

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

GENERAL ORDERS #8
2020-2021

February 2021

Congratulations to ALL these winners

Voice of Democracy

- 1st Place – District 9 – Post 10483 – Hot Springs Village Post – Sophia Wright
2nd Place – District 6 – Post 4764 – Choctaw Post – Luke Permenter
3rd Place – District 5 – Post 7514 – Quitman Post – Evan Johnson

4th Place

- District 13 – Post 1316 – Little Rock Post – Jane Landrum
District 2 – Posts 9777 – Salem Post – Trinity Sherrill
District 10 – Post 4124 – Taylor Post – Calie Gray
District 1 – Post 2952 – Springdale Post – Hailey Curbo
District 7 – Post 1322 – Van Buren Post – Noah Dieter
District 4 – Post 5225 – West Memphis Post – Maryn Deese

Patriots Pen

- 1st Place – District 6 – Post 4764 – Choctaw Post – Morgan Hughs
2nd Place – District 13 – Post 4548 – Jacksonville Post – Shaylynn Jackson
3rd Place – District 7 – Post 1322 – Van Buren Post – Gianna Perreault

4th Place

- District 4 – Post 4679 – Harrisburg Post – Jerry Richmond
District 9 – Post 2256 – Benton Post – Nicholas Miller
District 1 – Post 9834 – Decatur Post – Catelyn Stearman
District 5 – Post 4501 – Batesville Post – Amsley Stolorik
District 2 – Post 8042 – Evening Share Post – Eli Higginbottom
District 10 – Post 4124 – Taylor Post – MaKayla Roberts

Current Membership: Department – 90.13%

Top 10 Post in Department

- Post 4679 – Harrisburg – Commander Palmer – 255.55%
Post 4764 – Choctaw – Commander Bramlett – 133.33%
Post 8245 – Huntington – Commander Tougas – 115.17%
Post 8532 – Coal Hill - Commander Dahlem – 108.57%
Post 2952 – Springdale – Commander Tharrington - 107.80%
Post 4687 – Melbourn – Commander Newsome – 105.88%
Post 4521 – DeQueen – Commander Hogg – 104.22%
Post 3031 - Rogers – Commander Butler – 104.10%
Post 12127 – Leslie – Commander Overholt – 103.44%
Post 8109 – Pea Ridge – Commander Hurts – 102.77%

Post at 100%+

Post 1991, Post 3252, Post 9777, Post 7514, Post 8383

Department of Arkansas is currently at 9,671 members needed to achieve 100%. We need to be at 10,729, meaning we need 1,058 new, continuous and/or reinstated. We can do this together Arkansas. Currently there are 15 post that has achieved 100% or better. We need to achieve more than ever before. Which post will be next to join the above list? Commander Barnes and his staff is here to help. Let us work together and achieve 50% of our post achieving 100% or better. We are counting on you.

ALL-STATE

We have exciting news: the department of Arkansas has established a new ALL-STATE Awards and Incentives Program! The objectives of the Awards and Incentives program are to reward post & district commanders who achieve ALL-STATE by the **pre-determined date of April 19, 2021**. If ALL-STATE is achieved, the commander will be awarded his / her ALL-STATE cap along with an ALL-STATE medallion. If ALL-STATE is achieved after the deadline, the commander will have to purchase his / her medallion for the sum of \$20.00. ****NOTE** ONLY 1 MEDALLION for each level will be awarded.** With that being said, if a commander is

both a post & district commander during the same year and achieves ALL-STATE at both levels, that commander will receive a medallion for each level. The medallion is 2" in diameter. For a post commander, the ribbon is yellow with their ALL-STATE notoriety in red. For a district commander, the ribbon is green with their ALL-STATE notoriety in green. IF you are a past ALL-STATE recipient, (must show proof) you may purchase a medallion for the sum of \$20.00. IF you are multiple recipient, there are label pins in the shape of Arkansas with the ALL-STATE level in the color representing which level was achieved (post or district). These pins can be purchased for the sum of \$10.00.

Scout of the Year and Nick Bacon

The following are the deadlines for these programs, they need not go to your District send them to Department or the Chairman.

1 March 2020 – deadline for Scout of the Year to be to headquarters.

2 March 2020 – deadline for Nick Bacon Scholarship to be at headquarters.

*****NEW*****

This year the Nick Bacon scholarship was increased to \$3,500. IF we have 10 or more entries there will be a second place awarded in the amount of \$1,500.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS NOTES

For the month of February. Districts and Post can have in person meetings with the stipulation that it be less than 10 members physically present) social distancing and mask required) but you must also Zoom teleconference your meeting so all members have a chance to attend and know what is going on and vote. Or submit a plan to AHD for approval. All of this subject to State and local guidelines.

Comrades each and every one of us have had our own struggles personally and professionally during this pandemic. We have got to do our part to enforce these guidelines for the betterment of our country, our Veterans of Foreign Wars and our families.

Senior Vice Commanders Notes

Though it has been a very difficult year for all of us. I am very proud to be your Department Senior-Vice Commander and very proud of all the work everyone has continued to do during these very trying times.

Membership is a work in progress...We hope to build on our progress with the help of everyone.

During this time of uncertainty, we need to take advantage of every membership opportunity. We need to ask the Auxiliary for help. For every new Auxiliary member there is a possibility of a new VFW member.

Membership is what drives our programs. Are you tired of doing all the work? Does it seem like the same people do same thing every year? Are you getting any new results? Let us see if everyone invites just one new person and our VFW will double. Yes double, meaning, new people, new ideas and new results.

