

Mail Call

Department of Louisiana

June 2025 | Issue 12



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- District Meetings– Page 2
- 126th National Convention Resolutions– Page 3
- 94th State Convention– Page 3
- Flag Day– Page 3
- CIC & St Commanders Membership Challenge– Page 4
- 2024-2025 All State Team—Page 4
- Prior Month's Commander's Challenge Winner– Page 4
- State Commander's Monthly Challenge– Page 5
- 2025-2026 Candidates for State Office– Page 6-7
- Community Service Reporting– Page 8
- State Commander's Special Project– Page 8
- Department Challenge Coin– Page 8
- Conference/Convention Dates– Page 8
- State Commander's Article– Page 9
- Sr. & Jr Vice Cmdr's Articles– Page 10
- State Adjutant & Quartermaster Articles– Page 11
- State Surgeon & Chaplain Articles– Page 12
- Legislative Report– Page 13-14
- Louisiana Council Member Article– Page 15
- Proposed Department Bylaw Changes– Page 16-19
- State Convention Schedule– Page 20-21
- State Convention Buddy Poppy Display Guidelines– Page 22-23
- Buddy Poppy Display Entry Form– Page 24
- Desert Storm Wall Donations– Page 25
- Incoming Commander Tie Donations– Page 26
- Incoming Commander & President Shirt Orders– Page 27-28
- VFW National Convention Banquet & National Home Tour– Page 29
- Post Events– Page 30-36

UPCOMING EVENTS:

State Convention

June 26-29, 2025

The Bentley Hotel Alexandria &
Convention Center

National Convention

August 9-13, 2025

Columbus, OH

Council of Administration Training

August 22-24, 2025

The Hotel Bentley
Alexandria LA

2025 Southern Conference

November 7-9, 2025

Margaritaville Lake Conroe
Resort
Montgomery, Texas

Mid- Winter Conference

January 22-25, 2026

The Hotel Bentley
Alexandria LA

“Generations Continuing to Serve”

DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICT 2 MEETINGS:

July 24, 2025	Post 3750
Registration	5:30 pm
Joint Meeting	6:00 pm
Dinner (\$7)	6:00 pm
Jan 29, 2026	Post 3750
Registration	5:30 pm
Joint Meeting	6:00 pm
Dinner (\$7)	6:00 pm
Apr 23, 2026	Post 3750
Registration	5:30 pm
Joint Meeting	6:00 pm
Dinner (\$7)	6:00 pm

DISTRICT 3 MEETINGS:

Sept 13, 2025	Post 3665
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	12:00 noon
Jan 10, 2026	Post 3665
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	12:00 noon
Apr 25, 2026	Post 3665
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	12:00 noon

DISTRICT 4 MEETINGS:

Sept 6, 2025	Post 9822
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$8)	12:00 noon
Nov 15, 2025	Post 1982
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$8)	12:00 noon
May 18, 2026	Post 9822
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$8)	12:00 noon

DISTRICT 5 MEETINGS:

Aug 24, 2025	Post 7321
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	12:00 noon
Nov 2, 2026	Post 7321
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	12:00 noon
Apr 12, 2026	Post 3619
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	12:00 noon

DISTRICT 7 MEETINGS:

DISTRICT 8 MEETINGS:

Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	12 noon

Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	12 noon

Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	12 noon

DISTRICT 9 MEETINGS:

DISTRICT 10 MEETINGS:

Sept 6, 2025	Post 1736
Registration	10:00 am
Meeting	10:30 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00 noon

Feb 21, 2026	Post 3139
Registration	10:00 am
Meeting	10:30 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00 noon

Apr 25, 2026	Post 8852
Registration	10:00 am
Meeting	10:30 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00 noon

DISTRICT 11 MEETINGS:

Sept 13, 2025	Post 4317
Registration	9:30 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00 noon

Jan 17, 2026	Post 3615
Registration	9:30 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00 noon

May 16, 2026	Post 1809
Registration	9:30 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00 noon

DISTRICT 12 MEETINGS:

Sept 6, 2025	Post 5187
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00 noon

Jan 10, 2026	Post 4588
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00 noon

May 9, 2026	Post 5951
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00 noon

FLAG DAY

June 14, 2025

Flag Day falls within National Flag Week, a time when Americans reflect on the foundations of the nation's freedom. The flag of the United States represents freedom and has been an enduring symbol of the country's ideals since its early days. During both events, Americans also remember their loyalty to the nation, reaffirm their belief in liberty and justice, and observe the nation's unity.

Many people in the United States honor this day by displaying the American flag at homes and public buildings. Other popular ways of observing this holiday include: flag-raising ceremonies; Flag Day services; school quizzes and essay competitions about the American flag; musical salutes; street parades; and awards for special recognition

Please visit www.vfwstoreorg to purchase flag day supplies!

94TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

June 26-29, 2025

Bentley Hotel & Randolph Convention
Center
Alexandria, LA

REMINDER FOR STATE CONVENTION PARTICIPATION

As we prepare for the upcoming State Convention, please remember that **only registered delegates** are permitted to participate in floor discussions and cast votes. Posts should ensure that their delegate lists are submitted and up to date to avoid any delays or issues with credentialing. Your cooperation ensures a smooth and orderly convention process.

To Submit the Delegate/Alternate Form

online: Post may also submit their form & payment online by clicking the link below:
<https://form.jotform.com/242125563185051>

Banquet Tickets

Purchase your Banquet Ticket now! Tickets are \$40.00 per person! Click the link below to pay for your tickets online

<https://form.jotform.com/240304921208143>

PROPOSED DEPARTMENT BYLAW CHANGES

The Department has proposed important changes to the Department's bylaws aimed at improving operations and clarifying procedures. These changes include increasing the new member fee from \$2 to \$5 and raising Department Convention registration fees from \$5 to \$10 for both delegates and leadership attendees. These updates will help the Department more effectively support operations and event planning in today's evolving budgetary needs.

All members are encouraged to review these updates and stay informed, as these proposed changes will be voted on during the **94th Annual State Convention in June**. You can find the full list of proposed bylaw changes on **pages 16-18** of this newsletter.

