

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

GENERAL ORDERS #10
2020-2021

April 2021

Department Membership Standing: 95.76%

We are closing in on 100% for the year, I appreciate all who have stepped up. We are not done yet we still need 469 members, let us keep contacting unpaid or about to expire and sharing the story of how important the VFW and its Auxiliary are to our communities.

District and Post of Quarter

Congratulations

District 7 – Commander Strange - District of the Quarter

Post 6527 – Commander McKinney – Greenwood Post – Post of the Quarter

District Totals

District 1 – 101.92%

District 2 – 95.51%

District 4 – 102.28%

District 5 – 91.98%

District 6 – 96.54%

District 7 – 107.36%

District 9 – 93.03%

District 10 – 86.43%

District 13 – 89.93%

Top 10 Post

Post 4679 – Harrisburg – Commander Palmer – 283.33%

Post 4764 – Clinton – Commander Bramlett – 137.37%

Post 8245 – Huntington – Commander Tougas – 124.28%

Post 8532 – Coal Hill – Commander Dahlem – 125.00%

Post 8845 – Fort Smith – Commander Farmer – 117.01%

Post 2935 – Springdale – Commander Tharrington – 116.72%

Post 2935 – North Little Rock – Commander Huddleston – 114.28%

Post 3031 – Rogers – Commander Butler – 107.53%

Post 12127 – Leslie – Commander Overholt – 106.89%

Post 9834 – Decatur – Commander Carnahan – 106.00%

16 other Post have achieved 100% or better, plenty of time for the other, keep up the good work.

Bottom 10 Post

Post 4501 – Batesville

Post 300 – Carrollton

Post 2881 – Harrison

Post 4564 – Warren

Post 8124 – Taylor

Post 4515 – Monticello

Post 4566 - Wynne

Post 2746 – Star City

Post 1316 – Little Rock

Post 8671 – Prescott

Senior-Vice Commander Notes

Thank you to all the members that stepped up and took additional responsibility as my Chairman for the 2021-2022 year. They have all been filled. Let us continue to focus on this year and let's get to 100% and be ready to hit the ground running for the 2021-2022 year.

~SVC Mark Davis

Junior-Vice Commander Notes

Comrades, we are in the final stretch.... June 30th will be here before we know it. IF your post is close to that 100% mark, keep pushing. Keep contacting those members who dues have not been paid. Reach out to them and remind them. The department convention will be here soon too. BIG THANGS happening there. Hope to see everyone there, and let's have an outstanding convention.

~JVC Justin Farrar

Judge Advocate Notes

I probably sound like a broken record but this is the part of the year where we are pushing membership. As you all know this is the backbone of our great organization. That being said a huge thank you goes out

to all that have reached out with a reminder to pay dues, to those that have recruited new members, and to those that have already paid for this year. Each and every member is vital to our future.

Thank you to each and every member for everything you do. As always, I will continue to make myself available at any time to anyone who needs assistance. ARKANSAS STRONG!!

~JAG Jeffrey Byrd

Surgeons Notes

As we are hopeful that this pandemic is getting under control, and restrictions are getting lighter. I ask that we continue to look out of each other, some individuals and/or companies might continue to have restrictions and mask requirements, please continue to respect each other and we will continue to improve the local conditions.

~SGN Teddy Pipkin

2020-2021 ARKANSAS STATE CONVENTION

Our representative is Past Commander-in-Chief, Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director, Washington Office B.J. Lawrence of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Packets for Department Convention will be distributed at District Meetings, also if you go to our web site under new and events, State Convention you can print the agenda or register. Airport Holiday Inn 501-490-1000, June 10 – 13 June 2021.

All- State

In order to secure hats for state convention –All State entry form (located on the website: under PROGRAMS / ALL-STATE) MUST be filled out and submitted to department no later than 19 April, 2021.

Teacher of the Year 2020-2021 Awardees

K-5 – Robin Simon, Alma Intermediate School – District 7 – Post 1322
6-8 – Kristen Pate, Alma Middle School, - District 7 – Post 1322
9-12 – (Technically no one) however, Ms. Julie Nelson – District 6 – Post 4764

VSO Report

I have been getting calls for the new travel pay. I had not done much since I am not used to getting travel pay. I was at the Arkansas Veterans Coalition meeting on Friday and was able to get this information to pass on. The number to call for travel pay difficulties is 501-257-2625, to get assistance locally is 501-257-5711. I am going to include the Electronic access to getting logged in and usage. I am not sure how Headquarters will make available. I am hoping they will make them available on the website. Robert Lafond

Article 4- Posts Delegates to Department Convention

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: 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

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.

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 and forward to the State Adjutant immediately after the District Convention. This will facilitate the preparation of the Department Directory.

District Meeting Dates for 2021-2022: 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 2021-2022 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: 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 daily 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 & 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.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Suspension:

Post 300 – Carrollton

Post 1316 – Little Rock, (downtown)

Don Barnes

State Commander

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham

State Adjutant

POST/DISTRICT ALL STATE CHECKLIST

POST NUMBER _____ DISTRICT NUMBER _____

MEMBERSHIP 100% PLUS – Percentage _____

DATE ACHIEVED _____

COMMANDERS NAME _____ HAT SIZE _____

NUMBER OF NEW, REINSTATED MEMBERS ANNUAL/LIFE _____

POST MUST HAVE GREATER THAN 50 MEMBERS BY JUNE 30, 2021. YES NO

POST MUST NOT BE IN ARREARS TO DISTRICT, DEPARTMENT, OR NATIONAL FOR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. YES NO

POST/DISTRICT QUARTERMASTER MUST BE SUFFICIENTLY BONDED. YES NO

POST MUST HAVE A POST SERVICE OFFICER. YES NO

POST/DISTRICT QUARTERLY AUDITS MUST BE CURRENT AND RECEIVED BY DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS NO LATER THAN APRIL 20, 2021.

April to June _____ July to Sept. _____ Oct. to Dec. _____ Jan. to March _____

POST MUST SUBMIT QUARTERLY COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTER BY APRIL 20, 2021. MUST SUBMIT 1,200 OR MORE.

1ST YES NO 2ND YES NO 3RD YES NO

BUDDY POPPY DRIVE: please explain _____

POST MUST DONATE TO AT LEAST ONE OF THE DEPARTMENT FUNDS:

List Donations:

1) _____

2) _____

POST/DISTRICT MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM AND SUBMIT TO NEXT LEVEL:

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:	YES	NO
PATRIOTS PEN:	YES	NO
BONUS--TEACHER OF THE YEAR :	YES	NO

POST MUST DONATE TO NATIONAL VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT SERVICES(\$50):
YES NO

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE FOLLOWING, DID YOU:

POST OFFICERS ATTENDANCE AT DISTRICT MEETING:	YES	NO
POST CONDUCTING PRODUCTIVE MEMBERSHIP DRIVES:	YES	NO
POST PARTICIPATE IN BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST:	YES	NO
POST ENSURE POSITIVE COMMUNITY EXPOSURE:	YES	NO
POST PARTICIPATE IN THE ADOPT-A-UNIT PROGRAM:	YES	NO

NOTE: THIS YEAR THERE IS **NO** REQUIREMENT IN THE ALL-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR A POST OR DISTRICT TO MAKE ALL STATE IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ALL AMERICAN. HOWEVER, THE ALL STATE PROGRAM IS LAID OUT TO SET EACH POST OR DISTRICT UP FOR SUCCESS TO ENSURE THEY MEET THE CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR 2020-2021 ALL AMERICAN RECOGNITION.