

Mail Call

Department of Louisiana



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- District Meetings– Page 2
- Newly Elected State Officers– Page 3
- Bond Renewals– Page 3
- CofA Meeting/Training Date– Page 3
- 93rd State Convention Recap- Page 4
- Important Information– Page 5
- State Commander's Article– Page 6
- Sr. & Jr Vice Cmdr's Articles– Page 7
- State Adjutant & Chaplain's Articles– Page 8
- State Commander & State President's Joint Special Project– Page 9
- State Cmdr Shirt Order Form– Page 10
- CIC Membership Challenge– Page 11
- Tunnel to Towers Fundraiser- Page 12

UPCOMING EVENTS:

National Convention

July 27-August 1, 2024
Louisville, KY

CofA/School of Instruction

August 9-11, 2024
The Bentley Alexandria

Southern Conference

November 7-9, 2024
Nashville, TN

Mid-Winter Conference

January 23-26, 2025
The Bentley Alexandria

State Convention

June 26-29, 2025
The Bentley Hotel Alexandria &
Convention Center

DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICT 2 MEETINGS:

Aug 31, 2024	Post 3267
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00noon
Feb 22, 2025	Post 3750
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00noon
April 26, 2025	Post 3267
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00noon

DISTRICT 3 MEETINGS:

Aug 24, 2024	Post 4222
Registration	9:00 am
Joint Meeting	10:00 am
Meeting	10:30 am
Lunch(\$8)	12:00noon
Jan 11, 2025	Post 4222
Registration	9:00 am
Joint Meeting	10:00 am
Meeting	10:30 am
Lunch(\$8)	12:00noon
April 26, 2025	Post 4222
Registration	9:00 am
Joint Meeting	10:00 am
Meeting	10:30 am
Lunch(\$8)	12:00noon

DISTRICT 4 MEETINGS:

Aug 17, 2024	Post 9822
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch(\$8)	12:00noon
Feb 15, 2025	Post 1982
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch(\$8)	12:00noon
May 3, 2025	Post 9822
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch(\$8)	12:00noon

DISTRICT 5 MEETINGS:

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

DISTRICT 5 MEETINGS CONT'D:

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

DISTRICT 7 MEETINGS:

Aug 17, 2024	Post 5153
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch(\$10)	12:00noon
Nov 2, 2024	Post 2483
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch(\$10)	12:00noon
May 17, 2025	Post 6720
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch(\$10)	12:00noon

DISTRICT 8 MEETINGS:

Sept 14, 2024	Post 4224
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	12:00noon
Jan 18, 2025	Post 3785
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	12:00noon
April 12, 2025	Post 3784
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	12:00noon

DISTRICT 9 MEETINGS:

Aug 24, 2024	Post 8720
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	11:00 am
Nov 16, 2024	Post TBD
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	11:00 am
Feb 15, 2025	Post 5735
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	11:00 am
April 27, 2025	Post TBD
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	11:00 am

DISTRICT 10 MEETINGS:

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

DISTRICT 11 MEETINGS:

Aug 24, 2024	TBD
Registration	10:30 am
Meeting	11:00 am
Lunch	12:00noon
Jan 18, 2025	TBD
Registration	10:30 am
Meeting	11:00 am
Lunch	12:00noon
May 1, 2025	TBD
Registration	10:30 am
Meeting	11:00 am
Lunch	12:00noon

DISTRICT 12 MEETINGS:

Sept 14, 2024	
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$7)	12:00noon
Jan 11, 2025	Post 4588
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00noon
April 12, 2025	Post 5951
Registration	9:00 am
Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch (\$10)	12:00noon

2024-2025 COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

On June 30, 2024 the following members of the Council of Administration were installed during the Joint Installation Ceremony.

