



Mail Call

Department of Louisiana

September 2022

“Respect, Serve, and Prepare”

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 11, 2022

Patriot Day – Flag at half staff all day

September 16, 2022

National POW/MIA Recognition Day
Remember to fly your

Southern Conference

October 27-30, 2022
Crowne Plaza Asheville
1 Resort Dr.
Asheville, North Carolina

Mid-Winter Conference

January 26-29, 2023
Holiday Inn Alexandria

State Convention

June 15-18, 2023
Holiday Inn Alexandria

DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICT 2 MEETINGS:

Jan 21, 2023 Post 3750
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch (\$7) 12:00noon

May 13, 2023 Post 3750
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch (\$7) 12:00noon

DISTRICT 3 MEETINGS:

Jan 21, 2023 Post 3665
 Registration 9:00 am
 Joint Meeting 10:00 am
 Meeting 10:30 am
 Lunch(\$8) 12:00noon

April 29, 2023 Post 3665
 Registration 9:00 am
 Joint Meeting 10:00 am
 Meeting 10:30 am
 Lunch(\$8) 12:00noon

DISTRICT 4 MEETINGS:

Nov 12, 2022 Post 9210
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch(\$8) 12:00noon

Feb 11, 2023 TBA
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch(\$8) 12:00noon

DISTRICT 5 MEETINGS:

Nov 12, 2022 Post 3619
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch 12:00noon

April 15, 2023 Post 4759
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch 12:00noon

DISTRICT 7 MEETINGS:

Nov 12, 2022 Post 5153
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch (\$10.00)

May 20, 2022 Post 6720
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch (\$10.00)

DISTRICT 8 MEETINGS:

**Oct 8, 2022 Post 3784
 (Hosted by 7017)**
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch (\$7) 12:00noon

April 15, 2023 Post 3693
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch (\$7) 12:00noon

DISTRICT 9 MEETINGS:

Sept 17, 2022 Post 8720
 Registration 9:00 am
 Joint Meeting 10:00 am
 Meeting 11:00 am
 Lunch 12:00noon

Registration 9:00 am
 Joint Meeting 10:00 am
 Meeting 11:00 am
 Lunch 12:00noon

Registration 9:00 am
 Joint Meeting 10:00 am
 Meeting 11:00 am
 Lunch 12:00noon

DISTRICT 10 MEETINGS:

Sept 10, 2022 Post 1736
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 9:30 am
 Lunch(\$10.00) 11:00 am

Feb 18, 2023 Post 3139
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 9:30 am
 Lunch(\$10.00) 11:00 am

May 13, 2023 Post 8852
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 9:30 am
 Lunch(\$10.00) 11:00 am

DISTRICT 11 MEETINGS:

Jan 14, 2023 Post 3615
 Registration 10:30 am
 Meeting 11:00 am
 Lunch (\$10) 12:00noon

May 13, 2023 Post 1809
 Registration 10:30 am
 Meeting 11:00 am
 Lunch (\$10) 12:00noon

DISTRICT 12 MEETINGS:

Sept 10, 2022 Post 5951
 Registration 9:00 a.m.
 Meeting 10:00 a.m.
 Lunch (\$7) 12:00 noon

Jan 14, 2023 Post 4858
 Registration 9:00 a.m.
 Meeting 10:00 a.m.
 Lunch (\$7) 12:00 noon

May 6, 2023 Post 5187
 Registration 9:00 a.m.
 Meeting 10:00 a.m.
 Lunch (\$7) 12:00 noon

ATTENTION ALL DISTRICT COMMANDERS:

Section 406 of the Manual of Procedure clearly indicates that Districts shall hold at least one Regular meeting each year for the purpose of promoting schools of instruction (workshop) for Post Officers and for discussion of problems affecting the welfare of members of the VFW and other matters as may be appropriate to the purposes of the VFW and in accordance with Department By Laws – District – Meetings, Section 6.

The Commander's Manual, which is online (www.vfw.org) -- will serve as an excellent source for arranging and explaining the various programs of the VFW and the Quartermaster's Manual will explain the workings of the VFW. Use it and most questions will be answered before you can ask them.

