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2023 MAIL CALL

23-24 GENERAL ORDER-01 p04



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23-24 COMMANDER DELANEY'S
PIN AND MOTTO

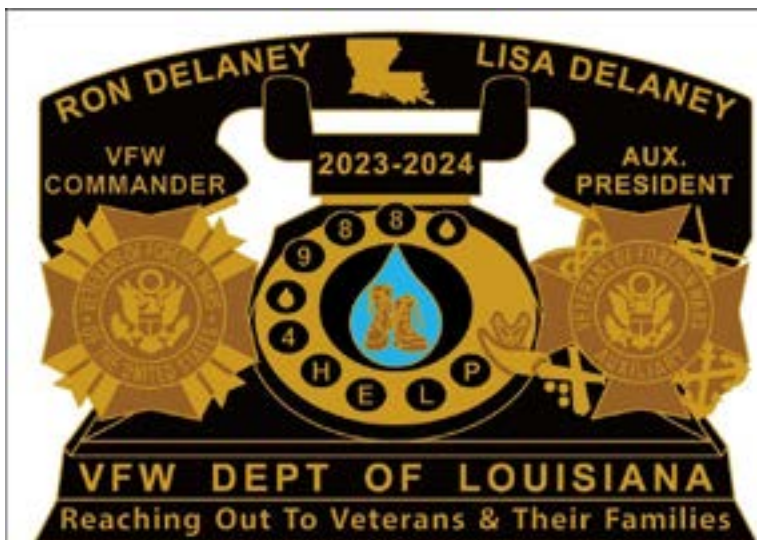


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124TH VFW
NATIONAL CONVENTION



JULY 22-27, 2023
LOUISIANA DELEGATION
SHERATON PHOENIX DOWNTOWN
340 North 3rd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004

**COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
AND
SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION**



AUGUST 11 - 13, 2023
THE HOTEL BENTLEY
200 Desoto Street
Alexandria, LA 70131

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE 2023



NOVEMBER 2-5, 2023
RIVER SPIRIT CASINO
River Spirit Casino Resort, 8330 Riverside Pkwy
Tulsa, OK 74137

STATE COMMANDER MESSAGE

Greetings Comrades.

I would like to THANK everyone who has supported me along this path I've been walking on the past few years. But the most amazing thing is that now I can do all this with my lovely wife, Lisa, beside me. And with your help, we can make this another great year for Louisiana!!

Buddy checks are working. Most posts have members that don't come to meetings or other functions at the post. Call or go visit those veterans and families. Don't wait until the veteran's membership is due. I've heard some veterans say that a call or visit are meant to collect dues. Establish a good rapport with all veterans within your post, young or older.

I've also encountered members who are confused or misinformed about how the Department functions. Come to any of the 3 conventions we have each year. When I elected post commander, my mentor told me to go to conventions to see the "big" picture. I did and I was glad. I hope you do and hopefully understand more about the programs and other tasks need to be visible within your community.

Membership is always an important topic within any organization. So, if everyone in this Department during your day, recruits and sign up just 1 new or reinstated member, we can double our membership. I've talked with recruits and one of the first things they want to know is, "What does it mean to be a member of the VFW?" or "National is just after money." Be prepared to explain how being a member is important and It's not just about money. One important message is that by being a member helps to maintain our "footprint" in Washington. Every year there is legislation that impacts the veteran community and the only way to help is to understand what is required to maintain our benefits.

Another way to help is to LISTEN. Put the phone down and give some of your time to someone who is struggling with the daily battles with life. Call someone who you haven't talked to in ages and just LISTEN. It may not be evident, but everyone has some demons that bother them on a daily basis. Be that person that LISTENS and hopefully makes a difference to that person. It costs nothing to smile, offer a Good Morning, or just be nice. But above all, be a good LISTENER

When talking to someone who is struggling, LISTEN, but look for words that might give an insight as to where they are or where they are going. Certain words used in conversation might be indicators as to their well being. Remember, you can hear and not listen!!!



RON DELANEY
Air Force - Post 4588



23-24 VFW State Commander Ron Delaney and his wife 23-24 VFW Auxiliary President Lisa Delaney

PAGES 4-7 ARE TO BE READ AT MEETINGS THEN POSTED

1. At the 92nd Annual State Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Department of Louisiana, held on June 18, 2023, I, Ron Delaney, was duly elected as State Commander in accordance with Article V, Section 517 of the National By-Laws, do hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have been duly elected, appointed, and installed by the 92nd Convention and will be obeyed accordingly.
3. All previous appointments are hereby declared vacant as of June 18, 2023, except those set forth in the Department By-Laws.