STATE COMMANDER- DEBBIE MCELHANNON
STATE SR. VICE- JAMES PRESTENBACK
STATE JR. VICE- SHAREE ARENDS
STATE ADJUTANT- CARL KARNISH
STATE QUARTERMASTER- ELVIN R. BASS
STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE- AARON LAWRENCE
STATE CHAPLAIN- DAVID FIELDS
STATE SURGEON- LAWRENCE "LARRY" KOONS
STATE INSPECTOR- PHIL GALLET
CHIEF OF STAFF- FEDERICO MAX ARENDS III
JR. PAST STATE COMMANDER- RON DELANEY

DIST 2- LANCE ELLIS
DIST 3- MURDOCK GILMORE
DIST 4- DON REBER
DIST 5- ERNEST MITCHELL
DIST 7- DENNIS HART
DIST 8 - ROBERT REISZ
DIST 9- MITCHELL COTA
DIST 10- JAMES RABALAIS
DIST 11- PHILIP LAWRENCE
DIST 12 - WALTER KORB

OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL

AUGUST 9-11, 2024

**The Bentley Hotel
Alexandria, LA**

In addition to the usual briefings we will have several Officer Workshops. The workshops will be good training for all new commanders and quartermasters. Any future post or district officers will also benefit from the training. Topics that will be covered at the workshop are many to include: **bylaws, trustee duties, duties of officers, and VFW programs.**

Hope to see you all!

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.

BOND RENEWALS.....

Bonds for each Post and District will be due for renewal on September 1, 2024. The 2024-2025 Bond Applications can be found on the Department's Website or by clicking the link below <https://vfwdeptla.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=133811>

Bond Cost is \$3.00 per 1,000.

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!

93RD ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION RECAP...

BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST

	CATEGORY I	CATEGORY II	CATEGORY III
1ST PLACE	No Entries	Post 12182	Post 3665
2ND PLACE	No Entries	Post 8720	Post 1736
3RD PLACE	No Entries	Post 4759	Post 4759

2023-2024 OUSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST

1ST PLACE
OZONE BELT
VFW POST 5735
SLIDELL, LA

2ND PLACE
HOMER – WILLIAMS
VFW POST 8720
ABITA, SPRINGS

3RD PLACE
COLE - MIERS
VFW POST 3619
DERIDDER, LA

2023-2024 POST PUBLICATION NEWSLETTER

Metry
VFW Post 6640
Metairie, LA

2024 SPIRIT AWARD RECEIPT

Randy Campbell
Post 4588

**Congratulations to the 2023-2024 All
State Team of District Commanders,
Post Commanders, and Post
Quartermasters!**

**Congratulations to all of the District
& Post that reached their 100% goal
for the 2023-2024 year!**

Congratulations to Post 9822 in
Lafayette, LA for reaching the highest
percentage in Membership for the 2023
-2024 year! The Department is looking
forward to see who will be the winner
of the belt for the 2024-2025 year!

District 4– James Bourque
District 9– Jason Kahl

Post	Commander	Quartermaster
1809	Chris Leguin	Stepheni Leguin
1982	Michael Woods	Henry Broussard
3139	James Marty Rabalais	Eric Bettevy
3652	Carlton Armour	Brian Bonano
3665	James Minchew	James Prestenback
5735	Larry Simmons	Richard Burchett
7017	Carl Karnish	Vance Sutton
8720	Larry Vidrine	Michael Peats
8971J	James Fontenot	Robert Witkovski
9822	James Bourque	Richard Brasseaux
12182	Bobby Boudreaux	Gregory Ellison

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS PLEASE
VISIT WWW.VFW.ORG AND CLICK ON THE PROGRAM
SECTION!**

**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 27-Aug 1, 2024

Louisville, KY

August 9-14, 2025

Columbus, OH

Aug 15-20, 2026

Salt Lake City, UT

VFW Department of Louisiana Headquarters CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

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

2024-2025 YOUTH ESSAY THEMES:

**Patriot's Pen: "My
Voice in America's
Democracy?"**

**VOD: "Is America
Today Our
Forefather's Vision?"**

Visit [https://
www.vfw.org/
community/youth-
and-education/youth-
scholarships](https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships) for more
information!

Department Conference/ Convention Dates:

**2024-2025
CofA/Officer Training
August 9-11, 2024**

**Mid Winter
January 23-26, 2025**

**State Convention
June 26-29, 2025**

From the desk of the State Commander...

I want to thank my comrades for allowing me this opportunity to perform the duty of Commander. It is my honor to serve as Commander for the Department of Louisiana. I look forward to working with all of you this year. Remember, if you have an event at your post that you would like me to attend, please send me, Carl Karnish and Max Arends an email.

