

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

February 2024

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

Congratulations to ALL of these Winners.

Voice of Democracy

1st Place – District 1 – Post 1674 – Siloam Springs Post – Annamarie Schuermann
2nd Place – District 7 – Post 1322 – Van Buren Post – Jackson Myers
3rd Place – District 2 – Post 3246 Mt Home – Zane Darracq
4th Place - District 10 – Post 8671 – Prescott Post– Zekiah Strickland

Patriots Pen

1st Place – District 9 – Post 4451 – Mena Post – Nathan Wililams
2nd Place – District 7 – Post 8532 – Coal Hill Post – Elijah Chauffe
3rd Place – District 6 – Post 2259 – Conway Post – Zion Butts

Teacher of the Year

K-5 – District 13 – Post 2935 – Sherwood – Racheal McGarrh
6 – 8 – District 7 – Post 8845 – Fort Smith – Cherese Smith
9-12 – District 7- Post 8245 – Huntington – Kimberly Boyd

Public Servant

Law Enforcement Officer – District 7 – Post 8845 – Fort Smith – Lauren Hendricks
Dispatcher – District 9 – Post 2278 – Hot Springs – Sydni Smith
EMS – District 9 – Post 4451 – Mena – Christy Hattabaugh
EOD – District 5 – Post 2330 – Searcy
Fire Fighter – District 9 – Post 2278 – Hot Springs – Nathan Blackstead

Current Membership: Department – 95.96%

Post/District of the Quarter ending December 2023

Post of the Quarter is Cathey-Dowdy Post, Post 2242 – Paragould, AR – Commander – Mark Davis

District of the Quarter is District 5 – Commander Glen Powell

Top 10 Post in Department

Post 2242 – Paragould – Commander Mark Davis – 164.70%
Post 4683 – Newport – Commander Fred Beard – 129.59%
Post 2935 – Sherwood – Commander Steve Huddleston – 126.00%
Post 2330 – Searcy – Jeffrey Byrd – 123.33%
Post 4501 – Batesville – Curtis Matheny – 117.74%
Post 7769 – Beebe – Carlton Rodney – 116.23%
Post 7514 – Quitman – Glen Powell – 112.72%
Post 2881 – Harrison – Aaron Bass – 112.30%
Post 8525 – Plainview – Donald Thompson – 111.25%
Post 10007 – Bald Knob – Wilbern Marler – 111.11%

Post at 102%+

Post 2952, Post 4764, Post 8383, Post 10417, Post 1345, Post 4513, Post 11474, Post 4556, Post 4766,
Post 8245, Post 3543, Post 3252, Post 2256, Post 4548, Post 8845, and Post 4515

Department of Arkansas is currently at 9,905 members. To achieve 102% we need to be at 10,529, meaning we need 624 new, continuous and/or reinstated. We can do this together Arkansas currently 26 Post have achieved 102% or better. We need to achieve more than ever before which Post will be next to join the above list. Commander Pipkin and his staff are here to help. Let us work together and achieve 100% of our Post achieving 102% or better. We are counting on you.

The following Program applications can be found on VFWAR.org under Programs

Member of the Year

DUE TO YOUR DISTRICT

Must be turned in your District NO LATER THAN February 28, 2024

Scout of the Year, Nick Bacon, JROTC, VFW Employer of the Year, Member of the Year

The following are the deadlines for these programs, they **DO NOT** go to your District. **Send them to Department or the Chairman.**

- 1 March 2024 – deadline for Scout of the Year to local Post.
- 1 March 2024 – deadline for Nick Bacon Scholarship to be at Headquarters.
- 7 March 2024 – deadline for Member of the Year to Headquarters
- 28 March 2024 – deadline for JROTC Cadet of the Year
- 28 March 2024 – deadline for VFW Employer of the Year
- 1 April 2024 – deadline for Scout of the Year to the Department Chairman

The Nick Bacon was increased to \$3,500, and if we have ten (10) or more entries, there will be a second-place award of \$1,500.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S NOTES

I cannot tell you how proud of our Department I am for achieving our goals in membership as well as an overwhelming support by our VFW and Auxiliary delegation on the turn-out at this year's Mid-Winter Conference. With Commander-in-Chief Sarmiento's visit, he knows Arkansas is a Department of dedicated members and he was very impressed with our recruiting efforts.

Please pay attention to the above programs that are still pending upcoming due dates, while you continue to support your communities and mentor our newer members.

One Family One Fight, I am here to serve you.

~CDR Pipkin

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S NOTES

Wow!!! What an outstanding weekend! It began with leadership training and closed with an outstanding banquet that capitalized on our youth and their future goals with scholarships. It is time to start thinking about our future officers for the 24-25 year. Nominations open in March and nominate and elect in April, however they do not take office until the State Convention installation of officers. Mentor all members to possibly accept a nomination of an office or a chairmanship to build them for their future. I am always here if you need me, I am just a phone call away. #vfwar #OneFamilyOneFight #GoTeamArkansas

~ SVC Tate

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER'S NOTES

It has come to our attention that there are some Commander's that are conducting special meetings whenever they want to. These Commander's will come into the post, find enough members to have a quorum, get them together, and call it a special meeting. Please remember that special meetings can be called but you MUST follow the procedures set forth in the Manual of Procedures Sec 203. If you fail to follow these procedures, anything that you cover will not be recognized by the VFW. Please follow the Bylaws and Manual of Procedures to keep yourself out of trouble. If you do not have a paper copy you can download a copy at vfw.org.

