

# THE KANSAS



# BULLETIN

THE OLDEST STATE PUBLICATION IN THE VFW

November 2011

VOLUME 80 ISSUE 2

## STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER



Ken Stodgell

Things are beginning to change at state headquarters. For example, we contracted Bettis Concrete Company to do our parking lot project with help from Larry Meadows (Tonganoxie). Currently our parking lot is a mess; concrete forms around the building, asphalt patching is taking place. However, everything is going along just fine. Plans now are to overlay the parking lot and the final coat immediately after that.

Our legal issues have now come to a finish with our neighbor. We did receive damages, but the adjoining property is still a mess. Unfortunately, this will most likely require some fairly elaborate fencing to separate our property from his.

Finally, our property in Kansas City escaped an adventure in the court system and it is ours again. Perhaps the really good news is we have an interested party to make a bid to purchase the property by the end of the month.



Veterans Day in Colby. Pictured L-R: Post Commander Paul Ohlrogge, State Commander Bob Cox and his father, Richard Cox.

## Stephen L. "Steve" Van Buskirk Director, Programs Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



Stephen L. Van Buskirk was appointed Director of Programs in October 2005.

Steve originally began serving on the VFW national staff as a communications specialist with *VFW Magazine* in June of 1990. In December of that year, he was appointed Assistant Director – Public Affairs & Media and then became Director of Public Affairs in October 1994. Steve accepted the directorship of the VFW Foundation in August of 1997 and served in that capacity until he returned to VFW communications as director of that office in September of 1999. He left the VFW national staff in November of 1999 to

become the Director of Development for Eastern Kansas Christian Schools, Inc. until returning to the VFW in February 2003 when he was appointed Director of VFW Programs – Youth Development, Scholarship and Recognition, and Buddy Poppy.

Steve entered the U.S. Army in 1966 and served with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam, 1967-1968. In recognition of his service, he received the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service.

Van Buskirk joined the VFW in 1990 and is a Gold Legacy Life Member of VFW Post 7397 in Lenexa, Kansas. He is also a member of The American Legion and the 1st Infantry Division Association.

Steve and his wife, Teresa, have two children and one grandchild and reside in Shawnee, Kansas.



On August 30, 2011, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback signed a state proclamation designating the week of September 11-17 as Kansas POW/MIA Recognition Week, and September 16 as POW/MIA Recognition Day. Pictured behind Governor Brownback, L-R: Jim Deister, Vietnam Veterans of America, Salina; Ray Calore, State Sr. Vice Commander, KS VFW; Barbara Mary Monaghan, Past State President, KS VFW Ladies Auxiliary; Tom Huxtable, Commandant, Marine Corps League, Kansas; Joy Atterbery, POW-MIA/Americanism Chairman, KS VFW Ladies Auxiliary; and Ralph Snyder, HQ, Kansas American Legion.



# THE KANSAS BULLETIN

The Official Publication of the Kansas Department published in August, November, February, and May at Topeka, Kansas by the *Department of Kansas, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, 115 Gage Blvd., P.O. Box 1008, Topeka, KS 66601-1008*, in conjunction with American Graphics and Design, Inc.

Third class postage paid at Topeka, Kansas and additional offices.

Subscription rate: To members of the Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars, one dollar per year, included in membership fees.

Address all articles for publication to VFW Bulletin, 115 Gage Blvd., P.O. 1008, Topeka, KS 66601-1008.

### Graphic Design and Layout:

American Graphics and Design, Inc.  
3380 S. 108th Street  
Greenfield, WI 53227  
President: Jenny DeBack  
Graphic Designer: Sarah Scherrman  
Composition Specialist: Ellen Imp  
www.agad.com

