

# **Arkansas Chronicles**

## **September 2025**

**ALL GENERAL ORDERS MUST BE READ AT POST MEETINGS AND  
FILED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, PER THE STATE COMMANDER**

**2025-2026 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Commander-in-Chief  
Carol Whitmore**

### **Current Membership**

**6.04%**

### **Commander's Notes**

I know that I have covered this in a previous General Order, but our Commander-in-Chief has made this an emphasis item so I want to make sure the members of Arkansas understand the importance of our actions. The Bylaws of this great organization are very clear when it comes to sexual harassment, harassment of a member, or bullying of a member. These actions will not be tolerated in any form. If this is going on, an investigation will take place. Appropriate action, to include Article 9 disciplinary procedures if the evidence supports the claims, will take place. If any member feels that this is happening to them, they need to contact me. Please understand that I am going over this for a reason. I know that the largest majority of our members have the truest values of the VFW in their heart, and I will continue to believe this until hard evidence shows different. Arkansas is strong and will stay strong with the members we have. I have never been prouder to be the Commander of this state. We are the best in the nation and as long as we treat each other with the respect each of us has earned we will show the other Departments what it is like to be number 1 in the nation again. I will always work to help you anyway I can to make you successful. All you have to do is ask and either myself or another line officer will be there to help. I want to finish by letting you know that we, as line officers of this Department, work for you, the members, and we will not forget this.

~CDR Wood

### **Senior Vice Commander's Notes**

September is a month of diverse observances. Grandparents' Day, on the first Sunday after Labor Day, honors the love and wisdom of grandparents. Patriots Day on September 11th remembers those affected by the 2001 events. The US Air Force celebrates its birthday on September 18th, recognizing its history and service. Additionally, Suicide Prevention Month raises awareness about mental health resources and support. Each observance offers opportunities for reflection, connection, and community engagement.

~SVC Johnson

## **Junior Vice Commander's Notes**

Comrades, as a reminder make sure that you are keeping up Commander Wood's programs. Deadlines will sneak up on you very quickly if you are not prepared and working on the programs. As always, any of the Department leadership is here to help and assist so don't hesitate to reach out to us. Stay vigilant and let's continue doing the great things everyone is doing. Lastly, if you haven't already make sure you get all bonds submitted to Department Headquarters.

~JVC Ham

## **Judge Advocate's Notes**

Comrades,

As your Department Judge Advocate, I am entrusted with ensuring that all Posts and Districts within our Department operate in strict accordance with the VFW's Congressional Charter, National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws. This month, I want to bring your attention to a critical area of our operations that is often subject to new or updated regulations: financial management and accountability.

The integrity of our organization is paramount. Recent legal and regulatory changes, particularly those concerning financial transparency for non-profit organizations, underscore the importance of our established VFW procedures. A failure to adhere to these rules can expose our Posts and Districts—and, by extension, our entire Department—to legal and financial risk.

I urge all Post and District leaders to review and enforce the following essential practices:

### **1. Bonding of Accountable Officers:**

National Bylaws, specifically Section 703, mandate that every officer accountable for funds or property must be bonded. Commanders are responsible for ensuring all accountable officers—primarily the Quartermaster, but also any other member handling funds—are properly and adequately bonded. This is not merely a VFW rule; it is a critical legal measure to protect our Posts' and Districts' assets and is in line with broader legal requirements for non-profits. Commanders must maintain current records of these bonds as part of their official documentation.

### **2. Financial Transparency and Reporting:**

Every financial transaction, no matter how small, must be authorized, documented, and reported. This means:

- \* All expenditures of Post and District funds must be approved by the membership at a meeting and recorded in the minutes.

- \* All disbursements must be signed by the Quartermaster and co-signed by an authorized officer (typically the Commander or a Trustee).

- \* The Quartermaster is required to provide a monthly written profit and loss statement to the membership.

These practices are more than just VFW compliance; they are a legal safeguard against the misuse of funds and are increasingly mandated by government agencies that oversee non-profit organizations.

### **3. Compliance with All Laws and Regulations:**

The Post and District Commander has a duty to "insist that Post business and activities be conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance, or regulation." This responsibility extends to all leaders. Whether it's maintaining proper licenses, adhering to fire codes, or ensuring our activities do not violate any laws, we must be proactive and diligent. A failure to comply can bring dishonor upon our entire organization.