STATE CONVENTION HEALTH FAIR

ALL VFW & AUX member are invited to attend the Health Fair on Friday, June 27th beginning at 9:00 a.m.

IMPORTANT CONVENTION REGISTRATION UPDATE

Attention Comrades: At this year's Department of Louisiana State Convention, we will no longer be using the blue, yellow, and white credential cards at the registration desk. Instead, each Post **must** submit a complete list of their delegates prior to the convention. Only members whose names appear on these submitted lists will be allowed to register as delegates. Please remember that **only registered delegates** will be permitted to participate in discussion and vote during the convention. Ensure your Post is properly represented by submitting your delegate list on time!

STATE COMMANDER'S MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE WINNER FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH!

The top recruiter for the month of **MAY** is **ROBERT REISZ** from **Post 4224** Congratulations!

COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S CHALLENGE

The monthly Commander's Challenge is rolling along as we see our Posts making great strides in recruiting and upgrading members to Life membership! To remind everyone, every month during the 2024-25 membership year, we will reward our Posts who lead their divisions in recruiting as well as Life Member upgrades.

Every month, we will award points to our Posts as follows:

- Recruit a new annual member into the Post: 1 point
- An annual or lapsed member converts to Life: 5 points
- Recruit a new Life member into the Post: 10 points

Every month a different award will be given out to the Posts that lead their divisions, and at the end of the year at our National Convention, each Post will be recognized for their achievement on a video display at the Membership booth.

JUNE'S winners will receive an 8-foot VFW personalized table cover customized for the Post to be used for meetings, recruiting events, and other functions!

100 % POST

Congratulations to the Districts & Post that have reached 100% already this year!

2024-2025 ALL STATE TEAM

Dist	Post	Commander	Quartermaster
11	1809	Christopher Leguin	Stepheni Leguin
4	1982	Michael Woods	Henry Broussard
10	3139	Dale Lonidier	Eric Bettevy
5	3619	Dolan Randy Carson	Shane Fowler
3	3665	Joseph Mike Parfait	James Prestenback
8	4224	Robert Reisz	Kevin Gomez
3	4752	Raymond Bergeron	Cary Tanner
9	5735	Ralph Larry Simmons	Richard Burchett
12	5951	Sharee Arends	Ed Reynolds
8	7017	Eugene Bussolati	Vance Sutton
9	8720	Matthew Booth	Michael Peats
4	9822	James Bourque	Richard Brasseaux
5	9854	Marcus Fautherree	Jeffery McKinney
7	9903	Leander Daigle	Dennis Hart
4	12065	Fred Wesley	Gaston Dupas
3	12182	Bobby Boudreaux	Earnest Bosauge

District Commander

4 Don Reber
8 Robert Reisz
11 Philip Lawrence
12 Walt Korb

JUNE 2025



Top Recruiter

**1/3 Scale - 11.5" Long
AR15 "Charky"**

PAUL STONE CANDIDATE FOR STATE CHAPLAIN 2025-2026

- Member of Post 5951
- Post Sr. Vice Commander (25-26)
- District 12 Sr. Vice Commander (25-26)
- Dept. Membership Chairman (25-26)
- Grand Seam Squirrel (M.O.C.) (25-26)
- District 12 Honor Guard Member
- Worshipful Master of Mt. Lebanon PHA Masonic Lodge #20, Shreveport
- Scribe for King Solomon H.R.A.M. #5 (PHA), Shreveport
- 15 Year USAF Veteran, Services Career Field



FEDERICO "MAX" ARENDS III CANDIDATE FOR JUDGE ADVOCATE

VFW Member since 1996

Offices Held;

- Post Adjutant
- Post Commander
- District 12 Adjutant
- District 12 Sr. Vice Commander
- District 12 Commander
- State Surgeon
- St. Jr. Vice
- St Sr. Vice
- State Commander
- National Council Member
- National Youth Education & Community Service Committee

CANIDATE FOR JR. VICE COMMANDER 2025-2026:


James Bourque
for
DEPT OF LOUISIANA
JR VICE COMMANDER
2025-2026


VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Gold Legacy Life Member



CANIDATE FOR SURGEON 2025-2026:

Canidate for State Surgeon 2025-2026



Joe Dufrene
Member of VFW Post 6640
Currently District Two Sr. Vice Commander
Past District Two Commander
Navy Corpsman (1986–1996)
Medical Laboratory Technician for Over 32 Years

EVENT FLYERS:

Any District/Post that has upcoming events and would like to include a flyer in our monthly Mail Call, please send the information to adj@vfwdeptla.org!

Future National Convention Dates:

August 9-14, 2025

Columbus, OH

July 31-Aug 4, 2027

Milwaukee, WI

Aug 15-20, 2026

Salt Lake City, UT

Aug 5-10, 2028

San Antonio, TX

VFW Department of Louisiana Headquarters CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office- 225-928-5025 | www.vfwdeptla.org

***Please note the Department NO longer has a Fax Number!**

State Quartermaster

Elvin R. Bass

Email: lavfwqm@yahoo.com

State Adjutant

Carl Karnish

Email: adj@vfwdeptla.org

State Administrative Assistant:

Tori LeBlanc

Email: lastatevfw@yahoo.com

State Commander:

Debbie McElhannon

Email: debbiemc4vets@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING:

All reports should be submitted **MONTHLY** by logging onto the Department's Website - Members Only Section. It's very important that Community Service Activities are reported in the month that they take place!

Department Conference/ Convention Dates:

2024-2025

State Convention

June 26-29, 2025

2025-2026

CofA/Officer Training

August 22-24, 2025

Mid Winter

January 22-25, 2026

State Convention

June 18-21, 2026

2026-2027

CoA/Officer Training

August 28-30, 2026

Mid - Winter

January

State Convention

June

State Commander's Special Project Brothers and Sisters in Arms

[Click here for more information, please visit https://
www.brotherandsisterptsddogs.org](https://www.brotherandsisterptsddogs.org)

CHALLENGE COIN

We invite all of our Post to join us in honoring our local law enforcement officers, EMTs, and firefighters by purchasing Challenge Coins to show our appreciation to them.

