

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

**GENERAL ORDERS #8
2019-2020**

February 2020

Membership as of 31 January 2020 86.92%

Operation Dauntless Resolve

The Department Commander with support of the Council has placed the following membership assistance into place.

For the next 265 member, new and reinstated, the Department will wave Department dues (\$5.50). These applicants must be processed through Department Headquarters to receive this incentive. Maximum of 20 per post, and encouraging Post leadership to talk to their membership about waiving Post dues, this would make the cost at only \$21.50. From 3 February 2020 – 16 March 2020 maximum 20 per post, if there are any remaining after this date till the end of March first come first serve.

Auxiliary to Department of Arkansas reaches 100%

Congratulations to the Auxiliary to the Department for achieving 100% in membership, please reach out to each and every Auxiliary member and say congratulations. VFW membership is catching up.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNERS

- 1st Place: Hannah Miller – District 1 – Post 3031
- 2nd Place: Sebastian Moore – District 4 – Post 1991
- 3rd Place: Sean Cunningham – District 10 – Post 4515

PATRIOTS PEN DISTRICT WINNERS

- 1st Place: Fontaine Rossi – District 7 – Post 8245 - Huntington
- 2nd Place: Yared Belete – District 4 – Post 5225 – West Memphis
- 3rd Place: Harley Andrews – District 6 – Post 4453 - Morrilton

The above listed individuals were awarded this recognition at this past weekends Mid-Winter Conference banquet. The 1st place from both categories were both forwarded to National for further scholarship consideration.

Post of the Quarters

Quarter ending December 31st, 2019
Hevel-Barnett Post
Post 1341 – Bull Shoals
Commander Chuck Kinler

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 April 2020 – deadline for Scout of the Year to be to headquarters

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

This year the Nick Bacon was increased to \$3,000, please get your entries in.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS NOTES

As a Department we are stepping up to assist and support each District with membership for the remainder of the year. Each staff officer has been assigned a District(s). That Officer will be assisting in guiding their assigned districts to success.

Commander Beams – Districts 5 and 7

Senior Vice Commander Barnes – Districts 1 and 9

Junior Vice Commander Davis – Districts 2 and 10

Surgeon Byrd – Districts 4 and 13

Judge Advocate Farrar – District 6 and Membership at Large

Staff Officers have been challenged with becoming active all the way to the individual member level. In order to help Post and District achieve their membership goals. Don't be surprised if they contact you, your unpaid members and/or shows up to your Post meetings.

In order to overcome the loss of life members deceased by National, Department is encouraging Post to elect to allow member to renew for the \$27.00, to help your Post achieve your membership goals.

National's Membership Incentive

Commander-in-Chiefs Challenge

Starting on February 1st, Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz has laid down a new monthly challenge! From February 1st to 28th, the goal is simple: increase your membership as much as possible! Renewals, new members, reinstates – all of it counts towards your totals! To reward this important work, the Post in each membership division that shows the highest percentage of growth during February will receive a \$500 stipend deposited directly into the Post account.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

In addition, we will randomly draw 10 Posts from the top 20 in each division (based on percentage increase in membership) to receive a special edition KA-BAR combat knife as a Thank You from the Commander-in-Chief for a job well done!

We all understand how important a strong membership base is to our ability to serve our fellow veterans. Let's all get out there this month recruiting, retaining, and reinstating our members to show just how much we DARE TO CARE!

KANSAS CITY SPREE

The top two Post Commanders and the top two District Commanders in each division who achieve 100% membership by April 1, 2020 along with their spouse or guest, will be awarded:

- Round-trip airfare to Kansas City, Mo., from the airport nearest the awardee's home.
- A fun-filled weekend (May 14-17, 2020) that may include but is not limited to touring, shopping, and a complete tour of the VFW National Headquarters.

National Home Contest

The support for the VFW National Home for Children by Team Arkansas is wonderful! Let's celebrate and keep the momentum going with a CONTEST!

The member, volunteer, group, Post or Auxiliary that raises the most donations and sends that to Headquarters, earmarked VFW National Home for Children contest by APRIL 15TH will have a TRIBUTE BRICK purchased by VFW Jr. Vice Commander Davis and VFWA Jr. Vice President Kim to be placed at the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. You can place your name or your loved one's name to honor them, your Post or Auxiliary...IT'S UP TO YOU! It's a way for us to show our appreciation for all you do! Jr. Vice Commander Davis will travel there in May to present the gift from TEAM ARKANSAS during the Jr. Vice Training. Y'all ROCKED at Mid -Winter Conference-over \$800 was raised! So execute that fundraiser and send it in. We can't wait to hear from you! Loyally, Department of Arkansas VFW.

Jr. Vice Commander Mark Davis and Jr. Vice President Kim Davis

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT OPTIONS

Members now have 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.

Now Department and Post Quartermasters have the option to enroll new members as installment Life on the Online Membership System. See the Hip Pocket Training for Nov/Dec link.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixuesaN90Ps&index=16&list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi

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:

THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION GRANTS TO OPEN ON FEBRUARY 1, 2020

Applications to submit The Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant are scheduled to begin on February 1, 2020. Eligible VFW Posts may receive up to \$5,000 to fix up their buildings.

Grants are awarded on a first-come first-serve basis until funding is exhausted. To begin the process, go to: <https://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants>.

To help you complete the application, the VFW Foundation has once again prepared a step-by-step how to-apply guide. Any deviation from this guide will most likely result in not being able to submit the application.

To receive this how-to-apply guide, send an email to: foundation@vfw.org Type the following in the email subject heading: Home Depot Guide Request

Please note that the guide will not be emailed until HD Foundation Community Impact Grant application is reviewed first to ensure the how-to guide is up-to-date.

The application must be filled out via the internet only (no telephone calls, emails or written submissions to HD will be accepted nor will you be able to turn this application in at your local HD store).

If your Post receives funding, it will come in the form of HD gift cards that can be used to buy materials at your local HD store. You will need to recruit Post members or other community volunteers to do the work. The project must be completed within six months. You will also be required to fill out a final project report. Failure to do so will negatively impact your Post's ability to receive any future funding from HD.

After submission of the application, you should receive a written email response from HD Foundation, usually within six weeks, letting you know if you received the grant.

Should you have any further questions or need to discuss special concerns, please contact Jason Couch, VFW Foundation Grants Coordinator, at (816) 968-1174 or jcouch@vfw.org

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.

By the time you read this, VFW and Auxiliary members will have spread out across the landscape distributing the familiar red poppy. Although we emphasize "Buddy" ® Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of "Buddy" ® Poppies should be a year round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, "Buddy" ® Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, "Buddy" ® Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as "They Gave, Will You?" is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW "Buddy" ® Poppies.

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.

Contact information: BuddyPoppy@vfw.org or (816) 968-1155 for any questions or concerns.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS "WORLD WAR I POPPY PROGRAM." The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entering that war. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission

will tell the story of those American veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

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 2019 and shall be typewritten in order for the By-Laws Committee to review and publish them in the May and June GO's for all to review prior to the State Convention. You can hard copy or email them to the State Headquarters.

Post Business
Suspended Post – Post 4679 – Harrisburg Post

Veterans OF Foreign Wars
Department of Arkansas

The following Districts have meetings in the month of February, please check the web site under NEWS and Events/Colander for times and locations.

February Meeting Districts:
District 2 (16 Feb 2020)
District 4 (16 Feb 2020)
District 5 (01 Feb 2020)
District 9 (16 Feb 2020)
District 10 (02 Feb 2020)

BY COMMAND OF

**Will Beams
State Commander**

OFFICIAL

**Christine Oldham
State Adjutant**