## 2011-2012 Officers

### Commander

Bob Cox  
1504 Manchester Street  
McPherson 67460-1710

### Sr. Vice Commander

Ray Calore  
8605 W. 57th Street  
Merriam 66202-2123

### Jr. Vice Commander

Lynn Rolf III  
30189 199th Street  
Leavenworth 66048-7463

### Adjutant/Quartermaster

Ken Stodgell  
P.O. Box 1008  
Topeka 66601-1008

### Judge Advocate

Doug Musick  
601 Berkshire Drive  
Salina 67401-3313

### Surgeon

Jim Slattery  
P.O. Box 14  
Wright 67882-0014

### Chaplain

Jim Jenkins  
647 N. Nettleton Avenue  
Bonner Springs 66012-1863

### Chief of Staff

Robin Ray  
701 E. 56th Street South  
Wichita 67216-3825

### Inspector

Roger Cawley  
1601 W. Regal Street  
Wichita 67217-2361

### Past Department Commander

J.T. Plummer  
P.O. Box 368  
Logan 67646-0368

### District Commanders:

#### 1st District

Fred Box  
3202 N. 155th Terrace  
Basehor 66007-9746

#### 2nd District

Bruce Fischbach  
16307 W. 124th Terrace  
Olathe 66062-1189

#### 3rd District

James Ewan  
2801 Appleton Avenue  
Parsons 67357-3923

#### 4th District

Joe Barner  
800 Plaza Drive  
Junction City 66441-4338

#### 5th District

Clyde Lindsey  
1204 Eastmoor Drive  
McPherson 67460-5110

#### 6th District

Gerald Collins  
P.O. Box 313  
Concordia 66901-0313

#### 7th District

Patrick Briggs  
1018 S. Grand Avenue  
Lyons 67554-3616

#### 8th District

Harold Watson  
830 S. Clay, Apt. B-4  
Liberal 67901-3954

#### 9th District

Jerry White  
19065 280th Avenue  
Wakeeney 67672-2727



## Visit us on the Web



## at www.ksvfw.org



**Bobby Cox**

began this journey together, as TEAM KANSAS?

By the time you read this, fall conferences should all be done and everyone should be at 100% membership, RIGHT?

As we continue this remarkable journey together, we will all have some wonderful memories of our 2011-12 term in office. We all have had our upsides and our downsides, but all in all, I believe it's gone fairly smooth, thanks in part to the nine District Commanders and their willingness to tackle any and all things that have come up to face them.

Without your continued support, Ray, Lynn and myself would not be able to do the things that are required of us to make the Dept. of Kansas the model of the VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES.

While back I read an article that I thought was very

Comrades,

It is once again time to take stock in what we have accomplished so far this year. How well have we done in membership, community activities, youth programs, helping the veterans? Have we kept up the enthusiasm that we all had in June as we

## STATE COMMANDER

interesting. It goes something like this: one person or group of people kept volunteering for everything that came to pass: Commander, trustee, cook, etc. until finally they had complete control over what happened to their VFW and it became their way or the highway. Newer members wanted to change how things ran, but were told that this is the way it is going to be...so like it or lump it. This in itself is a hard sell to the younger veterans who really do want to make a difference in the lives of all veterans.

The newest members of this organization do care what happens and it should not always be BECAUSE IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN DONE THAT WAY OR THAT BECAUSE IS MY VFW AND NOT YOURS, BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN HERE LONGER.

When a person or group of people decide what will be done to benefit them and them only, we lose sight of what the VFW is really about and that is TO HONOR THE DEAD BY HELPING THE LIVING.

Please let's all change our mindset before it is too late. Listen to what the new members have to say and give their ideas a try. Who knows? It just might work. Yours did years ago when you were faced with the same attitudes that you are trying to impose on the newer generation of veterans.

Remember: TOGETHER WE SERVE TO HONOR THE DEAD BY HELPING THE LIVING.



**Ray Calore**

Hello to all...

Take a look at what we have accomplished in the past few months: the Eisenhower Vigil in Abilene had 219 of us participating; all of the District Fall Conferences were successful; and many Veterans Day activities honored those who came before us and those who continue to serve in our military. Good job, comrades and sisters!

**Membership:** We now have at least 22 VFW Certified Membership Recruiters in Kansas. This is an important step in our march toward 100% goal in the coming months. The day-long training, conducted by National Headquarters in Newton, Kansas resulted in newly-trained certified recruiters in all nine Kansas Districts. Congratulations to those who went through

## STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER

the training; we're proud of the challenge you have stepped up to.

Now comes the fun part – we can implement this tactic along with the VFW Recruiter in your District to improve the membership numbers at your Post. There will be new and exciting ideas put into play, relying on the dedication of each one of us to make them work. Please note that membership is not only about numbers (which are extremely important!), but also about how those numbers affect our Department budget, supporting every one of the VFW programs at your Post.

Here is an idea to start with: Give a VFW or Auxiliary membership as a Christmas/holiday gift for your friend or family. It will show them how much you appreciate their service to America.

Comrades, be creative and **THINK MEMBERSHIP!** By the way, do YOU have a membership application in YOUR wallet?



**Lynn Rolf III**

The VFW of Kansas has plugged itself online, in part, to tell new veterans they are eligible for membership and to dispel old myths. Many stereotypes have discouraged some veterans from joining. We have been fighting with our retention rates. Kansas VFW has two Facebook initiatives VFW Kansas has both

a Group and a Fan page. We want Posts to utilize this great tool. Share your events and photos of how you are making a difference in your community, post questions or concerns, and connect with other VFW members across the state.

This tool is right within our price range...it being free. You can start one very easily for your Post. In time, once the legislators get back into session we will be posting veteran issues that we ask for you to call, e-mail or even (TWIT) with your local elected officials. We are losing critical grant money and need to get back to basics and hold our legislators accountable.

## STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER

In some cases, Internet networks and social media forums are the only outlets for National Guard and reserve veterans who return to non-military communities to talk to others with similar injuries, experiences and interests – at any time, from almost anywhere – even while in a remote outpost in Afghanistan, they SKYPE with their loved ones back home. If they can do it – We Will Do It!

Times are changing on how we need to engage our potential members and our community. We have to share and sell our VFW brand. Don't shy away from strategically communicating with our customer. Our customer is our members, future members, their families and our community.