Cost \$10.00 each + shipping

All Posts should check with their District to see if they have placed an order to distribute to Post!

Click the link below to order yours today!

<https://form.jotform.com/242673672339162>



From the desk of the State Commander...

What a wonderful year we have had; it has flown by so fast. This article is the last Mail Call article for this program year and for me as State Commander. I have truly enjoyed this year. I am honored to have served as your Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department (Dept.) of LA. The VFW Dept. of LA has met all requirements for All-American due to the hard work and dedication of the members. I appreciate each of you and thank you for everything you do for the VFW, the VFW Auxiliary and our veterans. I also want to thank the Department for all your help and commend you on how well you have worked as a team, Equipe de Louisiane.



**State Commander
Debbie McElhannon**

Great job getting your election reports completed. As a reminder, all posts need to pay delegate dues and registration for both the VFW State Convention and National Convention. Double check that you have all requirements complete so you can vote at Convention.

I am looking forward to State Convention and seeing everyone receive the awards you have earned. We will have a health fair, VA claims assistance, trustee and Suicide prevention training and a poker tournament on Friday, as well as the Auxiliary fundraiser dinner. Contact the Auxiliary for tickets. On Saturday, we will have our joint opening with our annual memorial service, start of Council of Administration, a corn hole tournament, our annual awards banquet, and haunted tour of the Bentley. A grant writing class and Blood Drive will be on Friday and Saturday. Sunday is elections and installation. You need to sign up for the suicide prevention training and Bentley haunted tour. See the agenda in this Mail Call.

A few reminders: start preparing your tax documents and ensure you have your own EIN, ensure you send any updated address and meeting times to the department and work on getting active membership. If you plan to go to National in Columbus Ohio and would like to attend a special black-tie banquet on Monday of National, let us know. Most awards will be given out at the banquet. The Department has reserved tables.

Keep up the great work and continue working in your communities and serving veterans. I look forward to continuing to serve veterans together and to build our VFW stronger. Comradery and helping veterans are our main purpose. Thank you for what you do. The hard work is done in the posts; without the posts hard work, the district and state could not be successful. I appreciate your hard work and dedication to serving and helping veterans. It is nice to see Generations continuing to serve together.

A message from our State Sr. Vice Commander....

Comrades,

As we near the close of another VFW year, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you—our dedicated members, Posts, and Districts—for an outstanding year of service, commitment, and camaraderie. Your tireless efforts to support our veterans, their families, and our communities have once again set the standard for excellence.

Whether it was through hosting events, providing vital resources, honoring our fallen, or simply being there for one another, your actions have made a profound impact. Our collective achievements are a direct result of your hard work, unity, and unwavering dedication to the values of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As your State Senior Vice Commander, it has been my honor to serve alongside such inspiring individuals. Looking ahead, it would be truly an honor to serve as your next State Commander. With your continued support and partnership, I am confident that we can build this year's successes and take our department to even greater heights.

Thank you for your commitment, your service, and your trust. Together, we will continue to lead with purpose and honor all who have served.

Yours in Comradeship,
James Prestenback
State Senior Vice Commander
Candidate for State Commander



**Sr. Vice Commander
James Prestenback**

A message from our State Jr. Vice Commander....

Greetings Comrades,

May was a whirlwind and flew by so fast!

I attended the Jr. Vice training at the VFW National Home May 15-17. I learned so much about the home that I never knew and it really opened my eyes! If you haven't before, I advise you to take some time to go, receive a tour and learn about what we do for our families in need.

If you have not already turned in your election report, you are extremely behind, and in the position to not qualify for All American. Get those reports turned in!

May was the month to accomplish your National Day of Service. I hope everyone was able to get out into the community and represent the VFW.

Remember, do not stop recruiting, reinstating, or retaining members! Keep pushing to finish this year strong, and build for the coming years!

I look forward to seeing each of you at Convention in June!



**Jr. Vice Commander
Sharee Arends**

A message from our State Adjutant....

Comrades,

Can you believe that this fiscal year is coming to an end and a new year is about to begin? The Department of Louisiana has a lot to be proud of about this past year. As of the date of this writing there are:

- 22 Post that have made All American, with 7 of these Post in the top ranking of their respective division.
- Louisiana is ranked number 5 in the Nation for Community Service Rankings with over 447,900 Volunteer Hours.
- 16 Post have achieved All State.
- 37 Post have exceeded the Department goal of 101% membership increase.

As we wind down this year, let's make sure we are postured for the upcoming year. Each post should have a 1, 3 and 5 year plan established. Now is the time to relook, revise, check off what is completed and add what needs to be added.

See you at the State Convention.....



**State Adjutant
Carl Karnish**

A message from our State Quartermaster....

Comrades,

As we near the close of another VFW year, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank each of you for your continued dedication and service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Department of Louisiana. The work being done at the Post and District levels continues to strengthen our organization and make a meaningful difference in the communities throughout our state.

I would like to congratulate State Commander Debbie McElhannon and her leadership team on an outstanding year of service. Their leadership has been instrumental in driving progress and unity throughout our Department. A special congratulations also goes out to all Posts that achieved 100% membership, your hard work and commitment have not gone unnoticed!

As always, financial accountability remains a top priority for ensuring the integrity of our Posts. I remind all Post Quartermasters to submit audits and required reports on time, and to ensure that financial records are current and accurate. With the end of the fiscal year quickly approaching on June 30, now is the time to finalize membership dues and begin preparations for the upcoming year.

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone who participated in our recent Virtual Q&A Session.

I look forward to seeing you all at the State Convention.



**State Quartermaster
Elvin Ray Bass**

A message from our State Surgeon....

No Article Submitted for June



**State Surgeon
Lawrence Koons**

A message from our State Chaplain....

As this year's program year rapidly comes to an end, a new one also starts. Many of you are in new leadership spots and many are in the same ones. Regardless of which one you fall into, or neither, the task of growing our organization still calls to you to make it a little bit better. The only thing constant in change, and either you do or get left behind. Change can be both a good or bad thing, it's up to us to use it for positive or negative.

