

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

GENERAL ORDERS #10
2019-2020

April 2020

Department Membership Standing: 92.76%

District Totals

District 1 – 99.36% District 6 – 92.50%
District 2 – 93.33% District 7 – 84.39%
District 4 – 90.16% District 9 – 96.97%
District 5 – 96.25% District 10 – 93.65%
District 13 – 88.46%

Post Activity

You are certainly mindful of our present emergency with COVID-19 and are aware of the actions taken by our local and national government organizations. We cannot serve food and beverages inside or host group gatherings for recreation. BUT, like all emergencies, this will pass. This doesn't mean that our posts are shut down. A long way from it. YOU, me, and all the other veterans and our families, that is OUR POST. Right now is a prime opportunity for the VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, DEPT. of ARKANSAS to shine.... At the point when harsh occasions show up, there are the individuals who give up and there are individuals who help. Comrades, we are the helpers. We helped when we served our nation in war and now we are called again to support our nation. How might we help? It doesn't take a lot, just caring about our neighbors. We can help in many ways: calling to monitor your neighbors or somebody you know who is facing adversities and could utilize your assistance; Get things done for the individuals who can't get them done for themselves; Offer necessities. Those that are in need, connect them with the services that provide them. I have confidence in your creative minds and innovativeness. In the case of nothing else, share a smile and laugh with somebody who needs it. If you are in need of assistance, I encourage you to do the hardest thing a veteran can do... ASK FOR HELP!!!! One last thing, if you can donate to help someone in need, please contact the Department Headquarters. There are many who have been furloughed or laid off and soon they will need help. So please help in any way you can. For current VFW COVID-19 updates please go to our web site www.vfwar.org and follow the directions from home page.

Commanders Challenge

The Commander-in-Chief has announced an April Commanders Challenge please go to www.vfw.org to get the details.

All- State

In order to secure hats for state convention –Commander Beams will be contacting your Post Commander individually if his reports say you qualify, please know hat size for Post Commander. If your Post thinks you are qualified for All State and have not received a call from Commander Beams by April 10th please contact him directly.

Post of the Quarter Ending March 2020

Post of the Quarter for 3rd Quarter ending March is Little Rock Post, Post 1316 Commander Clark.

There was no District of the Quarter due to no District reached 100%.

State Convention 2020

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic the Department is having weekly meetings to discuss the convening of the state convention. The Department Commander will make the decision by April 17, 2020 if these meetings will take place. We will do a mail out to Commanders at all levels and Post homes and on our web site www.vfwar.org. We will still continue to register delegates, but however we are asking that you hold till after this decision on paying any more registration or banquet tickets.

The following sections are By-laws, when we get back to normal business **Article 4- Posts**

Post status in this Department shall be in accordance with and governed by the Congressional Charter and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, as contained in Sections 201 to 222 Paragraph (b) inclusive Paragraph (c) delegates and alternates to the Department Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department Convention, one delegate and one alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the post at the time of the election. A delegate registration fee of \$5.00 for each post delegate shall be forwarded to the Department Quartermaster not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention and the delegate strength of each post shall be based on the post membership as reported to Department Headquarters on May 31st of each year, and Paragraph (d), (e), and (f) inclusive together with Section 223 inclusive.

Installing officers are directed to see to it that the Post-Election Report form has been completed and submitted to National Headquarters. If a Post-Election Report form has not been forwarded to National Headquarters at the time of installation, the installing officer shall complete and forward such report at the time of the installation of Post Officers no later than June 1. Additionally, Section 413 of the National By-Laws requires that a properly completed District Election Report be submitted to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

Post-Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We 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.

Proof of Eligibility on all elected and appointed officers: Post, District, Department Commanders, Adjutants, and Quartermasters are reminded of the requirements of sections 216, 416, and 516 of the Manual of Procedure with regard to proof of eligibility for all newly-elected and appointed officers. Elected and appointed officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Failure or refusal to submit proof of eligibility within sixty (60) days of election or appointment shall result in the office being declared vacant.

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.

Districts

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.

All District Commanders are asked to make sure that the District election report is completed with all the elected and appointed Officers completed on line or forward to the State Adjutant immediately after the District Convention. This will facilitate the preparation of the Department Directory.

District Meeting Dates for 2020-2021: All newly elected District Commanders are reminded please try within thirty (30) days to submit to the Department Adjutant a list of meetings for the 2020-2021 year (if you have them). Please review the dates, to not interfere with Department functions. 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.

Posts

Attention 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 online through the Online Membership System

(OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that was mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing that went out in February. Advanced registration for the 118th National Convention should be mailed with each delegate's name and address to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Loyalty Day and Memorial Day Observance: 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.

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 is directed to Section 213 of the National By-Laws 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 meetings (if applicable), District, Department, and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

For those Post who do not have access to a computer, please forward your election report form to this office (State Adjutant Office) who will file the report for you. Please ensure that all elected and appointed Officers are listed on your election report, this will facilitate complete information of the Department directory and USPS listing for mailing of General Orders.

Buddy Poppies Distribution: Production and Distribution of Buddy Poppies from National has been put on hold till further notice. No Buddy Poppies can be ordered at the time.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

**Suspension:
none**

Will Beams
State Commander

OFFICIAL
Christine Oldham
State Adjutant