

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

March 2026

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

Membership – 90.93%

MEMBERSHIP

As a Department, we need 1072 members to achieve our goal of 101%. District Commanders, please start contacting your Posts and continue working together. It is going to take each and every one of us to do our part in order to make this happen.

At this time, 28 Posts and 1 District have reached 101% or higher.

Voice of Democracy Winner's

*5th place is in no particular order

- 1st Place – District 1 – Post 9834 – Catelyn Stearman
- 2nd Place - District 9 – Post 2278 – Emma Wright
- 3rd Place – District 2 – Post 9777 – Kylie Harber
- 4th Place – District 10 - Post 8671 – Jodee McKinnon
- 5th Place – District 7 – Post 1322 – Weston Arnett
- 5th Place – District 4 – Post 1991 – Aubrianna Hirsch
- 5th Place – District 6 – Post 2259 – Caleb Grigg
- 5th Place - District 5 – Post 7514 – Olivia Frazier
- 5th Place – District 13 – Post 2935 – Aryanna Best

Patriots Pen

*4th place is in no particular order

- 1st Place – District 5 – Post 7514 – Kinsey Stacks
- 2nd Place – District 1 – Post 3031 – Levi Sparks
- 3rd Place – District 10 – Post 8124 – Zafir Amary
- 4th Place – District 6 – Post 8525 – Ross Geisler
- 4th Place – District 13 – Post 4548 – Mason Jones
- 4th Place – District 7 – Post 8532 – Braydlyn Smiley
- 4th Place – District 4 – Post 2242 – Justice Long
- 4th Place – District 9 – Post 2278 – Eli Harrison
- 4th Place – District 2 – Poat 3252 – Molly Blair

Commander's Notes

Fellow Comrades,

I would like to thank everyone who came to Mid-Winter and helped celebrate our students. As we know, our weather is starting to warm up so it is a great opportunity to get some membership/buddy poppy drives. Also, please do not forget to sign up for your day of service. As I get ready to go to Washington DC for our Legislative Conference, I am excited about standing up for our veterans. If you are wondering what the VFW legislative goals are this year go to <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/2026-vfw-washington-conference> for a list.

~Commander Wood

Sr. Vice Commander's Notes

It was good to see everyone at Mid-Winter Conference. We had some training, some fun, and had an awesome banquet to celebrate our VOD and PP winners. Now it is time to get back to work and get our membership to 101%. Need any help please contact any State line officer. We are here to help you.

~SVC Johnson

Jr Vice Commander's Notes

Comrades, we are coming up on that time of year again. Nomination open in April and close and elect during your May meetings. All elections at post level can be found in the 200 series of the Manual of Procedures. Pay special and close attention to sections 216 and 217.

Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees. (a) The Post shall elect the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, and three Trustees. (b) The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Chaplain, and may appoint a Benefits Advisor. (c) The Post may elect or the Post Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day and/or Guard if required by Post Bylaws. (d) The Post Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Post or as may be required by Post Bylaws.

Sec. 217 - Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office. Post officers shall be nominated, elected and installed as prescribed in Section 217 of the Manual of Procedure. An officer elected and assuming the duties of an office shall continue to hold office for the period for which elected and until a successor assumes the duties of the office, unless the office is declared vacant under the provisions of Sections 216 or 220 of these Bylaws. Except as may be otherwise provided in Post Bylaws, chairmen and members of committees shall cease to hold office at the end of the administrative year.

~JVC Ham

Judge Advocate's Notes

The VFW follows a very specific "Election Cycle" set by their National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure (specifically Sections 216 and 217).

As we get into March, it is time to start the nomination window. Here is the breakdown of how and when the process happens:

The Nomination Timeline

- **March Meeting:** Nominations officially open. During this meeting, the Commander will announce the positions and take names from the floor.
- **April Meeting:** Nominations re-open briefly before the vote. This is your last chance to nominate someone (or yourself) before the election begins.
- **April Meeting (Later):** The Election takes place immediately after nominations are closed.
- **April/May:** Installation of new officers occurs. New officers must be installed before the start of the Department (State) Convention. New officers will begin their new roles at the conclusion of the Department (State) Convention

How Nominations Are Done

The process is formal but straightforward. Here is the typical "Order of Business":

1. **Eligibility Check:** You must be a member in good standing to nominate or be nominated.
2. **Order of Offices:** Nominations are usually taken in this specific order:
 - Commander
 - Senior Vice Commander
 - Junior Vice Commander
 - Quartermaster
 - Three-Year Trustee (The 3-year moves to 2 and the 2-year moves to 1 automatically).
3. **The Call:** The presiding officer will ask three times, "Are there any further nominations?" for each office. If no one else is named after the third call, nominations for that specific office are closed.
4. **Acceptance:** The person being nominated must be present to accept or have a written letter of acceptance on file with the Adjutant if they can't make the meeting.