~JVC Wood

Service Officer Training

Currently there is Service Officer training at the Benton VFW Post 2256, 5323 Sleepy Village Rd, Benton, AR 72015. It is scheduled for Sunday February 25, 2024. Training begins at 8:30am for unaccredited Post Service Officers and 1:00pm for accredited Post Service officers. Training will go until 2:30pm. I do know that the morning training will be for new Post Service Officers and the afternoon training will be advanced. Please watch the web site for more details.

DEPARTMENT GOLF TOURNAMENT

When: 20 April 2024

Where: The Greens at North Hills, 7400 AR-107 Sherwood

Cost: \$75 a player

Time: Registration starting at 7:30am with a shotgun start at 8:30am

This will be a 4 person scramble best ball tournament. We will have lunch and awards at Post 9095 after the conclusion of the tournament.

This tournament is a fundraiser for the Department and will be open to any member of the public so make sure to invite everyone. We will be looking for hole sponsors. Each sponsor will be \$150. The hole sponsorship will be open to members, posts, auxiliaries, and the public. If you want to sponsor a hole, we will have a sponsorship form on the Department web page under the news tab. When you print the form make sure to call Rodney at 501-658-5519 to make sure that we still have spots open to sponsor before you mail a check to the Department. This will be a fun event so please come out and play in it.

We will also be having a Commanders Cup Golf Tournament on the Thursday of Department Convention. This tournament will only be open for VFW and Auxiliary members. I will give more details once we have everything ironed out.

Fundraiser Golf Tournament for the Commander's Project and the President's Project

When: 27 April 2024

Where: Diamond Hills Country Club in Lead Hill

There will be 15 four person teams.

They are asking for a \$25 donation from VFW's and Auxiliaries to sponsor this golf tournament. Please make donation checks payable to Arkansas VFW Auxiliary - in the memo line write 2024 golf tournament sponsorship. Please have the sponsorship checks in by 15 March. After the tournament and all payouts are made, the remainder of the money will be split between the Commander's and the President's projects. In case of a rainout or cancellation by any unforeseen circumstances, the sponsorship monies will be split between the two projects.

Donations need to be mailed to:

Kevin Mann

402 Mockingbird Drive

Bull Shoals, AR 72619

If you have any questions, you can contact Kevin at 870-321-2418.

More information coming soon.

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

**GENERAL ORDERS #7
2023-2024**

February 2024

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT OPTIONS

Members have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs. Once enrolled in either program, automatic payments are processed using the credit card information provided on the application. These are simply added options on the membership application. The traditional methods of signing up for both annual and Life membership are still options as well.

VFW Autopay—renews your annual membership automatically! Life Installment Plan—automatic monthly payments option—with this option, there is no need to complete a payment authorization form.

Department and Post Quartermasters have the option to enroll new members as installment Life on the Online Membership System.

Recruiting Notes: Encourage annual members to take advantage of the Life member installment plan. Encourage Life installment plan and annual members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.

Legacy Life Membership: This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

Levels	Post	Departments	National
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$ 6.00

VFW FOUNDATION:

VFW's Partners in Patriotism

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$15) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in

Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 7108 or email us at partners@vfw.org with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

“Buddy” Poppy
“BUDDY” ® POPPY:

Order Buddy Poppies NOW for Memorial Day events. You can find the order form on VFWAR.org under Programs and then Buddy Poppy. Buddy Poppies must be paid for in advance.

Remember that your Poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify if you are wanting the traditional Poppies or the Tin Poppies and the date by which the Poppies are required, do not use “ASAP.”

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary “Buddy” ® Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. The bigger issue is that we simply don’t have the inventory on hand to fulfill the potential orders that could come in if we open these items up to be ordered by anyone at any time.

The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that nonprofit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of “Buddy” ® Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>

Post registering for National Convention

Attention of Post Commanders 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(s) online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that will be mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing going out later this month. Registration forms for the 119th National Convention may be mailed to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Post Elections: Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers.

District

Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure provides that Posts shall elect delegates and alternates to District conventions at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District convention at which District officers are to be elected: one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department convention.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National By-Laws – Regular Meeting, Districts shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings each year for purposes of transacting business and conducting schools of instruction.

Pursuant to Section 417 of the National Manual of Procedure, District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed.

District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.

Post

Delegates and alternates to the Department conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department 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 at the time of the election.

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, one of which ends March 31.

All Post must have at least two members present at the election of the Department Convention in order to maintain all votes. (meaning: delegate votes plus Commander vote, one person cannot vote delegate strength and Commander vote.)

Department By-Laws and Resolutions: By-Laws and Resolutions for the Department By-Laws **MUST** be submitted to the State Adjutant NLT 15 April 2024 and shall be typewritten in order for the By-Laws Committee to review and publish them in the May and June GO's for all to review prior to the State Convention. You can hard copy or email them to the Department Adjutant adjqm@vfw.org.

BY COMMAND OF

**Teddy Pipkin
State Commander**

OFFICIAL

**Christine Oldham
State Adjutant**

Edited 2-20-24