

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

GENERAL ORDERS
2018-2019 SERIES

March 2019

Membership – 93.20%

MEMBERSHIP

We as a Department need 802 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.

Districts

District 6 – Commander Ray – 97.46%
District 2 – Francis “Corky” McCullagh – 96.41%
District 7 – Commander Duty – 94.13%
District 4 – Commander Emmons – 93.56%
District 13 – Commander Farrar – 93.40%
District 1 – Commander Lee – 91.40%
District 9 – Commander Cloud – 91.10%
District 10 – Commander Michael Rhodes – 90.14%
District 5 – Commander Byrd – 89.61%

Top 10 Post

Post 10021 – Madison County – Commander VanCapmen – 132.43%
Post 8532 – Coal Hill – Commander Rutt – 128.20%
Post 4556 – Pocahontas – Commander Leslie – 120.58%
Post 4687 – Melbourn – Commander Stephens – 110.86%
Post 4772 – Highland – Commander Wargo – 110.71%
Post 8042 – Evening Shade – Commander Holland – 110.63%
Post 8525 – Plainview – Commander Hartley – 106.66%
Post 3141 – Dardanelle – Commander Carter – 105.12%
Post 1341 – Bull Shoals – Commander Kinler – 103.75%
Post 4763 – Chactaw – Commander Bramlett – 103.75%

Congratulations to the above post keep up the good work, you are well on the road for All State and All American for the 2019 year.

Bottom 10 Post

Post 4564 – Warren – Commander Myers – 64.86%
Post 7514 – Quitman – Commander Rosier – 66.15%
Post 8671 – Prescott – Commander Westbrook – 69.35%
Post 8245 – Huntington – Commander Tougas – 73.87%
Post 4679 – Harrisburg – Commander Mills – 75.00%
Post 2881 – Harrison – Commander D’amico – 76.84%
Post 8109 – Pea Ridge – Commander Burton – 79.31%
Post 6527 – Greenwood – Commander McKinney – 81.99%
Post 2935 – Twin City – Commander Sager – 82.00%
Post 9360 – Hamburg – Commander Walker – 82.82%

Commander-in-Chief Challenge

The top TEN Posts in each membership division will be entered into a drawing (one per division) for a \$1,000 award to be deposited into their Post fund.

Candidates for Higher Office

Department Officers 2019-2020

Commander – Will Beams
Sr Vice Commander – Don Barnes.
Jr. Vice Commander – Mark Davis
Quartermaster – Christine Oldham
Judge Advocate – Justin Farrar
Surgeon
Jeffery Byrd
Michael Rhodes

SCOUT OF THE YEAR **Deadline 1 April 1, 2019**

All entries for Scout of the Year should be submitted to Department Chairman Carder Ferguson, 1030 South 66 Street, Fort Smith, AR 72903, carderman72903@yahoo.com, 479-459-4317. This Will be Comrade Ferguson's last year, let us together do it right and make it one to remember.

STATE CONVENTION

This year the State Convention is being held at the Airport Holiday Inn, June 6 – 9, 2019. 3121 Bankhead Drive, Little Rock, AR. Call 490-1000 for reservations, for hospitality rooms, we still have 2 left of the upstairs, downstairs suites, so get your room reservations now. \$84.00 + tax room rate.

Council of Administration meeting will be held on Thursday June 6, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m.

Hospitality

The following guidelines and rules have been established in regard to hospitality at the State Convention June 6-9, 2019. Business session is starting on Thursday am. Hospitality Rooms can only be open daily from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm and after 3:30 pm so that Department business can be conducted during the Joint Installation at 3:30 pm on Saturday, till Banquet starts.

ALL-STATE

Deadline for entry is April 15, 2019, **to assure hat orders.** Post and District Commanders if you think your Post has the potential to be selected as an All State Post please contact the state headquarters to assure entries. There is no form this year, Commander Griffin will review all entries with his committee and select the recipients.

Commander has determined that 10 Post and 3 Districts could receive hat, pin, and certificate if qualified for All State. However, if more posts qualify up to the end of the year, you will be listed as an All State, but

you may purchase your own All State Cap, but information will be forwarded to National to compete for All American.

ALL-AMERICAN

POST DIVISIONS

Division 1 – 750 – and up
Division 2 – 356 – 749
Division 3 – 246 – 355
Division 4 – 185 – 245
Division 5 – 145 – 184

Division 6 – 112-142
Division 7 – 88-111
Division 8 – 68-87
Division 9 – 51-67
Division 10 -1 – 50

The top **five** Commanders in each division will all receive:

A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention
Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention Joint Openings

Finish in the TOP 50 along with other Leadership Criteria and receive All-American recognition.

DISTRICT DIVISIONS

Division 1 – 5,000 - 14,000
Division 2 – 3, 282 - 4,999
Division 3 – 2,172 - 3,281

Division 4 – 1,447 - 2,174
Division 5 – 906 - 1,446
Division 6 – 1 - 905

The top **two** District Commander in each Division will also receive:

A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention
Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention Joint Openings

Finish in the TOP 25 along with other Leadership Criteria and receive All-American recognition.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

Attached is the pre-Registration for Southern Conference 2019 being held at Baton Rouge, LA, October 17-20, 2019. Hotel information is included.