2023-2024 Council of Administration

Line Officers

State Commander	Ron Delaney – 4588-D12	delaneyr42@hotmail.com
Sr. Vice Commander	Debbie McElhannon – 9854-D5	debbiemc4vets@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commander	James M. Prestenback – 3665	jprestenback302@gmail.com
State Quartermaster	Elvin Ray Bass, PSC – 3337-2	lavfwcommander2016@yahoo.com

State Officers

State Surgeon	Sharee M. Arends – 5159-D12	sharee.arends@gmail.com
State Judge Advocate	Aaron Lawrence – 3615-D11	vfwlajag@gmail.com
State Chaplain	David Fields – 7287-D12	msgdfields@gmail.com

Appointed State Officers

State Adjutant	Mitchell R. Cota, PSC – 3750-D2	adj@vfwdola.org
State Chief of Staff	Leander J. Daigle – 9903-D7	leedaigle@outlook.com
State Inspector	Philip Gallet – 9210-D4	qm@vfw9210.org
National Council Member	Robert J. Lovergne PSC – 3750-D2	bobbylovergne@yahoo.com

District Commanders

District Commander 2	Joseph Dufrene – 8973	dufrene33@yahoo.com
District Commander 3	Murdock J. Gilmore – 4752	murdockgilmore@gmail.com
District Commander 4	James D. Bourque – 9822	jamesbourquevfw9822@gmail.com
District Commander 5	Paula S. Baldwin – 3106	paulaschebaldwin@yahoo.com
District Commander 7	Dennis Hart – 9903	dahart53@yahoo.com
District Commander 8	Carl J. Karnish – 7017	ckarnishvfw@gmail.com
District Commander 9	Jason M. Kahl – 8290	vfwdist9cmdla@gmail.com
District Commander 10	Marty Rabalais – 3139	martyrabalais@yahoo.com
District Commander 11	Philip Lawrence – 4317	bikilathewarrior@aol.com
District Commander 12	Walter R. Korb – 5187	mrwalt7955@hotmail.com
Junior Past State Commander	Don Reber, Jr., PSC – 8971-D7	donreber@aol.com

Appointment/Committee Chairman 2023-2024

Americanism	Paula Freeman – 3615-D5	spfreeman87@hughes.net
Buddy Poppy	Terry Sauls – 8290-D9	vfw8290@gmail.com
Budget & Finance Chairman	Larry Raymond, PSC – 8538-D3	larry46raymond@yahoo.com
Budget & Finance	Ron Delaney – 4588-D12	delaneyr42@hotmail.com
Budget & Finance	Debbie McElhannon – 9854-D5	ebbiemc4vets@gmail.com
By-Laws Chairman	Wyatt Lobrano, PSC – 3375-D11	vfw.wyatt.lobrano@gmail.com
Citizenship, Educator, Teacher Award	Philip Lawrence – 4317-D	bikilathewarrior@aol.com
Community Service	Lori L. Bates – 3619-5	paovfw3619@gmail.com
Credentials Registration	Robert R. Reisz – 4224-D8	rrr@teamreisz.com
Editor Of LA Combat Veteran	Mitchell R. Cota, PSC – 3750-D5	adj@vfwdola.org
VFW LA Foundation	Wyatt Lobrano, PSC – 3375-D11	vfw.wyatt.lobrano@gmail.com
Homeless Veteran	Byron K. Comeaux – 11169-D8	bcome10384@aol.com
Hospital Chairman	Sharee M. Arends – 5159-D12	sharee.arends@gmail.com
Legislative Officer	Matthew West, PSC – 3619-5	lavfwcommander2018@gmail.com
Liaison Officer	Lisa Delaney – Aux 4588-D12	lisald1960@yahoo.com
Life & Legacy Life Membership		
Membership Chairman	Matthew West, PSC – 3619-5	lavfwcommander2018@gmail.com
Military Order of the Cooties	James E. Reynolds – 5951-12	edreynolds1946@gmail.com
National Veterans & Military Support	Paul Hamburger – 8720-D9	pehamvfw@charter.net
National Home	James M. Prestenback – 3665	jprestenback302@gmail.com
Officer of the Day	Vance S. Sutton – 7017-D8	vss2930@cox.net
Parliamentarian	Aaron Lawrence – 3615-D11	vfwlajag@gmail.com
Patriot's Pen	Carl J Karnish – 7017-D8	ckarnishvfw@gmail.com
POW/MIA	Roger Veillon – 8971-D7	veillon@usa.com
Public Relations Officer	Mitchell R. Cota, PSC – 3750-D2	adj@vfwdola.org
Assistant Public Relations Officer	Lori L. Bates – 3619-5	paovfw3619@gamil.com
Resolutions Committee Chairman	Tim Sloan, PSC – 4588-D12	ta.sloan@yahoo.com
Safety	Randy Campbell – 4588-12	emc1st@yahoo.com
Scouting & Junior Military	Brian Moll – 4588-D12	scouting@vfwdeptla.org
State Cdr Special Advisors	Wyatt Lobrano, PSC – 3375-D11	vfw.wyatt.lobrano@gmail.com
State Cdr Special Advisors	Bobby Lovergne, PSC – 3750-D2	bobbylovergne@yahoo.com
State Cdr Special Advisors	Tim Sloan, PSC – 4588-D12	ta.sloan@yahoo.com
State Cdr Special Advisors	Matthew West, PSC – 3619-5	lavfwcommander2018@gmail.com
State Cdr Special Advisors	Larry Raymond, PSC – 8538-D3	larry46raymond@yahoo.com
State Cdr Special Advisors	Mitchell R. Cota, PSC – 3750-D2	adj@vfwdola.org\
State Convention Director	Federico “Max” Arends, PSC – 5951-12	mustngblue@bellsouth.net
State Sergeant At Arms	Randy Campbell – 4588-D12	emc1st@yahoo.com
State Service Officer	Wilma J. Jackson – 3766-D8	wilma.jackson@la.gov
Student Veterans of America	Aaron Lawrence – 3615-D11	vfwlajag@gmail.com
Suicide Prevention	Albert Cusimano – 3652-D9	albert.m.cusimano@gmail.com
Veterans Affairs Commission	Elvin Ray Bass, PSC – 3337-D2	lavfwcommander2016@yahoo.com
VFW Riders Group	Ed Horton – 4588-D12	masonicvet@gamil.com
Voice of Democracy	James D. Bourque – 9822-D4	jamesbourquevfw9822@gmail.com
Ways and Means	Aaron Lawrence – 3615-D11	vfwlajag@gmail.com
Women Veterans Team	Paula S. Baldwin – 3106-D5	paulaschebaldwin@yahoo.com
Youth Program	Leander Daigle – 9903-D7	vfwlalyouth@gmail.com