As I write you for the last time after six years as our State Chaplain I both applaud you for the job you have done and look forward to the stronger things you will do in the future. In much the same way as I look back on my two deployments to Iraq and 26 years in uniform its both the good times and bad that have a way of leaving an impression on me, I have a strong feeling that many of you do too. Use those older members that have filled the positions you are to if in new seats and remember that together we emerge stronger. I am at your call if needed, I may be a District Commander as opposed to Chaplain but regardless always have a shoulder to lean on if needed. Thank you for the support you have given me over the six years as State Chaplain, I me as Post Commander, and even the multiple terms as Cooties State Commander.



**State Chaplain
David Fields**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Louisiana
Legislative Report June 2025**

Comrades, it has been an honor serving as the Legislative Committee Member for Louisiana. I have tried to keep the department informed on some of the most important legislative issues over the past twelve months. Normally I would just cut and paste the report I send to all of the legislators, of what the VFW has done in the previous month, but I thought this would be simpler.

As you know, I work for the commander in the capacity of representing Louisiana on the National Legislative Committee. I attend meetings in Washington DC twice annually. But, more importantly, I work with our six representatives and two senators each and every month. Specifically, working legislation that helps all Veterans, not just VFW eligible ones.

We had a great experience in the March Washington Conference, where almost thirty people from Louisiana came together to speak with one voice on the National VFW Priority Goals, and specifically our Talking Points which were specific to Unaddressed Toxic Exposure, Transition from Service, Exploring Alternate PTSD Treatments, Cracking Down on Predatory Claims Companies, GI Bill Parity, and Retirement and Military Personnel.

Just to delve into a couple of these, since most have heard myself or the leadership discuss them publicly. Unaddressed Toxic Exposure is anything that is found during medical exams that can be attributed to location of deployment overseas. Medical professionals are finding more and more exposure toxins through research and location, that could be tied to a Veteran's illness. We are just asking VA to make these known after finding them, so Veterans that may have served in those areas can get checked out.

For the Transition from Service it asks that DoD update their classes or instruction to allow VSOs to come and speak to the soon-to-be Veterans about their Benefits. Last one, is the Retirement and Military Retirement, which is more specific to those Service Members who were medically retired under the Chapter 61, which are combat related medical retirees. The Richard Star Act is a big push to allow those Veterans to receive their military retirement and the VA benefits without offset.

Lastly, I have attached a separate document, that discusses the highest priority bills the VFW is working on passage. I ask the Department Adjutant, to please send that attachment to all District Commanders, to further send down the Post Level. If you want or need a copy, send me an

Respectfully,

Matthew J. West

VFW, Department of Louisiana

National Legislative Committee Member 2020-2026

COMMITTEEMAN'S CORNER

Bobby Lovergne
Louisiana Council Member

The time is nearing to close the door on the 2024-2025 VFW Year. Our Department has exceeded the CIC's goal of 102%, congratulations to all involved. State and National Convention should be a time of celebration for our Department to celebrate all of the hard work that has gone into this year's accomplishments.

Please see the flyer included in this edition of the Mail Call concerning the National Desert Storm War Memorial. As the Department's representative on the NDSWM we are challenging every Post in the Department to donate \$75.00 or more that would raise enough funds that the Department can donate another \$5000.00 to the construction of the monument. We have also challenged all other Departments to match or exceed our donation. This would allow VFW National to reach the Million Dollar donor level and be recognized on the Memorial as such. Let's bust down the door, overshadow the \$5000.00 mark, and raise Louisiana's overall donation to over \$20,000.00.

Once again, I remind the newly elected Post and District Officers, if you are an Annual Pay Member when elected, take the time to pay your dues ASAP or become a Life Member, nothing worse than seeing an elected Officer removed for not paying dues. Strive to find ways to improve your Post or District as you proceed through your year.

The 127th National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah will more than likely be moved to Reno, Nevada beginning July 22, 2026 to July 30, 2026. There has been some issues with the SLC venue and hotel so other options have been explored to make the move, official word should be released in the coming weeks, I will keep all the District Commanders updated

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our Department Convention and celebrating with you all. Let's have fun and then kick it into high gear to begin the 2025-2026 VFW Year.

Until next month, let's keep pushing forward to improve our Department and raise the numbers back up by renewing, reinstating or recruiting new members.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment 25.001

Submitted by: PSC Ray Bass (current Department Quartermaster)

Description from Submitter: Amend Article 5, Section 2: *Forwarding Admission Fees and Dues* by changing the new member fee from \$2.00 to \$5.00.

Current Bylaws Content:

Sec. 2. Forwarding Admission Fees and Dues:

At least once each month the Post Quartermaster shall transmit to the Quartermaster General the fees and dues collected from each Post member during the preceding month as prescribed in the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. New member fee is \$2.00 and must be transmitted to the Department. Department of Louisiana has Direct Dues Membership transmittals directly to VFW National.

Proposed Amended Bylaws Content:

Sec. 2. Forwarding Admission Fees and Dues:

At least once each month the Post Quartermaster shall transmit to the Quartermaster General the fees and dues collected from each Post member during the preceding month as prescribed in the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. The new member fee is \$5.00 and must be transmitted to the Department. Department of Louisiana has Direct Dues Membership transmittals directly to VFW National.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment 25.002

Submitted by: PSC Ray Bass (current Department Quartermaster)

Description from Submitter: Amend Article 5, Section 3A, *Department Convention Registration Fees*: by changing the delegate registration fee from five dollars (\$5.00) to ten dollars (\$10.00).

Current Bylaws Content:

- A. In accordance with Section 222 National Bylaws, a delegate registration fee of five dollars (\$5.00) shall be paid by each Post for each and every delegate to which the Post shall be entitled based upon transmittal reports and dues covering the membership of the Post as received by the Department Quartermaster as of March 31st with such additions as may be necessary by new Posts only.