Lost membership and dues have forced the Department of Kansas to close some Posts and consolidate others across the state. This, in turn, directly hurts our programs and outreach.

We have turned to Internet-wired veterans to help keep our state networks of Posts intact, community and soldier programs running, and our voices relevant at the State Capitol.



STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE



Karl (Doug) Musick

Greetings from the Judge, If you haven't already done so, it's time to order your new (2012) copy of the Podium edition from National Supply. Unlike the Constitution of the United States, which has remained fairly unchanged (only 27 amendments in over 200 years), the VFW Bylaws and Manual of Procedure change from year to year. I realize that not every Post buys a new Podium edition each year, even though the Manual of Procedure

requires that the Adjutant have a current copy of the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. In going around the state, I've seen Posts using editions from 1998 and in one case from 1988. So much has changed since then that the organization described in those books barely resembles our current organization in little more than purpose. This year's change alone changed the structure of the National Council of Administration, the disposition of property in case of forfeiture of charters and the scheduling of District Conventions. In the last couple of

years, the procedures for Disciplinary Actions, Post delegate allocation at District and National Conventions, and the prayer for the National Home have all changed. The items I've mentioned are just a few of the many changes that have occurred recently.

The Podium edition (Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual) costs \$7.50 in book form and \$5.00 on a CD (in Adobe Reader format) from National Supply. That may be some of the cheapest insurance your Post can purchase. Purchasing the latest Podium edition, reading it and following it helps keep your Post from getting into trouble. If you don't have the most up-to-date copies of the rules we live by, you can, with even the best intentions, run afoul of VFW law.

While you're at it, you might want to go to <http://www.ksvfw.org>, click on the "Forms" link and then download the most recent copy of the Department Bylaws. Between the Podium edition and the Department Bylaws, you should be able to answer about 95% of the questions that may arise about how the VFW is supposed to operate. The next step is to take a look at your Post's or District's Bylaws and consider amending them to bring them into compliance with National and Department Bylaws.

STATE INSPECTOR



Roger Cawley

Hello, Comrades, A very happy holiday season from Roger in Wichita. Leading the way are the 3rd and 5th Districts with all Posts bonded, inspected and April-June audits submitted. The 7th District has all Posts inspected and the 9th District has all Posts bonded. Is your Post keeping your District from being 100%?

There are still many quarterly audits being sent to an incorrect address. They should all go to: Roger Cawley, 1601 W. Regal, Wichita, KS 67217-2361. By the time you read this, July-September audits will be overdue. Please get them in. If you are bonded by an outside company, there is paperwork that still needs to go to State Headquarters. If you have questions on outside bonding, please call Kristi at Sate Headquarters at 1-785-272-6463.

Hope to see you all at Mid-Winter.

STATE SURGEON



Jim Slattery

Comrades, The year is flying by. I hope I never see one quite like it again. I have lost seven people that were very dear to me, both friends and family.

Veterans Day is over. I hope you had plans; maybe with your family or with your Posts. Whatever you did, I hope you enjoyed yourselves; you earned it! The Department Surgeon's tour was November 16-18. Thank you for all you do for veterans.



1ST DISTRICT COMMANDER



Fred Box

Comrades, Time is beginning to get away from us and it's now time to concentrate on Programs and membership. Membership is a little slow, but should pick up if we all work a little harder. Thank you for a good turnout at the Eisenhower Vigil. We had 44 comrades there from District 1. We have our military pulling out of Iraq by the end of December. Let's remember to welcome them home! When we look at the flag, let us be reminded that the Red is for all the bloodshed to keep this country free. The Blue for the clear blue skies overhead, and the White for the purity for which it was intended and say, "Thank You, God" for keeping America free.

PAST STATE COMMANDER



J. T. Plummer

Comrades, As we approach the mid-term of our current reporting year, a review of membership statistics and Community Activities reporting data indicates that we, as a Department, continue to encounter ongoing problems in both of these critical areas. During this past year, we were able to significantly reduce the number of lost members that we had incurred annually for the past several years; however, we were unable to reach that magic goal of 100%. This is less than satisfactory. At the present time, there are sufficient numbers of eligible veterans throughout our state needed to achieve or exceed that goal. We could eliminate this problem if each of our current members recruited one (1) new member. However, we must identify and contact these potential members, be sufficiently knowledgeable to explain the benefits of belonging to our organization and once recruited, include them and their families into our Posts and in our functions. A review of recruiter statistics indicates that many of our

elected or appointed members, past and present, appear to be more concerned with a position or another appointment than the welfare of the Department of Kansas. Positions are temporary, performance is permanent. Remember, recruits do not come to us; we MUST go to them. Although the current Department staff of Community Activities has made significant improvements in the computer reporting program, many Posts do not have the capability to utilize the current system. For those Posts, hard copies of your reports can be forwarded to your District Community Activities Officer for entry into the computer database. Many of our Posts throughout the Department continue to under report or fail to report their completed activities. As the IRS continues to increase their scrutiny of Tax-Exempt Organizations, full, accurate and documented reporting of our completed activities is of increasing importance to our organizations' tax-exempt status. In addition, it is imperative that each Post submit an annual IRS 990 report. In closing, I extend my condolences to those Comrades and Sisters who have lost family members and friends during these past months - let us keep them always in our prayers.

