



Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars

AUGUST 2022
No. 1

GENERAL ORDERS
2022 – 2023 Series

1. **In-person appointments to visit Department of Texas VFW HQs:** To schedule an in-person appointment to visit the Department of Texas VFW HQs in Austin, please call the main phone line (512-834-8535) and press 1.

2. **District Meetings/Trainings for August and September 2022:**

- District 2 August 6th Post 5621-Liberty (Training Only)
- District 3 August 6th Post 2494-Dallas
- District 8 August 6th Post 4136-Eastland
- District 9 August 6th Post 9022-Dumas
- District 20 August 6th Post 2059-Kirby
- District 29 August 6th Post 2148-Waco
- District 21 August 7th Post 6111-Arlington (Training Only)
- District 28 August 7th Post 8787-Austin (Training Only)
- District 6 August 12th Post 9170-Beeville
- District 10 August 13th Post 8782-El Paso
- District 18 August 14th Post 2410-Harlingen
- District 1 August 20th Post 7873-Pottsboro
- District 12 August 20th Post 7523-Mineola
- District 14 August 20th Post 3393-Kempner
- District 13 August 21st Post 688-Boerne
- District 25 August 23rd Post 4372-Odessa (Training Only)
- District 17 August 27th Post 4692-Bryan
- District 2 September 17th Post 2775-Orange
- District 16 September 10th Post 7109-Pearland

3. **Candidates for Department Office 2023-2024:**

- State Commander, Larry Sanders, Post 10241, Lytle, D-20
- State Senior Vice Commander, Robert Martinez, Jr., Post 2059, Kirby, D-20
- State Junior Vice Commander, Lupita M. Perez, Post 12178, Weslaco, D-18
- State Junior Vice Commander, John E. Shipley, Post 6970, Poteet, D-20
- State Junior Vice Commander, Dave Walden, Post 10427, Leander, D-28
- State Quartermaster, Ben Lowrance, Post 1475, Amarillo, D-9

State Chaplain, Timothy Anderson, Post 3894, Waxahachie, D-30
State Chaplain, Michael “Foy” Day, Post 4692, Bryan, D-17
State Judge Advocate Steve Evans, Post 2466, Lubbock, D-9
State Judge Advocate, Larry Velasquez, Post 8932, Corpus Christi, D-6
State Surgeon, Gerard P. “Jerry” Greene, Post 6796, Dallas, D-3
State Surgeon, Randall Johnston, Post 4376, Seven Points, D-30

4. **Post Bylaws:** Effective this year, the 123rd VFW National Convention voted to require all VFW Posts to have Bylaws. A fillable template can be found on our Department of Texas VFW website. Go to: <https://www.texasvfw.org/> Click on: Admin/Bylaws
5. **Section 709 of the VFW National Bylaws:** Concerns Disposition of Real Property, i.e., Post Homes: “No Post, County Council, District, or any holding company or corporation subordinate thereto, shall purchase, sell or otherwise transfer title or any interest in any real estate unless written notice of such proposal has first been given to each member of said unit ten (10) days prior to such regular or special meeting at which the proposal is to be considered, and then only by two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval of those members present and voting at such regular or special meeting.”
6. **Section 214-Solicitation of Funds of the VFW National Bylaws:** Posts in violation of Section 214 are subject to suspension. “Fundraising organizations or individuals conducting solicitations, activities or projects for a profit shall not be engaged or used by any Post for such purpose unless such engagement is made by written agreement between the Post and the organization or individual’s providing those services. The form of any such written agreement must be submitted to the Department Commander for review and approval at least thirty (30) days prior to any Post entering into any such agreement.” Currently, the Department of Texas VFW has an exclusive 10-year contract approved by the Council of Administration in 2017-2018 with V-Sweeps and amended with a 5-year extension in June of 2021 by the Council ending in June of 2031. Eight-liners, skill machines, other Sweepstakes and similar devices are not authorized at this time by any Post.
7. **Veterans Day, November 11, 2022:** Post Commanders are urged to start planning a program for November 11, 2022, for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).
8. **Patriot Day, September 11, 2022:** The President of the United States is requested to issue each year a proclamation calling on the display of the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and to observe a moment of silence on Patriot Day in honor of the individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001.

9. Mandatory VPR's for 2022-2023:

- November 11, 2022 (Veterans Day)
- May 1, 2023 (Loyalty Day)
- May 29, 2023 (Memorial Day)
- June 14, 2023 (Flag Day)

10. Due Dates for Quarterly Post Audit's: Deadline dates for Post Audits for the 2022-2023 Administrative Year are as follows:

- 1st Quarter Post Audit Report due by October 31, 2022
- 2nd Quarter Post Audit Report due by January 31, 2023
- 3rd Quarter Post Audit Report due by April 28, 2023

11. Schedule of National VFW Meetings and Events (August-October 2022):

- National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting (August 19) Kansas City, MO
- National Council of Administration Meeting (August 20-21) Kansas City, MO
- Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming (August 25-28) Chandler, AZ
- Fall Legislative Committee Meeting (September 12-15) Washington, DC
- Southern Conference (October 27-30) Asheville, NC

12. Deadlines for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher entries:

- From Students and Teachers to local VFW Posts → deadline is October 31, 2022
- VFW Post winners to Districts → deadline is November 15, 2022
- District winners to Texas VFW HQs → deadline is December 1, 2022

13. Report of the State Parliamentarian on the changes made to the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure at the 2022 National Convention:

Bylaws Sec. 202 - Bylaws.

