

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

MAY/JUNE 2024

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

Due to Convention timing there will be no General orders in June. This Month's General Orders will be for May and June.

Department Membership Standing: 105.00%

As of today 51 Posts and 7 Districts have achieved 102% or above. Congratulations

Commander

The Department is sitting in an outstanding membership position, but let us not forget that the All State Program and All American Program run thru June 30, 2024. Your Post and/or District has plenty of time to achieve these goals. All State hats for receipt at state convention have been selected, however you can still achieve this. Go to VFWAR.org and fill out the form and get it to the headquarters for my consideration. If achieved you will be on list and get the medal, however you will have to purchase your own hat if desired. Good Luck to all.

Personally I would like to say thank you to Each Post and District for allowing me to be Commander for the 2023-2024 year. I might not be Commander anymore but I am a member. I will continue to support leadership at all levels, I will never forget how I got here and I will strive to assist the future leadership as well. Always remember; ONE FAMILY ONE FIGHT

~Commander Teddy Pipkin

Senior Vice Commander

Comrades it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as VFW Department of Arkansas State Senior Vice Commander for the year 2023-2024. We have had many great achievements this year as team Arkansas. Our membership has grown due to the hard work and commitment recruiting to grow our organization. We have had a successful year with programs to include many VOD and Patriots Pen entries, along with Scout of the year, Public Servant, and Teacher of the Year. The attendance at District meetings, and State events has been exceptional and shows the drive to make Arkansas shine. The Post reporting has drastically improved with the incorporation of the Arkansas Dashboard and highlights the great achievements of our posts throughout the state. Just another great tool for us to succeed. Under the leadership and guidance from Commander Pipkin these great things have been achieved. I would like to thank Commander Pipkin for his guidance and mentorship as we move forward. I ask that you support me with your confidence and vote to elect me as your next VFW Department of Arkansas State Commander for the year 2024-2025, to continue the great works of the Department of Arkansas and this great organization.

~SVC Elvin Tate

Junior Vice

Comrades, it is coming close to the end of another amazing year far too soon. It has been an honor serving as your Jr Vice Commander for this year and I have enjoyed meeting every one of you. I truly believe that Arkansas has the best members in the Nation. You, the members, are the backbone of the Department and the VFW. I would like to thank each and every one of you for being a member of this great organization because if it were not for you, the VFW would not be able to accomplish the veteran support that they do. I would appreciate your vote for the next step for me, Senior Vice Commander of this great Department. Again thank you for everything that you do.

Golf State Convention

The Commanders Cup Golf tournament is set for 30 May 2024. The course will be Lakeside Country Club located at 418 Wilson Lake Ln, Hot Springs. We will be having 2 flights: first flight with a check-in starting at 0730 and a shotgun start at 0830. The first flight will be made up of VFW council members and members who need to attend the joint memorial service held on the same day. We hope the second flight should be done by this time but to make sure please email or text me if you plan on attending the memorial service and we will do our best to get you into the am flight.

If you do not have a team, please contact me and I will get you with other members so we can all play. We would like for the hole sponsorship to be in memory of a Past Department Commander or Past Department President from your Post that way their memory will stay with the members. If you have a past Commander and President from the same post there is a special offer, so go to our website to download the information. This is the Commanders Cup so it will only be open to members of the VFW and its Auxiliary. We would like to have this tournament every convention so the cup will travel to the Post or District who wins it for the year. Registration cut off will be 24 May 2024.

~JVC Rodney Wood

Quartermaster

It has been a my honor to serve as your Quartermaster yet for another year. I do know that the numbers are dwindling closer to the end, (this does not say I am ready to go yet) than where we started. As I look back I smile over the growth is this Department and the mentorship of new members for our future. I hope and pray everyday that we can sometimes agree to disagree and to continue to put the Department and our Post above our personal needs.

~QM Oldham

Nick Bacon

The winner for this year's Nick Bacon Scholarship in the amount of \$3,500 is Jaxson Meyer . Congratulations to Jaxson.

VFW Scout of the Year

Zach Gardner

VFW JR ROTC Cadet of the Year

Brianne Dragon

VFW Member of the Year

Herbert Burns from Post 4548 – Jacksonville

National Home

Department Junior Vice Rodney Wood is going to National Home this month. If your Post has any donations or items to go please get them to him TODAY and he will assure that they get to the Home.