As VFW members, we represent a respected and honorable institution. By upholding our bylaws and following these procedures, we not only fulfill our duties but also safeguard our organization for future generations of veterans. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions regarding these or any other legal or procedural obligations.

In comradeship,

~JA Powell

## **Surgeon's Notes**

The weather is changing; one week it's cool and the next it's hot. Flu season will be right around the corner so please go and get your flu and pneumonia vaccination shots. With autumn around the corner the mornings are becoming very foggy so please be careful while driving.

~SGN Morris

### **PRESIDENT'S HOMECOMING**

SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2025  
LOCATION: VFW POST 2283 – RUSSELLVILLE

### **COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING**

OCTOBER 4-5, 2025  
LOCATION: VFW POST 1341 – BULL SHOALS

Please see the VFW Department of Arkansas Facebook page or VFWAR.ORG for more details as we get closer to these celebrations.

### **AR KOREAN FESTIVAL**

September 15, 2025 – 10:00AM  
Location: Macarthur's Park Little Rock

### **VA VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

September 20, 2025 – 11AM  
Location: Post 9095 – Little Rock

This is to get your certification to Volunteer at the VA and CBOC's.  
Please RSVP to [vfwheadquartersar@gmail.com](mailto:vfwheadquartersar@gmail.com) if attending

### **FISHING DERBY**

October 10, 2025 – 9am  
Location: Lake Good Hope – Towbin VA (Fort Roots)

This is to give the Patients and Residents of Fort Roots a day of Fishing. We are there to assist them in whatever needs they have to fish: baiting their hook, taking the fish off the line, etc.  
Volunteers needed!

### **MID-WINTER**

February 6-7, 2026  
Double Tree Hotel, Little Rock  
More details coming soon

### **STATE CONVENTION**

MAY 28 – 31, 2026  
Doubletree – Little Rock

## **Buddy Poppies**

The Buddy Poppies must be purchased through the Department Headquarters, and they must be paid for at the time of ordering. The cost for Legacy Poppies is \$145.00 per 500 and for Tin Poppies the cost is \$90 per 500. They usually ship the same week as ordered.

## **COMMANDER'S AT ALL LEVELS**

### **PROGRAMS**

Please pay Attention to the Department deadline dates.

Youth Coordinator – Glen Powell – 501-556-2673

**Teacher of the Year –**  
JVC Johnson  
956-241-2633

Deadline to Post 31 Oct 2025  
Deadline to Dept Chairman 15 Dec 2025

**Voice of Democracy –**  
Marc Calcaterra  
501-606-3133

Deadline to Post 31 Oct 2025  
Deadline to District Chairman 20 Nov 2025  
Deadline to Dept Chairman- 5 Dec 2025

All District Winners contact info to Dept HQ by 5 Dec 2025 (no exceptions)

**Patriots Pen -**  
SGN Patsy Morris  
931-980-7377

Deadline to Post 31 Oct 2025  
Deadline to District Chairman 20 Nov 2025  
Deadline to Dept Chairman – 5 Dec 2025

All District Winners contact info to Dept HQ by 5 Dec 2025 (no exceptions)

**Public Servant –**  
Adam Strange  
479-213-3211

1 Jan 2026 to Department Chairman

**VFW Member of the Year –**  
Diana Mohr  
501-281-3892

28 Feb 2026 due to District  
14 Mar 2026 to Department Chairman

**VFW Auxiliary Member of the Year** 28 Feb 2026 to Department Headquarters

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**Nick Bacon –**  
Todd Willey  
479-857-6069

1 March 2026 deadline to Department Chairman

**\*\*The Nick Bacon application is now posted on [vfwar.org](http://vfwar.org) under Programs. Please pay attention to the due date, it is due to the Department by 01 March 2026.\*\*\*\*\***

**Scout of Year**  
Terry Daniell  
870-230-2303

1 March 2026 to Post  
1 April 2026 to Department Chairman

**JROTC Cadet of the Year**  
Marc Calcaterra  
479-531-8146

28 March due to Dept Chairman

**VFW Employer of the Year**  
Phil Hutchins  
760-935-8880

28 March due to Department Chairman

### **Gold Star Family Weekend**

The United States began observing Gold Star Mother's Day on the last Sunday of September, in 1936. Today the nation recognizes the sacrifice that all Gold Star Family members make when a father, mother, brother, sister, son daughter, or other loved one dies in service to the nation. Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day is the last Sunday of September and Gold Star Spouses Day is April 5. This observation will be held September 28, 2025.