2ND DISTRICT COMMANDER



Bruce Fischbach

Greetings, Comrades and members of the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries: I would like to thank you all for all of the support that you have given to me and the District Chairpersons thus far. I have met with a number of you and appreciate all of the hospitality you have shown me. On October 14th, we attended the Eisenhower Vigil and I specifically would like to thank the Auxiliaries and the members of VFW Posts 846, 6654, 6401, 6397 and 7397 in helping to stand watch. It was a small, but enthusiastic group.

Our Ladies Auxiliary President, Suzie Puckett, has done a great job with her Ladies Auxiliaries and I have been honored to attend the events I was invited to. Please remember our success hinges on the relationship with our Auxiliaries. Please work with your Auxiliaries.

As far as membership, we have a ways to go and in an effort to make 100%, we need to get new members or renewals to the tune of about 24 per week. We have been on a good roll as of late...let's keep it up! If each member in the District refers one new person, we would blow our membership goal out of the water! (Navy reference.)

We need to get in front of our Law Enforcement, EMTs and Firefighters to get those programs rolling, as well. We also need to think about the Eagle Scout Award and the National Military Services Fundraisers. You may also want to purchase Buddy Poppies for your fundraising activities, as well.

The success of the VFW starts with you and whatever you can do to help would be fantastic! Thanks again for serving and staying "Committed 2 Veterans"!

STATE CHAPLAIN



Jim Jenkins

Greetings to you all, I pray this note finds you all doing well. My apologies for missing out on submitting an article in the last *Bulletin*. I want to thank the Herington VFW Post 1281 and Ladies Auxiliary for hosting a Chaplain Workshop the 1st of October. Looking at more ways to not only help equip our Post and Auxiliary Chaplains to be more effective, but also looking at ways to educate our Post and Auxiliary Leaders on the importance and role of the Chaplain within their Post and Community. I would

welcome the opportunity to take 30-45 minutes of a District Meeting to share some principles. Let me know if you would be interested. I am still looking to put on more Chaplain workshops - Lenexa Post 7397 has offered to host one in February; details to follow. I have also had others indicate an interest in hosting one. A Saturday session starting at approximately 1:00 p.m. and lasting 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 hours is what we would be looking at. Please call me at 913-302-7620 or e-mail me at [jim.jenkins@vfw6401.org](mailto:jim.jenkins@vfw6401.org). I would appreciate any ideas or suggestions. As we approach Thanksgiving Day, may we be reminded as the Psalmist said, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever." We have much to be thankful for!

**3RD DISTRICT COMMANDER****Jim Ewan**

Greetings, Comrades and Sisters: We are halfway through the year. We need to recruit new members and collect dues for the coming year, before December 15th.

We had our POW-MIA Remembrance Day, with seven Posts attending. Five Posts participated in the Eisenhower Vigil. District Convention is over and was well attended.

The Youth Programs are due. Work MEMBERSHIP! Thanks to everyone in the Mighty, Mighty 3rd.

**4TH DISTRICT COMMANDER****Joe H. Barner, Sr.**

It has been said, "When the U.S. economy has a cold, Veterans come down with pneumonia." As we slowly try to recover from one of the worst economic downturns since the Great Depression, we must address the sad reality that some of the members in our great organization are themselves in need of help.

The American healthcare system is in a shambles. It is imperative that we not miss our moment by assuming that others will do for us, what we should be doing for ourselves. Let us take responsibility for our future, our children's and our children's children's future.

It is the responsibility of ALL to carry on the traditions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and to bring in new quality members. Every new member should have a mentor to help them.

I thank you for your unswerving loyalty and confidence in the 4th District and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

May God Bless and Keep You.

**STATE SERVICE OFFICER****Larry Rowilson**

Blue Water Veterans must have actually stepped foot on the land of Vietnam or served on its inland waterways anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 to be presumed to have been exposed to herbicides when claiming service connection for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure.

Some offshore vessels docked to the shore of Vietnam, operated in Vietnam's close coastal waters and sent smaller vessels ashore, or conducted operations on the inland waterways of Vietnam.

Check VA's list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships that operated in Vietnam. Evidence confirmed through military record must show that the Veteran was aboard one of these ships.

Blue Water Veterans who did NOT set foot in Vietnam or serve aboard ships that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 MUST SHOW ON A FACTUAL BASIS that they were exposed to herbicides during the military service in order to receive disability compensation for diseases related to service in Vietnam or the WATERS OFFSHORE OF VIETNAM during the Vietnam era.

EXCEPTION: Blue Water Veterans with NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA may be granted service-connection without showing inland waterway service or that they set foot in Vietnam. This is because VA also recognizes non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma as related to service in Vietnam or the WATERS OFFSHORE OF VIETNAM during the Vietnam era.

