

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

JULY 2025

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

Congratulations to all the newly elected Department of Arkansas Veterans of Foreign Wars Officers.

2025-2026 Department Officers

Commander Rodney Wood, Post 7769, Beebe
Senior Vice Commander Linda Johnson, Post 4451, Mena
Junior Vice Commander Terry Ham, Post 2259, Conway
Quartermaster Jeffrey Byrd, Post 2330, Searcy
Judge Advocate Glen Powell, Post 7514, Quitman
Surgeon Patsy Morris, Post 8525, Plainview
Chaplain Doreen Brown, Post 5225, West Memphis
Past State Commander Elvin Tate, Post 5225, West Memphis

The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant Jeffrey Byrd, Post 2330, Searcy
Chief-of-Staff Teddy Pipkin, Post 2330, Searcy
State Inspector Johnny Gothard, Post 1322, Van Buren

Chairmen:

Commander's Project Terry Ham, Post 2259, Conway
Commander's Project Glen Powell, Post 7514, Quitman
Commander's Project Carlton Rodney, Post 7769, Beebe

Youth Programs Glen Powell, Post 7514, Quitman

All State 2024-2025

Team Co-Captain Commander Christopher Parent – Post 9095 – Little Rock
Team Co-Captain Commander Terence Daniell – Post 2278 – Hot Springs

District 1 – Commander Darrell Darner
District 5 - Commander Carlton Rodney
District 13 – Commander Marc Calcaterra

Post 1341 – Bull Shoals – Commander Brian Jones
Post 1674 – Siloam Springs – Commander Gregory Gass
Post 7769 – Beebe – Commander Carlton Rodney
Post 4451 – Mena – Commander Linda Johnson
Post 2952 – Springdale – Commander Jerry Hulsey
Post 12233 – Perryville – Commander Wally Treece
Post 2330 – Searcy – Commander James Ross
Post 4548 – Jacksonville – Commander Marc Calcaterra
Post 4501 – Batesville – Commander Curtis Matheny
Post 2256 – Benton – Commander Stephen Davis
Post 9777 – Salem – Commander Bill Lowman

Out of all these Post and District Commanders, two District Commander's and nine Post Commander's received cap's. If your Post and/or District would like to order All-State Caps for any Commander, please contact the Department Headquarters and we will assist you in your order. Please try and contact us prior to October 1, 2025.

**POST OF THE YEAR
2024-2025**

Alpha Autry Post – Post 2330
Commander James Ross

District Commander of the Year

Commander Carlton Rodney
District 5

Post Commander of the Year

Commander Marc Calcaterra
Michael W. Ray Post 4548
Jacksonville

Member of the Year

Dishoungh White
George L. Douglas Post, Post 1316
Little Rock

Employer of the Year

The City Barber Shop
Sponsored by Levi Douthit Post
Post 1674, Siloam Springs

Buddy Poppy Display Contest Winners

Overall winner – going to National to compete

Michael W. Ray Post – Post 4548, Jacksonville

Category 1 – Public Promotion

1st Place – Cathey-Dowdy Post – Post 2242, Paragould

Category 2 - Memorial or Inspirational

1st Place – Michael W. Ray Post – Post 4548, Jacksonville

Category 3 – Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

1st Place – Rose City Post – Post 10442, Rose City

Many more celebrated Post and Auxiliaries were recognized; there is not enough time in one day to congratulate all. Thank you for the hard work.

Commander's Notes

I would like to thank everyone for their support during this year's elections. It is a great honor to be elected as your Department Commander for the following year. I would like to let you know that I will work as hard as I can for you during the year. My motto this year is Stronger Together. I chose this motto because I truly believe that if everyone in the Post is working together towards one goal of serving our Veterans, this will make the Post so strong that it will become unbreakable. If all the Posts in the Department are doing this then Arkansas will be the strongest in the nation. The most valuable resource this Department has is you, the member. You are what will make Arkansas successful in the following year. One of the programs that maintains our organization's strong voice is our membership. This becomes vital when we go to Washington DC next year to advocate for our Veterans and benefits. When we are sitting with our Representative's the stronger our membership is the more they will listen. I know that Arkansas has the best people in the world, and we are going to blow this year out of the water. You are the best.

Stronger Together

~Commander Rodney Wood

Senior Vice Commander's Notes

Thank you for your continued support as your Senior Vice Commander for this year. Looking forward to continuing working together. My plan is to go around and visit all Posts if possible. Commanders, I will be giving you a call to let you know when I am coming. Have a fun and safe 4th of July.

