

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

GENERAL ORDERS #3
2022-2023 Series

SEPTEMBER 2022

General Orders will be read at all Post meetings

Membership 5.84%

We are a combat veteran, not for profit, fraternal, volunteer organization. When you raise your right hand and take the oath, you are now expected to hold your office to a standard upheld by Section 218 (Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations) of our National By Laws and Manual of Procedures.

Please review these duties and obligations prior to taking the oath for the office that you have been elected to.

Attending District meetings, doing and submitting your audits, being inspected, paying your delegate dues, along with several other things are NOT options, they are **REQUIRED**.

Audits **MUST** be submitted to the Department Headquarters, 30 days after the closure of the quarter with signatures from the Commander, Quartermaster, and at a minimum of 2 Trustees. No exceptions.

Commander's Notes

We are off to a great start with our membership numbers. Thank you to each and every one of you that are working hard to make this the best Department possible! Working our various programs is the perfect way to keep the momentum going.

With that being said, now is the perfect time to get out in the communities to let everyone know about our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarships. Also, keep an eye out for worthy candidates to submit for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

Thank you to everyone that attended the Commander & President's Homecoming. We hosted some in depth training, had a great meal, and enjoyed camaraderie with our fellow members and guests. A good time was had by all!

In closing, 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!!

~ Commander Byrd

Senior Vice Commander's Note

Leadership starts with you as a member. From meeting a new member to becoming an officer of your Post, it takes each and every one to focus on doing the right things to be a successful Post. We are an all-volunteer organization and we should never forget what we are here for; family, community, and country. The great response that we have seen from members, Post and District in support of the flooding in Kentucky is a great example. It starts at the grass roots when you fill out that application. Let us remember we each need to continue to do our Part.

~ SVC Pipkin

Junior Vice Commander's Notes

We have the Month of September upon us, and it is charged with many challenges in our paths, but let's keep pushing forward with our goals and reach for success. If we continue to Mentor to those that are willing to be Leaders, we are destined to succeed. Continue to back your Team, and always make attainable goals. Here at the Department, we are always here for every Member of the VFW and will always make ourselves approachable and available at all times for all of you. Thanks for having Confidence in Us. Go Team Arkansas!!!

~JVC Tate

Judge Advocate's Note

Sec. 100117 of our National By laws and Manual of Procedures. Once a motion is made and passed by the membership, it is in effect until the motion is rescinded by membership. To rescind a motion, a member who voted for the motion will have to bring it before the membership. After this, a 2/3 vote of membership is required to rescind the motion.

~JA Wood

Surgeon's Note

As everyone remembers, September is Suicide Prevention Month. I was looking for some new information on suicide prevention and came across an article from VA.gov about Don't Wait! Reach Out! In this article it talks about how Veterans have all kinds of challenges about being discharged from the military. Here are some of those challenges: career, educational, health, relationships, substance use, and money. And other things that we might go through such as experiencing grief or loss, feelings of depression and isolation, life transitions, living with a disability, and Post traumatic stress disorder. So if you are having any of these problems or know someone that does, DON'T WAIT!! REACH OUT!!! Feel free to call me, text me, or email, if you feel the need to talk to someone. I hope this helps.

~SGN Johnson

Buddy Poppies

The Buddy Poppies must be purchased through the Department Headquarters, and they must be paid for at the time of ordering. Remember, they take up to 6 weeks for delivery.

You can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets.

Audits

Section 213 – Arrearages, Deficiencies and Omissions

It is the responsibility of a Post and District to send to Department a completed copy of your audit 30 days after completion of the quarter. Quarters end in June, September, December, and March.

Currently, the Department has 12 Post that have not submitted audits, please do so as soon as possible. Failure to do so could result in suspension.

COMMANDERS AT ALL LEVELS

2023 National By Laws and Manual are posted at vfw.org, pay attention to the change in the position of chaplain at the post level

PROGRAMS

Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2022-2023 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, “Buddy”® Poppy, Teacher of the Year and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

Correction on Teacher of the Year: no entry at District level, they go straight to the Department Chairman for judging

Please pay Attention to the Department deadline dates.

Youth Programs – Rodney Wood – 501-658-5519

Chairman: Teacher of the Year – Matthew Hicks – 479-650-6551 - deadline 6 January 2023
Voice of Democracy – Jerry Tobey – 479-531-8146 – 20 Nov entries to District
Patriots Pen – Linda Johnson – 956-241-2633 – 20 Nov entries to District

ALL MEMBERS

Post By-Laws

POST BYLAWS: Every Post operating any type of activity, particularly a canteen, should adopt Post By-Laws. By-Laws will save many hours of argument and remove causes for misunderstanding and dissension. Remember that all actions of a Post shall be subject to ratification by vote of its members at a regular post meeting. However, they are not official until which time they have been reviewed by your Department Commander and National Commander-in-Chief.

Removal of Officers

Removal and Vacancies of Elected Officers or Committee Members: Section 220 Of our National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures outline how to remove an officer for one of the two following reasons:

1. Absent themselves from two (2) consecutive meetings or who has
2. Failure to fulfill the duties of officer specified in Section 218 of the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

National Dashboard

All Post and District Adjutants now have obligations on reports on the dashboard through OMS. Please submit all program participation at this location. Vfw.org, on your main page under My VFW there is a training video for assistance.

Department Dashboard

All community service must now be entered through vfw.org If you have not received training or need an account under members only please contact the headquarters on Tuesday through Thursday.

Discipline of Members

We often forget that as members we have rights, but we also have standards to conduct ourselves by. The purpose of this corporation is fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational: Often members need to be reminded of this. For this reason, our By-Laws, and Manual of Procedures outline Discipline of Members in Sec 901. Section 902 governs Offenses, an offense that is so commonly abused is Sec 902, 6. Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct unbecoming a member in their relations to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or other members. Please review these Sections and remind members at all levels.

Post Leadership POW/MIA DAY

POW/MIA Day September 16, 2022

A day of remembrance and hope for the speedy and safe return of American Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action. It also seeks the return of the remains of Fallen Service Members and honors our former Prisoners of War, those still Missing in Action, and their families.

ATTENTION POST COMMANDERS

Your attention is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990-T, where applicable. All Posts with gross income under \$50,000.00 must file Form 990n (e-postcard). Forms may be obtained from your local branch office of the Internal Revenue Service, Department Headquarters or on line at IRS.Gov. FILING DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15th FOR ALL POSTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS. Ref.: Section 501(C) 19 of the IRS Code. Be reminded that the Department Headquarters does assist several posts with this task. If you are not sure if we do, just give us a call.

You can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets.

Post Commanders: Section 218(a)(1)k states: Post Commander will assure that he or his representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings (if applicable). **Note:** For those Posts not able to attend the District, they are asked to forward a report of their Post activities to the District Commanders prior to the District meeting to keep the District Commander informed of your activities and also to assist him in preparation for upcoming Council of Administration meetings. When you or your Rep attend the District meeting, you/they should be going back to the post meeting and sharing this information with all members. Please, we need your help in keeping the communications flowing at all levels.

Post Commanders are urged to start planning suitable programs for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedures). Show your Post Pride by taking part in a Parade. Distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a part of your Veterans Day activities.

National Home

We are encouraging each Post to conduct a Buddy Poppy Drive, and a portion of the proceeds be considered going to the National Home.

Chairman – JVC Tate

Please see vfw.org go to calendar for location and rep for all District meetings.

BY COMMAND OF

**Jeffrey Byrd
State Commander**

OFFICIAL

**Christine Oldham
State Adjutant**