

Arkansas Chronicles

September 2023

ALL GENERAL ORDERS MUST BE READ AT POST MEETINGS AND FILED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, PER THE STATE COMMANDER

Membership 8.66%

Commander Pipkin's Notes

I could not be any prouder of where, as a Department, we stand in membership, which is leading the organization throughout the year to achieving more annual members by percentage than any other Department.

Homecoming and Training – Thank You from the 27 Posts that had representation at the training. I, along with the other Department Officers, hope that what you obtained you take back and share with your membership as well as other Posts within your Districts. For the Homecoming I was so excited to be officially commissioned and celebrate with the President a great year starting out and thank you all again for the wonderful donations towards my project.

~Commander Teddy Pipkin

Senior Vice Commander's Note

Fellow Comrades,

I have been appointed as the Member of the Year Chairman by State Commander Teddy Pipkin. There is an application form on the State's website at vfwar.org to download, if you think that there's a member of your Post that has been an example for the Post and the community, by going beyond the call of duty for getting things done. There are officers that are not eligible for this award and it is explained on the form on the State's website. If any member has a problem, you can always contact the Department Headquarters or any line Officer for assistance.
#OneFamilyOneFight #GoTeamArkansas #vfwar

~ SVC Tate

Junior Vice Commander's Notes

As Veterans we have two important days to recognize this month:

Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance is September 11, 2023. This holiday is in observation of the lives lost in the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Virginia and those who perished when the hijacked United States Airlines Flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania.

POW/MIA Day, September 15, 2023 - This day honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action.

Please be sure your Post sets up the proper ceremony for both memorable recognition days. As a reminder, speeches on both are available at vfw.org under members resources Patriotic Holiday Speeches. Please let the Commander know if you would like an officer at one of your observations, we do have state of Arkansas events, but we can try and facilitate other needs as well.

~JVC Wood

Judge Advocate's Note

Sec. 202 - Bylaws.

Posts *shall*, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting adopt Bylaws provided each member has been notified at least twenty (20) days in advance and, upon request has been provided a copy of the proposed Bylaws. Bylaws approved by a Post shall be forwarded as provided in the Manual of Procedure prior to becoming effective.

Amendments. Unless otherwise provided in the Post Bylaws, the Post Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting provided each member has been notified at least twenty (20) days in advance and, upon request has been provided a copy of the proposed amendments

My advice is that every year you review your Posts Bylaws and then if changes to your Bylaws are needed, please follow the above steps.

~JA Johnson

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, education, health, relationship, 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 is, 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 Ham

Treatment of members at all levels

The Commander has been informed of members being mistreated at all levels and this has got to stop.

If or when a member walks into your Post or District or Department area and you or others don't know who they are, go up and introduce yourself and welcome and involve them. Officers of this Department have borne witness to members being spoken harshly to and/or ignored in these situations. We are asking for you to treat all members the way you would like to be treated. Let us not work hard to bring them in the doors and let simple things like not being nice and respectful push them out before our very eyes. Treat all members the way you would like to be treated.

One Family, One Fight

!!!NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW!!!

The VFW, Department of Arkansas has joined forces with Alter Metal Recycling for a fundraising opportunity for the VFW State Headquarters. Any Individual or business can participate by bringing their scrap metal for recycling at any Alter location and donating the proceeds to the VFW fundraising account in the name of the VFW. Donations will be matched dollar for dollar by Alter and forwarded to the VFW headquarters. The donation time-period is from now until 20 June 2024. Remember, you will not receive any money when you donate, it will all go to the VFW. If you choose not to participate but need recycling materials dropped off, we encourage you to support Alter.

The participating (TRG) Tenenbaum Recycling/Alter Trading are located:

North Little Rock	Harrison	Hot Springs	Rogers	Fayetteville
Jonesboro	Reed Springs, MO			

Please see attached for full addresses and donation letter

Buddy Poppies

The Buddy Poppies must be purchased through the Department Headquarters, and they must be paid for at the time of ordering. The cost is \$145.00 per 500. They usually ship the same week as ordered.

COMMANDER'S AT ALL LEVELS

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 2023-2024 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"® Poppy, Teacher of the Year, Nick Bacon 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 – Terry Ham – 719-339-6390

Chairmen: Teacher of the Year – Linda Johnson – 956-241-2633 – 1 Dec due to Dept. Chairman
Voice of Democracy – Jerry Tobey – 479-531-8146 – 20 Nov entries to District
Patriots Pen – Terry Ham – 719-339-6390 – 20 Nov entries to District
Public Servant – Adam Strange – 479-213-3211 – 1 Jan to Department Chairman
VFW Member of the Year – Elvin Tate – 870-514-8080 – 28 Feb due to District
JROTC Cadet of the Year – Marc Calcaterra – 479-531-8146 – 28 March due to
Department Chairman
VFW Employer of the Year - Jerry Hulsey - 479-249-2344- 28 March due to
Department Chairman
Nick Bacon – Todd Willey – 479-857-6069 – 1 March deadline to Department
Chairman

The Nick Bacon application is now posted on vfwar.org under Programs. Please pay attention to the new due date, it is due to the Department by 01 March 2024.

