

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

GENERAL ORDERS #11

May 2023

2022-2023

**Due to Convention timing there will be no General orders in June  
However by June 15, Commander will Post important information in its place**

**Department Membership Standing: 102.17%**

As of today 50 Post and 8 Districts have achieved 100% or above. Congratulations

The Department is sitting in outstanding membership position, but let us not forget that the All State Program and All American Program run thru June 30, 2023. Your Post and/or District has plenty of time to achieve these goals. All State hats for receipt at state convention have been selected, however you can still achieve this, fill out the form and get it to the headquarters for Commanders consideration. If achieved you will be on list and get the medal, however you will have to purchase your own hat if desired. Good Luck to all.

## **Commander's Notes**

It's been the honor of a lifetime to have served the Department of Arkansas as your State Commander. We have an amazing team that is second to none. It's truly an exciting time to be a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Arkansas. With the caliber of leadership coming up through the leadership ranks there is no doubt that we're in store for yet another banner year. All I ask is that you support them as well as you have this years' team.

I'm also asking for your voice at the upcoming 92nd State convention. This is where you can decide who will lead our great organization into the future. I hope to see each and every one of you in Little Rock on June 1-4, 2023 in order to choose our future leaders while also celebrating the numerous accomplishments of the last year. Until then, let's keep the pedal to the floor and finish out the current year strong.

In closing, THANK YOU to each and every member for everything you all have done. Although I will no longer be your State Commander, I'll always be available at any time to anyone who needs assistance. ARKANSAS STRONG!!

~ CDR Jeffrey Byrd ~

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

Comrades, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as VFW Department of Arkansas State Senior Vice Commander for the year 2022-2023. We have many great achievements this year as team Arkansas. Our membership has grown due to the hard work and commitment recruiting to grow our organization. We have had a successful year with programs to include many VOD and Patriots Pen entries, along with Scout of the Year, Public Servant, and Teacher of the Year. The attendance at District meetings, and State events has been exceptional and shows the drive to make Arkansas shine. The Post reporting has drastically improved with the incorporation of the Arkansas Dashboard and highlights the great achievements of our posts throughout the state. Just another great tool for us to succeed.

Under the leadership and guidance from Commander Byrd, these great things have been achieved. I would like to thank Commander Byrd for his guidance and mentorship as we move forward. I ask that you support me with your confidence and vote to elect me as your next VFW Department of Arkansas State Commander for the year 2023-2024, to continue the great works of the Department of Arkansas and this great organization.

~SVC Teddy Pipkin

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

Comrades, the State Convention is right around the corner and I'm excited about seeing each and everyone of you. Our Post and District elections have taken place and we did good at reaching our goals for the year and I'm looking forward to the next chapter. I'd like to thank you for trusting me to serve as your State Jr. Vice Commander and hope that I have your vote and confidence in serving as your State Sr. Vice Commander for the year of 2023-2024. I want each of you to know that I Love and care about everyone of you and will always make myself approachable and available at all times. VFW Strong. Go Team Arkansas...

~JVC Elvin Tate

### **Quartermaster's Notes**

It has been a pleasure, like always, to work with each and every one of you through this year. I love being able to say that each officer I serve with, I feel have left the Department in better shape than they found it. Over this year we have grown as an organization into the future with the Dashboard and program reporting. Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of this winning team. I hope that you would have me again to serve you in the same capacity.

~QM Christine Oldham

### **Judge Advocate's Notes**

With Department and National Conventions coming up remember what the By-Laws say: Sec. 222 – Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

(a) Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing. Delegates and alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure.

(b) Delegates elected under this section shall not be considered instructed and may exercise full authority in the duty to be performed.

(c) Each Post will pay, in accordance with its Department Bylaws, a delegate registration fee for each and every delegate to which the Post shall be entitled.

(d) 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.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for electing me as your State Judge Advocate for 2022-2023 and hope that I will have your vote to serve as your 2023-2024 Junior Vice Commander.

~JA Rodney Wood

### **Community Service of the Year**

Commander Byrd has selected the Outstanding Community Service Post, The Post selected this year is from District 13, Michael W Ray Post, Post 4548, located in Jacksonville, Commander Marc Calcaterra

### **Nick Bacon**

The winner for this year's Nick Bacon Scholarship in the amount of \$3,500 is Candace Mohr. Congratulations to Candace and good luck.

### **National Home**

Department Junior Vice Commander Elvin Tate is going to National Home next month. If your post has any donations or items that need to go, please get them to him TODAY and he will assure that they get to the home.

### **State Convention**

**2022-2023 Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland will be our National Representative**

2022-2023 Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Guard Kim Harney will be the Auxiliary Representative

This year the State Convention will be June 1-4, 2023, at the Doubletree Hotel located in Downtown Little Rock, AR

The DoubleTree hotel is currently out of double rooms. The backup hotel is the Wyndham. The room rates at the Wyndham are the same as the DoubleTree. There is a link to it on the [vfwar.org](http://vfwar.org) page. They will be shuttling back and forth once an hour between the hotels. They are also offering airport shuttling.

We need everyone's help. On Saturday, we are wanting to have some cornhole friendly competition, in a covered area, we do not have enough boards. If you have boards and are willing to share for the evening, please bring them and share and let's have some good old competition. Prizes announced there.

### **124<sup>th</sup> National Convention**

The National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona is scheduled for July 22-27, 2023. Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) for registration forms.

### **Memorial Day**

The ceremony will be held at the State Veterans Cemetery on Maryland Ave, Monday, May 29, at 9:00 a.m.

Section 223 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedures provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observation of Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and United States Flags are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.

### **Installation**

***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.

## Posts

**Post Commanders:** Delegate strength will be based on membership on March 31 2023. Delegates to the Department Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the 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.

**Post Commander:** PRIOR TO ELECTIONS: VERIFY THAT ALL RUNNING FOR OFFICE ARE PAID MEMBERS. Over the Past several weeks the Department Commander has obtained correspondence from National that individuals that have been elected, are unpaid. If any elected officers are annual members we highly encourage that each Quartermaster collect their dues now and pay them so no elected officers will be removed from offices during the 2023-2024 year.

**Post Commander:** Attention is directed to Section 215 of the National Bylaws which states No member shall hold two elected Post positions at the same time but may hold one elected and one or more appointed offices.

*For those Post who do not have computers to 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 with correct phone # and addresses on your election report, this will facilitate preparation of the Department directory and USPS listing.*

## Districts

**District/Post Commanders:** Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers: All Posts, Districts and Departments should be reminded of the provisions of Sections 216, 416, and 516 of the Manual of Procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Adjutant and properly reviewed.

*All District Commanders are asked to make sure that the District election report is completed with all of 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 2022-2023:** All newly elected District Commanders are reminded please try within 30 days to submit to the Department Adjutant a list of all meetings for the 2023-2024 year (if you have them). 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.

## **District Meetings**

District meeting dates are listed on the web site under resources/district meetings, however, prior to attending, please verify with your District Commander that there has not been a change.

### **DEPARTMENT BUSINESS**

Department Business:

Suspended  
Post 2881 – Harrison

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 @ [vfw.org](http://vfw.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

92<sup>nd</sup> Annual State Convention

2022-2023

BLACK – BOTH

BLUE – VFW

RED - AUXILIARY

Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>

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 2<sup>nd</sup>

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 3<sup>rd</sup>

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 4<sup>th</sup>

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