

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

GENERAL ORDERS #1
2022-2023

July 2022

Department Membership Standing: 93.18%

Congratulations to all the newly elected Department of Arkansas Veterans of Foreign Wars Officers.

Commander

I want to thank the membership of the Department of Arkansas for electing me to serve as your Commander for 2022-2023. I'm truly honored and will strive daily to make every member proud. We have an amazing team of dedicated leaders and along with Auxiliary President Amanda Pipkin and her team, I have no doubt that 2022-2023 will be one of the best on record.

A lot of you have been asking about this year's Commanders Special Project. As a proud Eagle Scout (Class of '95) it was an easy decision that this year I'll be raising funds for the benefit of the Boy Scouts of America. All monies raised will be 100% to benefit the boy scouts that reside in the three councils of Arkansas. The scouters of Arkansas are served by three counsels; DeSoto Area, Westark Area, and the Quapaw Area. I have attached a link to the Boy Scouts of America website where you can read a bit more about this premiere youth program. I have selected Glen Powell (Post 7514) and Marc Calcaterra (Post 4548) as my project chairmen and I'm confident they will do a fabulous job.

In closing, this year's motto is "You Call, We Serve". Should you need anything from my team or I, we will be available at any time to anyone who needs assistance. ARKANSAS STRONG!!

<https://www.scouting.org/about/>

Commander Jeffrey Byrd

**2022-2026
National Council Member**

Past Department Commander Don Barnes, Post 8245, Huntington

**2022-2023
Department Officers**

Commander Jeffrey Byrd, Post 2330, Searcy – Cmd@vfw.org
Senior Vice Commander Teddy Pipkin, Post 2330, Searcy – SVC@vfw.org
Junior Vice Commander Elvin Tate, Post 5225, West Memphis – JVC@vfw.org
Quartermaster Christine Oldham, Post 4548, Jacksonville – adjqm@vfw.org
Judge Advocate Rodney Wood, Post 7769, Beebe – JA@vfw.org
Surgeon Linda Johnson, Post 4451, Mena - Surgeon@vfw.org
Chaplain Doreen Brown, Post 5225, West Memphis – Chaplain@vfw.org

All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant Christine Oldham, Post 4548, Jacksonville
Chief-of-Staff Ashley Little, Post 4548, Jacksonville
State Inspector Johnny Gothard, Post 1322, Van Buren

Chairmen:

Commanders Project Glen Powell, Post 7514, Quitman
Teacher of the Year – Matthew Hicks, Post 1322, Van Buren
Youth Programs – Rodney Wood – Post 7769, Beebe
Patriot's Pen – Linda Johnson – Post 4451, Mena
Voice of Democracy – Jerry Tobey – Post 3031, Rogers
Credentials – Todd Willey – Post 4513, Fairfield Bay
Hospital – Michael Dobbs – Post 2256, Benton
Legislative – Will Beams – Post 2278, Hot Springs
Membership – Darrell Darner – Post 1674, Siloam Springs
National Home – Elvin Tate – Post 5225, West Memphis
Nick Bacon Scholarship – Todd Willey – Post 4513, Fairfield Bay

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS: Hours of operation - 8:30 - 4:30, Monday through Thursday and 8:30-12:00 Friday, Telephone 501-834-8392, FAX 501-833-0205. Mailing address: 4210 E. Kiehl Ave., Sherwood, AR 72120. *Email:* adjqm@vfw.org <http://www.vfw.org/>.

Training

Commander and his staff are offering leadership training, to include dashboard, at the Prescott Post, on Saturday July 9 from 9:00 – 2:30 p.m. If you are in the area and want to attend, please contact the state headquarters, if you are not already registered through Judge Advocate Rodney Wood. Training will be adjusted to suit attendees. i.e. Commander, Adjutant and/or Quartermaster current or future NEW Department Dashboard Training.

COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S HOMECOMING

This year the Commanders and Presidents homecoming is combined August 27, 2022. It will be at the Post Home of Post 2330. There will be no Council meeting. The training that will occur will include, but not limited to, Quartermaster, Leadership, **NEW DASHBOARD** on the department site to include community service reporting from post through Department to National.

Junior Vice Commander Notes

Comrades, we made it safely through this trying year and now we start anew. Past Department Commander Mark Davis had a great, successful year and it's time for us to rally behind Department Commander Jeffrey Byrd and Department Auxiliary President Amanda Pipkin and make this an awesome year. I'd like to thank you all for putting your trust in me for selecting me as your Jr. Vice Commander for the year of 2022-2023. I'm going to do my dead level best, with our outstanding team, to represent you with all of my power and make The Department of Arkansas the Very Best in the Nation. We, as a Team/Family, will make ourselves available at all times for each and every one of you. Go Team Arkansas!!!

~JVC Elvin Tate

Judge Advocate Notes

Comrades, I would like to thank you for electing me to be your Judge Advocate for the 2022-2023 year. I will be out visiting the posts across the state this year. I am here to support the Commander and the needs of the VFW.

