

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

GENERAL ORDERS #7
February 2023
2022-2023

Per National General Orders No. 1 2022-2023

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.

Congratulations to ALL these winners

Voice of Democracy

- 1st Place – District 7 – Post 8532 – Coal Hill Post – Erica Armstrong
2nd Place – District 4 – Post 1991 – Jonesboro Post – Ava Wilson
3rd Place – District 5 – Post 7514 – Quitman Post – Macy Breit
4th Place - District 1 – Post 3031 – Rogers Post – Stephen Seim
- 5th Place
District 2 – Post 3246 – Mt Home Post – Zane Darracq
District 6 – Post 4453 – Morrilton Post – Savannah Koonce
District 9 – Post 2278 – Hot Springs Post – Syllas Sisson
District 10 – Post 4562 – Texarkana Post – Kalyx Cantu
District 13 – Post 4548 – Jacksonville Post – Veronica McWilliams

Patriots Pen

- 1st Place – District 4 – Post 5225 – West Memphis Post – Amaryn Burdette
2nd Place – District 7 – Post 6527 – Greenwood Post – Klaire Holland
3rd Place – District 2 – Post 9777 - Salem Post – Ryleigh Golden
- 4th Place
District 1 – Post 9834 - Decatur – Catelyn Stearman
District 5 – Post 7514 – Quitman – Caleb Ellington
District 6 – Post 4764 – Choctaw – Haddi Hulse
District 9 - Post 10483- Hot Springs Village – Adeline Robertson
District 10 – Post 8124 – Taylor Post – Reed Smith
District 13 – Post 1316 – Little Rock Post – Kenadee Taylor

Teacher of the Year

- K-5 – District 2 - Post 3252 – Marshall – Loni Kelley
6 – 8 – District 13 – Post 4548 – Jacksonville – Shellah Marsh
9-12 – District 13 – Post 1316 – Little Rock – Dishoungh White

Current Membership: Department – 93.85%

Post of the Quarter

Post of the Quarter ending December 2022 is Alpha-Autry Post, Post 2330 – Searcy Arkansas

District of the Quarter is District 7 – Commander Adam Strange

Top 10 Post in Department

Post 7514 – Quitman – Commander Glen Powell – 133%
Post 4449 – Marianna – Commander Terry Clark – 120%
Post 1322 – Van Buren – Commander Matthew Hicks – 118.18%
Post 12127 – Leslie – Commander Warren Hill – 113.33%
Post 2746 – Star City – Commander Brian Abney – 110.71%
Post 8855 – Mountainburg – Commander Andrew Plumbtree – 109.67%
Post 4501 – Batesville – Commander Curtis Matheny – 109.43%
Post 8525 – Plainview – Commander Patsy Morris -108.95%
Post 8383 – New Blaine – Commander Robert Hurst – 108%
Post 4515 – Monticello – Commander Melvin Veasey – 107.40%

Post at 100%+

Post 2935, Post 4453, Post 3252, Post 4513, Post 8245, Post 1345, Post 2256, Post 8109, Post 3141, Post 7518, Post 4764, Post 4683, Post 9834, Post 2330, Post 4554, Post 4548, Post 2283, Post 10021, Post 8042, Post 10417, Post 2278, Post 4521, and Post 10483

Department of Arkansas is currently at 9,242 members to achieve 100% we need to be at 9847, meaning we need 605 new, continuous and/or reinstated. We can do this together Arkansas currently 33 Post have achieved 100% or better. We need to achieve more than ever before which Post will be next to join the above list. Commander Byrd and his staff are here to help. Let us work together and achieve 100% of our Post achieving 100% or better. We are counting on you.

Scout of the Year and Nick Bacon

The following are the deadlines for these programs, they **do not** go to your District. **Send them to Department or the Chairman.**

1 March 2023 – deadline for Scout of the Year to be to Headquarters.

4 March 2023 – deadline for Nick Bacon Scholarship to be at Headquarters.

*****NEW*****This year the Nick Bacon was increased to \$3,500, and a second place, if, we have 10 or more entries. There will be a second place awarded of \$1,500.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS NOTES

I want to take a moment and say thank you to every VFW and Auxiliary member who had a hand in making our Mid Winter Conference special for the students and their families. As always it's a special event that I always look forward to attending. Congratulations to the state winners and best of luck as they compete at the next level. Auxiliary President Pipkin and I are excited to have the honor of escorting our Department winners on the national stage next month in Washington D.C.

Now it's the time where our focus turns to membership. Retaining and growing our membership gives our elected officials in Washington D.C. no choice but to listen to our voice.

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 Byrd

February is American Heart Month. This month is a time to bring greater attention to heart disease as a leading cause of death for Americans. The American Heart Association has two tools that you can use for improving and maintaining heart health. One is called Life's Essential 8 program and the other one is My Life Check. Both of these can be find on AHA website www.heart.org. Go check it out.

Hope to see you at Mid-Winter and stay Heart Healthy.

Thanks

~ SGN Johnson

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT OPTIONS

Members have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs. Once enrolled in either program, automatic payments are processed using the credit card information provided on the application. These are simply added options on the membership application. The traditional methods of signing up for both annual and Life membership are still options as well.

VFW Autopay—renews your annual membership automatically! Life Installment Plan—automatic monthly payments option—with this option, there is no need to complete a payment authorization form.

Department and Post Quartermasters have the option to enroll new members as installment Life on the Online Membership System.

Recruiting Notes: Encourage annual members to take advantage of the Life member installment plan. Encourage Life installment plan and annual members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.

Legacy Life Membership: This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

Levels	Post	Departments	National
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$ 6.00

VFW FOUNDATION:

VFW's Partners in Patriotism

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 7108 or email us at partners@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

“Buddy” Poppy
“BUDDY” ® POPPY:

Order Buddy Poppies NOW for Memorial Day events. Email the Headquarters or fill out the form you can obtain on line at vfw.org under programs and mail it to Headquarters.

Remember that your Poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the Poppies are required, do not use “ASAP.”

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary “Buddy” ® Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. The bigger issue is that we simply don’t have the inventory on hand to fulfill the potential orders that could come in if we open these items up to be ordered by anyone at any time.

The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that nonprofit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of “Buddy” ® Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>

Post registering for National Convention

Attention of Post Commanders 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(s) online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that will be mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing going out later this month. Registration forms for the 119th National Convention may be mailed to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Post Elections: Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers.

District

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.

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.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National By-Laws – Regular Meeting, Districts shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings each year for purposes of transacting business and conducting schools of instruction.

Pursuant to Section 417 of the National Manual of Procedure, 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.

Post

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 of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, one of which ends March 31.

All Post must have at least two members present at the election of the Department Convention in order to maintain all votes. (meaning, delegate votes plus Commander vote, one person cannot vote delegate strength and Commander vote.)

Department By-Laws and Resolutions: By-Laws and Resolutions for the Department By-Laws **MUST** be submitted to the State Adjutant NLT 15 April 2023 and shall be typewritten in order for the By-Laws Committee to review and publish them in the May and June GO's for all to review prior to the State Convention. You can hard copy or email them to the Department Adjutant adjqm@vfw.org.

BY COMMAND OF

**Jeffrey Byrd
State Commander**

OFFICIAL

**Christine Oldham
State Adjutant**