MANDATORY:

General Orders: All material in the State General Orders is directive in nature and will be read to the membership at the Post regular membership meetings each month.

Post Commanders: If you, your Quartermaster, or Adjutant do not have an email address please designate a member of your Post, with an email address, to disseminate information from District and Headquarters. Also, please ensure the Post roster is always up to date and accurate.

Article I, Sec. 103 - Election.

Applications. After the applicant has filled out the application card, it should be provided to the Post Adjutant or Quartermaster, together with the dues (and admission fee, if applicable). A receipt shall be given to the applicant.

An applicant may be recommended after eligibility has been fully determined by the Post Reviewing Committee. With respect to a Department Member-at-Large, the National Organization and/or the Department Headquarters will be responsible for eligibility determination.

The original application of every member will be retained on file with the Adjutant. **Balloting on Applications.** Before voting on the application during a Post meeting, the Commander shall allow the members present an opportunity to state their objections, if any, to the admission of the applicant. Unless one member present shall request a written ballot, a vote shall be taken and a majority of the votes cast shall decide acceptance or rejection of the application.

Article II, Sec. 218 - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.

a) Officers. (1) Commander. k. Assure that the Commander or their representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings and County Council meetings (if applicable).

Article V, Sec. 509 - Consolidation of Departments, paragraph 2. Each Department Commander shall submit the names of three members to serve on a joint Consolidation Committee to investigate along with a Chairman appointed by the Commander-in-Chief. A slate of line officers for the consolidated Department will be submitted to each Department Convention for approval along with the consolidation proposal. District Commanders from all Departments shall serve as members of the Council of Administration until District geographical boundaries are established at the next convention.

Attention Commanders: all levels are directed to **Article VII, Sec. 703** of the National Bylaws which requires;

Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department, District, County Council or Post, as the case may be, to which each officer is accountable.

The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit.

Article VII, Sec. 710 - Inspection.

The Commander-in-Chief or any Department Commander may require, within their respective jurisdiction, the inspection of any Department, District, County Council or Post, or any holding company or corporation subordinate thereto, whenever the Commander-in-Chief or Department Commander may believe the best interests of the Organization will be served to ensure compliance with the National Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, lawful orders of the National Convention, the National Council of Administration and the Commander-in-Chief and the laws and usages of the Organization. For this purpose the Commander-in-Chief or Department Commander may detail any member within their respective jurisdiction whose duties shall be prescribed by the appointing power. All books, papers, accounts, records and proceedings pertaining to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be subject to inspection at all times.