Any questions on this ruling, please contact your VFW Service Officer.

**5TH DISTRICT COMMANDER****Clyde Lindsey**

Good day, Comrades:

At the time of the printing of this letter, we have had our fall meeting and Eisenhower Vigil. I am very happy to say they were both a great success and that we had a super turnout with membership. We had a total of 44 members at the Eisenhower Vigil, that includes Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries. Way to go, 5th District!

We had seven women veterans at our meeting in Haysville and a total of 36 members present. I want to send a special thank you to each and everyone of you for the respect that was shown to these women veterans and to our state rep, Lynn Rolf. This is what the VFW is about and it is time we stand up and take notice that "SHE SERVES" is here to stay.

It is an honor to serve as your 5th District Commander and let's not forget that we "honor the dead by helping the living!"

Once again, I thank you for all the hard work that you do and we will beat our goal of 100% by December. Keep up the good work, "TEAM."

**6TH DISTRICT COMMANDER****Gerald (Jerry) Collins**

Comrades,

Here we are nearing the end of 2011. We had a great turnout for our fall meeting and quite a bit of valuable information was exchanged. Thanks to all that attended. I believe our dues roundup tour was also a great success and great fun was had by all. Again, thanks to the great turnout we had at our stops, and congratulations to the Posts for their VOD and Patriot's Pen Programs.

A special thanks to my officers this year for all their help, and to all the members in the 6th District. If you have questions or concerns, give us a call or send an e-mail; we are here to serve you.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Department Mid-Winter in January and the District Mid-Winter at Post 7515 in Clyde on February 11, 2012 starting at 9:30.

Here's hoping you all remember Veterans Day, enjoy Thanksgiving, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**9TH DISTRICT COMMANDER****Jerry White**

Greetings, District Comrades and Ladies and Men's Auxiliary members,

We have some sad news in the 9th, in that our long-time Adjutant, Wayne Marshall, passed away suddenly on the 21st of October. Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to Linda and family.

Thank you to St. Francis for hosting our fall conference. You did a superb job. Thank you to Commander Bob Cox for all the great information he put out to us and for making the 300-mile trip to the far reaches of Kansas.

Comrades, we need to work really hard on our membership. If a comrade hasn't renewed his or her dues, call them up and remind them. There is strength in numbers, and with all the talks in Washington of reducing veterans' benefits, we need to be strong not only in the voting booth, but in membership as well. I urge every VFW member to get involved in your Post, District and Department. The future of the VFW rests with all of us. The world is changing drastically, and the VFW needs your help and ideas on how to make us stronger. I urge you to be a strong voice in all veteran's futures. As veterans we served with honor, be a part of keeping that honor alive for tomorrow.

**1ST ANNUAL  
BBQ  
COOK-OFF**

**Saturday, December 3rd**  
(During Army vs. Navy football game)

Competition for VFW (or Auxiliary) members. BBQ Cook-Off Teams (minimum of three people per team) will compete in these categories: Brisket, Pork, Ribs, Chicken (Bring your own meat; meat will not be provided.)

**You must be a member of a Post and membership must be current. Membership will be checked at judging time.**

**Cost: \$50.00 per team**  
(Proceeds go to National Children's Home)

Prizes for each category and for Overall Favorite.

Tickets to sample and vote on the competitors are only \$5.00 each.

Those votes will determine the Overall Favorite.

Judging will begin at 2:00 p.m.

**For more information, contact Scott Berg at 316-641-4359 or sberg6@cox.net**

**SPECIAL 70TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
Remembering  
Pearl Harbor  
December 7, 1941**

**A ceremony commemorating the 70th Anniversary of December 7, 1941, The Day of Infamy; and anniversaries of 2011: The Alamo, The Civil War and 9/11/2011**

**Robert Dole Regional Office and Medical Center Auditorium  
5500 East Kellogg  
Wichita, Kansas  
Wednesday, December 7, 2011  
10:55 a.m. start**

Speakers: Congressman Mike Pompeo, Col. Ricky Rupp (22ARW Commander, McConnell AFB) and past state VFW Commander Lewie Cooper

Honor Guards, Air Capital Choral Group and soloist Mr. Don Baker. Informational displays, fellowship and lunch. Join us for a day of American Tribute and Patriotism.

Remember Pearl Harbor...keep America alert!

## VFW Mid-Winter Conference Topeka, Kansas • January 13-15, 2012 Tentative Schedule



The 4th District sponsored the Warrior Picnic on August 27th. Pictured with soldiers and Air Force ROTC is Past State Commander Phil Irby.



