



W.E. BAGGS POST 9960

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

MARCH 2025

INTRODUCTION

You're a new member of the VFW – Now what?

Why did you join the VFW?

Why did You Join VFW Post 9960?

INTRODUCTION

This is YOUR Post!!!

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR POST!!!

VETERAN TAKE CARE OF YOUR POST!!!

You will get more out than you put in.

INTRODUCTION

Our Post is not the building at 246 VFW Road but rather the approximate 450 members of the VFW that call us their “Post.”

We are a family bound by a common service to our Nation and a unique understanding of the weight of that sacrifice.

Your VFW Post 9960 “family” should be just as available to you in your life outside these walls as it is when you come to this building.

AGENDA

- Veterans of Foreign Wars – The organization
- W.E. Baggs VFW Post 9960
- Basic Customs and courtesies of the VFW and Post
- Miscellaneous and general information
- Post “Battle Buddy” assignment
- Q & A
- Post tour
- Open social time and key card issue



THE VFW ORGANIZATION HISTORY

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves.

In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually coalesce into the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado, and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

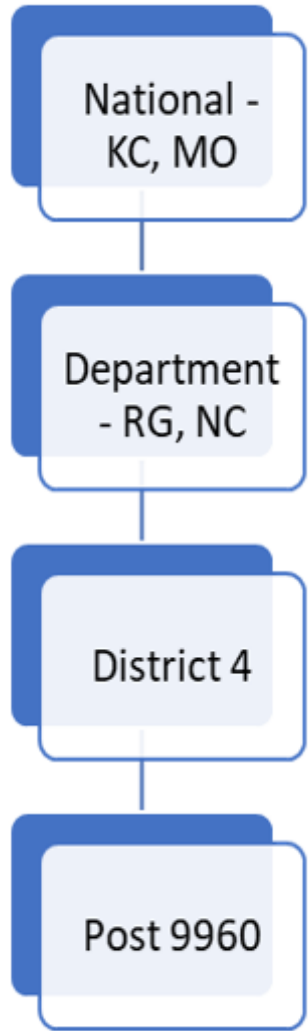
Citizens or nationals of the United States serving honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces in a foreign war or overseas operation recognized by a campaign medal, in Korea after June 30, 1949, and recipients of hostile-fire or imminent danger pay. Veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf, Somalia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and other smaller expeditionary campaigns, as well as occupation duty, qualify.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

THE VFW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Thousands convene each year at the VFW's national convention to elect officers, adopt resolutions and discuss business affairs. Leading the organization are the elected commander-in-chief, senior vice commander-in-chief and junior vice commander-in-chief. The National Council of Administration serves as the VFW's board of directors. Nearly 6,000 Posts worldwide comprise 52 Departments in the 50 states, the Asia/Pacific Areas and Europe. Posts form the basic local chapter.

THE VFW ORGANIZATION HIERARCHY



Commander-in-Chief, Sr Vice Commander-in-Chief, Jr. Vice Commander-in Chief, Quartermaster General, Chaplin , Judge Advocate General, and Surgeon General; Adjutant General, Chief of Staff, Inspector General, and Sergeant at Arms.

Commander, Sr Vice, Jr vice, Quartermaster, (3) Trustees, Chaplain, Judge Advocate, and Surgeon; Commander **shall** appoint an Adjutant, Service Officer, and Inspector; and **may** appoint a Chief of Staff and an OOD/Guard.

Commander, Sr Vice, Jr vice, Quartermaster and (3) Trustees; Commander **shall** appoint an Adjutant, Chaplain, Service Officer, and Inspector; and **may** appoint a Chief of Staff, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, and OOD/Guard.

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THE VFW ORGANIZATION TODAY

Today, there are more than 1.5 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Men and women who wore our nation's uniform continue to answer the call of duty after returning home. They make a difference in their communities across the country. They are the heart of Today's VFW.

Veterans in today's VFW are still serving - the **#StillServing** campaign is a way to showcase and honor the ongoing commitment and service of our nation's best men and women, who bravely defended freedom, to fellow veterans and their families, our communities, and anywhere there is a need.

THE VFW PRIORITY ISSUES

- **Budget:** Fully fund programs for veterans, service members and their families.
- **Health Care:** Provide service members and veterans timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares.
- **Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs:** Ensure veterans and their dependents have timely access to earned benefits.
- **Education, Employment and Transition Assistance:** Provide veterans the opportunity to succeed after leaving military service.
- **Military Quality of Life:** Maintain a quality, comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force.
- **National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA:** Fully support service members and their mission to fight the war on terrorism and protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world.

VFW CORE VALUES

- Always put the interests of our members first.
- Treat donors as partners in our cause.
- Promote patriotism.
- Honor military service.
- Ensure the care of veterans and their families.
- Serve our communities.
- Promote a positive image of the VFW.