2023-2024 ARKANSAS STATE CONVENTION

May 30 – June 2, 2024

Arlington Hotel

239 Central Avenue

501-609-2534

Our representative is Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Adjutant General Dan West.

All registration information can be found on-line at vfw.org under news and events. Room rates are \$116.00 plus a \$7 resort fee, taxes, and parking. If you have multiple people in the room, the rate will increase.

Awards and Farewell – Friday Night – Theme “Cowboy Masquerade” - it is a cross between masquerade ball and cowboy it up, you pick a desired attire to fit this.

Buddy Poppy Display contest – All 3 Categories will be judged

Saturday Elections – the following guide lines will be followed in order to vote in all elections held this day.

1. To get Commander and delegate vote for any Post you must have at minimum two (2) registered delegates in attendance during the elections.
2. All Post audits must be current thru March 2024.
3. 2024-2025 Election report must be submitted on OMS.
4. Post Delegate form must be submitted to Department.

It would be a good idea for your Post leadership to hand carry copies of all above items in the event a question is raised.

125th National Convention

The 125th National Convention is scheduled for July 27 – August 1, 2024 and will take place in Louisville, KY. Get your registration done now.

Memorial Day

Ceremony will be held at the **State Veterans Cemetery on Maryland Ave, Monday, May 27, 2024** at 10 am

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

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

GENERAL ORDERS #11
2023-2024

May-June 2024

Installation

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.

Posts

Post Commanders: Delegate strength will be based on membership on March 31, 2024. Delegates to the Department Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the 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.

Post Commander: PRIOR TO ELECTIONS: VERIFY THAT ALL RUNNING FOR OFFICE ARE PAID MEMBERS. Over the Past several weeks the Department Commander has obtained correspondence from National that individuals that have been elected, are unpaid. If any elected officers are annual members we highly encourage that each quartermaster collect their dues now and pay them so no elected officers will be removed from offices during the 2024-2025 year.

Post Commander: Attention is directed to Section 215 of the National Bylaws with states No member shall hold two elected Post positions at the same time but may hold one elected and one or more appointed offices.

Attention is directed to Section 222 of the National By-Laws This portion of the By-laws states that each post will register one delegate to the National Convention.

For those Post who do not have computers to please forward your election report form to This office (State Adjutant Office) who will file the report for you. Please ensure that all elected and appointed Officers are listed with correct phone # and addresses on your election report,

this will facilitate preparation of the Department directory and USPS listing for mailing of General Orders.

Districts

District/Post Commanders: Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers: All Posts, Districts and Departments should be reminded of the provisions of Sections 216, 416, and 516 of the Manual of Procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Adjutant and properly reviewed.

All District Commanders are asked to make sure that the District election report is completed with all of the elected and appointed Officers completed and forward to the State Adjutant immediately after the District Convention. This will facilitate the preparation of the Department Directory.

District Meeting Dates for 2024-2025: All newly elected District Commanders are reminded please try within 30 days to submit to the Department Adjutant a list of all meetings for the 2024-2025 year (if you have them). This will help us for planning purposes.

Per Section 403 of the National By-laws, each District should hold two (2) regular meeting for the purpose of transacting business and conducting a school of instruction and each District shall hold an annual District Convention for electing District officers. You can still hold one every quarter if your district desires that.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Department Business:

Suspended
None

Teddy Pipkin

State Commander

OFFICIAL
Christine Oldham
State Adjutant

District Meetings

District meeting dates on listed on the web site, however prior to attending please verify with you District Commanders

TALK SAVES LIVES – VFW DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS

This event is brought to you by the Arkansas Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Hosted by the VFW Department of Arkansas, by a combat-veteran presenter with AFSP.

This event is open exclusively to Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. with proof of

You MUST register for this event to attend.

Registration Link: <https://tslvfw24.attendase.com/>

Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention is a community-based presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to fight suicide. Participants will learn common risk factors and warning signs associated with suicide, and how to keep themselves and others safe.

May 31, 2024

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

The Arlington Hotel, Conference Center C

239 Central Ave.

Hot Springs, AR 71901

Presenter Contact Information:

Stephen M. Wright

Commander, BG William O. Darby Post 8845

Presenter / Volunteer, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Stephen.afsp.ar@gmail.com

501-503-9910



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**

Arkansas