Key Things to Know

- **No "Secret" Slates:** While members often discuss who would be good for a role beforehand, all nominations must happen openly on the floor.
- **Voting Method:** Usually, this is done by a show of hands or a paper ballot. You must win by a majority (more than 50%), not just a plurality.
- **Absenteeism:** There is no absentee or proxy voting in the VFW. You have to be in the room to cast your vote.

As always any question please ask

~**JA Powell**

Surgeon's Notes

First, I'd like to thank you all for all the hard work you have done this year. I know it's hard to get out and get around to different places when the weather is bad. I hope this finds everybody healthy and excited about the upcoming spring weather. This is the time of year that people start getting outside cleaning up their yards getting their gardens ready and enjoying some warmer weather, but it's also a time that people catch colds and the flu. Please continue to do your buddy checks. Stay away if you are sick and follow your doctors recommendations. Please be careful if you're getting out and working with equipment. We'll be out visiting if there's anything that we can do for you, please do not hesitate to call.

~**SGN Morris**

Legislative Conference

The 2026 VFW Washington Conference will be held February 28 – March 5 in Washington, D.C. This conference gives VFW leaders from each state the opportunity to personally lobby their respective lawmakers and to support Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore as she testifies on Capitol Hill on behalf of all 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

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. Phone 479-857-6069.

STATE CONVENTION Save the dates – May 28-31, 2026

State Convention will be at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock May 28-31, 2026. Room rate is \$139.00 a night, plus \$10 per day parking (for those staying at the hotel), and tax.

ALL-STATE

Deadline for entry is April 18, 2026. **This will ensure cap orders** to include the department Medallion. Post and District Commanders, there is an All State check list on our web site vfwar.org under Programs/All State. If you would please get this form, answer all questions, and email it to the headquarters at adjqm@vfwar.org in order to be in the running for the award. Be sure you include your post number on the checklist or we will not know who it belongs to.

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-American Post Awards

All Posts that meet the listed criteria will receive: An All-American Post Streamer, a Post Home Citation, and will be recognized in the VFW Magazine. In addition, the top 15 Posts in each membership division will receive: - All-American Post Commander's Citation - All-American Post Commander's Cap - All-American Post Commander's Badge - All-American Post Commander's lapel pin These awards for the top 15 Posts will be presented on stage at the 127th National Convention. - 4 - The Top five Post Commanders in each division will also be reimbursed for up to \$1,000 of travel/lodging expenses for the 127th VFW National Convention. The top two Post Commanders in each division will be named as Captain and Co-Captain of the All-American Team, and their caps will bear a special designation.

All-American District Awards

All Districts that meet the listed criteria will receive an All-American District Streamer, an All-American District Commander's Citation, and recognition in the VFW Magazine. In addition, the top 10 Districts in each membership division will receive: - All-American District Commander's Cap - All-American District Commander's Badge - All-American District Commander's lapel pin These awards for the top 10 District Commanders will be presented on stage at the 127th National Convention. The top two District Commanders in each division will also be reimbursed for up to \$1,000 of travel/lodging expenses for the 127th VFW National Convention. The Top Two District Commanders in each division will be named as Captain and Co-Captain of the All-American Team, and their caps will bear a special designation.

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
2025-2026 Series

March 2026

Delegates

Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure: 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.

Only in the event a Post is left without at least one elected delegate or alternate during the year, the Post shall elect replacement delegates, according to delegate strength, at the next Regular or Special Meeting.

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11)(b) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, properly audit the books and records of the Post Quartermaster, Post Adjutant, and any activity, club room, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of the Post and submit a Post Trustee's Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector.

On all levels are reminded that according to Section 105 of the National By-Laws, A member whose current dues are paid through their anniversary date is in good standing and, unless suspended or terminated, is entitled to all membership rights in accordance with the National Bylaws. 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.

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 and for the transaction of business; 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 416 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, 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.

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 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. Each Post shall see that suitable arrangements are made for the observance of Veterans Day, Flag Day and Loyalty Day. In addition, the Post should arrange special ceremonies, and all Commanders should alert comrades to their obligations for appropriate commemoration of other dates specified in the Ritual.

VFW Day of Service

The VFW Day of Service is an initiative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) under their *Still Serving* campaign, highlighting how veterans continue to serve their communities after military service. In 2026, the event officially begins on Saturday, May 2, and activities continue throughout the entire month of May. This structure allows veterans, VFW Posts, and community members to organize and participate in service projects that address local needs.

INSTALLING OFFICERS

Please direct your attention to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure which states that the Post Commander-elect will select the installing officer who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of Post Commander. Post officers shall be installed in their respective offices prior to the convening of the Department Convention, but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed. The installation may be conducted publicly at an open meeting. An officer-elect who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause may be installed at any regular or special meeting prior to the Department convention. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant.

Post Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April 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 to get these. 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.

Post Business:

Suspensions –

Post 3543 – Heber Springs

Rodney Wood
State Commander

OFFICIAL
Jeffrey Byrd
State Adjutant