### **August Membership Challenge**

Commander Wood threw down the gauntlet and revealed a membership Challenge for the month of August. The goal as always is to keep our voice strong in Washington D.C. The Post with the highest membership percentage increase will be receiving \$250! Commander Wood is proud to reveal that the winner is from District 10, Warren Post 4564! Congratulations to Commander Stacy Myers and all members. Stay tuned for the next challenge!

# **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS GENERAL ORDERS**

**GENERAL ORDERS #3  
2025-2026 Series**

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

**General Orders will be read at all Post Meetings**

**ALL MEMBERS**

## **Motions**

Sec. 1001 No. 17 of our National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures. Once a motion is made and passed by the membership it is in effect until the motion is rescinded by membership. To rescind a motion a member who voted for the motion will have to bring it before the membership. After this a 2/3 vote of membership is required to rescind the motion.

## **National Dashboard change**

All Post and District leadership teams, to include Senior and Junior Vice Commanders, have access to reports on the Dashboard through OMS. Please submit all program participation at this location. Vfw.org, on your main page under My VFW. There is a training video for assistance.

## **Department Dashboard**

All community service must be entered through vfwar.org. Your post should also be entering the VFW Auxiliary as well. Be sure to pick the drop down and mark as Auxiliary. If you have not received training or need an account under members only, please contact the headquarters on Tuesday through Thursday.

## **Bonding**

Don't forget, Employee Bonds are due by 31 September. The rate for these is \$8 per thousand, minimum of \$3,000. The application can be found on vfwar.org under resources, reports and forms.

## **Discipline of Members**

We often forget that as members we have rights, but we also have standards to conduct ourselves by. The purpose of this corporation is fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational: Often members need to be reminded of this. For this reason, our Bylaws and Manual of Procedures outline Discipline of Members in Sec 901. Section 902 governs Offenses, an offense that is so commonly abused is Sec 902, 6. Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct unbecoming a member in their relations to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or other members. Please review these Sections and remind members at all levels.

## Removal of Officers

Removal and Vacancies of Elected Officers or Committee Members: Section 220 Of our National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures outline how to remove an officer for one of the two following reasons:

1. Absent themselves from two (2) consecutive meetings or who has
2. Failure to fulfill the duties of officer specified in Section 218 of the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

### Post Leadership

## ATTENTION POST COMMANDERS

Your attention is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990-T, where applicable. All Posts with gross income under \$50,000.00 must file Form 990N (e-postcard). **You must now file your 990 online at IRS.Gov.** FILING DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15th FOR ALL POSTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS. Ref.: Section 501(C) 19 of the IRS Code. Be reminded that the Department Headquarters does not do this task for post and/or districts, However, if you are not sure what to do, we will try and guide you.

**Post Commanders:** Section 218(a)(1)k states: Post Commander will assure that he or his representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings (if applicable). **Note:** For those Posts not able to attend the District, they are asked to forward a report of their Post activities to the District Commanders prior to the District meeting to keep the District Commander informed of your activities also assist him in preparation for upcoming Council of Administration meetings. When you or your Rep attend the District meeting, they should be going back to the post meeting and sharing this information with all members. Please, we need your help in keeping the communications flowing at all levels. (please see Judge Adv, Notes in the Chronicles for full duties)

Post Commanders are urged to start planning suitable programs for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedures). Show your Post Pride by taking part in a Parade. Distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a part of your Veterans Day activities.

### Department Business:

Suspension: None

**Please see [vfwar.org](http://vfwar.org) go to calendar for location and rep for all District meetings.**

**BY COMMAND OF**

**Rodney Wood  
State Commander**

**OFFICIAL**

**Jeffrey Byrd  
State Adjutant**