

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

January 2024

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

Current membership: Department 91.28%

Next month the General orders will not be published until 8 February 2024.

Commander's Notes

Let us, together, start out the New Year right.

Alright Comrades.....We need 384 members to reach 95% by the end of the month. This will keep us solid on track to meet our 102% goal by the end of year. Pull your roster from OMS and start by reaching out to recently expired members first. Call members that expired in 2023, then 2022, then 2021 and so forth to let them know we need them.

~CMD Teddy Pipkin

Senior Vice Commander's Notes

Happy New Year to all my Comrades of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Arkansas. I hope that each and every one of you had a Wonderful Holiday Season. Let us continue to keep the pedal to the metal when it comes to Membership recruitment and let's not forget about Training. You will get a wealth of knowledge and experience from your Department Leadership Team about Quartermaster training, Veteran Service Officer training, Dashboard, Legacy Life Membership, and much more. It's advisable that District Commander's encourage your Post Commander's to send a representative from their Post to attend the training sessions when they come to your area of the State. Your Department Leadership is showing you that they care, that's why they offer training in your areas. I encourage you to visit vfwar.org and you can find out more about what you're doing to help the Veterans of Foreign Wars, their families, their supporters, and their communities. Check out our website; you'll be amazed about what you've been missing out on. Always remember that we are just a phone call away and don't hesitate to contact us if you're looking for advice. #GoTeamArkansas #vfwar #OneFamilyOneFight

~SVC Tate

Junior Vice Commander's Notes

TEAM, I want to discuss something that is near and dear to my heart. Leadership. Each and every one of us are volunteers for the number one Veterans organization in the world, regardless of what level you participate at. However, if you are going to hold an office, take responsibility for that office and do the job to the best of your ability. Before you accept any nomination, please go to the by-laws, and read the responsibility for that position. We need people in the office that are willing to do the duties of the position, not just someone there to get a hat or prevent someone else from holding that office. We understand that sometime the responsibility can get overwhelming but when you look back at what you and your Post, District and/or Department have accomplished, it is an immensely proud moment. If you are not in a leadership position, please assist all leaders to strive to be the best. We are only a phone call away.

~JVC Wood

DISTRICT WINNERS

Congratulations to all of the below listed winners. If you see your Post or District in the running, please attend the awards banquet on February 3, 2024 and help congratulate all our winners. Tickets are still on sale for this wonderful event.

PATRIOTS PEN

District 1 -	Post 3031	Juana Martinez
District 2 -	Post 8042	Hadey Landers
District 4 -	Post 4556	Rylee Kasinger
District 5 -	Post 2330	Christopher Skabronski
District 6 -	Post 2259	Zion Butts
District 7 -	Post 8532	Elijah Chauffe
District 9 -	Post 4451	Nathan Williamson
District 10 -	Post 4455	Ender Kinova
District 13 -	Post 4548	Lsaura Pulido

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Post 1674	Annamarie Schuermann
Post 3246	Zane Darraq
Post 2242	Ta'Nylah Peterson
Post 7514	Danae Jones
Post 4674	Olivia Frazier
Post 1322	Jackson Myers
Post 2256	Annabeth English
Post 4455	Zekiah Strickland
Post 9095	Benjamin Dillman

Teacher of the Year

The Department will be sending Department Officers to the sponsoring schools to present these awards in front of their peers and students.

Kindergarten – 5 grade	-	Racheal McGarrh – Post 2935 – Sherwood
6 th grade – 8 th grade	-	Cherese Smith - Post 8845- Fort Smith
9 th grade – 12 th grade	-	Kimberly Boyd - Post 8245- Huntington

Mid – Winter

This year Mid-Winter will be at the Airport Holiday Inn Airport, February 2-3, 2024. For hotel reservations please call 501-490-1000. To register and purchase your Awards Banquet tickets, please contact the Department Headquarters @ 501-834-8392 or go to our web site, vfw.org under news and use our paypal button. Banquet Tickets in advance are \$40.00, tickets at the door are \$45.00. This price includes your registration. If you are just registering without a banquet ticket, the cost is \$10.00 is purchased by close of business January 31, 2024, or \$13 if purchased during the Conference. **The deadline for advance tickets is January 31, 2024.**

Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento

This year we are honored to have Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento as our guest for our Mid-Winter Conference.