Pictured are the Delegates to the National Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

### Friday, January 13, 2012

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Ticket Pick Up	Emerald Foyer
3:00 p.m.	Ladies Auxiliary Council Meeting	Emerald I and II
5:00 p.m.	Convention Corporation Meeting	Emerald IV
5:00 p.m.	Ladies Auxiliary Floor Practice	Emerald I and II
6:00 p.m.	Veterans Service Meeting	Emerald V
7:30 p.m.	Endowment Meeting	Emerald III
8:00 p.m.-12 Midnight	Dance	Post 1650

### Saturday, January 14, 2012

8:00 a.m.-12 Noon	Ticket Pick Up	Emerald Foyer
8:00 a.m.	VFW Council Meeting	Emerald III
	Ladies Auxiliary Conference Meeting	Emerald I and II
	Men's Auxiliary Meeting	Amber Room
	Lunch	Post 1650
11:30 a.m.	VFW Conference Meeting	Emerald III
1:00 p.m.	Ladies Auxiliary Conference Meeting	Emerald I and II
	Men's Auxiliary Meeting	Amber Room
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	VOD Reception	Emerald IV and V
5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m.	VOD Banquet	Emerald Ballroom
6:30 p.m.	Dance	Post 1650
8:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m.		

### Sunday, January 15, 2012

7:00 a.m.	Past Commanders Club Breakfast Meeting	Emerald IV and V
-----------	--	------------------

VFW Mid-Winter Conference  
VFW Post 1650 • Topeka, Kansas • January 13-15, 2012

FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS, TELEPHONE THE HOTEL LISTED BELOW  
(Please state this is for the VFW Mid-Winter meeting)

All Reservations Guaranteed by Credit Card or Advance Deposit  
Hotel Room Rate Deadline is December 22, 2011



Capitol Plaza Hotel  
1717 SW Topeka Boulevard  
Topeka, KS 66612  
785-431-7200

80 Rooms: \$72.00 + Tax  
\*\* Sleeping room rate includes Breakfast Buffet \*\*  
(Two per room)



Save this top part  
Mail this bottom part  
Reservations by Couple (same last name) or Individual

## MOC Pup Tent 7



Members of the Cooties at September 11th Memorial Service in Hutchinson. Pictured, L-R: Past State Commander Herb Schwartzkopf, State Service Officer Larry Rowilson and State Chaplain Jim Jenkins.

**VFW Mid-Winter Conference**  
VFW Post 1650 • Topeka, Kansas • January 13-15, 2012

Please Print  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
(last) (first)

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle Affiliation:**

Post	Aux	Men's Aux	# _____	Title: _____
Post	Aux	Men's Aux	# _____	Title: _____

Number of People: \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Lunch \$5.00 each  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Banquet \$25.00 each  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Dance \$5.00 each

Total Packet per person \$35.00 each

**Mail check and request to:** VFW Post 1650  
 3110 SW Huntoon  
 Topeka, KS 66604

Refunds ONLY with 24 hour PRIOR CONFIRMED CANCELLATION by calling:  
 POST 1650 at 785-235-9073

---

DATE REC \_\_\_\_\_ PAID \_\_\_\_\_ CA/CK # \_\_\_\_\_ REG # \_\_\_\_\_

# Ladies Auxiliary News

## 2011-12 District Presidents



**1st District  
Kristi Meid**

**Theme:** First Things  
First: Veterans,  
Families, Communities  
**Symbol:** American Flag



**2nd District  
Suzanne Puckett**

**Theme:** Volunteering  
with Open Hearts  
and Helping Hands  
for our Veterans  
**Symbol:** Hearts/  
Open Hearts



**3rd District  
Ruth Jensen**

**Theme:** Butterflies have  
freedom to fly through  
life. Our life of freedom  
we owe to our Veterans;  
honor them always.  
**Symbol:** Butterfly



**4th District  
Linda Vann-Owens**  
**Theme:** I WANT YOU!  
**Symbol:** Cross and  
U.S. Flag



**5th District  
Cindy Lindsey**  
**Theme:** Don't  
Whine, Shine!  
**Symbol:** Eagle,  
Sunflower



**6th District  
Betty Musick**  
**Theme:** Let the Sun  
Shine for our Veterans  
**Symbol:** Sun images



**7th District  
Virginia Copeland**



**8th District  
Hellen Strickland**  
**Theme:** Giving our  
best for our veterans  
and families  
**Symbol:** Flags and  
Statue of Liberty



**9th District  
Connie Rooney**  
**Theme:** Our Veterans  
have been the guardians  
of freedom and the  
American way of life. We  
can honor and thank them  
by never taking those  
freedoms for granted.  
**Symbol:** U.S. Flag and  
Americana Decor



## Ruth Gulden, Morrison, Colorado NATIONAL DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER #13 Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.



Ruth Gulden of Morrison, Colorado, was elected to represent Colorado and Kansas on the National Council of Administration, which governs the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States between National Conventions.

Installed at the 98th National Convention in San Antonio, Texas, she will serve a two-year term as one of 28 representatives who make up the Council, along with the top seven National Officers, the National Chief of Staff and the four Junior Past National Presidents.

A member of Lambert-Wright-Roy Auxiliary 8661, she is eligible through her husband, Jack, who served in the United States Marine Corps, 1967-1969. She has held numerous positions for the organization including Auxiliary, District and Department President. She is also a member of the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary.

