

# ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

March 2025

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

**Membership – 89.65%**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

As a Department we need 1348 members to be 102%, District Commanders please start contacting your Post Commanders 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 17 Post that have reached 102% or higher, first time in a long time our Department is way behind the power curve, we can't make it alone, it takes a TEAM.

## **Voice of Democracy Winner's**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – District 1 – Post 9834 – Catelyn Stearman
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - District 7 – Post 8845 – Carissa Vaughn
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – District 2 – Post 1341 – Lillyann Higley
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – District 6 - Post 2259 – Caleb Grigg
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place – District 13 – Post 4548 – Veronica McWilliams
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place – District 4 – Post 2242 – Lily Agee
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place - District 10 – Poat 8124 – Matthew Collier
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place - District 5 – Post 7514 – Morgan Hughs
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place – District 9 – Post 2278 – Julia Martin

## **Patriots Pen**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – District 7 – Post 8532 – Eli Chauffe
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – District 13 – Post 4548 – Hailey Hite
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – District 5 – Post 10007 – Anna DiFebbo
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – District 9 – Post 2278 – Neya Hunnicutt
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – District 10 – Post 8124 – Tatum Aycock
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – District 4 – Post 5225 – Jasmine Chavez
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – District 6 – Post 12127 – Georgia Newman
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – District 2 – Post 3252 – Caleb Mainord
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – District 1 – Poat 10021 – Lilly Rugg

## **Commanders Notes**

Fellow Comrades,

Mid-Winter 2025 is in our past and it's March. Springtime will be here soon and time for warmer weather, which is an excellent opportunity to get out and do some Recruiting and Buddy Poppy drives.

Make sure we keep doing Buddy Checks on each other and keep up with your Community Service hours and mileage. The year is moving fast, so we need to increase our Membership numbers to make sure we are keeping up and surpassing other States. Continue to use your checklist to make sure that you're on track for All- State and All-American, so that you don't miss anything, let's keep communicating with each other so that we all can be successful in the future. Thanks for all that you do...

#FightingForOurVeteranCommunities

~Commander Tate

## **Senior Vice Commanders Notes**

The next couple of months we will be having nominations and elections. Please read the duties and responsibilities of the position that you accept. You can download an electronic version of the podium edition at our members only page.

~SVC Wood

### **Outgoing Quartermaster**

For those of you who have not heard I, Christine Oldham, officially stepped down as Quartermaster at the Council meeting held on February 15, 2025. I did this for personal reasons, not something I wanted to do but that I had to do. I will remain as Adjutant until the end of the year. Thank you all for the years of support.

### **Surgeon Notes**

There is currently a lot of illness going around. Make sure you get your check-ups and go see the doctor when needed. If you are sick, stay home and let's prevent the spread of illness.

Here are a few ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle: wash your hands frequently, get enough sleep, manage your stress, eat a balanced diet, and stay hydrated.

Remember I am always here if you need me.

~SGN Powell

### **Parade of Winners Legislative Conference**

The Voice of Democracy: Parade of Winners will be held on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 5pm CST. You can watch it live on Facebook or you can go to [vfw.org/VFWDC2025](http://vfw.org/VFWDC2025) to see all the winners.

The 2025 VFW Washington Conference will be held March 2-6, 2025 in Washington, D.C. This conference gives VFW leaders from each state to personally lobby their respective lawmakers and the VFW's current Commander-in-Chief testify on Capitol Hill on behalf of Veterans.

### **SCOUT OF THE YEAR**

#### **Deadline 1 March 2025**

All entries for Scout of the Year should be submitted to Department Chairman Terry Daniell, 202 Ridge Once Cir., Hot Springs, AR 71901 or email [icoachcats@aol.com](mailto:icoachcats@aol.com)

### **NICK BACON SCHOLARSHIP**

#### **Deadline 1 March 2025**

All entries for Nick Bacon should be submitted to Department Chairman Todd Willey, 5727 Brookshire Dr., Jonesboro, AR 72401, email [todd.l.willey@gmail.com](mailto:todd.l.willey@gmail.com). Phone 479-857-6069.

## **STATE CONVENTION**

### **Save the dates – June 5-8, 2025**

State Convention will be at the Embassy Suites, 223 Red Wolf Boulevard, Jonesboro, AR 72405 June 5 – June 8. Room rate is \$119.00 a night and that does include a full service breakfast daily and a 20% off coupon for restaurant on premises named Houlihan's and daily drink tickets for complimentary reception and free parking.

### **Hospitality**

Please contact Department Headquarters regarding Hospitality availability.

### **ALL-STATE**

Deadline for entry is April 18, 2025, **to ensure cap orders** to include the department Medallion. Post and District Commanders, by 15 March 2025 there will be an All State check list on our web site [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under resources. If you would please get this form answer all questions and email it to the headquarters at [adjqm@vfw.org](mailto:adjqm@vfw.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.

If you are a previous All State awardee, we request that you bring proof with you to State Convention. After awards have been presented, the medals and pins will be available for purchase. (\$20 for a Medallion and \$10 for pin)

### **ALL-AMERICAN**

All Posts that meet the qualifying percentage of 102% and the program participation criteria will receive an All-American Banner, Post Streamer and be recognized in the VFW magazine.

The Top 15 Posts in each Division will receive: • Acknowledgment in VFW Magazine • Acknowledgement during the All-American Awards Ceremony at the National Convention • All-American Post citation • All-American Post streamer • All-American citation - commander • All-American name badge – commander 10 • All-American cap (commander only, quartermaster, adjutant, and Post members may purchase cap) • All-American lapel pin (commander only, quartermaster may purchase pin)

All Districts that meet the qualifying percentage of 102% and the program participation criteria will receive an All-American District Commander Citation, All-American Streamer and be recognized in the VFW magazine. The Top 10 Districts in each Division will receive: • All-American District streamer • All-American District citation - commander • All-American name badge - commander • All-American cap (commander only, quartermaster may purchase cap) • All-American lapel pin (commander only, quartermaster may purchase pin) • Acknowledgement during the All-American Awards Ceremony at the National Convention

# 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  
2024-2025 Series

March 2025

## **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 are to forward them NLT 15 April 2021 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 Day of Service**

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.

The VFW Day of Service kicks off on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and you can participate ALL month. This day showcases veterans banding together to make a difference in their communities.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 \$30 for both or \$20 each.

## **BUDDY POPPIES**

“BUDDY”® POPPIES DISTRIBUTION: The distribution of VFW “Buddy”® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Section 711 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies in their respective areas.

NOTE: As the upcoming Memorial Day approaches, and given the daily hazards confronting our military on a daily basis during operations in Afghanistan, it is appropriate that we direct as many VFW resources as possible to supporting our troops and their families.

In the ongoing effort to provide as much assistance as possible to those serving in the military, we recommend that proceeds or portions from this year’s annual poppy distribution be designated for the purpose of providing VFW support to our military. Posts and Departments now have the opportunity to assist qualified military personnel through the VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs.

In keeping with the intent of Sections 219(a)(c) and 704(a)(c) of the Manual of Procedure “Relief Fund,” this year’s poppy campaign can play a direct role in demonstrating to those who are charged with protecting and defending our way of life that we appreciate and value their sacrifice.

Post Business:

Suspensions –

Post 8532 – Coal Hill

Elvin Tate  
State Commander

OFFICIAL  
Christine Oldham  
State Adjutant