SCHOOLS IN & IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!

It is the perfect time to be contacting schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships. Visit <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships> to get all the resources needed for both Programs!

DISTRICT INSPECTORS:

District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and REPORT such discrepancies to the Department Headquarters. *Post Inspector Forms were handed out during the CofA last month. If you did not attend the CofA, check with your District Commander for the forms!*

Attention of District and Post Commanders:

Section 703 of the National Bylaws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. Post bonds are due NOW!

The following District & Post Bonds have NOT been renewed for the 2022-2023 year:

3267	3803	4224	Dist 10
5852	3766	5174	5187
6640	3784	3841	
Dist 2	3785	8852	

Visit www.vfwdeptla.org Under Resources—Forms to renew your Post Bond today!

Buddy Poppies:

The distribution of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.

Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of "Buddy" Poppies in their respective areas.

All profits accruing from the distribution of "Buddy" Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.

Order your Buddy Poppies today!

Visit www.vfwdeptla.org under Resources—Forms to order!

Post Trustee's Report of Audit:

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, **WHICH STATES THAT THE POST TRUSTEES'** and **submit quarterly**, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector.

Friendly Reminder

The Manual of Procedure amendment passed by the 119th National Convention modified Section 1001(25) to read, "The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited."



990 Filing Deadline:

This is a reminder of the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990, 990N, or any other IRS related forms. All IRS related 990 forms are due by November 15th!

New 988 Veterans Crisis Hotline

VA announced veterans now have the option to Dial 988 then Press 1 to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. “During a crisis, every second counts,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This new, shorter number makes it easier for veterans and those who care about them to reach lifesaving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care.” While Dial 988 then Press 1 is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or by texting 838255.

****PLEASE PASS THE WORD!**

MEMBERSHIP OBJECTIVES

As the membership year has begun, keep in mind some of our Membership Objectives, which is also written in the 2022-23 Membership Program.:

- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member
- Increase membership drives and/or events
- Increase Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership

MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION....

NOW is the time to start “Membership Round-Ups”

Every Post Quartermaster should be able to log on to view their Post Membership roster to see which members are unpaid.

EVERY POST QUARTERMASTER SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOG ON TO GET A ROSTER FOR THEIR POST!

If your Post is having trouble logging on and would like to obtain a copy of your Post Unpaid List, you may email Tori at lastatevfw@yahoo.com and request a list.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 11, 2022

Patriot Day – Flag at half staff all day

September 16, 2022

National POW/MIA Recognition Day
Remember to fly your

POW/MIA Flag

You can request a copy of the Missing Man POW-MIA table presentation from VFW Hqs –
Email lavfw@aol.com

Community Service Reporting:

All reports to be submitted online. Any questions contact State Chairman, James Prestenback
Email: jprestenback302@gmail.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS PLEASE VISIT WWW.VFW.ORG AND CLICK ON THE PROGRAM SECTION! Note all deadline dates!

THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW ON FACEBOOK, PLEASE GO LIKE OUR PAGE TO BE UPDATED WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

www.facebook.com/vfwdeptla



Future National Convention Dates:

July 22-27 , 2023

Phoenix, AZ

August 9-14, 2025

Columbus, OH

July 27-Aug 1, 2024

Louisville, KY

Aug 15-20, 2026

Salt Lake City, UT

VFW Department of Louisiana Headquarters CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Tori LeBlanc

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State Commander:

Don Reber

C: 337-580-5444

Email: donreber@aol.com

Etiquette of the Stars and Stripes AMERICANISM KNOW HOW OF The UNITED STATES FLAG

The history – How to Display and Respect It!

So many times, people call the VFW about the American Flag. Many are complaining about the torn Flags flown on businesses, homes or on display elsewhere. A torn Flag must be retired, and it is recommended that individuals bring the torn Flag to a VFW or American Legion Post or Scout's group for retirement.

VFW has online at www.vfw.org – for the VFW Store and the store has the “Etiquette of the Stars and Stripes” for sale and it is a source of information that can be a great Americanism program to distribute this booklet to Schools, Mayor's office, Churches, etc.

Department Conference/ Convention Dates:

2022-2023

Mid Winter

January 26-29, 2023

State Convention

June 15-18, 2023

2023-2024

CofA/Leadership Training

August 11-13, 2023

Mid Winter

January 25-28, 2024

State Convention

June 27-30, 2024

From the desk of the State Commander...

At the National level for the VFW, we have a new Commander in Chief every year. That is not by happenstance. Years before, the preparation starts with an individual working through the chairs at post and district levels, then moving through the State Positions of Junior Vice, Senior Vice, and Commander. From there, the individual commits to as much as four years of work only to run against strong competition from others to reach the level of Junior Vice Commander in Chief.

The Department of Louisiana is part of the Southern Conference. There are four Conferences. Each year a different Conference has the privilege of nominating a Junior Vice designate. At this year's National Convention, Al Lipphardt won the Junior Vice election as the Southern Conference designate. You may have seen Al years before as he traveled the country to introduce himself and to get to know veterans from all states. He was at the Louisiana Convention in 2020.

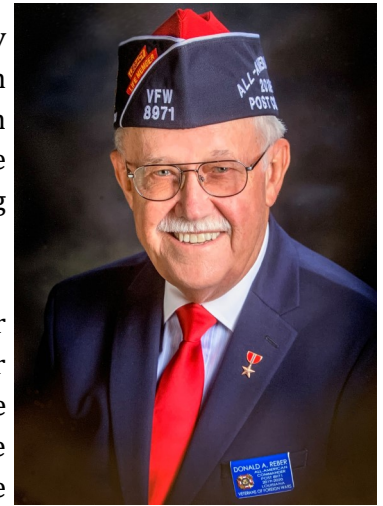
The next rotation for selection then passed to the Big Ten conference. Carrol Whitmore was selected as that conference's Junior Vice designate. Should Carrol win the election at next year's National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona (which I have no doubt that she will) she will become the first female veteran to reach the level of National Junior Vice Commander in Chief of the VFW. It will be the year of 2025-2026 before she will take the ultimate oath.

It has been since 1988-1989, when Larry Rivers served this great organization as Commander in Chief, that Louisiana has placed anyone in that position. In the next four years, we have a chance to promote one of our own to seek the nomination of Jr Vice. Bobby Lovergne served this state well in 2020-2021 and demonstrated to the Nation that Louisiana strongly serves our veterans. Bobby placed our membership rank in the top five and won All American for our state. He now continues to serve as a Post Commander, the State Membership Chair, and the President of the Southern Conference. No one works harder for veterans than Bobby.

If we are to take pride in our State, we must march with Bobby to the nomination four years from now. We must keep our department in the top five in membership. We must continue to promote all programs and be recognized as an All-American Department every year. We need to be the leaders for Legislative support for our Veterans. We must make our goal to get a Louisianian as the National Commander in Chief.

This is the time of the year we should be focused on our programs: Americanism, Patriot Pen, Voice of Democracy and, Teacher of the Year. If we have members helping with this program who have never helped before, we are adding to the strength of the programs and preparing for future leadership. If we never consider or encourage different members to get involved with these programs, how do we develop a solid system of bringing our children to patriotism? Who are we leaving out that could be a future Commander in Chief.

Let's do a great job with our programs and continue to keep Louisiana in the top five with recruiting new members and retaining current members. Get involved. Support our State Veterans. Support Bobby Lovergne.



**State Commander
Don Reber**

A note from the State Sr. Vice Commander....

Here we are in September waiting to see how we will stand as a department when the life members are added to OMS. Those daily posts on social media have generated much needed interest in membership. Let's keep this energy going forward, not only this year, but in the coming years. As the years rolls by, let's not take our foot of the gas and get complacent. Continue to get out and enroll new members, reinstate the one who have let their membership lag, and do the buddy checks. If we continue to engage members, we should be in great shape to increase the number of voices needed to ensure that our elected officials hear what we have to say.