Proposed Amended Bylaws Content:

- A. **In accordance with Section 222 National Bylaws, a delegate registration fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) shall be paid by each Post for each and every delegate to which the Post shall be entitled based upon transmittal reports and dues covering the membership of the Post as received by the Department Quartermaster as of March 31st with such additions as may be necessary by new Posts only.**

Proposed Bylaws Amendment 25.003

Submitted by: PSC Ray Bass (current Department Quartermaster)

Description from Submitter: Amend Section 3C, *Department Convention Registration Fees* by changing the described fee from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

Current Bylaws Content:

- C. A registration fee of five dollars (\$5.00) shall be paid by each and every Past Commander-in-Chief, Department Officer, Past Department Commander, District Commander and Post Commander; comprising the composition of the Department Convention on or before registering as a member of the Department Convention.

Proposed Amended Bylaws Content:

- C. A registration fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) shall be paid by each Past Commander-in-Chief, Department Officer, Past Department Commander, District Commander and Post Commander; comprising the composition of the Department Convention on or before registering as a member of the Department Convention.**

Description from Submitter: Amend Article 9, Section 1: *Council of Administration Meetings* by removing two council seats and adding one additional seat. Currently there are 21 voting members on the Department's Council of Administration. Currently three are appointed by the Department Commander. If the Department Commander appoints an already elected member of the council it will decrease the voting power of the council and possibly cause time delaying votes with ties. This would REMOVE the State Chief of Staff and the State Inspector as sitting members of the Council of Administration.

The addition of one additional Past Department Commander will be added as a voting members of the Department's Council of Administration if needed. To create an odd number for voting to avoid a tie.

Current Bylaws Content:

ARTICLE IX

Council of Administration Meetings

Sec 1, Composition

The Council of Administration shall consist of the following elected officers, Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chaplain. Additionally, the following appointed officers shall serve as members of the Council of Administration, Adjutant, Chief of Staff, and Inspector. District Commanders, shall serve on the Council of Administration and in the absence of a District Commander, the District Senior Vice Commander, and in the absence of the Senior Vice Commander, the District Junior Vice Commander may function as a member of the Council of Administration. The retiring Department Commander shall also be member of the Council of Administration. In the event a Past Department Commander is unwilling or unable to serve on the Council of Administration, their place shall be filled by the last retiring Past Department Commander who is ready, willing and able to serve.

Proposed Amended Bylaws Content:

ARTICLE IX

Council of Administration Meetings

Sec. 1. Composition

The Council of Administration shall consist of the following elected officers: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, and Chaplain. *If the Department Commander has appointed an Adjutant not also serving as the elected Quartermaster, the appointed Adjutant shall serve as a member of the Council of Administration.* District Commanders shall serve on the Council of Administration and in the absence of a District Commander, the District Senior Vice Commander, and in the absence of the Senior Vice Commander, the District Junior Vice Commander, may function as a member of the Council of Administration. *If the State Quartermaster and State Adjutant are the same person, decreasing the voting strength of the council from 19 votes to 18 votes, the previous Department Commander who preceded the Junior Past State Commander in office shall be added as a member of the Council of Administration. If a Past Department Commander is unwilling or unable to serve on the Council of Administration, their place shall be filled by the next previous Past Department Commander who is ready, willing and able to serve.*

Veterans of Foreign Wars
94th Annual State Convention
June 26, 27, 28, and 29, 2025
The Hotel Bentley in Alexandria
200 Desoto Street, Alexandria, LA 70131

VFW Tentative Agenda

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

4:30pm - 5:30pm	Pre-Paid Registration (VFW Only)	Lobby Bentley Hotel
	Banquet Tickets, Dinner Tickets (VFW & Aux)	

4:00pm **Hospitality Room – Bentley Beauregard 2nd Floor**

FRIDAY, June 27, 2025

7am – 9am	Breakfast	Bayou Chicou
8:30am - 11:30am	Pre-Paid Registration (VFW Only)	Front of Bays A-C, Convention Center
8:30am - 9am	Past St CMDR/Past St PRES Presentation	Bays D & E, Convention Center
9am – 3pm	VA Claims Assistance	Bentley Bayou-Robert Room
		Bentley Bayou Alexander Room
9am – 9:30am	Health Fair / Attendees Interaction	Convention Center
9am – 11am	Health Fair (ALL)	Convention Center
	Operation Daily Battle	
11am – 12noon	Health Fair (Men)	Convention Center
	Health Fair (Women)	Bentley Ballroom
12noon – 5pm	Blood Drive	Valet
12n – 1:15pm	Light Lunch for Health Fair Attendees	Hospitality Room
12:30pm - 3pm	Registration	Front of Bays A-C, Convention Center
1:15pm - 3:45pm	1 st Business Session	Convention Center
	Awards: State Commander Gold Citations & Loyalty Day (1 st & 2 nd)	
	Training:	
4pm – 5pm	- Trustee Reports	Convention Center
4pm – 5pm	- Suicide Prevention	Bentley Alexander
4pm - 5pm	By Laws Committee Meeting	Bentley Forum Room
4pm - 5:30pm	Auxiliary Bingo	Bentley Claiborne Rm
5pm – 6pm	Grant Writing	Bentley Forum Room
5pm	Incoming Leadership Meeting	
	With SSVC James Prestenback	Bentley Bayou Robert Room
5pm – 5:30pm	Practice for Saturday Morning Joint Opening	Convention Center
6:pm - 9pm	Auxiliary Fund Raiser (Hawaiian Luau)	Bentley Ball Room
8pm - till???	Card Tournament	Bentley Livingston

Hospitality Room – Bentley Beauregard 2nd Floor

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025

Casual or Business Casual dress for membership. Blue and Grays or Suits and Ties for District Commanders and Line Officers.

7:00am – 9:00am	Breakfast	Bayou Chicou
8:30am - 11:30am	Registration	Front of Bays A-C, Convention Ctr
8:45am	Officer Line Up (2nd Floor)	Front of Bays A-C, Convention Ctr
	War Veterans Line Up Anniversary	
10am – 3pm	Blood Drive	Valet
9am	Presentation of Colors by Sea Cadets	Convention Center
9am - 11:15am	Joint Opening & Memorial	Convention Center
12n - 1:15pm	Lunch	

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025 (CONTINUED)

12n - 1:15pm	PSC Luncheon	Alexander Room 2nd Floor Bentley
12:30pm - 3pm	Registration	Front of Bays A-C, Convention Ctr
1:15pm - 3:30pm	2 nd Business Session C of A	Convention Center
	Nominations for State Offices	
3:30pm - 5:30pm	Cornhole Tournament	Bentley Ball Room
3:30pm - 5:30pm	Leadership Pictures	TBD
4pm - 5pm	Grant Writing Seminar	Bentley Forum Room
4:30pm - 5:00pm	Prayer Service	Conference Center
6:30pm - 9pm	VFW/Auxiliary Awards Banquet	Convention Center
9pm - UTC	Hotel Bentley Haunted Tour	Bentley Lobby
VFW Speaker: Past Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy		
AUX Speaker: National Chaplain Sandra Uzell		

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025

Casual or Business Casual dress for membership, Blue and Grays or Suits and Ties for District Commanders and Line Officers.