In her spare time, she enjoys gardening and living in the mountains.

## STATE PRESIDENT



**Kelle Brewer-Brown**

My thanks to those who have extended courtesies to me during my most recent travels: all Eisenhower Vigil attendees, 1st District, 3rd District, 6th District, Hiawatha, Holton, Parsons, Stafford, the Wichita VA and VAVS Rep. Jan Sponsel, Deputies Jeanne, Loretta and Honorary Rep. Ruth. You all have given me many happy memories.

Speaking of VAs and VAVS, a big round of applause and "atta girl" for each of our VAVS Representatives and Deputies! Despite a very tight budget, these dedicated ladies spend countless hours obtaining and providing basic necessities, as well as developing and coordinating various activities to ensure our veterans maintain a good quality of life. They are truly prized blossoms in our Veterans Victory Garden. Auxiliaries...keep sending in those donations to our Hospital General Fund, so we can continue to provide for the needs and wants of our veterans. FYI: one common request I received during all my official visits to VA facilities – GRAPES.

Congress is proposing the very shameful idea of cutting 10 specific veterans benefits to pay for 10 years of war (10/10 plan). With constituent work weeks and target adjournment for the House and Senate just around the corner, I ask that you contact your Congressional representatives (NOW) and let them know these types of cuts cannot, and will not, be tolerated. Every call, letter, e-mail or in person meeting you make on this issue has an impact on how our leaders vote. It is our duty to ensure that Congress does the right thing where our veterans are concerned. Keep in mind that doing the right thing does not apply only to our Congressional leaders, everyone else or that other guy or gal. Doing the right thing, in all aspects of our lives, most assuredly applies to all of us.

*"Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' Vanity asks the question, 'Is it popular?' But conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?' And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right." –Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Being an adult and having the choices before you of doing what you'd rather do and doing the right things are around us all the time. We're entrenched in this debate every day from the small and seemingly inconsequential ("I can take two cookies from the free cookie dispenser...") to the huge, epic and life-changing ("Doctor, pull the plug..."). While hopefully your involvement in the latter is minimal, my intention should be clear. Somewhere between the taking of an extra free cookie and the heart-wrenching decision to end another person's life is where our "doing what's right gene" kicks in for most of us. And while doing the right thing and doing what's right may not always be the same thing, they are often along the same track.

I challenge you to STEP UP, take a good hard look and realize this fact: **the easiest thing to do and the right thing to do are NOT always the same thing.** However, if you do what's right, what you are supposed to do, then this makes having to do the

**PRESIDENT, continued from page 6**

harder things a little bit more tolerable.

As your Dept. President, I know my loyalty to this organization is stronger because I believe that we operate ethically. That we believe in doing what is right for our veterans, their families, our communities, each other and our organization. While ethics isn't about winning and losing, when it comes to doing what is right, we either all win or we all lose.

Whenever you aren't sure what's the right thing to do – STOP, THINK and ASK yourself these questions: What does my conscience say about it? Could it hurt anyone, including me? Would it violate the Bylaws, General Orders, the Golden Rule? Have I ever been told it's wrong? How will I feel about myself later?

Our actions are a reflection of who we are and should reflect what we profess to believe. We should act on our word and remember to always take the right actions...even when it's difficult or inconvenient. We should treat others the same way we ourselves would like to be treated. Children and adults alike are watching and learning from our actions. Remember that in everything we say and do we are ambassadors for the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and for our veterans. *"Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest."* – Mark Twain

**STATE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**



**Jerri McBride**

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."*  
–John Fitzgerald Kennedy

How are you expressing your gratitude to our Veterans and their families? Are you doing more than a mere "Thank You," more than just "Welcome Home?" Are you lobbying our legislatures? Encouraging them to support the programs our Veterans need? Are you

instilling in our youth the importance of patriotism and the cost of freedom? Are you providing care for our Veterans and their families? Are you working in your community, demonstrating that Veterans and families continue serving long after the last revelry has been played. Are you reaching out to perspective new members, asking them to join our ranks to make our voice on Capitol Hill one of unity and strength?

Highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. Our organization is based on serving veterans and their families. Our organization is built on the basis of gratitude for our Veterans. Gratitude for those who have served and those who are still serving. As we remember our lives when we served, we remember that our family was your fellow comrades and their families. As our young military families enter our community, we need to welcome them into our ranks. Welcome them into our family. Express our gratitude not by words, but by our actions. Let us not forget those who already stand within our ranks, but need to be pulled back into the fold.

**National President's Visit**

National President Gwen Rankin will be making her official visit to Kansas at the end of January.

She will arrive on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 4:35 p.m. and will depart on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 10:15 a.m.

Her tour is currently being planned and we will make as many stops in as many Districts, as possible.

We sincerely hope the weather will be great and you will be able to join us along the tour.

