAL OF POST MONEY			\$	
Total of Post Scholarship and Additional Expense				

POST NO. _____ DISTRICT NO. _____

DOES POST HAVE AN AUXILIARY?

YES OR NO

(Circle one)

The VFW Post and Auxiliary identified in this report participated in the VFW annual Patriot's Pen Program.

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
Post Patriot's Pen Committee Chair

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
Post Auxiliary President (if none leave blank)

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
Post Commander

[illegible]

GRAND TOTALS FOR POST COMPETITION:					
# of Posts	# of Auxiliaries	Total # of Students	Total # of Winners	amount of Scholarships	amount of Expense
				\$	\$

MONETARY VALUE OF DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS	
District Scholarships	District Additional expense
\$	\$

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
District Commander

Must be received by deadline of 5:00 PM December 1, 2020.

9

[illegible]

GRAND TOTALS FOR POST COMPETITION:					
# of Posts	# of Auxiliaries	Total # of Students	Total # of Winners	amount of Scholarships	amount of Expense
				\$	\$

District Scholarships	District Additional expense
\$	\$

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
District VOD Committee Chair

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
District Auxiliary President

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
District Commander

Items to send with this report to Department HQ.

- ☐ Post Summary Report form from every Post listed.
- ☐ District winner's original entry form with all signatures.
- ☐ District winner's of essay.
- ☐ Color photograph 5 x 7 or 8 x 10, No computer printouts
- ☐ This page completed with all signatures.

All items on this list must be submitted with this report to Department HQ by dead-line of **December 1, 2021**. Failure to send all materials will result in disqualification of entry and no credit on Department status sheet for the Post and/or the District.

Send entire package to your Department Headquarters.

Texas VFW 8503 N. IH—35, Austin, Texas 78753

Must be received by deadline of 5:00 PM December 1, 2021.

FRAUD ALERT: Most people are not aware how the accuracy of correct reporting is important for providing official reports to *VFW National Administration, the IRS, and to our donors and supporters.* It is imperative that we maintain accurate and consistent information on the correct report forms. Do not allow Posts to share entries with other Posts that did not work the program as this is a violation of the National By-Laws and IRS regulations



Patriot's Pen 2021-2022



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJMfQugCYqs>



Voice of Democracy Winner 2021-2022



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbrQK8Q
QnGw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbrQK8Q
QnGw)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Questions?

Katy Jackson
Texas VOD/PP Chair
District 6 Adjutant
Post 3904 Commander
katyjax35@outlook.com

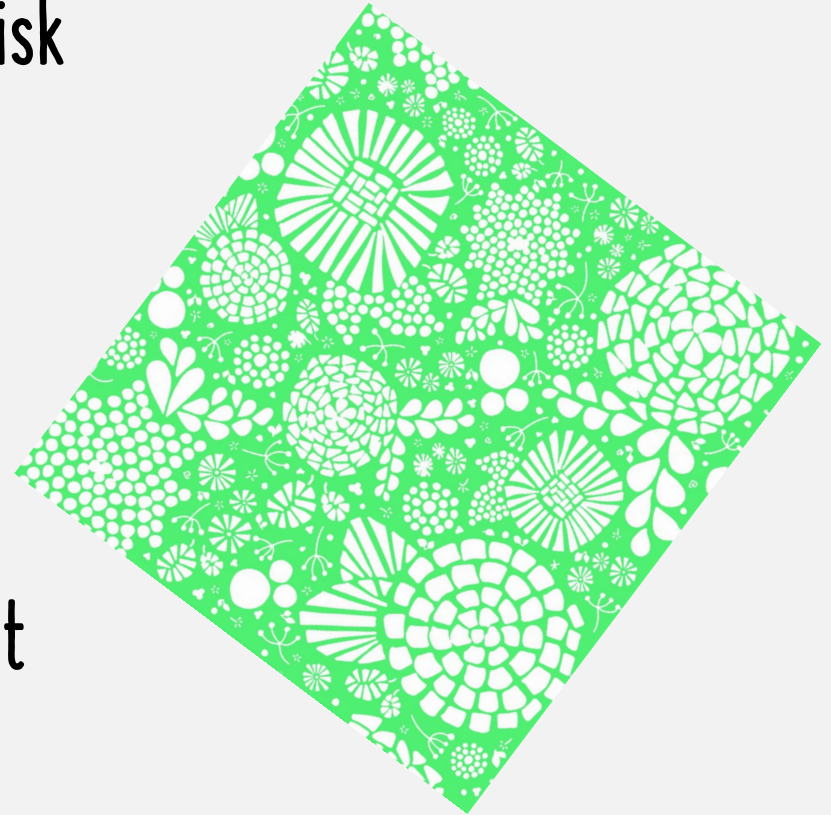


Suicide Prevention

Tracey Brown-Greene

SUICIDE PREVENTION

- Recognize the signs and Lower Risk Factors
- Recognize Warning Signs
- Support and Elevate Protective Factors
- Know how to connect Someone at Risk to Care



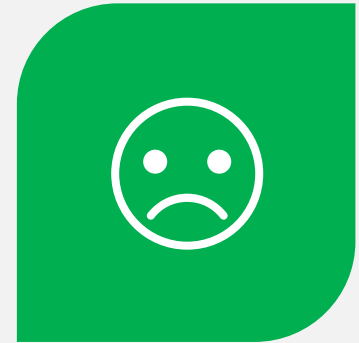
WARNING SIGNS



TALKING RECKLESS



**CHANGES IN
BEHAVIOR**



MOOD CHANGES

Killing themselves

Feeling hopeless

Having no reason to live

Being a burden to others

Feeling trapped

Unbearable pain

- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Looking for a way to end their lives, such as searching online for methods
- Withdrawing from activities
- Isolating from family and friends
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Visiting or calling people to say goodbye
- Giving away prized possessions
- Aggression
- Fatigue

MOOD

Depression

Anxiety

Loss of interest

Irritability

Humiliation/Shame

Agitation/Anger

Relief/Sudden
Improvement

RISK FACTORS

Trauma and PTSD (mental health conditions)

Chronic pain

Family history

Disruption in life transitions

Elevated risk from legal involvement

DEVELOPING PREVENTION SKILLS



- Ask about Suicidal thoughts
- Seek more information (plans)
- Safety First
- Secure Lethal Means

We can prevent suicide by listening and being aware of different actions

Act on what you hear (keep them talking).

Seek medical attention most important
stay with them until they receive care

- 24/7 Crisis Hotline: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Network
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
[1-800-273-TALK \(8255\)](tel:1-800-273-TALK) (Veterans, press 1)
- Crisis Text Line
Text TALK to 741-741 to text with a trained crisis counselor from the Crisis Text Line for free, 24/7
- Veterans Crisis Line
Send a text to 838255
- The Trevor Project
1-866-488-7386



QUESTIONS?

Tracey Brown-Greene