7:00am - 9:00am	Breakfast	Bayou Chicou
8am - 9am	Registration	Front of Bays A-C Convention Floor
8am	Practice for Officer Installation	Convention Center
	All Incoming Officers	
9am - 11am	Final Business Session (Hall A, B, & C)	Convention Center
	Final Nomination of Officers	
	Election of Officers	
11:15am	Joint Installation Ceremony	Convention Center
	Bobby Lovernge officially appointed as installing officer	
1pm	Reception for the 2025-2026	
	State Commander and President	Bentley Main Ballroom

Buddy Poppy Display Contest Categories

Department

CATEGORY 1:

PUBLIC PROMOTION OF POPPY SALES: Window, Booth, Parade or Poster Displays, Sales Promotions, etc.

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** of the poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

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) Buddy Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

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 requirements of Categories 1 and 2 will automatically be entered in Category 3.
- (b) At least one (1) Buddy Poppy used in the Display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

If a Post and/or Auxiliary wins first place in the State competition in any of the three (3) categories listed above, the winners are invited to compete at the National Convention. The winners are responsible for setting up and taking down the displays at the National Convention. The Post and State Chairman must contact Department Headquarters in writing giving the size of the display and the amount of space required for displaying the Buddy Poppy entry Competition. CHECK DEADLINE WITH NATIONAL by visiting online at www.vfw.org – National Convention.

JUDGING:

Judging of displays will be focused on effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty, and number of poppies used. Where a sample of many identical items (such as corsages or wreaths) is entered, full credit shall be given for the total number of poppies used. Judging will be held around 10:30a.m. on the Saturday of the State Convention and will be finished by 5p.m. ***All entries MUST BE submitted no later than 8:45a.m. that Saturday. Please call the Buddy Poppy Chairman if you have any questions.***

AWARDS:

Awards will be handed out at the Saturday night banquet for each of the three categories. If the winner is not available to collect the award, the award will be given to their V.F.W. District Commanders.

Buddy Poppy Display Rules

* Please review the categories listed and **the new rule requirements**.

These guidelines have been designed to place emphasis on the purpose and effectiveness of the displays. The below guidelines will not follow V.F.W. National guidelines to help better prepare the displays for National Conference.

- (1) Displays may or may not be accompanied by a small white card (4" x 6") in size, on which an explanation of the theme for the display or other information of interest to the viewers or the judges, must be written in black ink only.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Any use of non-VFW trademarks or copyrighted material on your display must have prior approval from the trademark or copyright holder. The include, but are not limited to, names, logos, audio/visual graphics, images and/or props. The VFW and Buddy Poppy logo and name is authorized but use of any outside organization trademark or copyrighted material and/or logos must have prior approval through their respective organization.
- (4) Setting up and taking down displays. Contact the State Chairman for display room location upon arrival at State Convention.



Buddy Poppy Display Entry Form

DISPLAY #: _____



This is the official entry form for the Department of Louisiana Buddy Poppy Display Contest to be filled out by Post that are submitting a Display for Judging.

POST: _____ DISTRICT: _____ CITY: _____

NUMBER OF BUDDY POPPIES USED IN DISPLAY: _____

THIS DISPLAY IS ENTERED INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORY: Check One

_____ **CATEGORY 1:**
PUBLIC PROMOTION OF POPPY SALES

_____ **CATEGORY 2:**
MEMORIAL OR INSPIRATIONAL DISPLAYS

_____ **CATEGORY 3:**
ARTISTIC OR DECORATIVE USE OF POPPIES

CONTACT PERSON: _____ PHONE #: _____

TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE STATE BUDDY POPPY CHAIRMAN AND JUDGES:

Judging of displays will be ~~on the basis of~~

Purpose 25 Points

Clarity of theme 15 Points

Originality 30 Points

Beauty 15 Points

Number of Poppies used 15 Points

TOTAL POINTS JUDGE 1: _____

TOTAT POINTS JUDGE 2: _____



Department of Louisiana VFW Desert Storm War Memorial Fundraiser 2025

As the construction of this Memorial has begun with an anticipated completion date in 2026, let's step up once again and do our part to help honor those who served during this War.

The goal is to raise another \$5000.00 from the Department to bring our total to \$20,000.00. To accomplish this the Challenge is for each Post in the Department to donate a minimum of \$75.00 earmarked for this fundraiser, Auxiliaries are also welcome to donate as well. Send all donations to the Department Quartermaster earmarked for the Memorial.

We are also going to issue a challenge to all the other Departments to match or beat our donation to help the VFW be recognized as a Million Dollar donor on the memorial.



Commander James Prestenback's Ugly Tie Collection

Donate your Ugliest Tie's to our Commander so
that he will always have a Tie to wear at
events.....No TIE is too UGLY ---- the UGLIER THE
BETTER

Bring all donations to the Department Convention
and deposit into the Box that will be presented to
him during his Swearing In Ceremony



shutterstock.com - 40873619



shutterstock.com - 40873619

Incoming Commander and President Shirts Orders are being accepted, either send to Ann or Jamie (see info on order sheet)

Graphite Polo, White Button Up or Graphite Button up.



See Price Sheet for prices additional information.