THE VFW ORGANIZATION PROGRAMS

- VFW Day of Service.
- Buddy Poppy.
- Veteran Pow-Wows.
- Ceremonies of honor.
- Partnering with other veteran and community service organizations.
- Volunteering at local thrift stores and food pantries.
- Various forms of community outreach.
- Advocating for Veterans at the national level.

THE VFW ORGANIZATION RESOURCES

- <https://www.vfw.org>
 - About the VFW
 - Assistance and advocacy
 - Media and events
 - Community
 - FAQs
 - VFW store



POST 9960 RESOURCES

- <https://vfw9960.org> (login required; member number and last name)
 - Newsletter/Events Calendar
 - Fiscal reports
 - Meeting minutes
 - Canteen reports
 - Etc.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



POST 9960 LEADERSHIP

- Commander – Dolly Witt (USAF Ret)
- Senior Vice Commander – Scott Parry (USMC Ret)
- Junior Vice Commander – Larry Rhue (USA)
- Quartermaster – Dave Burger (USMC Ret)
- Adjutant – Chad Hamrick (USA Ret)
- Chaplain – Teddy Williams (USN Active)
- Veteran Service Officer – Dave Wikler (USMC Ret)
- Judge Advocate – Barret Graham (USMC Ret)
- Surgeon – Stephanie Cain (USA Ret)



W.E. BAGGS VFW POST 9960

- One of the most expansive Posts in District 4
 - Morgan Hall
 - RV/Camping area
- Fundraising events
 - Cruisin' to the Cape Car Show
 - Fall Car Show and Pig Cook-Off
- <https://www.vfw9960events-rentals.org>



POST 9960 CANTEEN

- House Committee
 - Chairmen – Scott Vanderwerf
- Canteen Employees
 - Canteen Manager – Kari Belmont
 - Cook – Cathy
 - Bartenders
 - Sue
 - Angel
 - Carolyn
 - Donna
 - Erin



POST 9960 CANTEEN BY-LAWS

- Only members, auxiliary, their guests, and active duty are allowed to patronize the canteen.
- All Post members are required to have and utilize a key card when entering the Canteen.
- Proper attire will be worn.
- All patrons using Canteen facilities will always conduct themselves in an acceptable and orderly manner.
- Unnecessary arguing, profane and obscene language, disorderly conduct, fighting, excessive drunkenness, disrespect or abuse of Canteen employees, or any other disruptive behavior not keeping with good order and discipline is a violation of Post By Laws and very likely will result in administrative action.
- The Post Commander, Quartermaster, duty canteen personnel, Canteen Manager, any member of the House Committee, or current elected Post Officer are authorized to refuse or discontinue further service to anyone violating the Post By Laws.

POST 9960 CANTEEN RULES

- NC ABC Laws and Regulations are upheld.
- Absolute respect for all canteen employees (while present or not); if there is a problem with an employee, refer it to the House Committee or a post officer.
- Do not discuss Post business in the canteen.
- One drink (beer, wine, mixed drink), except for a beer and a shot (boiler maker), per patron at one given time.
- No hats on the bar – could cost you a round.
- If you ring the bell, you buy a round for everyone present in the bar area at the time.
- Take care of **YOUR** canteen.

POST 9960 COMMITTEES & GROUPS

- Post Committees
 - House
 - Membership
 - Events
 - Community relations
- Other Groups and Initiatives

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POST 9960 AUXILIARY

- VFW Auxiliary is a national volunteer service organization, the Auxiliary of the VFW was founded in 1914 and is a vital partner in many local VFW Posts and their efforts.
- President - Eileen Lazevnick
- Sr. Vice President – Lacera Smith
- Jr. Vice President – Gerry Crosby
- Treasurer – Donna West



MONTHLY POST MEMBER MEETINGS

- Second Thursday of each month at 1900 sharp – if you are late, you will not be admitted.
- Duration is approximately one hour.
- Attendance is vital to being a fully active member; this is a key platform for your voice to be heard.
- This is the time when ideas and motions (i.e. fiscal expenditure, voting for elected positions, etc.) are discussed, and all official voting takes place.
- Vital information about future events, status of Post funds, good of the order (veteran service events, VA information, etc.), and other various topics is passed.

MONTHLY POST MEMBER MEETINGS

- The Commander (or proxy during absence) conducts and is the authority over the meeting.
- Meeting protocol will be followed:
 - All ceremonial actions (pledge of allegiance, saluting, etc.).
 - Stand, salute, and be granted permission to speak.
 - The member speaking has the floor; interrupting will not be tolerated.
- Canteen is completely closed for the full duration of the meeting.
- The VFW garrison cap is the only headwear permitted during the meeting.
- No food or alcohol is allowed in the meeting.
- Members will avoid leaving and returning during the meeting.
- **No meeting business will be shared outside of the membership!**