WEARING OF HATS: Attention of Commanders, at all levels, are directed to action of the National Council of Administration prohibiting the wearing of VFW sport caps and/or western style caps at VFW meetings in place of the regulation cap of the VFW official uniform as set forth in the **National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure Article VIII, Section 803;**

Cap. A cap of the overseas type, lettered with VFW initials, Post numerals, state, rank of office (when applicable), and bearing the Cross of Malta emblem, shall be the regulation cap to be worn with or without the uniform. The color shall be green, shade 51. Lettering on each cap shall be in gold.

Organizational echelons will be designated by the color of the braid (piping) and letters on the caps as follows:

Post officers, members and Past Post Commanders -- gold braid; County Council officers and Past County Council Commanders -- bright blue braid; District officers, except District Commanders and Past District Commanders -- bright green braid; Department officers and Past Department officers, Conference officers and Past Conference officers, and District Commanders and Past District Commanders -- bright red braid; National officers and Past Commanders-in-Chief -- silver braid.

The National Council of Administration may designate other colors or color combinations of the cap, braid and lettering to be worn on the caps of All-American and All- State honorees, life members and aides-de-camp. Past Commanders-in-Chief and National officers with a Council vote, other than National District Council Members, may wear white caps with gold lettering and braid.

Regulation caps shall be worn by elected and appointed officers at all official meetings. Uniforms. Subject to the approval of the sponsoring units, color guards, drill teams and similar units may adopt optional uniforms and campaign hats, berets, helmets or other headgear for wear at parades, assemblies and similar events and at official functions in the performance of duties. Headgear shall be uniform for all members of the unit. If organizational emblems are worn on VFW Color Guard Headgear, one of them must be the Cross of Malta.

and VFW Ritual;

General Rules 13, (a) All members who are able will stand during the offering of the prayers; (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; (c) official caps will not be worn during luncheons, banquets or other meals; (d) Official caps will be the only head covering allowed to be worn at regular meetings of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

BY COMMAND OF
RON DELANEY
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:



Mitchell R. Cota, PSC
State Adjutant

District Meeting/Workshop	District Meeting/Workshop	District Convention
<p align="center">District 2 Not Submitted as if July 4th</p>	<p align="center">District 2 Not Submitted as if July 4th</p>	<p align="center">District 2 Not Submitted as if July 4th</p>
<p align="center">District 3 August 26, 2023</p> <p align="center">School of Instruction</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 5097 1004 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70302 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>	<p align="center">District 3 January 13, 2024</p> <p align="center">Business/Awards</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 5097 1004 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70302 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>	<p align="center">District 3 April 20, 2024</p> <p align="center">Business/Elections</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 5097 1004 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70302 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>
<p align="center">District 4 August 19, 2023</p> <p align="center">Workshop Following C of A</p> <p>Meeting place: Post 9822 120 VFW Road, Duson, LA 70529 Registration - 9:00 a.m. Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m. Lunch - 12:00 p.m. VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p>	<p align="center">District 4 November 18, 2023</p> <p align="center">Programs</p> <p>Meeting place: TBA Registration - 9:00 a.m. Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m. Lunch - 12:00 p.m. VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p> <p align="center">District 4 February 10, 2024</p> <p align="center">Mid-Year Update/Awards</p> <p>Meeting place: TBA Registration - 9:00 a.m. Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m. <u>Lunch - 12:00 p.m.</u> VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p>	<p align="center">District 4 August 19th</p> <p align="center">Elections</p> <p>Meeting place: Post 9822 120 VFW Road, Duson, LA 70529 Registration - 9:00 a.m. Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m. Lunch - 12:00 p.m. VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p>
<p align="center">District 5 September 9, 2023</p> <p align="center">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3619 1115 Hwy 27 South, Deridder, LA 70634 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$?)</p>	<p align="center">District 5 November 12, 2023</p> <p align="center">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 9854 2292 Highway 109 S, Vinton, LA 70668 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$?)</p>	<p align="center">District 5 April 20, 2024</p> <p align="center">District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 7321 2668 Hwy 171 North, Lake Charles, LA 70611 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$?)</p>

