

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

These orders are to be read at each Post meeting.

GENERAL ORDERS
2020-2021 Series

March 2021

Membership – 92.11%

MEMBERSHIP

As a Department we 862 members to be 100%, District Commanders please start contacting your Post Commanders and push for the results. It is going to take each and every one of us to do our part to make this happen.

Arkansas has 18 Post that have reached 100% or higher, 29 of our Post are 90%+ we should be able to achieve these goals prior to May.

Districts

District 1 - Commander Tobey – 99.59%
District 2 – Commander Lowman – 94.17%
District 4 – Commander Tate – 99.50%
District 5 – Commander Wood – 84.76%
District 6 – Commander Bramlett – 95.05%
District 7 – Commander Strange - 96.64%
District 9 – Commander Johnson – 90.96%
District 10 – Commander Rhodes – 84.41%
District 13 – Commander Callahan – 85.97%

Commander-in-Chief Challenge

For this month's Commander's Challenge, the top Post in each Division with the highest total of New Members (Annual, Life, or Installment Life) will receive a \$1000 award deposited into their Post account. In addition, if the top Post also shares this challenge on your Post's Facebook page, they will receive an additional \$250 award! Get the word out and let's increase our Life Membership! We want to see our Posts reaching out to our members and working hard to show that we are an active and progressive organization that has **20/20 VISION FOR VETERANS!**

Senior Vice Commanders Notes

My chairmen for the year 2021-2022. have been selected. During the month of March you will be receiving a letter if you have been selected for an appointment. If you receive a letter and don't fully understand the chairmanship, please contact me for clarification. However, let us all continue to support Commander Barnes in the quest to obtain All American; my year will start soon enough.

SVC~ Mark Davis

Surgeons Notes

The spring time is among us. Remember to watch your surroundings when you are in enjoying yourself. Getting out and walking and enjoying the outdoors is good for your mental health. Just remember we are all in this together. If anyone ever needs to just talk reach out, we are all here for you.

Surgeon ~Teddy A. Pipkin

SCOUT OF THE YEAR

Deadline 1 April 1, 2021

All entries for Scout of the Year should be submitted to Department Chairman Carder Ferguson, 1030 South 66th Street, Ft Smith, AR 72903 email carderman72903@yahoo.com

NICK BACON SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline 2 March, 2021

All entries for Nick Bacon should be submitted to Department Chairman Todd Willey, 601 Dave Creek Parkway, Fairfield Bay, AR 72088, email todd.l.willey@gmail.com. Phone 479-857-6069.

VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant

The COVID-19 Pandemic has negatively impacted several VFW Posts. To help ease the financial burden created by this unprecedented crisis, the VFW Foundation is providing a new VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant (PPRG). PPRG is restricted to VFW Posts that own or lease their own their Post home building. This is a one-time grant of up to \$2,500 designed to help VFW Posts that are unable to cover specific expenses for mortgage payments, rent (if leasing a building), utilities (gas, electric, water, etc.), insurance or property tax, due to hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of 12/15/20, funding may now also be used to support Post Home building repairs and to defray costs associated with bringing the Post in compliance with COVID-19 safety regulations, such as paying for mitigation cleaning, purchasing PPE, etc. PPRG funding is restricted for the purpose stated above. Expenses that DO NOT QUALIFY include (but are not limited to) the following: Food/beverage expenses, canteen employee wages, membership dues payments, etc. PPRG applications will be reviewed in the order of receipt. Please allow up to two weeks for notification of our decision and six total weeks to receive your award if approved.

Application can be found on our web site at www.vfwar.org

The HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT COMPLETION GUIDE 2021

Please read through all information on this guide before beginning the application so you will become acquainted with the general rules and process. Do not worry that your Post is not a

registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. You can still apply as a 501(c)(19), nonprofit veterans group.

You may access the application using the link found toward the bottom of this page.

Once you have begun the application, try to complete it in one session without saving. We have received multiple reports that using the “Save and Finish Later” option has led to a loss of work and applicants had to re-enter parts of the application.

