

Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars

- **1.** <u>Scout of the Year Deadline to a VFW Post is March 1, 2023:</u> Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recognizes individuals who are:
 - Eagle Scouts
 - Girl Scout Gold Award recipients
 - Venture Summit Award recipients
 - Sea Scout Quartermasters

Any Scout of the Year entries by a VFW Post should be submitted to the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters by April 1, 2023. Judging of all Scout of the Year entries will be done at the Department level. Go the link below, then go to the Post Programs, for the current Scout of the Year entry form, eligibility form, and score sheet:

https://www.texasvfw.org/sop-training-materials-resources

- 2. <u>Deadline to receive 2nd Quarter Post Audit is Tuesday, January 31, 2023. Submit the audit to the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters.</u>
- 3. District Meetings for January 2023 and February 2023:

•	District 16	January 7 th	Post 3903-Rosenberg
•	District 29	January 7 th	Post 6008-Hewitt
•	District 21	January 8 th	Post 9299-Alvarado
•	District 4	January 14 th	Post 9187-Houston
•	District 14	January 14 th	Post 3892-Harker Heights
•	District 19	January 14 th	Post 1836-Lufkin
•	District 30	January 14 th	Post 7106-Ennis
•	District 25	January 28 th	Post 7208-Midland
•	District 8	February 4 th	Post 8929-Anson
•	District 9	February 4 th	Post 2466-Lubbock
•	District 20	February 4 th	Post 2059-San Antonio
•	District 28	February 5 th	Post 1309-Smithville
•	District 6	February 10 th	Post-(TBD)
•	District 2	February 11 th	Post 1839-Cleveland

•	District 17	February 11 th	Post 4458-Caldwell
•	District 5	February 18 th	Post 9213-McQueeney
•	District 12	February 18 th	Post 3992-Mount Vernon
•	District 13	February 19 th	Post 3966-Devine
•	District 1	February 25 th & 26 th	Post 2772-Sherman
•	District 3	February 25 th	Post 5076-Garland
•	District 10	February 25 th	Post 812-El Paso

4. <u>Deadline Dates for Veteran Participation Reports (VPR's) to be submitted to the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters:</u>

- January 5, 2023-Deadline to receive VPR for Pearl Harbor Day
- February 24, 2023-Deadline to receive VPR for Vietnam Peace Accord
- March 16, 2023-Deadline to receive VPR for USS Maine
- March 29, 2023-Deadline to receive VPR for Operation Desert Storm

5. Congratulations to our Patriot's Pen winners for 2022-2023:

1st Place Patriot's Pen winner:

Juliet M. DeLaRosa of League City, Texas, is an 8th grader who attends St. Mary Catholic School in League City, Texas. She was sponsored by VFW Post 6378 in Dickinson, Texas, and District 16. She will receive a \$1,000.00 cash award sponsored by VFW Post 6873 in Abilene, Texas, during our 2023 Mid-Winter Conference Award Banquet in Corpus Christi.

2nd Place Patriot's Pen winner:

Luke M. Leman of Iola, Texas.

\$1,000.00 cash award-sponsored by VFW Post 8930-Houston Memorial Scholarship. Luke was sponsored by Post 4006, Navasota, and District 17.

3rd Place Patriot's Pen winner:

Sawyer Brightwell of Lufkin, Texas.

\$1,000.00 cash award-sponsored by VFW Post 6873-Abilene Scholarship.

Sawyer was sponsored by Post 1836, Lufkin, and District 19.

4th Place Patriot's Pen winner:

Madeline Collins of Shiner, Texas.

\$1,000.00 cash award-sponsored by VFW Post 6873-Abilene Scholarship.

Madeline was sponsored by Post 6209, Shiner, and District 24.

5th Place Patriot's Pen winner:

Xavier Aldrete of El Paso, Texas.

\$500.00 cash award-sponsored by Adobe Walls VFW Post 1789-Borger Scholarship. Xavier was sponsored by Post 8782, El Paso, and District 10.

6. Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year winners for 2022-2023:

<u>Grades K-5 winner:</u> Jenny L. Peters teaches at Rusk Elementary School in Rusk, Texas. She was sponsored by VFW Post 3984 in Jacksonville, Texas, and District 19.

<u>Grades 6-8 winner:</u> Susan Lewis teaches at Grand Saline Middle School in Grand Saline, Texas. She was sponsored by VFW Post 6635 in Grand Saline, Texas, and District 30.

<u>Grades 9-12 winner:</u> Kaitlin C. Cook teaches at Coldspring-Oakhurst High School in Coldspring, Texas. She was sponsored by VFW Post 1839 in Cleveland, Texas, and District 2.

7. <u>2022-2023 TOP TEN Voice of Democracy student winners who are invited to our Mid-Winter Conference Awards Banquet (listed by District sponsors):</u>

Josie J. Beck of Lumberton, Texas

11th Grade - Sponsored by Post 1514-Village Mills and District 2

Jeffrey A. Jarman of Bulverde, Texas

11th Grade - Sponsored by Post 8800-Canyon Lake and District 5

Rebekah J. Moreno of Breckenridge, Texas

11th Grade - Sponsored by Post 7767-Breckenridge and District 8

Lorynn A. Wolf of Killeen, Texas

12th Grade - Sponsored by Post 4008-Belton and District 14

Emily A. Rodgers of Bay City, Texas

10th Grade - Sponsored by Post 2438-Bay City and District 16

Anmol K. Bal of Katy, Texas

10th Grade - Sponsored by Post 9182-Katy and District 17

Grace Ebert of Mission, Texas

 $10^{\text{th}}\,\text{Grade}$ - Sponsored by Post 8788-McAllen and District 18

Keira N. Roberts of Shiner, Texas

12th Grade - Sponsored by Post 6209-Shiner and District 24

Max O. Stalker of Hillsboro, Texas

10th Grade -Sponsored by Post 4819-West and District 29

Nikki J. Norton of Fruitvale, Texas

12th Grade - Sponsored by Post 6635-Grand Saline and District 30

8. 2023 Mid-Winter Conference: The Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Corpus Christi (January 18-21, 2023) at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel (900 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas, 78401). Click on the link below for more details: https://www.texasvfw.org/2023-mid-winter-conference

9. 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, Anson L. Booker, Post 3892, D-14

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, Michael "Foy" Day, Post 4692, Bryan, D-17

State Chaplain, Timothy Anderson, Post 3894, Waxahachie, D-30

State Judge Advocate, Larry Velasquez, Post 8932, Corpus Christi, D-6

State Judge Advocate Steve Evans, Post 2466, Lubbock, D-9

State Surgeon, Randall Johnston, Post 4376, Seven Points, D-30

State Surgeon, Gerard P. "Jerry" Greene, Post 6796, Dallas, D-3

10. Closing Comments: I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2023 Mid-Winter Conference in Corpus Christi this month. Thank you all for the hard work that everyone puts in on behalf of their respective Posts and Districts. If you plan to travel to Corpus Christi for the Mid-Winter Conference, please be safe.

By order of:

Lynn Toomer, State Commander

Attested By:

Ben Lowrance, State Adjutant/Quartermaster