<p align="center">District 7 Not Submitted as if July 4th</p>	<p align="center">District 7 Not Submitted as if July 4th</p>	<p align="center">District 7 Not Submitted as if July 4th</p>
<p align="center">District 8 September 9, 2023</p> <p align="center">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3784 13214 S Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70815 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$7)</p>	<p align="center">District 8 January 13, 2024</p> <p align="center">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3693 42430 Church Point Rd., Gonzales, LA 70737 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$7)</p>	<p align="center">District 8 April 27, 2024</p> <p align="center">Nomination and Elections</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 4224 3215 Ben Williams Lane, Baker, LA 70714 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$7)</p>
<p align="center">District 9 September 16, 2023</p> <p align="center">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 8290 28000 Main St., Lacombe, LA 70445 Registration 9am Sessions start at 10am Breakout 11am</p>	<p align="center">District 9 January 20, 2024</p> <p align="center">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3652 15800 Demarco Lane., Hammond, LA 70403 Registration 9am Sessions start at 10am Breakout 11am</p>	<p align="center">District 9 April 20, 2024</p> <p align="center">District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 8720 21470 Mire Dr., Abita Springs, LA 70420 Registration 9am Sessions start at 10am Breakout 11am</p>
<p align="center">District 10 September 16, 2023</p> <p align="center">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3841 2471 Leglise St., Mansura, LA 71350 Registration 10am Sessions start at 10:30am Lunch 12pm. (\$10 Donation)</p>	<p align="center">District 10 February 17, 2024</p> <p align="center">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 8852 2419 3rd St., Alexandria, LA 71302 Registration 10am Sessions start at 10:30am Lunch 12pm. (\$10 Donation)</p>	<p align="center">District 10 May 18, 2024</p> <p align="center">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3139 412 Elmo S., Marksville, LA 71351 Registration 10am Sessions start at 10:30am Lunch 12pm. (\$10 Donation)</p>
<p align="center">District 11 Not Submitted as if July 4th</p>	<p align="center">District 11 Not Submitted as if July 4th</p>	<p align="center">District 11 Not Submitted as if July 4th</p>
<p align="center">District 12 September 9, 2023</p> <p align="center">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 5187 860 Dahlia Vines St., Zwolle, LA 71486 Registration 9am Lunch (\$10)</p>	<p align="center">District 12 January 20, 2024</p> <p align="center">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 4588 1004 Jeter St., Bossier City, LA 71111 Registration 9am Lunch (\$10)</p>	<p align="center">District 12 May 11, 2024</p> <p align="center">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 5951 1315 Northgate Road, Bossier City, LA 71112 Registration 9am Lunch (\$10)</p>

VFW PROGRAMS DEADLINE DATES

Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award

- *October 31, Entries to the Post
- November 15, Completion of Post judging
- December 15, Completion of District judging
- *February 1, Department winners and reports due to National (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation)

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen

- *October 31, Student entries to the Post
- November 15, Completion of Post judging
- December 15, Completion of District judging
- January 10, Completion of Department judging
- January 15, District participation reports due to Department Chairmen
- *January 15, Department winners due to National
- *January 31, Department reports due to National

Scout of the Year

- *March 1, Scout entries to the Post
- *April 1, Post entries to Department Scouting Chairman or Department HQs
- *May 1, Department entry to National from Department Scouting Chairman or Department HQs

Community Service

- *April 30, Post Special Project & Fred C. Hall Award Submission (Department to National)
- *April 30, National Outstanding Community Service Post Submission(s) (Department to National)
- *June 30, Community Service Reports Deadline

Public Servant National Award (Law Enforcement, Firefighter, Emergency Services)

- January 1, Nominations due (from Post to Department)
- *February 1, (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation), Nominations due from Department to National

National Certificate of Recognition

- April 1 (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation), List due to National from Department

****Required deadline (by VFW National Headquarters.) All other deadlines are suggested, and can be internally set at the discretion of the VFW Department leadership. Post Chairmen, be sure to communicate with your District Chairmen to find out their official deadlines, and District Chairmen need to communicate with their Department Chairmen to find out their deadlines.***

Updated 8/1/2022

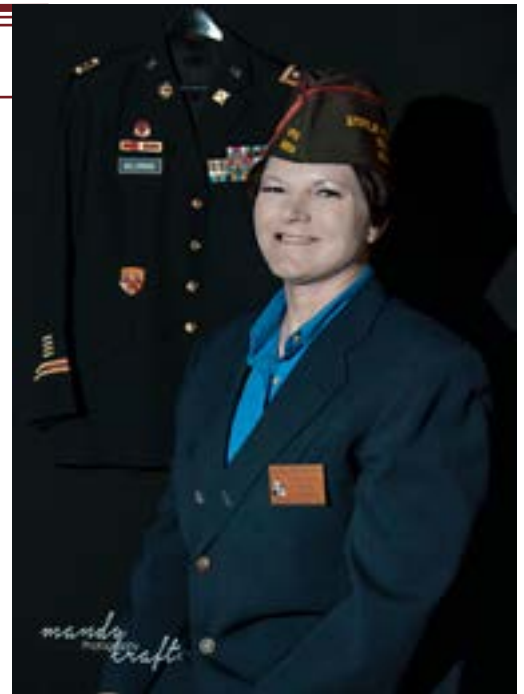
STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

First, I want to thank everyone for allowing me to be your Senior Vice Commander for the VFW Department (Dept) of Louisiana (LA). I am honored to serve you, the VFW posts, districts, Dept of LA, and VFW. I look forward to working with each of you on this journey and hope to see each of you at your meetings soon.