~JA Rodney Wood

Surgeon Notes

It is a honor to be elected as the Department Surgeon for 2022-23. Together we can make this a great year. If you need any help with anything feel free to get in touch with me. Have a happy and safe 4th of July.

~SURG Linda Johnson

Service Officers Notes

Comrades,

The new VFW year for is upon us. As your Department Service Officer, the only one that we have according to our policies and procedures. I hope to work with each one of the County Service Officers, Post Service Officers, and any Veterans that may need assistance. I am an 11B OEF Veteran, most of which was in Helmand, and was there for the battle of Marjah. My father was a parachute rigger for 5th Group 1967-1971, and I have seen the ins and outs of the VA from a young age. After 7 years of battling the VA policies alone, I took the position as a VSO for Arkansas Department of Veteran's Affairs (ADVA). I have learned so much the past year and will continue to grow, as much is feasibly possible. I genuinely love what I do and like to nerd out on research, what's new with VA law, and finding new ways to help Veterans and their families. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions about a case or claim. Send me an email and we will set up a time/date to have a post and/or district visit. Just to say hi, a Q&A, or for some simple training. Remember there is a big difference between ELIGIBILITY and ENTITLEMENT when assisting Veteran's and their family.

In closing, I 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 year and remember, every day is Veteran's Day!

I Got Your Six,

Dustin Matthews, VSO/DSO- ADVA, VFW, American Legion
501-257-5407

dustin.matthews@va.gov

dustin.matthews@arkansas.gov

ALL MEMBERSHIP

ON LINE TOOLS: National's web site will be down for quartermaster tools, the first week of July. **This year there will be no amnesty program for deceasing members.**

Attention is directed to Section 803 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedures in regard to Manufacture and Use of Seals, Emblems, Badges, Insignia and Uniforms.

2022 Annual Report for Nonprofit Corporation Deadline: August 1, 2022

All Post and Districts need to go online at www.sos.arkansas.gov/BCS and update their 2022 annual nonprofit Corporation Report. This is due by August 1, 2022. If you have concerns or need assistance please contact the Secretary of State office at 501-682-3409. If you got your notice in the mail. There is a very small print about the address that has your filing number.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

It is your responsibility to verify that all Posts within your District have received copies of the General Orders. If they do not go online, it is your responsibility to get copies to them.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS are reminded that notice of District Meetings should be at Department Headquarters no later than the 25th of the month in order to get published on our web site for everyone's information.

POST COMMANDERS

All General Orders **must** and will be read during your Post meeting. They must also be placed on Post bulletin board and filed for future reference.

It is the responsibility of each Post Commander to assure that each Post has representation at each and every District meeting being held.

PROGRAMS GUIDE: Please be aware of Program Guides. You should be receiving a Commander and Quartermaster guide from National as we speak. Commander Byrd's Programs will be placed on the web site by August 15, 2022. District Commanders will be getting a Program book from the Department to assist the Post within their Districts. All the same information will be posted on the web site.

Your attention is directed to Sections 218 By-Laws and Manual of Procedures. Your duties and those of the post officers are outlined.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN THE POST MEETING

"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, District and Department meeting rooms during official meeting. Accordingly, the presence, dispensation, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Post, a District and Department meeting is unacceptable and shall be terminated immediately."

QUARTERMASTER BONDS - AUDITS: It is the duty of the Post Commander (reference Article VII, Section 703 to see that the office of the Post Quartermaster is bonded and that trustees report of audits are completed and mailed to the Department Headquarters at the end of each quarter, June 30th, September 30th, December 31st and March 31st. All Quartermaster bonds carried by the Department expire August 31 every year. Quartermasters must be bonded in a sum equal to or greater than the amount of the liquid assets of the Post. Bonds are \$4.00 per thousand. The minimum bond is \$2,000.00.

ALL CHANGES: Changes in names, addresses and telephone numbers of Post Officers, dates, and meeting places should be reported immediately to Department Headquarters and National Headquarters.

IRS REQUIREMENT: All posts with a gross income normally \$50,000.00 or less must file an annual electronic notice, form 990-n (e-postcard). All other Go to www.irs.gov/eo for more info.

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 117th National Convention should be mailed with each delegate's name and address to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

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.

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. Given the daily hazards confronting our military 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 & 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. **As of today, 29 June 2022, the new policy for Buddy Poppies is that all Buddy Poppy orders MUST be paid for when placing the order.**

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Important Dates to Remember

July 4, 2022	Independence Day – Department Closed
July 16-21, 2022	National Convention – Kansas City, Department Closed
August 27, 2022	Homecoming – Searcy Post 2330
February 3-4, 2023	Mid-Winter, Holiday Inn Airport Little Rock Rooms: \$96/night
June 8-11, 2023	State Convention, Double Tree Hotel, Little Rock Rooms: \$114/night Parking: \$6/Day

Jeffrey Byrd

State Commander

OFFICIAL:

Christine Oldham
State Adjutant