

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

GENERAL ORDERS #10
2022-2023

April 2023

Department Membership Standing: 100.72%

3rd Quarter Awards

Post of Quarter

Post 7514 – Quitman – Commander Powell – District 5

District of the Quarter

District 1 – Commander Jerry Tobey

District Totals

District 1 – 102.61%

District 5 – 100.86%

District 9 – 102.55%

District 2 – 99.64%

District 6 – 100.63%

District 10 – 102.58%

District 4 – 92.32%

District 7 – 104.61%

District 13 – 107.52%

Top 10 Post

Post 7514 – Quitman – Commander Powell – 138.46%

Post 1322 – Van Buren – Commander Hicks – 125.25%

Post 4449 – Marianna – Commander Clark – 120.00%

Post 4515 – Monticello – Commander Veasey – 116.04%

Post 8124 – Taylor – Commander Wyrick – 113.88%

A total of 47 Post's have achieved 100% or better, plenty of time for the other, keep up the good work.

Commander's Notes

If I were to ask you which number is greater:

A - The number of Posts that have achieved 100% in membership.

OR

B - The number of Posts that have reported at least 1 Community service event.

Unfortunately, the answer is "A". But no worries team Arkansas, we are here to assist! Are you aware that any member could still report what your Post did 3, 6, or even 9 months ago? So there is still time! Not sure where to start? This years' Community Service Chairman, Christine Oldham, is here to help! A quick 5-10 minute phone call to our Department Headquarters and your community service worries will be solved.

THANK YOU to each and every member for everything you do! As always, I will continue to make myself available at any time to anyone who needs assistance. ARKANSAS STRONG!!

~CDR Jeffrey Byrd

Senior Vice Commander Notes

Great work Arkansas on membership. Now it is time to adjust our focus on retention. The members that helped you obtain 100% need attention so you can retain them as a member for the future. Make sure you send them newsletters, phone calls, social media (such as Facebook). Offer them rides to meetings and train them to be an asset as a member as well as be there for them, their family, and their community. Get them involved at any level that they value and retention will help itself.

~SVC Teddy Pipkin

Junior Vice Commander Notes

Team, the season of Spring is upon us and it's Convention time. Nominations and Elections will take place. Make sure that you're going according to the Bylaws and Rituals to have everything in order. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of us here at Headquarters and we'll get answers for you. Go Team Arkansas...

~JVC Elvin Tate

Judge Advocate

It's election time of the year so let's remember that Sec. 217 of the Manual of Procedure states that Post Officers shall be elected in April. Under Challenging Election Results, it also states that if irregularities are claimed with respect to the election to any office, such challenge must be made prior to the close of the meeting.

~JA Rodney Wood

Service Officer

This month's Service Officer training will be held at Post 5225, West Memphis, on April 28-29, 2023. All are welcome. The training will be Friday at 3pm. Saturday, at 8:30am will be the implementation of training and helping Veterans and Veterans families. A Department of Arkansas Veterans Affairs Officer will conduct training and implementation. If you have questions, please contact Dustin Matthews at dustin.matthews@va.gov.

*****INCREASE*****BUDDY POPPY*****INCREASE*****

Buddy Poppy has been a topic of discussion for the past year with production centers closing and pricing increases nation-wide. Effective April 15th, the Buddy Poppy will be increasing in price to \$125 plus \$20 for shipping making the price for 500 Poppies now \$145. Please note that all Buddy Poppies will still be ordered through the Department.

Buddy Poppies Distribution: The distribution of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Section 711 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council, and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of "Buddy"® Poppies in their respective areas. ***NOTE:*** As the upcoming Memorial Day approaches, it is appropriate that we direct as many VFW resources as possible to supporting our troops and their families. In the ongoing effort to provide as much assistance as possible to those serving in the military, we recommend that proceeds or portions from this year's annual poppy distribution be designated for the purpose of providing VFW support to our military. Posts and Departments now have the opportunity to assist qualified military personnel through the VFW Veterans & Military Support programs. In keeping with the intent of Sections 219(a)(c) and 704(a)(c) of the Manual of Procedure "Relief Fund", this year's poppy campaign can play a direct role in demonstrating to those who are charged with protecting and defending our way of life that we appreciate and value their sacrifice.

2022-2023 ARKANSAS STATE CONVENTION

June 1-4, 2023

Doubletree

Little Rock, AR

501-372-4371

Our representative is Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland.

All registration information can be found on line at vfwar.org under news and events. Room rate \$119.00 plus \$6.00 nightly parking plus tax.

The agenda can be found attached. For updates, please go online to vfwar.org.

Awards and Farewell – Friday Night – The theme for this year is “Not your everyday sporting event”. There will be ball park type appetizers followed by your choice of BBQ or Burger with sides, complimentary beer and wine (while supplies last). Also included in this is a ticket for Saturday – incoming Commander social outside. The price in advance for tickets if purchased by May 25, 2023 is banquet \$32 plus \$5 for registration. Banquet tickets after May 25th will be \$37 plus \$5 registration.