VFW Dept of LA just had an outstanding State Convention. I want to congratulate Don Reber on a job well done and for the VFW Dept of LA coming out first in membership in the world. What a great year we had. Let's Keep the momentum going and help Ron Delaney have a great year. Keep in touch with those members that you enrolled; mentor them and help them want to keep coming back to stay in the VFW.

The VFW National Convention is this month. The VFW and Southern Conference have lots of fun planned. You can sign up for a baseball game, compete in three corn hole tournaments, participate in the Patriotic Parade (you can order shirts), or just enjoy some of the sites around Phoenix, Arizona. I am excited about the upcoming events and camaraderie we will have at the National Convention.

By now the newly elected officers should be in place. I want to remind the newly elected officers that you agreed to faithfully discharge to the best of your ability the duty of the office that you now hold. If you need help in accomplishing your duties, please contact me at any time. I also want to remind the outgoing officers that when you recited the officer's obligation, you agreed to "surrender immediately -to only duly authorized persons - all records, money or other properties of this organization". I have heard some great stories of outgoing commanders creating a binder for the incoming commander. I have also heard some stories of members not wanting to give all records. Please help the incoming officers by giving them information and helping mentor them when needed.



DEBBIE McELHANNON
Army - Post 9854

STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Comrades,

Thank you for electing me as your 2023-2024 State Junior Vice Commander. It is truly an honor to serve you and the Department. It was really great seeing those who attended the State Convention and watching members, Posts & Districts get recognized for their hard work & dedication to our organization. Without your hard work and dedication, none of this is possible. Let's keep up the momentum and continue our service to Veterans.

It all starts with camaraderie! Camaraderie leads to Team Work! If we work together as a team, we can move mountains. Let's also continue our recruiting efforts and build our organization even stronger. Not just recruit, but mentor our new members and get them excited about our organization. I challenge every member to recruit one new member and mentor that new member.

I look forward to seeing those who are attending the National Convention in Phoenix. Thanks once again for your support!

“Leaders provide purpose, direction and motivation to accomplish the mission”



JAMES M. PRESTENBACK
Army - Post 3665

STATE ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a happy and safe Fourth of July!

I would like to congratulate everyone elected or appointed for the 23-24 VFW year. If this is your first time in a leadership role, great job and if I can help, please call or email me. For those of you who have been reelected or accepted an appoint, I am also ready to assist you in any way I can, and welcome to Ron's team for "*Reaching Out to Veterans and Their Families*" as we move together into this new year. I look forward to serving you as your State Adjutant.

First on our calendar, some of us will travel to Phoenix, AZ for the 124th VFW Nation Convention from July 22-27. If you have never attended a national convention, it is a great way to learn how our great organization works for veterans and their families, meet fellow comrades, auxiliary members, and make lasting friendships from around the world.

The next calendar event is August 11-13. We will be at the Hotel Bentley in Alexandria, LA for our department's School of Instruction (S.O.I.) and Council of Administration (C of A). Special guest speaker/instructor Dan West, VFW National Adjutant General, will be on hand assisting in S.O.I. training and representing our next National Commander In Chief, Duana Sarmiento during this C of A.

Our final travels for this year will be for the Southern Conference being held at the River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, Oklahoma on November 2-5, 2023. This is another great VFW event for meeting up with old friends, making new ones, and learning what our conference is working on as the 14 membered departments come together on issues concerning veterans and our conference.

In redesigning *Mail Call*, the goal is to bring information about your local post events, getting the word out across the state. Communications are the key to success, succeeding in fundraising, membership, helping veteran and their families, and showcasing the great work you and your Post accomplish in your communities by sharing with the department. To share with communities, I am also working to get good contact information on the 63 parish newspapers in order to share your events and hard work helping veterans in need or their families.

Submit to *Mail Call* stories about your WWII, Korean, and Vietnam veterans, if they are still active in the Post, reaching a milestone birthday, made or are still making a difference in your Post or community. Send articles about the different projects or events your Post is holding (***not fundraising at this time***). If your Post is reaching a milestone anniversary, take pictures, write about the event and send it in. *Mail Call* should be used as an informational tool to get your Post or District notice. It is not and will not only be used to send information out and down to you.