2025-2026 State Commander and President Shirts

Name _____ Post/Aux _____ Phone # _____

SHIRTS -- MENS Non-Personalized **LOGO ONLY on Left Side**

	SM	MED	LG	1X	2X	3X	4X
CHARCOAL POLO	20.00	20.00	20.00	22.00	22.00	24.00	26.00
WHITE BUTTON SHORT SLV	30.00	30.00	30.00	32.00	32.00	34.00	36.00
CHARCOAL BUTTON SHORT SLV	30.00	30.00	30.00	32.00	32.00	34.00	36.00
WHITE BUTTON LONG SLV	30.00	30.00	30.00	32.00	32.00	34.00	36.00
CHARCOAL BUTTON LONG SLV	30.00	30.00	30.00	32.00	32.00	34.00	36.00

SHIRTS -- LADIES Non-Personalized **LOGO ONLY on Left Side**

	SM	MED	LG	1X	2X	3X	4X
CHARCOAL POLO (Runs Small)	20.00	20.00	20.00	22.00	22.00	24.00	26.00
WHITE BUTTON SHORT SLV	30.00	30.00	30.00	32.00	32.00	34.00	36.00
CHARCOAL BUTTON SHORT SLV	30.00	30.00	30.00	32.00	32.00	34.00	36.00
WHITE BUTTON LONG LONG SLV	30.00	30.00	30.00	32.00	32.00	34.00	36.00
CHARCOAL BUTTON LONG SLV	30.00	30.00	30.00	32.00	32.00	34.00	36.00

SHIRTS-- MENS Personalized **Right Chest Name/Title** **LOGO on Left Side**

	SM	MED	LG	1X	2X	3X	4X
CHARCOAL POLO (2 Lines Only)	26.00	26.00	26.00	28.00	28.00	30.00	32.00
WHITE BUTTON SHORT SLV	36.00	36.00	36.00	38.00	38.00	40.00	42.00
CHARCOAL BUTTON SHORT SLV	36.00	36.00	36.00	38.00	38.00	40.00	42.00
WHITE BUTTON LONG SLV	36.00	36.00	36.00	38.00	38.00	40.00	42.00
CHARCOAL BUTTON LONG SLV	36.00	36.00	36.00	38.00	38.00	40.00	42.00

Line 1 _____ Line 2 _____ Line 3 _____

SHIRTS -- LADIES Personalized **Right Chest Name/Title** **LOGO on Left Side**

	SM	MED	LG	1X	2X	3X	4X
CHARCOAL POLO (2 Lines Only)	26.00	26.00	26.00	28.00	28.00	30.00	32.00
WHITE BUTTON SHORT SLV	36.00	36.00	36.00	38.00	38.00	40.00	42.00
CHARCOAL BUTTON SHORT SLV	36.00	36.00	36.00	38.00	38.00	40.00	42.00
WHITE BUTTON LONG SLV	36.00	36.00	36.00	38.00	38.00	40.00	42.00
CHARCOAL BUTTON LONG SLV	36.00	36.00	36.00	38.00	38.00	40.00	42.00

Line 1 _____ Line 2 _____ Line 3 _____

Mail Order Form and Checks Payable to Ann Barnett, 6652 Bienvenue St, Mansura 71350; or VFW Post 3665, PO Box 236, Raceland 70394 CASH/VENMO/ZELLE/CHECK # _____ DATE RCD _____ PD _____

VFW National Convention Formal Banquet

Join us for an elegant evening at the **National Convention Formal Banquet!** This exclusive event will celebrate our 125 years of history and to recognize some of our more prestigious awards from the VFW and the Auxiliary.

Date: August 11, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Tickets:

- The Department has purchased **30 tickets**
- \$125 per person
- Limited availability – first come, first served!

How to Reserve Your Spot:

- Email: lastatevfw@yahoo.com
- Submit payment promptly to secure your ticket

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow members and honor our organization in a formal setting. Reserve your ticket today!

VFW & VFW Auxiliary Bus Trip to the VFW National Home

Join a special day trip to the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, MI on August 13, 2025. See firsthand the vital work being done to support Veterans and their families.

Trip Details:

- Date: August 13, 2025
- Departure: 7:00 a.m. EST from the Columbus Convention Center
- Return: 7:00 p.m. EST
- Cost: \$75.00 per person (includes transportation, meals, and snacks)

[Visit https://vfwnationalhome.org/news-and-events/events/anniversary-bus-tour/ to register today!](https://vfwnationalhome.org/news-and-events/events/anniversary-bus-tour/)



in partnership with the Southeast Louisiana Veterans
Healthcare System presents the

WOMEN VETERANS SYMPOSIUM

Celebrating Women
Veterans

We invite all women veterans to be honored and celebrated!

This event is open to the general public as well!

*Presentation of Honors

*Keynote Speakers

*Access to Community Resources

*Free Lunch

*Free Professional Headshots

*Music

*Networking

3 ways to register:

Call: 225.276.8626

Email: larry.williams@la.gov



SCAN ME

JUNE 12, 2025
151 SOUTH WOODDALE BLVD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806

DOORS WILL OPEN AT 9 AM

THE PROGRAM BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 10:30 AM

Sponsored by

Longbranch Recovery & Wellness * Patriot Rehab Services

Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana Chapter 1 * Blue Star Mothers Geaux 7 Chapter



COME JOIN US!

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025

VFW AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER LUAU

TIME: 6pm-9pm

***ENJOY GOOD FOOD**

*** GREAT ENTERTAINMENT**

&

***PRIZES FOR THE BEST DECORATED TABLE**

PLACE: THE HOTEL BENTLEY ALEXANDRIA, LA.

PRICE: \$10/PERSON

**(Send reservations to Department Acting Treasurer
Lisa Delaney, 222 S Cloverleaf Dr., Haughton, LA 71037)**





THANK YOU TO ALL THE POST THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE MAY DAY OF SERVICE!!

REMEMBER THAT OUR DAY OF SERVICE NEVER ENDS.

LETS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE EVERY DAY





BOOGIE DOWN THE BAYOU

July 13th
11 AM - 6 PM
TICKETS - \$30 IN ADVANCE / \$35 AT THE DOOR
NON-REFUNDABLE
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Let's party for a purpose!