****The Commander’s Social on Saturday afternoon: food, games, and socializing. We will be playing some corn hole among other games – we are asking if you have a corn hole set that you could bring to support, please bring them. Call the headquarters to let us know so we can arrange space for all.**

Buddy Poppy Display contest.

All 3 Categories will be judged:

Category 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Displays

Category 3: Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

Saturday Elections – the following guide lines will be followed in order to vote in all elections held this day.

1. To get your Commander and delegate vote for any Post, you must have a minimum of 2 registered delegates in attendance during the elections.
2. All Post audits must be current thru March 2023.
3. 2023-2024 Election report must be submitted on OMS.
4. Post Delegate form must be submitted to Department.

It would be a good idea for your Post leadership to hand carry copies of all above items in case a question is raised. Please see Article 4 of Department Bylaws regarding Delegates.

We still have two (2) hospitality rooms available. If your Post or District is interested, please contact headquarters ASAP. First come, first serve.

Department Shirts

In February 2023, the Department Council of Administration voted to go to a Department shirt that will last for many years. We chose red. So at the headquarters, you will find that our forever shirts will be for sale: short sleeve and long sleeve. If inventory runs out, we will re-order.

The following members have announced their candidacy for one of the following offices. More individuals could announce before elections.

*****All Candidates are listed by office in alphabetic order*****

Department Office Candidates 2023-2024

Commander - Teddy Pipkin

Senior Vice Commander – Elvin Tate

Junior Vice Commander – Rodney Wood

Quartermaster – Christine Oldham

Judge Advocate – Linda Johnson

Surgeon – Terry Ham

Jim Kidd

Jerry Tobey

Chaplain – Doreen Brown

Article 4- Posts Delegates to Department Convention

Post status in this Department shall be in accordance with and governed by the Congressional Charter and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, as contained in Sections 201 to 222 Paragraph (b) inclusive Paragraph (c) delegates and alternates to the Department Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department Convention, one delegate and one alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the post at the time of the election. A delegate registration fee of \$5.00 for each post delegate shall be forwarded to the Department Quartermaster not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention and the delegate strength of each post shall be based on the post membership as reported to Department Headquarters on March 31st of each year, and Paragraph (d), (e), and (f) inclusive together with Section 223 inclusive.

Installing Officers: Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Post-Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership

Installing officers are directed to see to it that the Post-Election Report form has been completed and submitted to National Headquarters. If a Post-Election Report form has not been forwarded to National Headquarters at the time of installation, the installing officer shall complete and forward such report at the time of the installation of Post Officers no later than June 1. Additionally, Section 413 of the National By-Laws requires that a properly completed District Election Report be submitted to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

Post-Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post-Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

Proof of Eligibility on all elected and appointed officers: Post, District, Department Commanders, Adjutants, and Quartermasters are reminded of the requirements of sections 216, 416, and 516 of the Manual of Procedure with regard to proof of eligibility for all newly-elected and appointed officers. Elected and appointed officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Failure or refusal to submit proof of eligibility within sixty (60) days of election or appointment shall result in the office being declared vacant.

System (OMS). Post-Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

Districts

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department convention. District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.

All District Commanders are asked to make sure that the District election report is completed with all the elected and appointed Officers completed and forward to the State Adjutant immediately after the District Convention. This will facilitate the preparation of the Department Directory.

District Meeting Dates for 2023-2024: All newly elected District Commanders are reminded to please, within thirty (30) days, to submit to the Department Adjutant a list of meetings for the 2023-2024 year. Please review the dates, to not interfere with Department functions. (National Convention July 22-27, 2023. Commander's Homecoming, August 26, Mid-Winter Feb 2-3, 2024. This will help us for planning purposes.)

Per Section 403 of the National By-laws, each District should hold two (2) regular meeting for the purpose of transacting business and conducting a school of instruction and each District shall hold an annual District Convention for electing District officers. You can still hold one every quarter, if your district desires that.

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 118th National Convention should be mailed with each delegate's name and address to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Loyalty Day and Memorial Day Observance: Section 223 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper Observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths, and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.

Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure provides that Posts shall elect delegates and alternates to District conventions at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District convention at which District officers are to be elected: one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election. Delegates and alternates to the Department conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department convention. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election.

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.

For those Post who do not have access to a computer, please forward your election report form to this office (State Adjutant Office) who will file the report for you. Please ensure that all elected and appointed Officers are listed on your election report, this will facilitate complete information of the Department directory and USPS listing for mailing of General Orders.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Suspension:

none

Jeffrey Byrd

State Commander

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham

State Adjutant

Attachments:

State Convention Registration

State Convention Agenda

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Arkansas
And Its Auxiliary
92nd State Convention
June 1-4, 2023

Friday's Awards/Farewell is \$32.00 in advance and \$37.00 at the door
(Price includes a ticket to the 23-24 Commander's Hot Dog Social on Saturday)

Deadline for Pre-Registration is May 25th, 2023 (No Exceptions)

Time: Banquet is at 5:00pm Friday

Banquet Theme is: Not Your Every Day Sporting Event

Meal : BBQ Sandwich or Hamburger with the Fixings and Dessert

Ballpark Appetizers

Keg of Beer and Wine (while supplies last)

Tea, Water and Coffee

Cash Bar

Location:

Double Tree Hotel Little Rock

424 W Markham St.

Little Rock, AR 72201

Phone: 501-372-4371

Room Rate: Single \$119/night + tax

Parking \$6 per night

**All VFW, VFW Auxiliary, and Guests MUST Register at \$5.00 per person.
Registration and Delegate Dues are NOT the same thing.**

Reservation Form
State Convention
June 1-4, 2023

Make your check payable to: VFW Department of Arkansas
We accept Mastercard, Visa, And Discover

Name _____ Post _____

No. of Tickets for the for the Banquet @ \$32.00 per person _____ \$ _____

No. of Registrations @ \$5.00 per person _____ \$ _____

Meal Preference: Please notate the number of each: BBQ _____ Hamburger _____

Credit Card Number _____ Date of Exp _____ Security Code _____

Please mail to: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dept of AR, 4210 E. Kiehl Avenue, Sherwood, Arkansas 72120.

Call Department Headquarters at: 501-834-8392 to pre-register

Pre-Register online @ vfwar.org under News/State Convention

Use of this form to purchase your tickets in advance will help you avoid long lines and save you money. The tickets will not be mailed; they will be held in your name and must be picked up at the registration desk.

***If you purchase your ticket using a credit card, the charge will show as a PayPal charge on your statement**

Department of Arkansas Veterans of Foreign Wars
& Its Auxiliary

92nd Annual State Convention

2022-2023

BLACK – BOTH

BLUE – VFW

RED - AUXILIARY

Thursday June 1st

11:00am – 4:30pm - VFW and VFW Aux. Registration - Riverside West

Registration and Delegates are NOT the same – EVERYONE must register with the VFW

12:00 – Buddy Poppy Displays Set up – Palisades

1:00 – 4:30 – Country Store – Palisades

2:00 – Joint Memorial Service/Joint Opening – SALON ABC

3:30 – VFW Council of Admin – Riverside East

3:30 – VFW Aux Council of Admin – Salon D

evening – VFW Aux Floor Practice – Salon D

Friday June 2nd

8:30 – Buddy Poppy Displays Set up- Palisades

8:30am – 11:30am & 12:30pm – 3:30pm – VFW and VFW Aux Registration – Riverside West

8:30am – 11:30am & 12:30pm – 3:30pm – VFW Delegates/Credentials – Riverside West

8:00 – 3:30 – Country Store – Palisades

9:00 – 12:00 – VFW Business Meeting Chairman Brief – Salon ABC

9:00 – 12:00 – VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting – Salon D

1:00 – 3:00 – VFW - Program/Dashboard/Quartermaster Training – Riverside East

1:00 – 3:00 – Service Officer Training – Boardroom

1:00 – 3:00 VFW Auxiliary Award & Business Session Resumes followed by 2023-2024 Program training -
Salon D

5:00 – 9:00 Combined Awards/Banquet Farewell to Commander and President Banquet - Salon ABC

Saturday June 3rd

8:00am – 10:00am – VFW & VFW Aux Registration (Auxiliary Registration ends at 9:00am) – Riverside West

8:00am – 10:00am – VFW Delegates/Credentials – Riverside West

8:00 – 1:00 – Country Store - Palisades

9:00 – VFW Business Session - Salon ABC

9:00 – Auxiliary Meeting – Salon D

2:00 – Buddy Poppy Judging – Winners announced at the beginning of Installation

2:00 – 3:00 – Motorcycle Group Meeting – Riverside West

3:30 – Joint Installation– Salon ABC

4:30 - 2023-2024 Commanders Outdoor Hot Dog Social and cornhole- *ticketed event - ground floor out
back

6:30 – Trivia – Salon ABC – with prizes

Sunday Morning June 4th

9:30 – VFW 2023-2024 Council of Administration Meeting – Riverside West

9:30 – VFW Auxiliary 2023-2024 Council of Administration – Salon D

*A ticket for the Commander's Social on Saturday will be included with the Banquet ticket. Tickets for Saturday's event will be available for purchase at the event.

All updates will be underlined

****This is a tentative schedule and subject to change****

Tentative schedule as of 28 March 2023