"What do I get for my money?" That is one of the biggest concerns from the new veterans. Tell them that your many benefits including health care will continue to be strong, and you can hopefully receive the needed care that you were promised when you joined the military. For instance, the recent passage of the PACT Act has provided care for the issues that arose from being near the burn pits and other toxic elements from your duty. This act covers everyone from Vietnam forward. Hopefully the care needed won't take as long as the legislation that deals with Agent Orange.

There is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it – Amanda Gorman

Be that light in your post or district. Go to meetings, come to conventions and watch how things are done, be brave enough to be the light. Do you have to an officer or committee chairman to understand the how and why? The answer is No you don't, but get into the Ritual and Bylaw book and gain an understanding. Most of the time, you may only have to volunteer just a few hours to help out with fundraising, buddy poppy and membership drives.

I have spent over 30 years in the telecommunications industry, both military and civilian. Most often we don't communicate with each other. But remember, communication works both ways. If a new veteran come into your post for a meeting, greet them and talk about the VFW, but find out their interests. Everyone has different needs and desires. Don't hand them the keys to the post, but engage them or they won't join and won't come back.

As I travel this great state, I see so many of you eager to achieve All-State and All-American. It is wonderful to see this enthusiasm. Hopefully, it will continue to grow and spread throughout your post, district and state. I also hope it spreads to others in your post or district. Because all of this can only be the support for what is the VFW slogan, "Nobody does more for Veterans"



**State Sr. Vice Cmdr
Ron Delaney**

A note from the State Jr. Vice Commander....

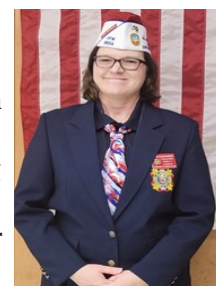
VFW Department of Louisiana has completed their COA and now the district COAs are in full swing. I am asking District CDRs to make sure you are providing training to your District members. Post CDRs bring the training to your post members. We must all be informed about our programs and what is happening over the year. You never know when someone else will need to pick up the torch.

As has already been mentioned, Bobby Lovergne is running for National Junior Vice Commander (JVC). Let's work together to help him get elected as National JVC. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

We must remember to always reach out to our members, make phone calls or knock-on doors. Do a buddy check on all of your members. You may just make a difference in that person's life and maybe even save their life by just checking on them.

Now is the time to start collecting our annual members' dues. While you are collecting dues, try to encourage your members to become a life member. As a life member, they will no longer have to worry about annual dues. As a legacy life member, you leave a lasting legacy to your post VFW and State VFW because National continues to give your post and state money in your name. If your members don't have the money right now, help them with installments, have a competition or a drawing. My post will be doing a drawing at our December meeting. A member will get a chance in the drawing for every 20 hours of community service they do. The winner will get their life membership paid or if they are already a life member, one level of legacy life membership.

As a reminder, if you are a life member of the National Home for Children, you have until 21 Sep to vote for District Trustee. What is the National Home for Children? The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment. For more information, go to <https://vfwnationalhome.org/>. Many people ask why we always talk about membership. We must keep up our numbers, so congress continues to listen to our voice. As a whole we are able to put pressure on Congress, so we can do what is right for our veterans. If our numbers fall, Congress will be less likely to listen.



**State Jr. Vice Cmdr
Debbie McElhannon**

Let's have a great year!



COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland has issued a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of September 2022!

It's that time of year; the kids are going back to school and it's time for the VFW to get back to the basics of growing our membership!



To encourage this, for the month of September 2022, the top five Posts in each membership division based on recruiting, renewing, and reinstating the most Annual members will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 award. This will count New members, Annual members who renew their dues, and lapsed members who pay their Annual dues to the Post. Whether you're out there bringing a new veteran into the organization, encouraging your existing members to continue their membership, or bringing back lapsed members to the Post, we want to see every Post out there making the effort to grow our membership because -

EVERY VETERAN COUNTS!



Membership totals will be based on close-of-business totals on August 31st to September 30th.