



# Cootie Tickie



# June 2021



Listen Cooties, Cuties and all of the Crummies who will painfully make their way through the following gibberish. I will start this issue out with some official business and get it out of the way. In order to meet the deadline prior to the Supreme Convention as outlined in our Supreme Bylaws, I will use this forum as well as mass email to distribute the recommended by-law changes. When Grands have their Conventions later in the year, it is difficult to get them turned in, reviewed and published if the only method we use is the Cootie Courier. The last Cootie Courier listed some great recommendations for our Supreme by-law changes that we will vote on in the upcoming Supreme Scratch. So, please spread

this information to all Cooties far and wide.

### **Section 101. Active Members.**

A. Persons making application for membership in the Military Order of the Cootie must be of sound character and shall be active members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; members who have fulfilled their work when appointed upon committees or as officers and who have done much toward promoting a greater V.F.W.

**Recommendation** – Change the description of V.F.W. member attributes necessary to apply for membership in the Military Order of the Cootie.

**Rationale** – The description of desired attributes for Cootie membership in Section 101A should match the list of requirements necessary for certification in Section 103B.

A. Persons making application for membership in the Military Order of the Cootie must be of sound character, shall be a member in good standing of a post for the preceding six months, and has completed satisfactory service on a Post committee or has satisfactorily performed

Post duties or participated actively as a leader of Post functions who has done much toward promoting a greater V.F.W.

### **Section 401. Formation.**

**B.** Whenever three (3) or more Pup Tents with a total membership of at least one hundred twenty-five (125) members have been organized in any Department, a Grand Pup Tent may be organized.

**Recommendation** – Change the minimum number of required members to form a Grand.

**Rationale** – The minimum requirement to form a new Pup Tent is fifteen, yet the minimum requirement to form a Grand consisting of three Pup Tents is nearly three times more. This change maintains consistency of standard for the organization.

**B.** Whenever three (3) or more Pup Tents with a total membership of at least forty-five (45) members have been organized in any Department, a Grand Pup Tent may be organized.

**C.** When the strength of a Grand Pup Tent falls below the required three (3) Pup Tents and/or the one hundred twenty-five (125) members, the Supreme Commander may withdraw the Grand Pup Tent Charter and may establish a Provisional Grand Pup Tent in such Department.

**Recommendation** – Adjust the minimum number of members to maintain a Grand.

**Rationale** – This proposal would be predicated by the passage of the change to Section 401A. The intent is to maintain a consistency of standard for the organization.

**C.** When the strength of a Grand Pup Tent falls below the required three (3) Pup Tents and/or the forty-five (45) members, the Supreme Commander may withdraw the Grand Pup Tent Charter and may establish a Provisional Grand Pup Tent in such Department.

Now that the official stuff is done, I would like to share some amazing numbers with you! This year's **membership** ended up at **105.12%** which is the greatest growth in our organization that we have record of, which is over 30 years! That is **AMAZING!** We aren't going to stop though! We are only shy 151 members to reach 10,000. That isn't much to ask for next year to hit that 10,000 mark once again. Our Hospital Commissioner, Eric Bell reports that our Supreme Hospital tally ends at (you might need to sit down for this) **110.52%! ARE YOU KIDDING ME? COVID-19? What COVID-19? COOTIES** made it happen this year even in a pandemic! That speaks volumes as to what we do and our purpose! Thank you **SO MUCH** for all of your hard work and serving our Cooties as we "Keep 'em Smilin' in Beds of White"!



I have had a lousy time traveling around to visit Grand Conventions this year! I appreciate the line officers and appointees able to

who have travelled representing me when I was not attend Grand Scratches. I had a TERRIBLE time in the Grand of Washington. Grand Commander Hardy Nettles and his beautiful wife Lori, Grand President were LOUSY hosts to Cathy and me. They FORCED us to eat fresh seafood! I'll be getting with SVC Olin Parks next year to see about being the Supreme Rep in Washington. Maybe next year they will get it right. If not, I will have to keep going back again and again! THANK YOU for the lousy time we had and all of the great work in Washington this year! Things weren't much better in the Grand of Florida! Kenny Thie, Supreme Deputy Chief of Staff and our AMAZING Supreme Senior Vice President, Debora Thie were such LOUSY hosts for the Florida Grand Scratch! While at the Scratch, John Barber, Jr. was SO LOUSY at his Provost Marshal position, I had to field promote him to Deputy Supreme Provost Marshall so he would get out of my wallet. I'm sure he will be getting into your wallet at the Supreme Convention in Overland Park, Kansas, so come prepared!



Speaking of Kansas! What a TOTALLY LOUSY year in the Grand of Kansas! For those who read the Cootie Tickle, I'll go ahead and congratulate the Grand of Kansas and Grand Commander Vincent Van Cleave for earning the top spot as Captain of the All-Stars Grand Commander! Great job Kansas! While in Kansas, I was also honored to appoint Cootie Orval Knodel as Supreme Sky Co-Pilot in Perpetuity. He has served Veterans and Cooties as Sky Pilot for MANY YEARS!

I must say I also had a lousy time in the Grand of Michigan! Thanks goes to Supreme Hospital Commissioner Eric Bell for picking me up so late at the airport and getting me where I needed to go! I also want to thank Grand Commander Russ Makowski for taking our Supreme President Jennifer Wynn and me to the VFW National Home for Children where we were able to



view the COMPLETED Supreme Commander's Project! Fred Puffenberger and Sue Alverson met Jennifer, Russ, and me at the National Home to show us the great improvements to the Childcare Center. Thanks to Mark Wynn for snapping the picture for us! This has been an outstandingly LOUSY year and I hope you will join us for the 102<sup>nd</sup> Supreme Scratch in Overland Park, Kansas from August 4-7 at the Marriott Hotel. You

may go to [LOTCS.ORG](http://LOTCS.ORG) to register for the convention and reserve your hotel room. Start preparing your Cootie regalia! Let's bring all of our flair and celebrate who we are, what we do and what we have accomplished this year, especially for the Friday night banquet and Installation Ceremony!

**Yours in the LOTCS,**

**Darin Combs  
Supreme Commander**