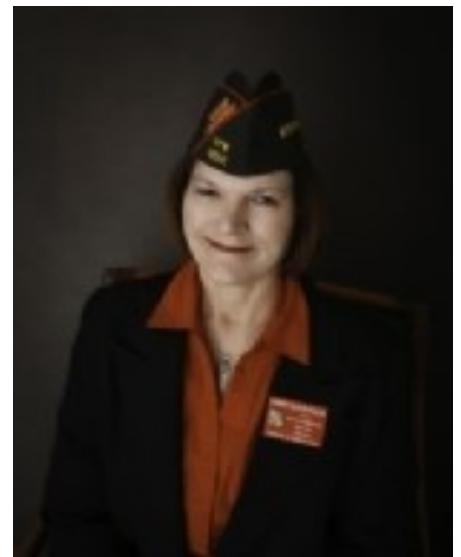
I met with the District Commanders on Friday of the State Convention and gave them the requirements for this coming year. I will email the information to each District Commander. Program books will be available at The Council of Administration (COA). Please get to COA early enough to get your packets, so you can follow along with the training. COA is particularly important because training is provided, and we go over requirements for this program year.

National is just around the corner, 26 July to 1 August in Louisville, KY. We will get to see our All American Commanders walk across the stage to receive their awards. National also has training for important topics like community service and many vendors that can help provide service to veterans. Would love to see as many of you as possible go to National. We always have a patriotic parade and end with the Commander in Chief and National President's Reception. The reception is free for anyone who wants to attend. Let us know if you are going so, I can get a count for a Dept of LA Social.

The requirement from National is 102% again this year. It will take members at all posts working together to reach 102%. We must work as a team – Equipe de Louisiane. My motto, Generations Continuing to Serve, means veterans from all conflicts working together to preserve the heritage of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for future generations.

Equipe de Louisiane

Debbie McElhannon



**State Commander
Debbie McElhannon**

From the State Sr. Vice Commander....

Comrades,

Thank you for electing me as your State Senior Vice Commander at the 93rd State Convention. It is truly an honor & privilege to serve you and the Department of Louisiana! Congratulations to all 2024-2025 elected or appointed Post, District and State Officers! Thank you for being a part of this Great Organization and serving in a Leadership role. I look forward to working with everyone! Let's continue to recruit, educate and mentor future leaders of this organization.

I am excited to attend the upcoming National Convention in Louisville, KY and represent the Department of Louisiana. If you have never attended a National Convention, I highly recommend it! You will not be disappointed. You really see the inner workings of the VFW and meet comrades from all over the Nation.

Remember our purpose!

To preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members

To assist worthy comrades

To perpetuate the member and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans

To maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States, and fidelity to the Constitution and laws

To foster true patriotism

To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom

To preserve and defend the United States from all enemies

Looking forward to a great year!



**Sr. Vice Commander
James Prestenback**

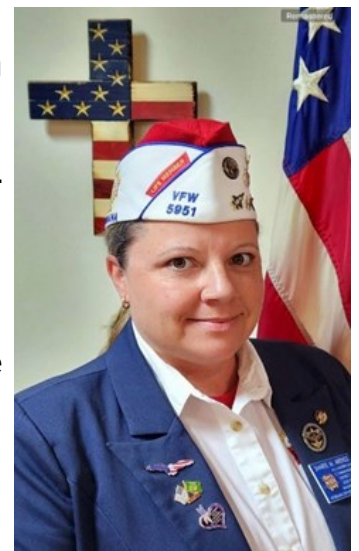
From the State Jr. Vice Commander....

Greetings Comrades,

First, I want to thank you for electing me as your 2024-2025 State Junior Vice Commander. I am truly honored to serve the Department of Louisiana. It was so great to see everyone at the State Convention and to see the large attendance to support our fellow comrades, not only in congratulating them for all their hard work and dedication for the past year, but to show support for the newly elected officers. I also want to thank all of those who donated blood at the blood drive during the Convention, 30 Units of Blood is OUTSTANDING!

Let us get this year rolling in the right direction and do not stop recruiting and doing those buddy checks! Open your posts and/or districts to the community for a 4th of July celebration. Remember to let the community know you are there and to see you for more than just a "smoky bar". The VFW has so much more to offer!

I am looking forward to my first National Convention and seeing familiar faces from the Department of Louisiana!



**Jr. Vice Cmdr
Sharee Arends**

From the State Adjutant....