Sponsored by
Louisiana VFW District 8

50/50 Raffle

Food

Live Auction

Dancing

Cash Bar

No outside food
or drink allowed



Live Music by:

**Mike Broussard
& Night Train**

followed by

**The Mojos
& Guests**

Gonzales Memorial VFW Post 3693 - 42430 Churchpoint Rd Gonzales, La. 70731



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Blood Mobile at The Hotel Bentley**

located on the Red River in Downtown Alexandria

Friday, June 27 ♦ 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Saturday, June 28 ♦ 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**SIGN UP
TODAY!**



6/27

6/28



DIVE IN TO SAVING LIVES!

BLOOD DONATIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED THROUGH THE SUMMER AS THERE IS A HIGHER DEMAND FOR BLOOD PRODUCTS HEADING INTO JULY. UNFORTUNATELY, DONATIONS TYPICALLY DECREASE BY ABOUT 20% DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. BE A LIFESAVER THIS SUMMER!

DONATE AND RECEIVE AN EXCLUSIVE SUMMER LIFESAVER T-SHIRT
PLUS A 40OZ INSULATED TUMBLER, AND MORE!

 **LifeShare**



DREW HERNANDEZ

COMEDY SHOW

A COMBAT
VETERAN

AUG
02

COLE-MIERS VFW POST 3619

1115 LA-27, DERIDDER, LOUISIANA

TICKETS ON
SALE NOW!

VIP \$50 GA \$25



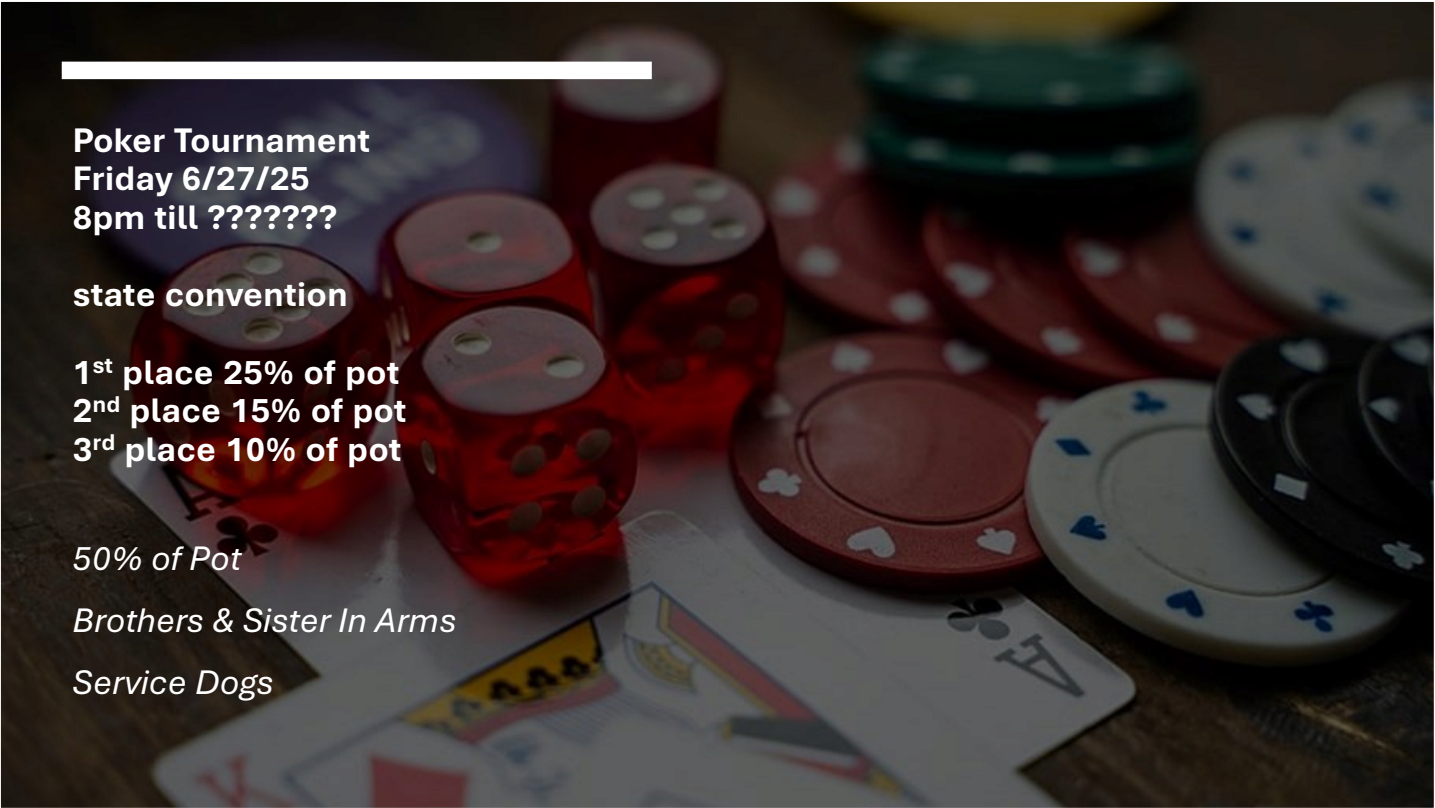
WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/DREW-HERNANDEZ-COMEDY-NIGHT-TICKETS

EVENT SCHEDULE

Doors Open 6PM

Food and Drinks 6-8PM

Drew Takes the Stage 8PM

A close-up photograph of poker chips and cards on a wooden table. Several red chips are in the foreground, along with a few black and white chips. Cards are scattered around, including an Ace of Clubs and a King of Hearts.

Poker Tournament
Friday 6/27/25
8pm till ??????

state convention

1st place 25% of pot
2nd place 15% of pot
3rd place 10% of pot

50% of Pot

Brothers & Sister In Arms

Service Dogs

Dirty Harry (Clint Eastwood) is asking
“DO YOU FEEL LUCKY, PUNK”

A photograph of a corn hole board with a blue and white chevron pattern. Five red pillows are placed on the board. The board is set up on a paved surface.

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT
SATURDAY 6/28/25
3:30PM TO 5:30PM

STATE CONVENTION

**YOU CAN WIN A CAR OR
SOMETHING**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO
THE BROTHER & SISTERS IN
ARMS PROJECT**

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC