

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

**GENERAL ORDERS #4
Series 2022-2023**

OCTOBER 2022

Membership 80.62%

Commander-in-Chiefs Challenge October

During the month of October 2022, for every new Life Member you bring into your Post, we will issue a \$50 grant directly to the Post at the end of the month!

COMMANDER'S NOTES

For those that follow the Department of Arkansas Facebook page, I'm sure you're aware of the Commander's September "Race to 80% Membership Challenge." I'm happy to report that we have met the goal and then some! Thank you all for going above and beyond with all of your hard work!

Now that we are in the month of October, there is a new goal to strive for. **85%!** There is no doubt in my mind that this new goal will be met! Tune in to the Department Facebook page for incentives and updates!

In closing, THANK YOU to each and every member for everything you do! As always, should you need anything from my team or I, we will be available at any time to anyone who needs assistance. ARKANSAS STRONG!!

~Commander Byrd

SENIOR VICE COMANDER'S NOTES

In my travels, I hear more and more from elected officers saying that they don't know what their duties as an elected officer are. It is vital that they get the training for their positions. Since each Post has additional duty for their officer positions, I Encourage each Post to have an officer training class. Remember, the department Revitalization Committee is here for any help you may need.

~SVC Pipkin

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER'S NOTES

As fall is upon us and we are headed into the holiday season, I just want to remind everyone that your leadership team is always here for you. There is no problem too big or too small. Always feel free to reach out to us anytime, we are here for you.

~JVC Tate

JUDGE ADVOCATE'S NOTES

Did you know that VFW Ritual, page 3, under General Rules, is where we find rules for proper hat etiquette. 13. (a) All members who are able will stand during the offering of the prayers; (b) members will follow the action of the Chaplain or presiding officer relative to removal of caps during prayers; if uncovering, the hat shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart; (c) official caps will not be worn during luncheons, banquets or other meals; (d) Official caps will be the only head covering allowed to be worn at regular meetings of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

~JA Wood

SURGEON'S NOTES

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Breast cancer is a disease that affects both men and women and is among the most common cancers. So be aware of the five warning signs of breast cancer: 1) new lump in the breast or underarm, 2) thickening or swelling of part of the breast, 3) irritation or dimpling of breast skin, 4) redness or flaky skin in the nipple area or the breast, and 5) pulling in the nipple or pain in the nipple area. During the month of October, everyone will be wearing pink to bring awareness of breast cancer. So start wearing your pink during the month of October to help with the awareness of breast cancer

~Surgeon Johnson

Veteran Service Officer Training

Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs is offering Service Officer training at Camp Robinson October 19 – 21, 2022. It will be a half day on the 19th, all day on the 20th and a half day on the 21st. There are seats available for current or future Post service officers. If you are wanting to attend, please contact the headquarters and we will work with ADVA on getting you reservations. Seats are limited so call as soon as possible.

Service Officer Notes

October is upon us and that means it's fall education time. I just spent a week in Maryland for some of the best training thus far. So many new law cases to use to fight claims. Understanding, in detail, about the PACT ACT and how to be successful when filing/processing claims. I have a packet together for all Post Service Officers, Districts, and Counties. It is a simple guideline to help assist Veteran's and their families file claims and a copy of any form you would need. The file is too big to send via email but will have a solution. I will be putting together three separate, possibly four, 2-day training with a day for an open forum for all Veteran's and Service Officers. Any feedback is welcome and appreciated if you have any ideas or want to help get the word out. I am also requesting that any Posts that would be able to host, it would be a blessing and please let me know if that is possible. I am planning on Fort Smith, El Dorado, Mountain Home, and hopefully Helena-West Helena areas. I will have specific dates by the first week of October. So, get ready to recruit and reach our Veterans in need. In closing, I still highly recommend everyone register for the Burn Pit Registry, have a myhealthvet.gov account, and never let a Veteran count themselves out of possible benefits and/or assistance. God speed to you all and let's have an awesome month and remember, EVERY DAY IS VETERAN'S DAY!
I Got Your Six,

~Dustin Matthews

Department Service Officer

501-257-5407

dustin.matthews@va.gov

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AUDITS

Second Quarter audits are due to Department Headquarters **no later than** 30 October 2023. This is for the July thru September quarter.

BUDDY POPPIES – ALL AMERICAN

National requires that a Post purchase 5 Poppies per member to qualify for the All-American Program. Buddy Poppies must be ordered from the Department Headquarters and paid for at the time of order. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

DEPARTMENT - QUARTERLY AWARDS

District

No District qualified for District of the Quarter this Quarter

Post of the Quarter

Robert Jack Post – Post 1322 – Van Buren

Riders Group Meeting

The Fall meeting will be October 8th during Bikes, Blues, and BBQ (Oct. 5-8) at the Rogers Post, Post 3031. 8:00am Poker Run starting at the Siloam Springs Post, kickstands up at 9:00am. Lunch will be served at noon at the Rogers Post followed by the meeting at 1:00pm. The Department will have a booth at Pig Trail Harley Davidson for anyone that can stop by.

