

# ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

## MAY 2025

**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**

**Department Membership Standing: 96.19%**

### **District Totals**

**District 1 – 103.71%**  
**District 2 – 100.85%**  
**District 4 – 88.53%**

**District 5 – 103.43%**  
**District 6 – 84.45%**  
**District 7 – 84.30%**

**District 9 – 99.39%**  
**District 10 – 97.23%**  
**District 13 – 102.69%**

### **Top 5 Posts**

Post 12233 – Perryville – Commander Treece – 161.11%  
Post 7518 – Berryville – Commander Masters – 157.89%  
Post 4501 – Batesville – Commander Matheny – 120.27%  
Post 4449 – Marianna – Commander Clark – 116.66%  
Post 9777 – Salem – Commander Lowmon – 113.63%

As of today, 28 Posts and 3 Districts have achieved Commander Tate's membership goal.  
Congratulations!!

The Department is a little off the pace in membership position, but don't forget that the All State and All American Programs run thru June 30, 2025. Best of Luck to all.

### **Commander's Notes**

Comrades of Team Arkansas,

There's plenty of time for us to achieve our goals to make All State and All American, which runs through June 30, 2025. All State hats to be received at the State Convention have been selected, although you can still make status of All State. Just as years past, if you make All State, you will be on a list and get the Medal or pin, and hats will have to be purchased on your own if you want one. This is the best time to crank up our efforts on recruiting and membership, so that we can make our goal of 102%.

I'd like to thank each and every one of you, Posts and Districts, for having confidence in Me as your Department Commander for the 2024-2025 year. I will continue to support Leadership at all levels and will always remember how each of you support me during this challenging period of my life and I will continue to support the Leadership of the future. I will always be: #FightingForOurVeteranCommunities

## **Senior Vice Commander's Notes**

Comrades, this year has gone by way too fast. It has been an honor and pleasure being your Senior Vice Commander this year. It was great meeting so many of you this year. I have always said that you, the member, are the backbone of the VFW. This Department begins at the Post level. If the Post work together as one, then the Department succeeds. I like to look at this as a bundle of sticks, it is easy to break one stick but when you bundle the sticks together it becomes strong. To me the Department is the stick, and the Post are the bundle. If everyone in the Post is working towards one goal, the Post becomes strong. If all the Post's in the District and Department are strong then the District's and Department become unbreakable. I know that when we do this there is nothing that this Department cannot do. I also know that there are no better people in this organization than we have in the state of Arkansas. Please remember we are always stronger together. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Senior Vice Commander

~SVC Rodney Wood

## **Junior Vice Commander's Notes**

We are coming to the end of the 2024-25 year. We have a lot of things happening in the next two months such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day and State Convention. During this time please do not forget to call your Mom or your Dad or spend some time with your family. I have enjoyed serving as your Junior Vice Commander this past year. Looking forward to your support to be your next Senior Vice Commander.

- JVC Linda Johnson

## **Quartermaster's Notes**

It has been my absolute honor to serve this GREAT Department in the role as State Quartermaster. There have been a few bumps in the road, but I'm learning more and more with each passing day. The goal will always be to reaffirm your faith and confidence in me. With your support I hope to serve again for the 2025-2026 term. See you at Convention! #YouCallWeServe

~QM Jeffrey Byrd

## **Surgeon's Notes**

Comrades,

As this year comes to a close, I want to say what an absolute honor it has been to serve as your State Surgeon. Your dedication and service continue to inspire me every day.

As I look ahead, I humbly ask for your support as I seek the next step in serving our great organization—as your next State Judge Advocate.

Thank you for all that you do. Please remember, I'm always here if you need me.

~SGN Glen Powell

## **Nick Bacon**

The winner for this year Nick Bacon Scholarship in the amount of \$3,500 is Ben Dillman. Ben was sponsored by Post 2935 in Sherwood. Congratulations to Ben.

## **Scout of the Year**

This year's winner is Emma Wright from Hope, Arkansas of Scout Troop 5. Emma was sponsored by VFW Post 2278 from Hot Springs, Arkansas. Congratulations to Emma on this well-deserved honor!

## **National Home**

Department Junior Vice Commander Linda Johnson is going to National Home this month. If your Post or District has any donations or items that need to go, please get them to her TODAY and she will ensure that they get to the National Home.

## **State Convention**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars National Council Member Don Barnes from right here in Arkansas will be our National Representative!**

**2024-2025 Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Conductor Sandra Uzell, from the Buckeye State of Ohio, will be the Auxiliary Representative!**

This year's 94th State Convention will be June 5-8, 2025, at the Embassy Suites in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Please direct your attention to [VFWAR.ORG](http://VFWAR.ORG) where you will find banquet information, hotel rates, the agenda, and details about the annual golf tournament. Headquarters is also working on a few surprises so don't wait until the last minute or you might miss out on all the fun! Please direct any question to Department Headquarters.