One Family, One Fight

Gold Star Family Weekend

The United States began observing Gold Star Mother's Day on the last Sunday of September, in 1936.

Today the nation recognized the sacrifice that all Gold Star Family members make when a father, mother, brother, sister, son daughter, or other loved one dies in service to the nation Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day is the last Sunday of September and Gold Star Spouses Day is April 5. This observation will be held September 24, 2023.

Veterans Day

This year November 10, 2023 the Department of Veterans Affairs along with representation from the VFW will be representing the State of Arkansas with a Veterans Day Ceremony on the grounds of the North Little Rock veterans home with hamburger food service at conclusion supported by VFW District 13. More news to follow in the November Chronicle.

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

GENERAL ORDERS #3
2023-2024 Series

SEPTEMBER 2023

General Orders will be read at all Post Meetings

ALL MEMBERS

Motions

Sec. 100117 of our National Bylaws 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.

National Dashboard change

All Post and District leadership teams, to include Senior and Junior Vice Commanders, now have access to reports on the Dashboard through OMS. Please submit all program participation at this location. Vfw.org, on your main page under My VFW that is a training video for assistance.

Department Dashboard

All community service must be entered through vfw.org. Your post should also be entering the VFW Auxiliary as well, be sure to pick the drop down and mark as Auxiliary. If you have not received training or need an account under members only, please contact the headquarters on Tuesday through Thursday.

Bonding

Don't forget, Employee Bonds are due by 31 September. The rate for these is \$8 per thousand. The application can be found on vfw.org under resources, reports and forms.

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 Bylaws 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.

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.

Post Leadership

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). **You must now file your 990 online 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 not do this task for post and/or districts, However, if you are not sure what to do, we will try and guide you.

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 also assist him in preparation for upcoming Council of Administration meetings. When you or your Rep attend the District meeting, 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.

Department Business:

Suspension:

Post 2881 Harrison
Post 8532 Coal Hill

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

BY COMMAND OF

**Teddy Pipkin
State Commander**

OFFICIAL

**Christine Oldham
State Adjutant**

VFW Announces Fundraising Campaign with Alter Metal Recycling

North Little Rock, AR – 7/11/2023 – Alter Metal Recycling is hosting a fundraising event for the benefit of Veterans of Foreign Wars. Any individual or business can participate by bringing scrap metal for recycling to any Alter location and donating the proceeds to the VFW fundraising account. Proceeds from the community's scrap donations to the account will begin 7/1/2023 until 6/30/2024. Donations will be matched DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR by Alter. Remember, you are donating to the VFW's cause. You will NOT receive any monetary amount of money when you drop off your approved scrap.

The community is also invited to participate in this program, not only to benefit the VFW, but also to support and benefit the environment through recycling. The account will remain open and available to receive scrap donations even after the matching campaign is completed. To program is open and up to you now to support the Veterans (Veterans Helping Veterans).

Alter History:

Alter Metal Recycling was founded in 1898, a division of Alter trading Corporation. It is a fourth-generation company with 70 scrap metal processing operations located throughout the Midwest. Alter Metal Recycling is located at 4500 West Bethany, North Little Rock, AR. All locations are open and available to receive all your ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal every weekday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

For further information contact, Adam Rauth at arauth@trg.net or Terry Ham at (719) 339-6390 or tham@vfw.org. further options are to see the vfw.org website.

ONE FAMILY ONE FIGHT



LOCATIONS

Tenenbaum Recycling /Alter Trading

4500 W Bethany Rd
North Little Rock , AR 72117
Phone (501)945-0881

TRG Jonesboro

5403 Vance ST.
Jonesboro, AR 72401
Phone (870) 932-8361

TRG Harrison

316 W Industrial Park Rd
Harrison, AR 72601
Phone (870) 741-8080

TRG Hot Springs

4400 Malvern Rd
Hot Springs, AR 71901
Phone (501)262-3420

TRG Rogers

3459 N Arkansas St.
Rogers, AR 72756
Phone (479) 621-8800

TRG Fayetteville

1400 S. Warford Rd
Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone (479) 966-4994

TRG Reeds Spring

448 Emerson Rd
Reeds Spring, MO 65737
Phone (417)272-9100