Important Dates

October

10 October – Columbus Day – Department Closed

13 October – US Navy's Birthday

14 October – Mid-Winter tickets go on sale

27-30 October – Southern Conference – Ashville, NC

31 October – Voice of Democracy (VOD) & Patriot's Pen Entries due to the Post

November

10 November – US Marine's Birthday

11 November – Veteran's Day – Department Closed

15 November – VOD and Patriot's Pen Post judging complete

20 November – Post VOD and Patriot's Pen due to District

23-25 November – Thanksgiving – Department Closed

December

7 December – Pearl Harbor Day

9 December – District judging on VOD and Patriot's Pen complete

13 December – District 1st place VOD and Patriot's Pen due to Department Chairmen

20 December – 2 January – Christmas Holiday – Department closed

20 December – Space Force Birthday

Mid-Winter

The dates for the Mid-Winter Conference for the Department of Arkansas are February 3-4, 2023 at The Airport Holiday Inn. The awards banquet will be February 4th. Awards Banquet tickets are \$32.00 in advance and \$37.00 after the close of business January 31, 2023. Tickets go on sale October 14, 2022 – cut off for the advanced purchase price is Jan 31, 2023. Hotel rates: \$96 per night plus tax. Registration is \$5 per person. The meal will be an Italian themed buffet.

The Buddy Poppy display category for Mid-Winter will be Category 1 – Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign.

State Convention

State Convention – State Convention will be at the Doubletree Hotel downtown Little Rock June 1-4, 2023. Room rates are \$119.00 per night plus tax and a small parking fee. More details to follow.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, PATRIOT'S PEN, TEACHER OF THE YEAR, Nick Bacon and Scout of the Year DEADLINES:

Youth Program Coordinator: Rodney Wood – 245 Swinging Bridge Road, Beebe, AR 72012, 501-658-5519, Rodney.wood7769@gmail.com

Voice of Democracy: Jerry Tobey – 1909 S. K Street, Rogers, AR 72758, 479-531-8146, Tobey8462@gmail.com

Patriots Pin: Linda Johnson – 146 Hilydily ane, Mena, AR 71953, 956-341-5633, surgeon@vfwar.org

Teacher of the Year: Matthew Hicks, 1603 Cedar Street, Van Buren, AR 72956, matthew.hicks@arkansas.gov 479-650-6551

Deadline Dates: (VOD and PP)

Post receiving entries from youth	October 31, 2022
1 st place Post winners due to District's	November 20, 2022
1 st Place District winners due to Department Chairman	December 13, 2022

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Program Chairmen.

It is recommended that all VOD flash drive or CD's on one entry per participant. Participants should be encouraged to record their scripts using professional equipment at radio stations.

Teacher of the Year: January 6, 2023 all entries to Department Chairman

Scout of the Year: March 1, 2023 all entries to Department Chairman

Nick Bacon: March 4, 2023 all entries to Department Chairman

Nick Bacon Chairman -Please send Nick Bacon Scholarship to Chairman Todd Willey @ VFW Dept of AR, Attention: Todd Willey, 4210 East Kiehl Ave, Sherwood, AR 72120. They must be in his hands no later than March 4, 2023. Email todd.1.willey@gmail.com, phone 479-857-6069. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Scout of the Year Chairman – Terry Daniell, 870-230-2303, 1313 Haddock Street, Arkadelphia, AR 71923, Post 2278.

Public Servant & Safety - (Gold Badge) is Jim Lee, 252 South Bowser Road, Monticello, AR 71655, email monticellofem@aol.com, 479-387-6610. Deadline for all entries to be to the Department Chairman, 1 January 2020.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above-mentioned youth programs, please contact the Youth Program Coordinator, Rodney Wood

MEMBERSHIP

Members are reminded that under the subscription dues plan, an annual members' dues expire on their anniversary month. Annual members are encouraged to renew their dues prior to their anniversary month to avoid a lapse in continuous membership. Officers and committee members, whose membership is not in good standing by reason of failure to pay current dues by their anniversary month, shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office the remainder of the administrative year.

In addition, every effort should always be made to renew the membership of continuous members and sign up new and recover former members during the year.

For clarification purposes, use of the VFW Legacy Life Membership card as suitable identification when verifying a member's credentials is permissible, however, the member's original Life Membership card may be required in certain circumstances where state/local laws, or Post rules, require proof of Post affiliation to participate in certain unit activities.

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to the Commander-in-Chief's decision in response to questions raised concerning alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting as set forth below:

It is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting. Accordingly, the presence, dispensation, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings is unacceptable and is prohibited. Any such practice known to exist shall be terminated.

It is the intent of the Commander-in-Chief's decision, regarding this response, to include Post, County Council, District and Department meetings, whereas it is held to be objectionable. Please refer to section 1001 (25) of the National Manual of Procedure.

Department Business:

Suspension: None

BY COMMAND OF

Jeffrey Byrd
State Commander

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham
State Adjutant

Scheduled District Meetings: Check the Website vfw.org; Resources, Officer Assignment