Posts **may shall**, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting adopt Bylaws provided each member has been notified at least twenty (20) days in advance and, upon request has been provided a copy of the proposed Bylaws. Bylaws approved by a Post shall be forwarded as provided in the Manual of Procedure prior to becoming effective.

Amendments. Unless otherwise provided in the Post Bylaws, the Post Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting provided each member has been notified at least twenty (20) days in advance and, upon request has been provided a copy of the proposed amendments.

Parliamentarians Opinion: **Where it was optional before, this change requires Posts to have their own Bylaws.**

Bylaws Sec. 402 - Bylaws.

The District Convention ~~may~~ shall adopt or ~~may~~ amend Bylaws governing the District as prescribed in the Manual of Procedure, provided such Bylaws do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or the Bylaws of the Department having jurisdiction.

Parliamentarians Opinion: Where it was optional before, this change requires District to have their own Bylaws.

Bylaws Sec. 502 - Bylaws.

The Department Convention ~~may~~ shall adopt or amend Bylaws governing the Department as prescribed in the Manual of Procedure, provided such Bylaws do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Parliamentarians Opinion: Where it was optional before, this change requires Departments to have their own Bylaws.

Bylaws Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

- (a) The Post shall elect the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, ~~Chaplain~~ and three Trustees.
- (b) The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, ~~Chaplain~~, and Service Officer.
- (c) The Post may elect or the Post Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day and/or Guard if required by Post Bylaws.
- (d) 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.

Parliamentarians Opinion: This change removes the Chaplain from the elected category and adds it to the appointed category. From now on, Chaplains at the Post level are an appointed position.

Bylaws Sec. 618 - Officers: Duties and Obligations.

- (a) Commander-in-Chief: Among the duties of the Commander-in-Chief, the Commander-in-Chief shall:

~~(6) Immediately after entering office, appoint the Adjutant General, Chief of Staff, Inspector General, and Sergeant at Arms and all other officers, Aides-de-Camp, committee chairmen and committees not otherwise provided for.~~

(6) Immediately upon entering office, appoint the Adjutant General who shall be a fulltime salaried officer of the organization, subject to the approval of two-thirds of the members of the National Council of Administration.

(7) Immediately upon entering office, appoint the Chief of Staff, Inspector General, and Sergeant-at-Arms and all other officers, Aides-de-Camp, committee chairmen and committees not otherwise provided for.

Renumber the current language under (7) as (8) and renumber the subsections after (8) as (9) - (15).

Parliamentarians Opinion: This change is a housekeeping change to ensure the Adjutant General Position is a paid position.

Manual of Procedure Sec. 620 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members and Salaried Officers.

Vacancies: In the event of a vacancy in the office of Commander-in-Chief, the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief shall at once succeed to the title and duties of the office, and the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief shall become the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief shall at once succeed to the title and duties of that office.

Should the vacancy occur in the office of the Quartermaster General, the Assistant Quartermaster General will carry out the duties of the Quartermaster General until such time as an election is held.

In the event no Assistant Quartermaster General has been appointed the Commander-in-Chief may appoint a Pro Tempore Quartermaster General to carry out the duties until such time an election is held. **The appointment will be null and void upon the election of a Quartermaster General as described below.**

Parliamentarians Opinion: This is another housekeeping amendment for National to void a temporary Quartermaster General appointment when the position has been properly filled.

No changes to the Ritual were made.

Steve Evans

Department of Texas VFW-State Parliamentarian

14. State Commander's Homecoming: The Homecoming for State Commander Lynn Toomer will be held October 6-9, 2022, in Fort Worth.

Click on the link below to see details for the State Commander Homecoming:
<https://www.texasvfw.org/2022-2023statecommandershomecoming>

To register online—click on the link below:
<https://texas-vfw.ticketleap.com/toomer-homecoming/>

To print registration form – click on the link below:
https://www.texasvfw.org/files/ugd/8c1f96_b07bd83cffee4a539b1edb0463aad617.pdf

IMPORTANT: Deadline for registration for the State Commander's Homecoming is September 26, 2022.

15. Closing Comments: We will continue to grow our membership by “Keeping the VFW Great.” We have a lot of hard work ahead of us and we have some ambitious goals that will require your help to achieve.

Congratulations to Dan West, our past State Adjutant/Quartermaster, who was installed as the VFW National Adjutant General on July 21st during the VFW National Convention in Kansas City. We are certainly proud of him and wish him well with his new position at VFW National Headquarters.

Have a safe and happy summer with all your outdoor activities at home, on the road, in the air or on the water.

Thank you for what you do for the VFW, and most of all thank you for **Keeping the VFW Great!**

By order of:

Lynn Toomer

Lynn Toomer, State Commander

Attested By:

Ben Lowrance

Ben Lowrance, State Adjutant/Quartermaster