Lets Talk Membership

It amuses me now to think that your organization spends so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time. Do you remember me? I'm the fellow who came to every meeting, but nobody paid attention to me. I tried several times to be friendly, but everyone seemed to have his own friends to talk to and sit with. I sat down among some unfamiliar faces several times, but they didn't pay much attention to me. I hoped somebody would ask me to join one of the committee or somehow participate and contribute, but no one did. Finally, because of illness, I missed a meeting. The next month, no one asked where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much whether I was there or not. On the next meeting date, I decided to stay home and watch a good television program. When I attended the next meeting, no one asked me where I was the month before. You might say I'm a good guy, a good family man, that I hold down a responsible job and love my community. You know who else I am? I am the member who never came back.



**State Adjutant
Carl Karnish**

SISTERS AND BROTHERS – remember to make our new members and visitors welcome.

From the State Chaplain..

First, let me thank the comrades that joined me at the recent State Convention so continuing to have confidence in me and allowing me to be our State Chaplain for a sixth term. When I addressed the past and present State Commanders on Saturday I said the following things. First, that I might not be able to do all the things I could before my accident a few years ago but I will continue to work very hard to overcome any shortcomings. Secondly, that I might not Crack a nut the same way I did before, but rest assured I will find a way to get it opened.

On more than one occasions people have told me how proud they were for the hard work I've gone through and how proud they are for the job I'm doing and will do. For years I told my Soldiers, if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing right. For the last few years I taught them, when teaching resilience, to bend but not break and regardless of the situation to stay flexible. To the new officers, regardless of what level, remember the VFW motto "no one does more for Veterans." What will you do? It might not be the biggest task or the greatest but remember this, how you tackle the big tasks is just like how you would eat a elephant, one bite at a time. If you need anything of me don't hesitate to reach out.



**State Chaplain
David Fields**

David Fields, State Chaplain 2024-2025

2024-2025 VFW State Commander, Debbie McElhannon and VFW State Auxiliary President, Ella Barks Wilson's Joint Special Project



Brothers and Sisters in Arms is a non-profit organization that is focused on providing the highest quality trained service dogs to qualified active duty military members, military veterans and first responders at no cost to them. Service dogs make a significant difference in the lives of our veterans and first responders. We work with both group classes and individual training. Group classes help our handlers with integrating back into social environment, learning he or she is not alone, making new friends and working together again with others. Brothers and Sisters in Arms is currently located in Leesville, La. and Mansura, La.

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

2024-2025 COMMANDER SHIRTS



\$50.00 EACH

VFW Members– Cash, Check (Made payable to Debbie McElhannon), Venmo (@debbiemc01), or CashApp (\$Debbie McElhannon)

VFW Auxiliary Members– Cash, Check (Made payable to Ella Wilson), or Venmo (ejwilson_72)

Additional questions contact Debbie @ 337-526-3695



MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

IT'S TIME TO START STRONG!



As we begin a new membership year, we want to begin with a strong drive to recruit new members and retain our existing members, with a special focus on Life members! To drive this message home, every month during the 2024-2025 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

Each month, the Post that leads their membership division in points will receive a special award designated by the Commander-in-Chief. In addition, at the end of the year every Post who has led their division in the monthly challenges will be featured on a video display at the National Convention to recognize their achievements.



For the month of July 2024, the Post that leads each division will receive an 8' table drape to use for your Post's events; recruiting, Buddy Poppy drives, anywhere that you want the VFW to be front and center!

Let's start strong and show everyone how
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!

This contest will run from July 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024. Applications and payments processed online before close of business will be credited that day, payments and applications made through the mail will be processed when received. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to membership@vfw.org.

BOOGIE DOWN THE BAYOU

July 21st
11 AM - 7 PM
TICKETS - \$25 IN ADVANCE / \$30 AT THE DOOR
OR AT EVENTBRITE.COM

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Let's party for a cause!



Sponsored by the
Louisiana VFW District 8

50/50 Raffle

Food

Live Auction

Dancing

Cash Bar

No outside food
or drink allowed



Live Music by:

Swing 101 Big Band
Eddie Smith Band
Stormy, The Band
First Class
The Saxmen
Boogie Allstars

Featuring:

Steve Adams, Gregg Martinez,
Frog Richardson, Bert Miller,
Andi Bourque, Jeff Robin,
Mike Broussard Jr.,
Jason Parfait, Jon Smith,
Mike Pollard
and many more!

Gonzales Memorial VFW Post 3693 - 42430 Churchpoint Rd Gonzales, La. 70737