

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

February 2025

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

Mid-Winter Conference

Let me share some of the great things going on at the Airport Holiday Inn in Little Rock at the VFW Mid-Winter Conference!!

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore will be our guest!

Classes: **Quartermaster training**
 Suicide Prevention
 Service Officer

Buddy Poppy Competition – Category 1 – Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

Friday Night: Chili Cookoff
 Game Night (bring your favorite board game)

Awards Banquet Wear something in support of your local schools

Come and join us for hard work and camaraderie
More information located at the end of the General Orders

There will be a meeting during Mid-Winter to discuss the 1 Hospitality room at State Convention in Jonesboro June 5-8, 2025

Current Membership: Department – 87.03%

Post of the Quarter for the 2nd Quarter
Post 2330 – Searcy – Commander James Ross

District of the Quarter
None

Top 10 Post in Department

Post 7518 – Berryville – Commander Matthew Masters – 136%
Post 12233 – Perryville – Commander Wally Treece – 127%
Post 4449 – Marianna – Commander Terry Clark – 112%
Post 4501 – Batesville – Commander Curtis Matheny – 110%
Post 2256 – Benton – Commander Steven Davis – 108%
Post 8109 – Pea Ridge – Commander Howard Schuettpelez – 106%
Post 9777 – Salem – Commander Bill Lowman – 106%
Post 8525 – Plainview – Commander Donald Thompson -104%
Post 4683 – Newport – Commander Fred Beard – 104%
Post 9834 – Decatur – Commander Mickchal Carnahan – 103%

Post at 100%+

Post 2952, Post 8042, Post 8671, Post 10007, Post 3246

Department of Arkansas is currently at 9498 current members, to achieve 102% we need to be at 11,132 new, continuous and/or reinstated. We can do this together. Arkansas, currently 15 Post have achieved 100% or better. We need to achieve more than ever before, which Post will be next to join the above list. Commander Tate and his staff are here to help. Let us work together and achieve 100% of our Post achieving 100% or better. We are counting on you.

**Scout of the Year and Nick Bacon
Employer of Year, JROTC**

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

1 March 2025 – deadline for Scout of the Year to be to Headquarters/Chairman

1 March 2025 – deadline for Nick Bacon Scholarship to be at Headquarters/Chairman

28 March 2025 – deadline for employer of Year and JROTC due to Headquarters/Chairman

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S NOTES

As we move into the month of February, we are still working hard on reaching our goal of 102% in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Membership program. Mid-Winter is closing in, so let's get together and have some fun and take care of business at the same time. Each and every one of you have been working tirelessly on the program deadlines as well as recruiting events and Buddy Poppy drives. I want you all to know that I appreciate what you do and want y'all to know that if you need help with anything, that the Leadership Team will make themselves available at all times. All you have to do is pick up the phone and contact us...#FightingForOurVeteranCommunities

~CMD Tate

Senior Vice Commander 's Notes

Commanders please remember that under sec.218 Officers and Chairman duties and obligations (a)1. Commander k. you must ensure that you or your representative will attend all District Conventions and meetings. If you are unable to attend in person remember you have the ability to attend using your phone. Please get in touch with your District Commander if you are unable to attend so you can work out a game plan. These meetings are when we, your state representative, pass on the latest information that our State Commander wants to push to the members.

~SVC Wood

Surgeon's Notes

February is American Heart Month, a nationwide effort to raise awareness about heart disease and promote healthy heart habits.

Do you know the difference?

Cardiac Arrest happens when the heart suddenly stops beating due to a malfunction. It is an electrical problem.

Heart Attack occurs when blood flow to the heart is blocked. It is a circulation problem.

Recognizing these conditions early and calling 911 is critical. The sooner medical care begins, the better the chances of survival. Know the warning signs and act quickly.

~SGN Powell

PUBLIC SERVANT OF THE YEAR

Dispatcher of the Year – Elizabeth Richner – District 9 – Post 2278 Hot Springs

EMT of the Year – Joseph Chappell – District 4 – Post 4556 Pocahontas

Firefighter of the Year – Woody Wheelless – District 4 – Post 5225 Marion/West Memphis

Law Enforcement of the Year – Gary Robertson – District 9 – Post 2256

EOD of the Year – J.T. Coleman – District 9 – Post 2278 Hot Springs

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Grades K - 5 – Beverly Roland – District 5 – Post 2330 Searcy

Grades 6 – 8 – Wendy Peters – District 1 – Post 2952 Springdale

Grades 9 – 12 – James Lively – District 9 – Post 2278 Hot Springs

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

GENERAL ORDERS #7
2024-2025 SERIES

February 2025

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 \$10) 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. Email the Headquarters or fill out the form you can obtain on line at vfw.org under programs and mail it to Headquarters.

Remember that your Poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a 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 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 2025 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.

Department Business:

Suspensions:

Post 8532 – Coal Hill

BY COMMAND OF

**Elvin Tate
State Commander**

OFFICIAL

**Christine Oldham
State Adjutant**

Mid-Winter Agenda

Airport Holiday Inn

Department of Arkansas VFW & Auxiliary
Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Awards Ceremony

FRIDAY, February 14, 2025

1:00 – 5:00 – Registration - Atrium

12:00 – Auxiliary – Ways N Means (Basket raffle)- Lindberg

11:30 – 1:00 – Hospitality room – 2 story suites

1:00 – 3:30 – Quartermaster Training – AQM Byrd/QM Oldham – Kitty Hawk

5:00 – 6:00 – Auxiliary Council Meeting – Enterprise

4:30 – Hospitality room – 2 story suites

6:00 – Dinner fundraiser – Chili Cook Off – Lindberg

7:30 – Karaoke (Lindberg) / Fun and Games (Atrium) / Hospitality - sponsored by VFW Dept of AR, PSC Mark Davis for National Council and Grand of Arkansas M.O.C. (2 Story Suites)

SATURDAY, February 15, 2025

8:00 – 1:00 – Registration - Atrium

8:30 – 2:00 – Ways N Means (Basket Raffle) - Lindberg

9:00 – 10:00 – Joint Openings – All Attendees – Kitty Hawk

10:15 – 12:00 – VFW Council of Administration Kitty Hawk

10:15 – 12:00 - Auxiliary Program Training- Kitty Hawk

12:00 – Buddy Poppy Judging – Category 1 (Ashleigh Bishop--Chairman)

12:00 – 1:00 – Lunch – VFW fundraiser

12:30 – Riders Group Meeting -- Enterprise

3:30 – 6:30 – VOD & PP Awards Banquet – Business Casual or Local School Attire

12:00 – Hospitality Room - 2 Story Suites (closed during meetings)

6:30 – 8:30??? – Karaoke, Games, and Hospitality (2 story suites)

Room rate \$99.00

Banquet Tickets - \$40 (this includes registration) early registration \$45 at the door

Registration only - \$10

UPDATED 1/16/2025

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

***If you want a copy of the agenda, save to your phone or print a copy out. There will NOT be any copies available at Mid-Winter



PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN AUXILIARY

Chili Cook-off

Fundraiser

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025
6:00 PM

Lindberg Room

You must provide your own pot
serving spoon, extension cord if you are
plugging your pot in

Please email Linda Evans @ revans123@windstream.net if entering

Entry Fee \$20
To eat and Judge \$5

Chili MUST be in place by 5:00pm

go to vfwauxar.org for more information or contact Linda Evans