Service Officer Training

Great News!!! Our new Department Service Officer will be conducting Post Service Officer training on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at the Mid-Winter Conference at the Airport Holiday Inn at 1 pm.

Currently there is Service Officer training at the Benton VFW scheduled for Sunday February 25, 2024. Times to be determined. 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 and February General Orders for more details.

“Buddy” Poppies

Commanders on all levels should begin organizing their 2024 Memorial Day “Buddy” ® Poppy Campaign. Every Post is urged to order and distribute VFW “Buddy” ® Poppies. **Chairmen – James White and Melvin Veasey**

Mid-Winter Buddy Poppy Contest - Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Displays

(Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes)

Displays **MUST** be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the “Buddy” ® Poppy. At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

Training at Mid-Winter

Friday

2:00 – 4:00 Quartermaster Training – QM Oldham

1:30 – 3:00 Leadership Training – SVC Tate

3:00 Commander’s Call – Commander-in-Chief Sarmiento/Commander Pipkin

Saturday

1:00 – 3:00 Post Service Officer Training

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

**GENERAL ORDERS #7
2023-2024 SERIES**

JANUARY 2024

ARREARS

Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National Bylaws concerning any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council and District meetings; County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

FLY THE FLAG ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S BIRTHDAY.

The U.S. federal flag code has been amended by Congress and signed by the president to add Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to the list of days on which the flag should be displayed. His birthday is observed on the third Monday in January; therefore, the flag should be flown on that day. To purchase a U.S. flag from the VFW Store, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags>.

Many communities are conducting community service projects that day. It is highly suggested that all members support this day of service.

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.

Suspensions:
None

BY COMMAND OF

**Teddy Pipkin
State Commander**

OFFICIAL

**Christine Oldham
State Adjutant**

Mid-Winter Agenda
Airport Holiday Inn, Little Rock
Department of Arkansas VFW & Auxiliary
Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Awards Ceremony
February 2-3, 2024

FRIDAY, February 2, 2024

1:00 – 5:00 – Registration - Atrium
12:00 – Auxiliary – Ways N Means – Atrium
11:30 – 1:00 – Hospitality room – Lindberg – no lunch provided
2:00- 4:00 – Quartermaster Training –QM Oldham – Kitty Hawk
1:30 – 3:00 – Leadership training – SVC Tate – Kity Hawk
3:00 – Commander’s Call – Commander-in-Chief Sarmiento/Commander Pipkin – Kitty Hawk
2:00 – 6:00 – Auxiliary – Enterprise his and her project – raffle for scholarships
4:30 – Hospitality room – open
6:00 – Dinner fundraiser – Hosted by Auxiliary – Lindberg
7:30 –Hospitality room - planning Karaoke - Lindberg

SATURDAY, February 3, 2024

9:00 – 1:00 – Registration
8:30 – 3:00 – Ways N Means - Atrium
8:00 – 9:00 – Joint Openings – All Attendees – Kitty Hawk
9:15 – 12:00 – VFW Council of Administration - Kitty Hawk
9:15 – 12:00 - Auxiliary Council of Administration- Kitty Hawk
12:00 – Buddy Poppy Judging – **Category 2**
12:00 – 1:00 - Lunch – VFW fundraiser Lindburg
1:00 - 3:00 - Post Service Officer Training - Hobby
1:00 – Riders Group Meeting - Enterprise
4:30 – VOD and PP Awards Banquet – Business Casual Attire or Harry Potter themed
Doors open at 4:15
6:30 – Hospitality Room - Karaoke Lindberg
6:30 – 8:30??? –

Room rate \$91.00 plus tax (501-490-1000)

Registration \$10 per person (included with Banquet ticket price) - \$13 after January 31st

Banquet: \$40 if purchased before January 31, 2024, \$45 at the door, **no exceptions**

Banquet dinner: Buffet – Southern Beef Steak or Chicken with gravy & sides

BUDDY POPPY CATEGORY IS CATEGORY 2

SUBJECT TO CHANGE