

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

MARCH 2024

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

Membership – 97.83%

MEMBERSHIP

As a Department, we need 430 members to be 102%. District Commanders, please start contacting your Post Commander's and push for the results. It is going to take each and every one of us to do our part to make this happen.

Arkansas has 30 Posts and 2 Districts that have reached 102% or higher, we are right on pace, let's go Arkansas.

Districts Membership Percentages

District 1 - Commander Tobey – 94.99%
District 2 – Commander White – 91.32%
District 4 – Commander Mullins – 102.28%
District 5 – Commander Powell – 116.18%
District 6 – Commander Holt – 93.69%
District 7 – Commander Starr – 97.32%
District 9 – Commander Listermann – 90.34%
District 10 – Commander Walker – 93.19%
District 13 – Commander Thelen – 99.27%

Commander's Notes

I am leaving this week (3-1 to 3-7) to go to Washington DC to represent you with our Legislators on Capital Hill. While I am away, Sr. Vice Commander Elvin Tate will be there for any of your needs. He can be reached at 870-514-8080.

In the month of March, we are looking to increase our membership by 2%, that is 207 members. We are offering for the month of March, on a first come first serve basis, a \$5 off discount on membership if you process them through Headquarters. I am offering this for a limit of 10 members per post.

As you see above, this Department has come a long way with the new goal of 102%. What I have seen throughout this Department is that for the ones that have the area and communities to recruit in, it is working. The smaller areas just need to think outside of the box as it is obviously more challenging. Looking at us now, I can say this could be our first year for our Department for all Post's to achieve 100% +. Stay focused and engaged.

~Commander Pipkin

Senior Vice Commander's Notes

We have made an investment in our Country, the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization, and ourselves or we would not be here to volunteer. Thank you for those Posts that have reached their membership goal. I encourage everyone to keep digging deeper to reach the Commander's Challenges as well as continuing to improve our membership. Help your fellow Posts by training or helping them hold recruiting events within their communities.

Remember we have a great leadership team here just in case you have any questions about anything. Keep driving forward...#OneFamilyOneFight #GoTeamArkansas #vfwar.

~SVC Tate

BYLAWS ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

Sec. 403 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.

Electronic Attendance. Members may be allowed to participate in meetings using technology that allows participating members to communicate with each other simultaneously.

~JVC Wood

Parade of Winners Legislative Conference

The Legislative Conference is in Washington D.C. March 3-7, 2024. Please be sure to download the app and watch live as our students participate and support them in their achievements.

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 or submitted to Todd Willey, 5727 Brookshire Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72401, 479-857-6069, todd.l.willey@gmail.com.

7 March 2024 – deadline for Member of the Year to Chairman Elvin Tate, etate@vfwar.org, 870-514-8080, 616 Stewart Dr, Marion, AR 72364

28 March 2024 – deadline for JROTC Cadet of the Year Chairman Marc Calcaterra, calcaterra76@gmail.com, 479-531-8146, 813 Buckhorn Cir. Cabot, AR 72023

28 March 2024 – deadline for VFW Employer of the Year Chairman Jerry Hulsey, jhulsey@bbark.org, 479-249-2344, 820 Brook St. Gentry, R 72734

1 April 2024 – deadline for Scout of the Year to the Department Chairman, Terry Daniell, icoachcats@aol.com, 870-230-2303. 1313 Haddock Street, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

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.

STATE CONVENTION May 30 – Jun 2, 2024

The State Convention will be at the Arlington Hotel located in Hot Springs , AR, 30 May through 2 June 2024. The room rate is \$116.00 plus tax per night, a \$7 resort fee and parking. The hotel's phone number is 501-623-7771. There will only be one banquet, which will be Friday night awards and farewell, Cowboy Masquerade is the theme, we are working on event costs now and will publish on the website when we get them. Buddy Poppies: All three (3) categories.

Hospitality

The Department has only 4 hospitality rooms, everyone interested please contact Christine ASAP, and we will do a zoom call to discuss what is best for each post and district involved, together we will make an outstanding event.

ALL-STATE

Deadline for entry is April 17, 2024, **to assure hat orders** to include the Department Medallion. Post and District Commanders, by 15 March 2023 there will be an All State check list on our web site vfwar.org under resources. If you would please get this form answer all questions and email it to the Headquarters at adjqm@vfwar.org in order to be in the running for the award.

The Medallion is only for first award at Post or District level, any of the same awards is a pin that you would put on the ribbon of the award.

ALL-AMERICAN

The membership percentages are needed in order to qualify for the All-American status is over 102%, for more information please go to vfw.org membership program. For Districts, you must be in the top 15 of your Division. Please watch your Division.

124th NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 124th National Convention is slated for July 27 through August 1, 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky. Registration should open by the end of the month.

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

These orders are to be read at each Post meeting.

GENERAL ORDERS
2023-2024 Series

March 2024

Delegates

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.

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.

On all levels are reminded that according to Section 105 of the National By-Laws, a member whose dues are unpaid after their anniversary date ceases to be a member in good standing and loses all rights of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They shall not attend meetings or conventions and shall not participate in Post, County Council, District, Department or National functions.

Resolutions and Department By-Laws Recommended Changes

It is that time of year where we must start looking at the Department By-Laws for changes. Anyone having any recommended changes need to forward them NLT 15 April 2024 for the By-Laws Committee to review them at the April Committee meeting and inclusion in the General Orders for everyone to see.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

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. 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.

Loyalty Day and Memorial Day Observance

Section 223 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.

INSTALLING OFFICERS

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed.

Post Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-laws and the Manual of Procedures covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post-Election Reports forms are not being mailed. The Post must go online through Online Membership System no later than June 1st. The Department Staff WILL help anyone with this task. Just give us a call and it takes about 3 minutes, have the newly elected officers' membership #'s and we will assist.

PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICERS: All Posts and Districts should be reminded of the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedure which states that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility has been submitted to their respective Adjutant for review.

ROTC and JROTC Awards: Each year scores of high school and Universities write to National Headquarters requesting the VFW ROTC Awards. Posts willing to sponsor these awards should contact the Professor of Military Sciences at the school(s) in your area and inform them of your sponsorship. Medals and ribbon bars and citations are available through the VFW Emblem and Supply Department or VFW Department Headquarters, certificate and medal are each at a cost of \$20.

Post Business:
None

Teddy Pipkin
State Commander

OFFICIAL
Christine Oldham

State Adjutant