The only way this will happen is to invite them to be part of the organization and establish a few things.

- Honoring a veteran for their service
- Wanting to assist and care for our country's veterans
- Make sure all members carry a blank application with them.

Together we can achieve more and do more.

Let us make life more bearable for our Veterans by building a stronger VFW.

~ SVC Mark Davis

Junior Vice Commanders Notes

As the danger and worries of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) keep on rising, I want all to continue to adhere to the CDC, State and local guidelines regarding safety precautions. Don't let this pandemic distract you from accomplishing your goals. Meaning we should achieve the same goals as before but use an alternative way or technique to get them done. The HQ, has had to cancel or delay some events or discover substitute techniques to accomplish our goals due to the governor's directives. We will continue to provide updates to all post as they are received. I realize the same has happened within our post and hope that you all continue to update the HQs as well. The information we disseminate is essential to OUR (post, district & department). We are just slowed down and have to be purposeful with what we are doing. We are not shut down. I urge all of you to figure out how to utilize your various resources (i.e., smartphone, computer or tablet) to process memberships and have

meetings. The National Headquarters has allowed us the opportunity to explore some non-customary means, “let’s make it happen”.

~ JVC Justin Farrar

Judge Advocate

Congratulations to the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy winners and best of luck competing at the next level. No doubt that both will represent our great state well. Now we move into the part of our VFW year where the focus shifts to the lifeline of our organization---new, annual, and reinstated memberships. They are out there to be recruited, renewed, and reinstated. All we need to do is give them a reason to.

~JAG Jeffrey Byrd

Surgeon

I would like to thank all of the Post for their participation in the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen programs. As the youth program chairman it has been an honor and a privilege to be so involved and see all the great talent Arkansas has to offer from our youth. Please remember to follow all state mandates and Department Commander Barnes directives concerning COVID-19. Hopefully if we all work together we can help control the spread and get back to some kind of normal.

~Surg Teddy Pipkin

Chaplain

Who is tired of the negativity we hear all around us? Talking about our problems or the problems of others could possibly be our greatest addiction. Break the habit. Talk about your JOYS. Forgiveness is not about forgetting what someone did to you. It’s about saying to God, “I give them and the situation to you because I know you can handle it better than I can.”

My brothers and sisters, take these verses to heart, recite them daily, and LIVE them:

Romans 12:2 “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:9-12 “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.”

Blessings to All,

Tanya Taylor

~Arkansas State Chaplain

COMMANDER’S PROJECT

VFW 5K Run / Walk for Warriors

February 27, 2021

Greenwood, Arkansas 72936

All monies raised will be used to help or assist destitute veterans in Arkansas through the Veterans Villages of America, Inc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE ATTACHMENT AT BOTTOM OF GENERAL ORDERS

National’s Membership Incentive

Commander-in-Chief has been publishing on vfw.org monthly challenges for membership, please watch after the start of the month, we will also share on Facebook.

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT OPTIONS

Members has the option to enroll in two beneficial programs. Once enrolled in either program, automatic payments are processed using the credit card information provided on the application. These are simply added options on the membership application. The traditional methods of signing up for both annual and Life membership are still options as well.

VFW Autopay—renews your annual membership automatically! Life Installment Plan—automatic monthly payments option—with this option, there is no need to complete a payment authorization form.

Department and Post Quartermasters have the option to enroll new members as installment Life on the Online Membership System.

Recruiting Notes: Encourage annual members to take advantage of the Life member installment plan. Encourage Life installment plan and annual members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.

Legacy Life Membership: This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

Levels	Post	Departments	National
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$ 6.00

VFW FOUNDATION:

VFW's Partners in Patriotism

Have You Heard about the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 7108 or email us at partners@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

"Buddy" Poppy "BUDDY" ® POPPY:

Order Buddy Poppies NOW for Memorial Day events. Email the headquarters or fill out the form you can obtain on line and mail it to headquarters.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use "ASAP."

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary "Buddy" ® Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don't pass those costs on to the Posts. The bigger issue is that we simply don't have the inventory on hand to fulfill the potential orders that could come in if we open these items up to be ordered by anyone at any time.

The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that nonprofit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of "Buddy" ® Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>

Post registering for National Convention

Attention of Post Commanders 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(s) online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that will be mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing going out later this month. Registration forms for the 119th National Convention may be mailed to:
Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Post Elections: Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post-Election Report forms are being mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1.

District

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.

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.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National By-Laws – Regular Meeting, Districts shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings each year for purposes of transacting business and conducting schools of instruction.

Pursuant to Section 417 of the National Manual of Procedure, 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.

Post

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.

All Post must have at least two members present at the election of the Department Convention in order to maintain all votes. (meaning, delegate votes plus Commander vote, one person cannot vote delegate strength and Commander vote.)

Department By-Laws and Resolutions: By-Laws and Resolutions for the Department By-Laws **MUST** be submitted to the State Adjutant NLT 15 April 2021 and shall be typewritten in order for the By-Laws Committee to review and publish them in the May and Junes GO's for all to review prior to the State Convention. You can hard copy or email them to the Department Adjutant adjqm@vfw.org.

BY COMMAND OF


Don Barnes
State Commander

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham
State Adjutant

**Sponsored BY: Greenwood A&P, Arvest
Bank, Metal Mart and VFW Post 2952**

**27
FEB**



VFW

**5k Run/Walk for Warriors
Greenwood, Arkansas**

**Hosted by Greenwood VFW Post 6527
8am (Registration) / 9am (Start)**

RUNSIGNUP.COM