I will create a fillable form for submitting the narrative of your article(s) in the coming months. For now, just remember the five W's: Who, What, When, Where, and Why. Also, include one or two photos. (Send the images to me as a high resolution or as it was taken. Please DO NOT RESIZE to a smaller image) If you have any questions, email me at adj@vfwdola.org.

Mitchell R. Cota, PSC
State Adjutant



MITCHELL R. COTA, PSC
Air Force - Post 3750

STATE QUARTERMASTER'S MESSAGE

I want to thank everyone for your support in electing me to be your 2023-2024 State Quartermaster. It will be an honor to serve the Department as the next State Quartermaster for the Department of Louisiana. I would like to thank the outgoing Quartermaster/Adjutant for all her years of service to this Department. I am looking forward to working with you all this coming year.

The new calendar year a couple of items come to mind about staying current with the tax and nonprofit status of our Posts and Districts. We have 78 Posts and 10 Districts all are required to file taxes (990) each year along with your nonprofit declaration with the Secretary of State . you can go to the IRS.gov to find the right form.

If you have a change in Officers file a new Election report so National can update the new information. If you having problem contact the Department and we will glad to help you. The Department is opening to new ideal that will help the Department improve how we do thing. The Team is only good as the Players so yet get on the same Team for Veterans.

Ray Bass
Department Quartermaster

A blind Man once said how can he tell you want in front of him. He said ask.

Photo
Not Available

ELVIN "RAY" BASS, PSC
Army - Post 3337

COMMITTEEMEN CORNER

VFW Year 2022-2023 has come to an end and it looks like the Department of Louisiana will finish in 1st place VFW wide in Membership. Now let's take a look at the other Programs that have been reported to National via the All American Dash Board. Nationally the #1 Department in Community Service had 861,896.75 hours, \$27,599,116.65 value of hours, \$658,569.14 dollars donated for a total \$28,257,685.79 compared to our Department which had 77,282.75 hours documented, 2,457,591.45 value of hours worked, 1,917,943.09 dollars donated for a total of 4,375,534.54. Quite a difference from the #1 Department to the #15 Department in reporting. The reason I am showing this is so everyone knows it's not just Membership that defines what you do it is the total package, reporting all the Community Service your Post is doing is just as important as inputting the renewals, reinstates and recruiting efforts of the Post. Let's make a concerted effort in improving the reporting of Community Service hours just as the Department did with membership this year, look at the whole picture and not focus on one area.

I am looking forward to representing our Department again on the National Council of Administration this year, we have 2 meetings scheduled during the National Convention and then another one in August. If there is anything you would like brought up during these meetings send me an email explaining your suggestions and I will get an answer for you whether it is what you want to hear or not.

As Ronald Reagan said "My philosophy of life is that if we make up our mind what we are going to make of our lives, then work hard toward that goal, we never lose – somehow we win out". This is the same with being a member or leader in the VFW, set your goals and do what it takes to reach them as long as you are holding strong to Integrity and doing what's right, you will win out and accomplish what you set out to do.

Until next month – No One Does More For Veterans.



ROBERT "BOBBY" LOVERGNE, PSC
National Committee Member
Air Force - Post 3750



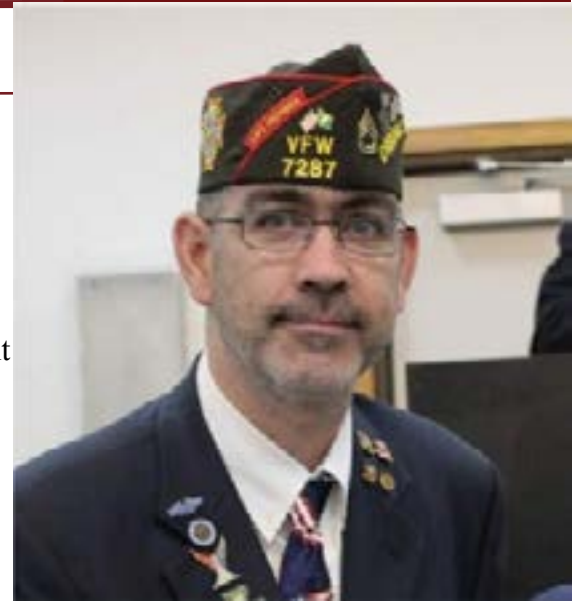
STATE CHAPLAIN' MESSAGE

Fellow comrades of the VFW and my friends of the Auxiliary it is my pleasure and honor to serve each of you this year again as your State VFW Chaplain. Over the last 5 years as our Chaplain, I have always strived to serve in the most efficient manner. All too often the Chaplain is the position filled by a body to finish the election report while in reality it is an important position. It is so much more than the person who reads prayers at the beginning and end of meetings but should be a source of encouragement to the members they serve. Over the years since my accident, I have had to overcome many hurdles but through them emerged a much stronger individual.