**Roberta Perue**  
Department Historian

**STATE JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT**



**Ethel Maske**

Hello to all Sisters and Comrades:

I am going to the Western Conference and will tell you what I learned when I get back. I would like to thank the Districts that I have been to; I had a wonderful time and you are all outstanding. Thank you.

I had an outstanding time at the Jr. Vice School at National Headquarters. I learned a lot and have some things to report and discuss with you. Sisters, our voices need to be heard in Legislation. Talk to us about getting online and voting.

We must get busy on membership; I know you can do it. I think we can be 95% by December. I also know now that you have to ask questions to learn. There is no dumb question, so ask and learn. There is going to be more changes coming; I know we don't like changes, but life goes on.

Keep God in your heart and always remember the Veterans we love and the land we love.

May God always be with you, sisters and comrades; my prayers go out for the loss of your loved ones.

Happy holidays!

**P.S.** Keep your garden growing.



**Activities to Help Hospitalized Veterans**

1. Special entertainment and refreshments for holidays.
2. Hold Bingo parties using Canteen books, cash, small gifts for prizes. (I find that a lot of our veterans at Cheyenne VA play Bingo to win Canteen books for haircuts.)
3. Hold Ice Cream Socials.
  - a. Ice Cream Sunday
  - b. Root Beer Floats
4. Barbecue parties in the summer.
5. Indoor picnics in the fall, winter or spring. Example: sandwich trays, condiment trays. Beans, potato salad, macaroni salad, assorted chips, bananas, sodas, etc. These are very popular and if scheduled properly, are used for their noon meal.
6. Distribute comfort items.
7. Coffee and cookie cart.
8. Make items and donate. Example: lap robes, bibs, wheelchair bags, walker bags, etc.
9. Write letters.
10. Read books or newspaper to patients.
11. Assist with crafts. Example: wood items, leather, painting, puzzles, etc.
12. Be a respite care volunteer at home to give caregiver a break.
13. Hospice: Provide service to veterans during end of their lives.
14. Tray favors to brighten their meals. Example: holidays or any occasion.
15. Centerpieces for their dining facility tables.
16. Distribute fruit such as bananas, oranges or sugar-free treats.

Always check with the facility or Volunteer Service Representatives to insure your plans are acceptable to that facility. They will advise of their needs, as well.

**Barbara Mary Monaghan**  
Dept. Hospital & VAVS Chairman

**Wreaths Across America**

This is the 20th year for the Wreaths Across America tribute, a week-long celebration of America's veterans and their service to our country, with a particular focus on family during the holidays. The Worcester Wreath Co., in Harrington, Maine, will be shipping 219,000 memorial wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery and more than 500 locations nationwide to be laid on veterans' graves on December 10th. Over 1,200 memorial wreathes will be shipped to Kansas.

**State House Ceremony - December 5, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.**

Kelle Brewer-Brown, Department President for the Ladies Auxiliary VFW, Department of Kansas will present a ceremonial wreath to Governor Sam Brownback in celebration of Kansas veterans and their families. The ceremony will take place at the State Capitol in Topeka, Kansas on Monday, December 5, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. Similar ceremonies will take place at the same time in the other 49 states and Washington, D.C. The wreath-laying ceremonies are non-political and all VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members and other veterans' groups are invited to attend.



**"The Christmas They Never Had"**  
**In honor of those who have had to spend a holiday away from loved ones.**  
**In memory of those who never made it home.**

Picture taken from <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

# INSIDE

- Officers Reports .....2-3
- District Reports .....3-4
- Mid-Winter Conference .....5
- Auxiliary News .....6-7



## If you are already a member

of the V.F.W., let us know what you think of our Web site and what you would like to see included in this site.

Please Contact Us and let Your Voice Be Heard!

## If you are not already a member

and are eligible to join the V.F.W.

We enthusiastically invite you to join the finest veterans' organization in the world.



Please check out your eligibility at [www.ksvfw.org](http://www.ksvfw.org)

## Ark City Veterans Treated to D.C. Honor Flight, October 6-7



*Clyde Hatcher and two fellow Navy veterans of WWII returned after a two-day tour of military-related sites in the D. C. area, including the WWII memorial. Mike Holland, a Vietnam Veteran, accompanied them on the trip. Pictured, L-R: Post 1254 Commander Mike Holland, Arky Reyez, Keith Crain and Past State Commander Clyde Hatcher.*

## Bulletin Deadlines

- January 20, 2012
- April 7, 2012

# THE KANSAS BULLETIN

## VFW

THE OLDEST STATE PUBLICATION IN THE VFW

November 2011

VOLUME 80 ISSUE 2

## Run for the Fallen



*State Jr. Vice Commander Lynn W. Rolf III ran the 5k in honor of local soldiers and friends he lost during the conflict. Leavenworth VFW Post 56 Riders led the run with a Patriot Guard ride to show support and to raise awareness of the VFW's support to all fallen soldiers across this nation.*



*On Saturday, August 20th (Leavenworth), the Inaugural Run for the Fallen took place to honor the lives of the heroes that have been lost in Iraq and Afghanistan.*