

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

**These orders are to be read at each Post meeting.**

GENERAL ORDERS  
2022-2023 Series

March 2023

**Membership – 96.20%**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

As a Department we need 374 members to be 100%. District Commanders, please start contacting your Post Commanders and push for the results. It is going to take each and every one of us to do our part to make this happen.

Arkansas has 40 Post and two Districts that have reached 100% or higher, we are right on pace, let's go Arkansas.

### **Districts Membership Percentages**

District 1 - Commander Tobey – 93.86%  
District 2 – Commander White – 97.28%  
District 4 – Commander Shumard – 90.42%  
District 5 – Commander Kidd – 95.58%  
District 6 – Commander Ham – 97.25%  
District 7 – Commander Strange – 102.54%  
District 9 – Commander Beams – 100.51%  
District 10 – Commander Walker – 96.63%  
District 13 – Commander Thelen – 99.18%

### **Commander's Notes**

We have done an amazing job of getting new members into our organization this year. In order to sustain our growth, we need to hold on to each and every member we recruit. The following are some suggestions to help with our retention.

Ask the new member to write down a list of their family members to join our Auxiliary. If they have a social media account, get them on your Post and the Department's page. Snap a picture posing with member welcoming them and share to Post/Department pages. Get signed up for the VFW action corps ([https://votervoicenet/mobile/VFW/Register?user=sVOig-UFnpYDzd8eX\\_nVwA](https://votervoicenet/mobile/VFW/Register?user=sVOig-UFnpYDzd8eX_nVwA)). Give contact info of Post leadership. Assign a Post member as a "sponsor" who can serve as a mentor. Reach out weekly to check up. Consider a welcome letter. Get them membership applications. Present the new member with a VFW lapel pin. (<https://www.vfwstore.org/products/21624>). Get them involved in Post social functions. Treat every member as a precious resource. That is our future! Recruiting does not stop once the member joins the VFW. That is when the real recruiting begins.

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's Notes

Greetings Comrades,

Commander Byrd has made it one of his Missions to get the Department back on track with some of the basics of our obligations as officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America. When we see that you're not holding a meeting or not attending all properly called meetings, that gives us at Department reason for concern. It's vital to hold meetings and attend all properly called meetings so that information can be pushed down from National and Department to all levels of the VFW. The same goes for Post Trustees Quarterly Report of Audit that shows the Department that each Post is financially stable.

Comrades, remember Electronic Attendance is allowed. This could be a good tool to get more attendance at District meetings.

~SVC Pipkin

### MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

#### Sec. 218 - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.

Officers

Commander

j. Assure that the Post Trustees have examined the books and records of the Post and prepared the Post Trustees Quarterly Report of Audit no later than the end of the month following the last day of each quarterly period.

k. Assure that the Commander or their representative attend all properly called **District Conventions or meetings and County Council meetings (if applicable)**.

### BYLAWS

#### ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

#### Sec. 403 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.

Electronic Attendance. Members may be allowed to participate in meetings using technology that allows participating members to communicate with each other simultaneously.

#### Service Officer Training

March 24 – 25, 2023 Service Officer Training will be at Mt Home VFW, Friday training and Saturday implementing training and assisting veterans and families, we are working on scheduling training for West Memphis in April. Hope to see you there.

#### Parade of Winners Legislative Conference

Legislative Conference is active again in Washington D.C. March 5-9, 2023. Please be sure to download the app and watch live as our students participate and support them in their achievements.

Revised 1 March 2023

## **SCOUT OF THE YEAR**

**Deadline 1 April 2023**

All entries for Scout of the Year should have been submitted to Department Chairman Terry Daniell, 202 Ridge One Circle, Hot Springs, AR 71901-9118 [icoachcats@aol.com](mailto:icoachcats@aol.com) 870-230-2303. If you have questions or concerns please contact chairman.

## **NICK BACONSCHOLARSHIP**

**Deadline 4 March, 2023**

All entries for Nick Bacon should be submitted to Department Chairman Todd Willey, 5727 Brookshire Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72401, 479-857-6069, [todd.l.willey@gmail.com](mailto:todd.l.willey@gmail.com).

## **STATE CONVENTION**

**Save the dates – June 1-4, 2023**

State Convention will be at the Doubletree Hotel located in Little Rock, AR, June 1-4, 2023. The room rate is \$119.00 plus tax, and parking, The Hotel phone number is 800-222-8733. There will only be one banquet, which will be Friday night. It will be awards and farewell, Favorite sport's related theme. We are working on event cost now and will publish next month. Buddy Poppies: All three (3) categories.

### **Hospitality**

Department has only 4 hospitality rooms, everyone interested please contact Christine ASAP, and we will do a zoom call to discuss what is best for each post and district involved, together we will make an outstanding event.

### **ALL-STATE**

Deadline for entry to receive a hat is 18 April 2023, to assure hat orders, to include the NEW Department Medallion. Post and District Commanders, by 15 March 2023 there will be an All State check list on our web site [vfwar.org](http://vfwar.org) under resources. If you would please get this form answer all questions and email it to the headquarters at [adjqm@vfwar.org](mailto:adjqm@vfwar.org) in order to be in the running for the award.

The Medallion is only for first award at Post or District level, any of the same awards is a pin that you would put on the ribbon of the award.

### **ALL-AMERICAN**

All Post that meet the Qualifying Percentage and the program participation criteria will receive an All-American Post Citation, Post Streamer and be recognized in the VFW magazine. There is added awards for the top 50 and top 5 of each division please go and read your program guide at [vfwar.org](http://vfwar.org).

### **124<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION**

The 124<sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention will be held July 22-27, 2023 at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona. The housing is officially opened. For reservations call 877-464-6840 or go online to <https://book.passkey.com/event/50393460/owner/14227/home>. The forms can be found on [vfwar.org](http://vfwar.org).

## **Delegates**

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 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.

On all levels are reminded that according to Section 105 of the National By-Laws, a member whose dues are unpaid after their anniversary date ceases to be a member in good standing and loses all rights of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They shall not attend meetings or conventions and shall not participate in Post, County Council, District, Department or National functions.

### **Resolutions and Department By-Laws Recommended Changes**

It is that time of year where we must start looking at the Department By-Laws for changes. Anyone having any recommended changes are to forward them NLT 15 April 2021 for the By-Laws Committee to review them at the April Committee meeting and inclusion in the General Orders for everyone to see.

## **DISTRICT COMMANDERS**

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.

### **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.

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

Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-laws and the Manual of Procedures covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post-Election Reports forms are not being mailed. The Post must go online through Online Membership System no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Department Staff WILL help anyone with this task. Just give us a call and it takes about 3 minutes, have the newly elected officers' membership #'s and we will assist.

**PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICERS:** All Posts and Districts should be reminded of the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedure which states that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility has been submitted to their respective Adjutant for review.

**ROTC and JROTC Awards:** Each year scores of high school and universities write to National Headquarters requesting the VFW ROTC Awards. Posts willing to sponsor these awards should contact the Professor of Military Sciences at the school(s) in your area and inform them of your sponsorship. Medals and ribbon bars and citations are available through the VFW Emblem and Supply Department or VFW Department Headquarters, certificate and medal are each at a cost of \$20.

### **BUDDY POPPIES**

**“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, and given the daily hazards confronting our military on a daily basis during operations in Afghanistan, 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 and 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.

Post Business:

None

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham  
State Adjutant

Jeffrey Byrd  
State Commander