This year as I complete my fifth and final year as our State Chaplain, I am only a call, email, or text message away. Please continue to relay to me concerns or needs so I can add them to my prayer list. A lot of what a Chaplain does happens behind the scenes and can often go unnoticed by all. At my level it is no different. For years as I have served my Church, District, Post, or Department I have answered "I serve at the pleasure of the people." This year will be no different. One never knows what the next day will bring and whatever it brings I will take on with everything I can. Please remember each of you are in both my thoughts and prayers.

God bless and good strength

David B. Fields
State Chaplain, VFW dept of Louisiana
(318) 402-9747
msgdfields@gmail.com



DAVID B. FIELDS
Army - Post 7287



DISTRICT 2 NEWS

At District 2's Convention on May 13, 2023, PSC Bobby Lovergne was the Installing Officer for Joesph Dufrene, as District Commander and his officers for District 2.



PSC Bobby Lovergne presenting District Commander Joe Dufrene with his gavel the symbol of his command for VFW year 2023-2024.

DISTRICT 2 - POST 3750

At Post 3750's Meeting/Elections on May 29, 2023, PDC Gary Herndon was the Installing Officer for Bobby Lovergne, as Post Commander and his officers for Post 3750.



A few years ago Post 3750 started rewarding their hard working members, who are always the first to raise their hand, never saying no to any request, and helping at every event. For their dedication and personal sacrifice the Post Awards them with a Legacy Life Membership, for 22-23 the Awards were presented to Past Post Commander of 3750 Monty Parr and Post Member Perry muller.

DISTRICT 7 NEWS

At the District 7's Convention on May 20, 2023, PSC Mitch Cota was the Installing Officer for Dennis Hart, as District Commander and his officers of District 7.



Photos provided by: then District 3 Commander James Prestenback

SR VICE CDR RAFFLE

DRAWING 27 JANUARY 2024 AT MID-WINTER CONFERENCE IN ALEXANDRIA
TICKETS \$10.00 EACH FOR 3 PRIZES

1ST PRIZE – RUGER AMERICAN 6.5
CREEDMOOR WITH VORTEX SCOPE

2ND PRIZE – WOODEN FLAG

3RD PRIZE – METAL LASER ART PIECE



RUGER AMERICAN® RIFLE WITH
VORTEX® CROSSFIRE II® RIFLESCOPE



19" X 36"



18" X 12"

For more information contact Jennifer Lockett @ 337-602-8418 or Debbie
McElhannon @ 337-526-3695. Thank you for your support!

Return tickets by 26 Jan at MWC or mail by 18 Jan to 5455 Henderson Rd, Vinton, LA 70668



DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

PLEASE DISREGARD ANY OTHER BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORMS! THESE ARE THE PRICES YOU WILL BE CHARGED!!!!

DISTRICT # _____
 POST # _____
 AUXILIARY # _____

DATE: _____

BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORM

MAIL TO: VFW DEPT. OF LOUISIANA
 10185 MAMMOTH AVE.
 BATON ROUGE, LA 70814

ALL CHECKS ARE TO BE MADE
 PAYABLE TO "VFW DEPT. OF LA"

QUANTITY:	ITEM:	PRICE:	TOTAL:
	BUDDY POPPIES	Per 1,000 \$275.00	\$
		Per 500 \$137.50	\$
		SUB-TOTAL=	

All other VFW Buddy Poppy supplies may be purchased directly from the VFW Store Online by visiting their website www.vfwstore.org. See list of other Buddy Poppy Items and Product Codes that VFW Store Offers

ITEM NAME:	ITEM #:	
Buddy Poppy Coin Canisters	A9703	
Buddy Poppy Posters	09701	
Buddy Poppy Volunteer Buttons	09705	
Visit the VFW Store website listed above to order and view more items offered!		

Please allow 10-12 weeks for processing!

GRAND TOTAL: _____

SHIP POPPIES TO: _____ TITLE: _____
 STREET ADDRESS: (PHYSICAL ADDRESS - NO -- P.O. BOXES!)

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:		
_____	QUANTITY ORDERED FROM NATIONAL - DATE _____	
_____	QUANTITY SHIPPED FROM DEPT HQ	DATE _____
DATE RECEIVED _____	CHECK # _____	CHECK AMOUNT _____