



Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars

DECEMBER 2022
No. 5

GENERAL ORDERS
2022 – 2023 Series

December 1, 2022

1. Dates the Department of Texas VFW HQs on Austin will be closed for the upcoming holidays:

- Friday & Monday, December 23rd & 26th - Christmas Observance
- Friday, December 30th - New Year’s Eve Observance

2. VFW National Headquarters schedule for the upcoming holidays: The VFW National Headquarters office in Kansas City will be closed for the holidays starting on Friday, December 23rd and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

3. District Meetings for December 2022 and January 2023:

• <u>District 20</u>	<u>December 3rd</u>	<u>Post 8555-Poth</u>
• <u>District 24</u>	<u>December 3rd</u>	<u>Post 4403-Port Lavaca</u>
• <u>District 18</u>	<u>December 11th</u>	<u>Post 12178-Weslaco</u>
• <u>District 3</u>	<u>December 17th</u>	<u>Post 8785-Mesquite</u>
• <u>District 16</u>	<u>January 7th</u>	<u>Post 3903-Rosenberg</u>
• <u>District 29</u>	<u>January 7th</u>	<u>Post 6008-Hewitt</u>
• <u>District 21</u>	<u>January 8th</u>	<u>Post 9299-Alvarado</u>
• <u>District 4</u>	<u>January 14th</u>	<u>Post 581-Houston</u>
• <u>District 14</u>	<u>January 14th</u>	<u>Post 3892-Harker Heights</u>
• <u>District 19</u>	<u>January 14th</u>	<u>Post 1836-Lufkin</u>
• <u>District 30</u>	<u>January 14th</u>	<u>Post 7106-Ennis</u>
• <u>District 25</u>	<u>January 28th</u>	<u>Post 4372-Odessa</u>

4. Deadline Dates for Veteran Participation Reports (VPR’s) to be submitted to the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters:

- **December 9, 2022** - Deadline to submit VPR for Veterans Day
- **January 5, 2023** - Deadline to receive VPR for Pearl Harbor Day
- **February 24, 2023** - Deadline to receive VPR for Vietnam Peace Accord

5. **District/Post Bylaws:** Districts and Posts are reminded to review your Bylaws. If it has been more than five (5) years, you should revise them. Contact Wyonda Laurence, Department Secretary, and she can email you templates for the Bylaws. Email Wyonda for assistance: wyonda@texasvfw.org.

6. **Caps during Chaplain Prayers:** In accordance with the Ritual General Rule 13(b), “members will follow the action of the Chaplain or presiding officer relative to removal of caps during prayers; if uncovering, the hat shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart.”

7. **VFW National Public Servant Awards:** New this year, the dispatcher category has been added. The Department of Texas VFW is asked to submit four (4) nominees (one for each career area). Deadline to submit the nominations to the Department of Texas VFW Headquarters Office is Friday, January 6, 2023. The National VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award
- VFW National 911 Dispatcher Award

Refer to page 9 of the November 2022 VFW National Headquarters Bulletin (click on link below).

https://www.texasvfw.org/files/ugd/d7b3c7_e1fbe4bf608040c2b99d2f68a62ac941.pdf

8. **Department Headquarters staff will contact the District Commanders before the 2022 Christmas holiday regarding the winners for:**

- The “Top Ten” Voice of Democracy (VOD) student winners
- Patriot’s Pen winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places)
- Teacher winners (K-5th grades, 6th-8th grades, and 9th-12th grades)

9. **District Commanders encouraged to appoint Chairs for All-State recognition:**

For this ensuing year 2022-2023, it is highly encouraged that all District Commanders appoint the following Chairs (to be considered for All-State District recognition):

- Membership Chair
- Homeless Veterans Chair
- Legislative Chair

Make sure that your appointed Chairs are listed on your District Election Report. Only a few Districts have done this so far this year. Refer to page 8 in the 2022-2023 All-State Program (click on link below).

https://www.texasvfw.org/files/ugd/8c1f96_2486be2f92844acea6ff0eab864843d5.pdf

10. Congratulations to Jorg Kitchen, our new State Assistant Adjutant at Department of Texas VFW Headquarters in Austin.

11. 2023 Mid-Winter Conference: The Conference will be held again in Corpus Christi (January 18-21, 2023) at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel (900 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas, 778401). Click on the link below for more details:
<https://www.texasvfw.org/2023-mid-winter-conference>

12. 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, 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

13. Closing Comments: I look forward to seeing the reports on all the Posts’ Veterans Day observances. Thank you for all the hard work that everyone puts in on behalf of their Posts. As part of the “Keeping the VFW Great” team, let us continue to work hard for our Veterans and I hope to see many of you at our Mid-Winter Conference in Corpus Christi in January 2023. Have a safe and enjoyable time with family, friends, and comrades during the Christmas holidays.

By order of:



Lynn Toomer, State Commander



Attested By:



Ben Lowrance, State Adjutant/Quartermaster