~SVC Linda Johnson

Junior Vice Commander's Notes

Comrades,

I would like to thank everyone for electing and entrusting me as your 94th Jr. Vice Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Arkansas. It is truly an honor to be in this position, and I guarantee to uphold my duties and responsibilities to the highest standards. One of the duties appointed to me by Commander Wood is being the Revitalization Chairman. Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or the Department with any questions or concerns. Next, let us not forget about our children of the National Home and the National Home itself. I am proud to be the Representative for the National Home as another duty assigned to me by Commander Wood. As your representative I will carry forward all donations and bring back answers to all questions and concerns you bring to me in this coming year.

In closing, emphasizing Department Commander Rodney Wood's motto Stronger Together; He would like to strongly encourage each and every Post to share your event calendar with him to ensure Department representation to include himself. He would like to attend as many events as possible to show support.

Thanks

~JVC Terry Ham

Judge Advocate's Notes

Comrades,

I want to sincerely thank you for electing me as your 2025–2026 Judge Advocate. Your support means the world to me, and I am truly honored to serve in this role.

I'm looking forward to a great year ahead alongside Commander Wood, and I'm confident that, together, we will continue to do outstanding work for our organization.

As always, I am here for you—if there is anything you need, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Once again, thank you for your trust and confidence.

Yours in Comradeship,

~Judge Advocate Glen Powell

Surgeon's Notes

Comrades,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for electing me your 2025-2026 VFW State Surgeon. Your support is of the utmost importance to me. I pledge to dedicate 100% of my efforts to the Department of Arkansas VFW. If you require my assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone, text, or email. I eagerly anticipate a productive year working alongside Commander Wood and his exceptional team. As we embark on our endeavors, please remember to prioritize your health and well-being, particularly during periods of high temperatures. Adequate hydration is crucial, and I recommend drinking plenty of water and Gatorade to prevent dehydration. Coffee and tea are not sufficient substitutes. Additionally, when outdoors, especially in the evening, please utilize mosquito repellents to minimize the risk of disease transmission. Sun protection is also vital; apply sunscreen, wear a hat, and opt for loose-fitting clothing that covers your arms. If you are taking medication, be aware that certain prescriptions can exacerbate dehydration, so it is essential to drink extra fluids. Thank you again for your trust and confidence in my ability to serve as your State Surgeon.

~Surgeon Patsy Morris

BONDING Web only

Current Bonds for Post Quartermaster/Officers will expire **August 31, 2025**, and Canteen Manger/Employee Bonds will expire **September 30, 2025**. All Posts should remit the correct amount to Department Headquarters now. Amounts: Quartermaster/Officer \$4.50 per thousand minimum of \$3,000. Club manager and all others \$8.00 per thousand minimum of \$3,000. If you are bonding through an outside agency, please forward proof from the company to State Headquarters. These forms will be on the web site at VFWAR.org under Resources, Reports and Forms. District Commanders will be emailed a copy of the forms. The bond applications will **not** be mailed out this year. Please note – **the minimum bond amount for both the Quartermaster bond and the club manager bond increased to \$3,000 this year.**

Commanders are reminded that all persons handling post funds, including the Club Manager and Bingo Chairman, shall keep accurate and complete records. Post Trustees shall audit these records in the same manner as Post Quartermaster records.

Members Only

On our web site, vfw.org, you now have a directory of contact information for all Posts, Department Leadership, and Program Chairmen. You must have a Members Only account set up through the Headquarters to access this information. This information is for personal use only. No one is authorized to give to any third parties for any type of solicitation. If you need an account or need assistance finding these please contact the headquarters at 501-834-8392.

IMPORTANT DATES

AUDITS – Don't forget that all Audits are due to Department Headquarters by July 31, 2025. This is not an option.

August 8-15 – the Department will be closed for National Convention. It will re-open on August 18, 2025

September 12-13 – Auxiliary President Tommy Hughes' Homecoming – Russellville, AR – this is for the Auxiliary

October 3-4 – VFW Commander Wood's Homecoming – Bull Shoals, AR – more information will be in the August General Orders

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Department of Arkansas

General Orders

#1
2025-2026

July 2025

BOUNDARIES

Each Post and District is outlined by boundaries. Any Post, District, Riders Group or Foundation must receive permission to solicit or recruit outside your Post boundaries. If you have permission to come into a District or Post area, you can only represent what you are there for. Example: If Post 1234 Riders Group has permission to go to another Post area to recruit riders, they cannot go with the canopy of VFW Post 1234 and recruit and misrepresent, they can only work under Riders Group 1234.

To first obtain approval from the Post and/or District, send a letter to said Post and/or District requesting permission and get a response in writing. If any questions arise, send copies to the Department Headquarters.

MEMBERS

Attention of all members is directed to the purposes listed within the VFW's Congressional Charter. "To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom" is one of the VFW's chartered purposes; as such the VFW represents fighting for American rights, civil rights and humanitarian impulses that have always guided the VFW's principles.

Today the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States reaffirms its commitment to that chartered purpose by first recognizing that in order to end racism within our organization, it is not enough to be non-racist/non-discriminatory: we must be proactive. While we focus on education and mentorship we work to identify, address, and eradicate any and all forms of racial bias and discrimination. We will work to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization. The VFW's leadership is united in the pursuit of ending racial bias and discrimination while empowering our members and the greater veteran community towards this collective goal.

Attention of all members is directed to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "Discipline of Members." Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned. In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another's ability to participate in VFW events. All members will be treated with dignity and respect.

For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary

Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2024-2025 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"® Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

Posts

Attention is directed to Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides that each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee. Posts are encouraged to register their Post delegate online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that was mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing that went out in February. Advanced registration for the 126th National Convention should be mailed with each delegate's name and address to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

SECRETARY OF STATE

2024 Annual Report for Nonprofit Corporation deadline is August 1, 2025. All Quartermasters should have received a postcard in the mail over the past month regarding this. It is a large, white, postcard. On the address label at the top above the name is a filing ID. That is the account number you use when you go to the web site to file. www.ark.org/sos/corpfiling.

Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National By-Laws concerning any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council meetings (if applicable), District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

District meeting are located on VFWAR.org under Resources, District Meetings

Rodney Wood

State Commander

OFFICIAL:

Jeffrey Byrd
State Adjutant

See Attachments Regarding Bonding and the All State Checklist

FROM: Department Quartermaster

TO: Post Quartermasters

SUBJECT: BONDING of Quartermaster, Club/Bingo Employees

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING BONDS TO OUR OFFICE:

All applications are located on the VFWAR.org website. Choose Resources then Reports & Forms and then which bond you need, position or club

- All items on the application **MUST** be filled in.
- You **MUST** use the new form. It is different than last year.
- The Bond year ends August 31,2025. Get them submitted by then to be current for the 2025-2026 year.
- Bond for Quartermaster, Commander, or whichever position you want bonded is \$4.50 per \$1,000 with a minimum of **\$3,000 per position bonded.**
- If you are wanting to bond multiple positions, you will need to make a copy of the bond application for each position to be bonded.

The application that the post completes will have to be returned to Department Headquarters along with the check for the premium.

Club/Bingo Employees

- The application needs to be completed in full, to include the Post Income and answering all of the questions. You must use this year's form.
- The application that the Post completes will have to be returned to Department Headquarters, along with the check for the premium.
- Bond year ends September 30, 2025 and needs to be submitted by then to be current for the 2025-2026 year.
- Bond for Club/Bingo Employees is \$8.00 per Thousand with a minimum of **\$3,000 per employee.**
- The Club/Bingo bond application will need to be copied and completed for each person being bonded.

The application that the post completes will have to be returned to Department Headquarters along with the check for the premium.

Any questions, feel free to call Department Headquarters Tuesday - Thursday at 501-834-8392 and ask for Jennifer or email Jennifer at vfwheadquartersar@gmail.com



Questionnaire for VFW Accountable Officers Crime Coverage



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA

Dear Comrade Commander:

August 1, 2025

One of the most important communications you will receive during the year concerns appropriate bonding of your Post Positions. Section 703 of the National By-Laws requires that each Accountable Officer shall be bonded with an Indemnity Company as surety. The By-Laws place the responsibility for adequate bonding upon the Commander of the post. Section 218 of the National Manual requires **THE BOOKS AND RECORDS OF THE ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER BE AUDITED AT LEAST QUARTERLY BY THE TRUSTEES.**

The Department Headquarters carries a Crime Policy for the bonding of Department and Post Accountable Officers. Any unit may decide whether it prefers to take out a policy with another surety company or have its funds protected by the Department Headquarters Crime Policy. However, prompt attention is required because if your Accountable Officers had previously been covered through the Department Program, **a new premium payment is required by September 1, 2025 or it will be considered delinquent.**

COVERAGES OF THE POLICY REQUIRE:

1. You agree to make/or cause to be made, at least annually, an audit of your books and accounts, including complete verification of all securities and bank balances pertaining to each "employee and/ or volunteer".
If the above is not complied with, the Insurance Company may refuse to honor claim of missing funds which cannot be proven by records. Monthly audits and reconciliation of bank statements may avoid this denial of claim.
2. The Insurance Company may not pay for loss resulting from any unauthorized advances made by an "employee" to any member for delinquent dues and assessments.
3. "Employee" means any duly elected position, or any appointed officer as listed in the policy schedule.
4. **IF THE POLICY IS NOT RENEWED, TERMINATED, OR CANCELLED AT EXPIRATION DATE OF 9-1-2025, THE POST HAS ONLY 90 DAYS TO SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FOR PRIOR TERM. AFTER 90 DAYS PRIOR COVERAGE CEASES.**
5. **POST MUST SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FORM WITHIN 120 DAYS FROM THE FIRST DATE OF DISCOVERY OF THE LOSS.**

THIS POLICY IS ONLY FOR THE YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2026
The funds of your Post are protected only for that year. Premium for the following year will be due September 1, 2026

RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE **COMPLETED IN FULL** WITH YOUR PREMIUM CHECK PAYABLE TO YOUR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

STATE _____ POST# _____

I hereby apply for A1. Employee/ Volunteer Theft coverage for the year from September 1, 2025 through September 1, 2026 in the

AMOUNT of \$ _____ for the POSITION of _____

Post Annual Income: \$ _____

Has the post had any Crime Coverage losses (theft of money) over the past 3 years by an Accountable Officer? YES NO

If yes, please contact your Department for a Loss Questionnaire. No Coverage can be extended until approved by insurance carrier

Number of Persons Bonded: 1

Number of Locations: 1

NOTE : Questionnaire is not valid unless **ALL** questions are answered. Coverage may be postponed if not completed in **FULL**.
Deadline for coverage is September 1, 2025 -
After this date you will be delinquent and not in compliance with the VFW By- Laws.

Form 2 - Revised 2025

QM or Commander or Adjutant or Sr Vice Signature

Date

Phone Number

Street Address, City and Zip



Questionnaire for Club Employees & Bingo Persons

A.1 Employee/Volunteer Theft (Crime Coverage)
TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA
Coverage Term: October 1, 2025 to October 1, 2026



1. Name of Post _____ Post # _____

Post Address _____
Street City State Zip

2. Name of Person Covered: _____

3. Position to be Covered: _____

4. Coverage Amount Requested: \$ _____

5. Post Annual Income: \$ _____

6. Has the post had any crime losses (Theft of Money by Employee/ Volunteer) over the past 3 years? YES NO

If yes, please contact your Department for a Loss Questionnaire. No coverage can be extended until approved by insurance carrier.

7. Has the employee/volunteer ever been convicted of a dishonest or fraud employment related act? YES NO

If yes, explain: _____

8. *If this is a replacement for a current position, please advise who you are replacing :* _____

Number of Persons Covered: 1 Number of Locations: 1

Printed Name of Covered Person

Signature of Covered Person Date

Contact Phone # _____

NOTE : Questionnaire is not valid unless all questions are answered. Coverage may be postponed if not completed in **FULL**.
IF COVERAGE IS NOT RENEWED, TERMINATED, OR CANCELLED AT EXPIRATION DATE OF 10-1-2025, THE POST HAS ONLY 90 DAYS TO SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FOR PRIOR TERM, AFTER 90 DAYS, PRIOR COVERAGE CEASES.
Form 4B - Revised 2025

Post All State

If you answer no to any of the below questions, please attach a brief summary of why

Yes__ No__

1. Post must reach greater than 101% in membership by June 30th, 2026.

To receive hat and other acknowledgements at the State Convention, Membership must be met by **April 18, 2026.

To be recognized at the 95th State Convention, 101% must be met prior to the convening of the 95th State Convention.

Yes__ No__

2. Number of new/reinstated continuous members and/or new/reinstated life members must total (collectively) at least 4% from June 30, 2025 membership).

Yes__ No__

3. Post must not be in arrears to District, Department or National for financial obligations.

Yes__ No__

4. Post Quartermaster must be sufficiently bonded.

Yes__ No__

5. Post must have no officer vacancies.

Yes__ No__

6. Post quarterly audits must be current and received by Department Headquarters no later than **April 18, 2026.**

Yes__ No__

7. A Post must submit a community service report quarterly to Department for submission to the All-American Dashboard. The quarters are July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Jan-March, and April-June. One of these community service activities must be for a VFW Day of Service event held during the month of May and registered at todaysvfw.org/day-of-service/ no later than April 18, 2026. Learn more about Day of Service at todaysvfw.org/.

Yes__ No__

8. Post must make at least one Buddy Poppy purchase (sold in increments of 500) and conduct a minimum of two (2) Buddy Poppy Drives.

Yes__ No__

9. Conduct at least 2 recruiting drives posted to the National dashboard (Post on FaceBook)

Yes__ No__

10. Must have a recruiting drive with your Post Auxiliary, if you do not have an Auxiliary, you must have had a representative from the Auxiliary speak to your Post about the advantages of starting one.

Yes__ No__

11. 100% attendance at District meetings (minimum of 1 representative per post).

Yes__ No__

12. Post must donate to at least one (1) of the following listed Department funds (Minimum of \$75):

- Commanders Project (\$75)
- State Voice of Democracy Scholarship Fund
- State Unmet Needs Fund
- State Disaster Relief (Natural Disasters)

Yes__ No__

13. Post must make a minimum of a \$50 donation to National Veterans & Military Support Services. (Note: minimum of 125 requirement for All American eligibility)

Yes__ No__

14. Submit Voice of Democracy entry to District for judging

Yes__ No__

15. Submit Patriots Pen entry to District for judging

Yes__ No__

16. Submit 1 Public Servant entry (from the 4 Categories: Police, Fire, EMT, 911 Dispatcher) to Department Chairman for judging

Yes__ No__

17. Submit VFW Member of the Year to District for judging.

Special consideration will be used for the following programs

Yes__ No__

Submit 1 Teacher of the Year (any level) to Department Chairman for judging

Yes__ No__

Special consideration for VFW JROTC Cadet entry

Yes__ No__

Special consideration for VFW Employer of the Year entry

Yes__ No__

Special consideration for VFW Scout of the year entry

Yes__ No__

Special consideration for Adopt-a-Unit

Yes__ No__

Special consideration for Auxiliary Member of the Year

Yes__ No__

Special consideration for Auxiliary of the Year

ALL PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO COMMANDER'S DISCRETION

District All State

If you answer no to any of the below questions, please attach a brief summary of why

- Yes__ No__ 1. District must create/maintain a FaceBook Page
- Yes__ No__ 2. School of Instruction must be conducted at every meeting (by Department Representative).
- Yes__ No__ 3. District must reach greater than 101+% in membership by June 30, 2026. To receive hat and other acknowledgements at State Convention, Membership must be met by April 18, 2026. To be recognized at the State Convention, 101+% must be reached prior to the convening of the 95th Annual State Convention.
- Yes__ No__ 4. Number of new/reinstated continuous members and new life members must total (collectively) at least 3% from June 30, 2025 membership).
- Yes__ No__ 5. District must not be in arrears to the Department or National for financial obligations.
- Yes__ No__ 6. District Quartermaster must be sufficiently bonded.
- Yes__ No__ 7. District quarterly audits must be current and received by Department Headquarters no later than April 18, 2026.
- Yes__ No__ 8. Districts must submit one entry (1) for Patriots Pen to the Department for judging.
- Yes__ No__ 9. Districts must submit one (1) entry for Voice of Democracy to the Department for judging.
- Yes__ No__ 10. Districts must hold two (2) Recruiting Drives and have Submitted to the National Dashboard
- Yes__ No__ 11. Districts must have all Post inspections completed and submitted to the Department Inspector NLT Mid-Winter Conference.
- Yes__ No__ 12. Districts Must submit one (1) entry for VFW Member of the Year to Department for judging
- Yes__ No__ 13. Districts must ensure one (1) entry for VFW Public Servant Award to Department for judging

Special Consideration will used for participation in the following programs:

- Yes__ No__ 14. Districts must ensure one (1) entry for JROTC to Department for judging
- Yes__ No__ 15. Districts must ensure one (1) entry for Teacher of the Year to Department for judging
- Yes__ No__ 16. Districts must ensure one (1) entry for VFW Employer of the Year to Department for judging
- Yes__ No__ 17. Districts must ensure one (1) entry for VFW Scout of the Year to Department for judging

ALL PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO COMMANDER'S DISCRETION