The following members have announced their candidacy for one of the following offices. More individuals could announce before elections. \*\*\*\*\*All Candidates are listed by office in alphabetic order\*\*\*\*\*

## **Department Officer Candidates 2025-2026**

Commander -- Rodney Wood  
Senior Vice Commander – Linda Johnson  
Junior Vice Commander – Terry Ham  
Quartermaster – Jeffrey Byrd  
Judge Advocate – Glen Powell  
Surgeon – Marc Calcaterra and Patsy Morris  
Chaplain – Doreen Brown and Dominic Listerman

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

GENERAL ORDERS #11  
2024-2025

May 2025

**Due to Convention timing there will be no General orders in June**

## **126<sup>th</sup> National Convention**

The 126th VFW National Convention will be held Aug. 9-13, 2025, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. Go to [VFW.ORG](http://VFW.ORG) for all pertinent information pertaining to this once-in-a-lifetime event.

## **Memorial Day Ceremonies**

**Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery at North Little Rock.** Location is 1501 West Maryland Ave, North Little Rock, AR 72120. Scheduled for Mondy, May 26, at 9:00 a.m.

**Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery at Birdeye.** Location is 3600 Arkansas 163, Cherry Valley, AR, 72324. Scheduled for Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.

**Section 223 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedures** Each Post shall make arrangements for observances of Memorial Day, see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased members and, if practicable, conduct Memorial Day Services in the cemeteries in its locality.

## **Installation**

**Installing Officers:** Installing officers will see that the provisions of **Section 216 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure** states that Post officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the Post Adjutant. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to office. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited, the office declared vacant and the eligibility qualifications of such officer shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National Bylaws.

Please ensure that Section 216 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures 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: Section 222 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedures** which states Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31st. Delegates and alternates of each Post shall serve as delegates throughout the year provided they remain members in good standing in the respective Post within the District. Delegates shall not be recognized at the National Convention unless they personally register their completed delegate card with the National Credentials Committee. Posts instituted after delegate strength has been determined, but prior to convening date of the respective convention or District meeting, shall on the day of institution, elect one delegate and one alternate for each thirty names or fraction thereof according to the number of names listed on the charter application.

**Post Commander:** Attention is directed to **Section 215 of the National By-Laws and Manuel of Procedure** which states All members shall be eligible to hold any office in the Post provided that proof of eligibility has been submitted and verified by the Post Commander and Adjutant prior to the installation. No member shall hold two elected Post offices at the same time but may hold one elected and one or more appointed offices. Elected Committee members are not Post Officers and accordingly may concurrently hold an elected Post office as provided for in Section 216 of these Bylaws. Post officers, elected or appointed, may be eligible to hold office in a higher body and such offices may be held concurrently. Post Trustees shall not be eligible to serve on committees or as officers having to do with the receipt and expenditure of Post funds whose records and accounts are audited by the trustees. Any officer or committee member whose membership is not in good standing by reason of failure to pay current dues by their anniversary date shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office in that administrative year. Any member who is suspended from membership pursuant to Article IX, shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office or committee membership during the period of suspension.

**Attention** is directed to **Section 222 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure**. This portion of the By-laws states that (a) Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing. Delegates and alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure. (b) Delegates elected under this section shall not be considered instructed and may exercise full authority in the duty to be performed. (c) Each Post will pay, in accordance with its Department Bylaws, a delegate registration fee for each and every delegate to which the Post shall be entitled. (d) 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.

***For those Post who do not have computers to please forward your election report form to the Department Headquarters who will file the report for you. Please ensure that all elected and appointed Officers are listed with correct phone number, email address, and mailing addresses on your election report, this will facilitate preparation of the Department directory.***

## Districts

***District Commanders:*** Section 416 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedure states that District officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the District Adjutant. Additionally, District Commanders, District Senior Vice Commanders, and District Junior Vice Commanders shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the District Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to office. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited, the office declared vacant and the eligibility qualifications of such officer shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National Bylaws.

***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 2025-2026:*** 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 2025-2026 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

Elvin Tate

State Commander

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham

State Adjutant

District Meetings

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

**Department of Arkansas Veterans of Foreign Wars  
& Its Auxiliary  
94<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention  
2024-2025**

**BLACK – BOTH**

**BLUE – VFW**

**RED - AUXILIARY**

**Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup>**

8:00am – Golf Tournament – see VFWAR.ORG under Golf Tournament for more info  
1:00pm – 4:30pm - VFW and Auxiliary Convention Registration – Arvest V  
1:00pm – 4:30pm – VFW Delegates – Arvest V  
1:00pm – 4:30pm – Auxiliary Delegates – Arvest VI  
12:00pm – Buddy Poppy Displays Set up – Pre-Convention Area  
1:00pm – 4:30pm – Country Store – Arvest VII  
4:00pm – Joint Opening/Joint Memorial Service– Arvest III & IV  
Directly following Joint Memorial Service – VFW Council of Admin – Arvest I  
Directly following Joint Memorial Service – VFW Aux Council of Admin – Arvest II  
Evening – VFW Aux Floor Practice – Delta Ballroom

**Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am – Buddy Poppy Display Set up – Pre-Convention Area – Must be displayed by 1pm  
8:30am – 11:30am & 12:30pm – 3:30pm – VFW and Auxiliary Registration – Arvest V  
8:30am – 11:30am & 12:30pm – 3:30pm – VFW Delegates – Arvest V  
8:30am – 11:30am & 12:30pm – 3:30pm – Auxiliary Delegates – Arvest VI  
8:00am – 3:30 – Country Store – Arvest VII  
9:00am – 12:00pm – VFW Business Meeting – Arvest III & IV  
9:00am – 12:00pm – VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting – Delta Ballroom  
1:00pm – 3:00pm – VFW Quartermaster Training – Arvest II  
1:00pm – 3:00pm– Service Officer Training – Arvest I  
1:00pm – 3:00pm – 2025-2026 Program Training – Delta Ballroom  
Following QM Training – Suicide Prevention Training – Arvest II  
After 1pm - Buddy Poppy Judging  
5:00pm – 9:00pm Combined Awards/Banquet Farewell to Commander and President  
Arvest III & IV (Buddy Poppy winners announced during banquet)

**Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>**

8:00am - 9:00am - Auxiliary Registration Arvest V & Delegates Arvest VI  
8:00am – 10:00am – VFW Registration and Delegates – Arvest V  
8:00am – 1:00pm – Country Store - Arvest VII  
9:00am – VFW Business Session - Arvest III & IV  
9:00am – Auxiliary Business Meeting – Delta Ballroom  
3 :30pm – Joint Installation – Arvest III and IV  
Immediately following Joint Installation – Motorcycle Group Meeting – Arvest I  
Saturday Evening – Buzztime Trivia – Arvest III & IV

**Sunday Morning June 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am – VFW 2025-2026 Council of Administration Meeting – Arvest I  
9:30am – VFW Auxiliary 2025-2026 Council of Administration – Arvest II

**\*\*Subject to change**

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Arkansas  
And Its Auxiliary  
94<sup>th</sup> State Convention  
June 5 – 8, 2025

Friday's Awards/Farewell is \$70 in advance and \$75 at the door

This price INCLUDES your registration!!

**Banquet tickets have been selling out prior to the last few conventions, please purchase ASAP**

Deadline for Pre-Registration is COB May 29<sup>th</sup> (No Exceptions)

Time: Banquet is at 5:00pm Friday

Banquet Theme is: Denim and Diamonds

Meal : Chicken Cordon Bleu, Butter/Herb White Rice, Roasted Vegetable Medley, Salad,  
and Rolls

Tea, Water and Coffee

Cash Bar

Location:

Embassy Suites Hotel

223 Red Wolf Blvd

Jonesboro, AR 72401

Phone: 870-619-4482 – Block VFW

Room Rate: Single \$119/night + tax – this includes

Free Parking, full service breakfast daily, 20% off coupon for Houlihan's, and daily drink tickets for complimentary reception

All VFW, VFW Auxiliary, and Guests MUST Register at \$10.00 per person prior to May 29, 2025 COB. If you purchase a banquet ticket, the registration fee is included in the price of the banquet ticket.

Registration and Delegate Dues are NOT the same thing.

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Reservation Form  
State Convention  
June 5- 8, 2025

Make your check payable to: VFW Department of Arkansas

We accept Mastercard, Visa, And Discover

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Post \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Tickets for the for the Banquet (registration included in this price) @ \$70.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Registrations (only if not purchasing a banquet ticket) @ \$10.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Exp \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dept of AR, 4210 E. Kiehl Avenue, Sherwood, Arkansas 72120.

You can call Department Headquarters at: 501-834-8392 to pre-register Tuesday - Thursday  
Pre-registering will help you avoid long lines and save you money. The tickets will not be mailed; they will be held in your name and must be picked up at the registration desk.

\*If you purchase your ticket using a credit card, the charge will show as a PayPal charge on your statement



# Buddy Poppy Display Contest

94th VFW State  
Convention

*Embassy Suites Hotel  
Jonesboro, AR*

Category 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Display

Category 3: Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

Get your creative juices flowing for our Buddy Poppy Display  
Contest. State Convention is all 3 Categories. Check the agenda  
for times and set up location







# DENIM *and* DIAMONDS

*VFW Dept of Arkansas  
and its Auxiliary  
94th State Convention*

AWARDS AND FAREWELL BANQUET

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025 @ 5PM

COME DRESSED IN YOUR  
DENIM AND SPARKLES

*Embassy Suites Hotel*

223 Red Wolf Blvd  
Jonesboro, AR 72405

Banquet tickets:  
\$70 in advance \$75 @ the door