It is strongly recommended that you copy your answers to a separate document after completing the essay style questions.

PLEASE NOTE: Applicants must provide a Project Budget via a Microsoft Excel File.

Details and an example of how to do this can be found on pages beginning on page 21 of this document.

If you have any questions about this application or guide, please contact Grants & External Relations Coordinator Jason Couch at jcouch@vfw.org or at 816-968-1174.

TO APPLY FOR A HOME DEPOT COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT, BEGIN BY GOING TO THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE:

<https://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants>

More details can be found on the department web site www.vfwar.org

STATE CONVENTION

Save the dates – June 10-13, 2021

This year the State Convention is still in planning, no matter what there will be a physical meeting, putting final details together.

Hospitality

We are working with several hotels to try and make accommodations for us, however due to the pandemic we are unsure if Post and/or Districts are able and willing to host hospitality, even if the hotel allows for such.

Please contact Christine if you are considering doing a hospitality room, 501-838-7268.

ALL-STATE

Deadline for entry is April 19, 2021, **to assure hat orders** to include the NEW department Medallion. Post and District Commanders, by 15 March 2021 there will be an All State check list on our web site www.vfwar.org under resources. If you would please get this form answer all questions and email it to the headquarters at adjqm@vfwar.org in order to be in the running for the award.

The Medallion is only for first award at Post or District level, any of the same awards is a pin that you would put on the ribbon of the award.

New Award, the Department leadership team has established an All State Medallion for Post and/or Districts, this is the first year they will be available, however if you are a previous All

State we request that you bring proof with you to State Convention. After awards have been presented, they will be available for purchase. (\$20 for Medallion and \$10 for pin)

ALL-AMERICAN

The membership percentages are needed in order to qualify for the All-American status is over 100%, but only the top 25 post in your division will be selected. For Districts, you must be in the top 10 of your Division. Please watch your Division.

122nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 122nd National Convention for the currently slated for in-person July 31-Aug 5, 2021, in Baltimore, Maryland. The housing if officially not opened yet.

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 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.

On all levels are reminded that according to Section 105 of the National By-Laws, a member whose dues are unpaid after their anniversary date ceases to be a member in good standing and loses all rights of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They shall not attend meetings or conventions and shall not participate in Post, County Council, District, Department or National functions.

Recent changes to the VFW National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual establish that Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Edition shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. This edition of Robert's Rules of Order is readily available at local book stores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

Resolutions and Department By-Laws Recommended Changes

It is that time of year where we must start looking at the Department By-Laws for changes. Anyone having any recommended changes are to forward them NLT 15 April 2021 for the

By-Laws Committee to review them at the April Committee meeting and inclusion in the General Orders for everyone to see.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

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.

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.

The Home Depot Foundation Grants is Open

Applications to submit The Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant are scheduled to begin on February 1, 2021. 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.

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.

Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-laws and the Manual of Procedures covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post-Election Reports forms are not being mailed. The Post must go online through Online Membership System no later than June 1st. The Department Staff WILL help anyone with this task. Just give us a call and it takes about 3 minutes, have the newly elected officers' membership #'s and we will assist.

PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICERS: All Posts and Districts should be reminded of the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedure which states that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility has been submitted to their respective Adjutant for review.

ROTC and JROTC Awards: Each year scores of high school and universities write to National Headquarters requesting the VFW ROTC Awards. Posts willing to sponsor these awards should contact the Professor of Military Sciences at the school(s) in your area and inform them of your sponsorship. Medals and ribbon bars and citations are available through the VFW Emblem and Supply Department or VFW Department Headquarters, certificate and medal are each at a cost of \$10.

BUDDY POPPIES

“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 on a daily basis 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 and 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.

For questions about the Buddy Poppy program, please contact Ashleigh Brashers 870-612-9809.

Post Business: None

Don Barnes
State Commander

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham
State Adjutant