

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

GENERAL ORDERS #10
2021-2022

April 2022

Department Membership Standing: 95.76%

Greetings Comrades

Well, here we are, passed the mid-year mark for the VFW 2021-2022 year. Time is quickly passing and soon we will be celebrating our 91st State Convention. Plans for the Convention are well underway. By this time, most of you have already accomplished all or most of the business of the VFW and should be working to document these accomplishments by putting together your All-State package.

All-State Post Commanders qualifications can be found in the Commanders Program Guide online. You can begin by filling out the 2021-2022 All-State Application Worksheet that was mailed and is on our web site under All State. In the program book, you can find the listed yearly business requirements. Core Programs; Critical Programs; Additional Programs; and other required paperwork needed for All-State.

Note: This form along with supportive material must be submitted to Department Headquarters NO LATER THAN APRIL 22, 2022.

CDR Mark Davis

Post of Quarter

Congratulations

Post 8525 – Plainview Post - District 6 – Commander Patsy Morris – Post of the Quarter

District Totals

District 1 – 96.20%	District 5 – 84.69%	District 9 – 89.36%
District 2 – 87.26%	District 6 – 83.57%	District 10 – 85.21%
District 4 – 96.74%	District 7 – 81.25%	District 13 – 83.88%

Top 10 Post

Post 8383 – New Blain – Commander Hurst – 135.71%
Post 4679 – Harrisburg – Commander Palmer – 135.29%
Post 8525 – Plainview – Commander Morris – 119.64%
Post 2952 – Springdale – Commander Tharrington – 112.08%
Post 9834 – Decatur – Commander Carnahan – 111.32%
Post 9777 – Salem – Commander Lowman – 101.23%
Post 1991- Jonesboro – Commander Murphy – 100.25%
Post 4449 – Marianna – Commander – 100.00%
Post 7769 – Beebe – Commander Wood – 100.00%
Post 4521 – De Queen – Commander Hogg

Bottom 10 Post

Post 4501 – Batesville	Post 4564 – Warren	Post 4766 – Mountain View
Post 4764 – Clinton	Post 8245 - Huntington	Post 8855 - Mountainburg
Post 4687 – Melbourne(S)	Post 8124 – Taylor	Post 8532 – Coal Hill
	Post 8109 – Pea Ridge	

Senior Vice Commander Notes

If a Post is struggling to meet their membership goals, there are resources available to get back on track. The Department has a Post revitalization team that they can send to a struggling Post and our Recruiting Chairman Darrell Darner are a couple of the well-known tools that we have. I have attached a guide put together by VFW National that can be an additional resource as well. Attendance at your District meetings is also helpful as you can network with other Posts in your District to share/gather ideas that can be implemented. New Post Development and Revitalization Manual copy and paste into your web browser

In closing, 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!!

~SVC Jeffrey Byrd

Junior Vice Commander Notes

The VFW day of service is fast approaching on May 7th. Go to www.VFW.org and sign your Post up. This is a great way to show your community what your post can do in your community. Commanders, remember we are here to support please give us a call. If your Post needs Revitalization or just needs some help with programs, let us know. As we approach election time, please remember the officers Obligation when you accept the Responsibility of a position, know the duties. When we go to a post, we find that some officers don't even know the duties of their position or appointment. Thank each one of you for not giving up. The last couple of years has been a strain on most communities and Posts. I believe the hard times are behind us. Keep up the good fight and remember, all Veterans matter.

~JVC Teddy Pipkin

Surgeon's Notes

April is the time for us in Arkansas to make sure we have our tornado plans ready. Please be careful! In the event that you have damage from high winds or tornadoes, please be careful and watch for hidden dangers when assessing the situation. Remember the buddy check whenever you hear of storms in the state; because we all have friends throughout the state that may need help at any time. Please remember that April 17th-23rd is National Volunteer Week.

~Surgeon Rodney Wood

Hot Spring County Veterans Service Officer

VFW encourages Burn Pit Registry enrollment. These should apply: Desert Storm, Desert Shield, New Dawn, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom. Please don't think you have to be sick to register. That is not required. Serving in the arena's is what qualifies the Veterans. Asthma, Rhinitis, Sinusitis are now considered to be presumptive at this time.

Robert Lafond
Hot Spring County
Veteran Service Officer
501-467-6778

2020-2021 ARKANSAS STATE CONVENTION

June 2 – 5, 2022

Arlington Hotel Hot Springs, AR

501-623-7771

Our representative is Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Director of Administrative Operations, Director Johnathon Duncan.

Your post should have just got a mail out on convention if not please go to vfwar.org and look at home page and you can find everything you need.

Saturday Elections – the following guide lines will be followed in order to vote in all elections held this day.

1. To get Commander and delegate vote for any Post you must have at minimum 2 registered delegates attendance during the elections.
2. All Post audits must be current thru March, 2022.
3. 2022-2023 Election report must be submitted on OMS.
4. Post Delegate form must be submitted to Department.

You would be a good idea for your Post leadership to had carry copies of all above items incase a questions is raised.

The following members have announced their candidacy for one of the following offices. More individuals could announce before elections.

*****All Candidates are listed by office in alphabetic order*****

Candidates for National Council 2022-2026

Don Barnes
Will Beams
Scott Bramlett
Ashley Little

Department Office Candidates 2022-2023

Commander - Jeffrey Byrd

Senior Vice Commander - Teddy Pipkin

Junior Vice Commander – Elvin Tate

Quartermaster – Christine Oldham

Judge Advocate – Justin Farrar
Rodney Wood

Surgeon – Linda Johnson
Jerry Tobey

Chaplain – Tanya Taylor

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 2022-2023: 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 2022-2023 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 7518 – Berryville

Post 4687 – Melbourne

Post 4449 – Wynne – Charter surrendered

Post 5742 – Cotter – Post Charter surrendered

Mark Davis

State Commander

OFFICIAL
Christine Oldham

State Adjutant