120th NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 120th National Convention for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is being held July 20-24, 2019 at Orlando, FL. The housing, if officially opened, hotel assigned for Arkansas is the Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando. Attached please find an Official Hotel Reservation Form. 801-214-7275.

National Convention Registration

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(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.

From the desk of Veterans Service Office

Here we are again. I wish to apologize for the rough start we had with the Wednesday openings at the VFW headquarters, we have and will continue to work out the details.

I wish to ask all Veterans to be aware of the issues from the budget committee proposals. I have heard and checked on just a couple, and I find it a little troubling.

- 1: Proposed, doing away with Individual Un-Employability once a Veteran reaches full retirement age per Social Security.
- 2: Proposed, dropping by compensation 30% once full retirement age per Social Security.
- 3: Proposed, veterans under 30% dropping compensation. Didn't find much specifics on this one.
- 4: Proposed increase Tricare veterans payment to \$1000 per year.

Continue to push Congress to Pass Blue Water Navy bill. We had a contract, we did our part, let's keep them true to theirs. Remind them its "We the People" per the constitution.

Annual Service Officers Training

This year the Department Service officer Terry Thurman will be conducting Post Service Officer training May 10 -11, 2019 at the Airport Holiday Inn. This training is open to all, please mark your calendar, when we get back from Washington. I will get the room rates locked in so please give me a week prior to making reservations. Meals will be sponsored by the VFW.

COMMANDERS

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.

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 to NLT 15 April 2018 for the By-Laws Committee to review them at the April Committee meeting and inclusion in the General Orders for everyone to see. Please note that the current Department By-Laws are located in our 2018-2019 Department directory.

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 Opened February 1, 2019

Applications to submit The Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant are scheduled to begin on February 1, 2019. 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 Report 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, 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:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>District #</u>	<u>Location</u>
21-APR-19	1	10021 Kingston
19-May-19	2	3246 Mountain Home
28-Apr-19	4	1991 Jonesboro
4-May-19	5	3543 Heber Spring
6-Apr-19	6	4764 Choctaw
24-Mar-19	7	1322 Van Buran
28-Apr-19	9	4451 Mena
19-May-19	10	8671 Prescott
6-Apr-19	13	4548 Jacksonville

For meeting times and representatives, please check VFWAR.org calendar

BY COMMAND OF

Michael Griffin
State Commander

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham
State Adjutant



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

120th VFW National Convention 2019

July 20-24, 2019 · Orlando, FL

Official Hotel Reservation Form

INSTRUCTIONS

Reservations can be made in one of the following ways:

INTERNET: Visit the VFW web site at www.vfw.org.

TELEPHONE:

Toll-free US: 833-277-7335

International: 801-715-4419

7:00 am to 6:00 pm MT, Mon-Fri

FAX: 801-355-0250

MAIL:

Orchid.Events

175 S. West Temple, Suite 30

Salt Lake City, UT 84101

EMAIL: help@orchid.events

DEADLINE

Reservations must be made by phone, fax, mail or internet by **June 14, 2019**. Reservations received after this date will be subject to space and rate availability.

CONFIRMATIONS

Orchid Events will send you an e-mail confirmation of your reservation. Please review all information for accuracy. If you do not receive a confirmation or have questions, please call Orchid Events at the above listed phone number.

TAX RATE & REQUESTS

All rates are per room and are subject to a room tax up to 12.5% and 1% OCCC fee (subject to change). Special requests cannot be guaranteed; hotels will do their best to honor requests. Hotels will assign specific rooms upon check-in, based on availability.

ROOM DEPOSIT REQUIRED:

Reservations will not be accepted without a room deposit of one night's room and tax for each room reserved. Room deposits will be accepted in the form of a valid credit card (preferred) with signature authorizing the credit card guarantee to be charged for the deposit. If the charge to the credit card is denied, we reserve the right to release your reservation. Room Deposits will be accepted by check made payable to "Orchid Events" in the amount of one night's room and tax until June 3, 2019.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations after **June 14, 2019** will be subject to a \$25 processing fee. One night's room & tax will be forfeited entirely if cancellation occurs within 5 days prior to the attendee arrival date and will be charged by your hotel.

GUEST INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

FOR BEST AVAILABILITY AND IMMEDIATE CONFIRMATION, MAKE YOUR RESERVATION ONLINE AT www.vfw.org OR BY PHONE AT 833-277-7335 (toll-free) OR 801-715-4419 (international).

Arrival Date: _____ **Departure Date:** _____

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____

Email Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____ **State/Province:** _____

Zip Code: _____ **Country:** _____

☐ In accordance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) by checking this box you are consenting to our use of the information you are providing us solely for the purpose of making a hotel room reservation.

HOTEL SELECTION

Each state/department has been assigned a hotel with an allocation of rooms. In the event the allotment has been filled, a room will be reserved at another VFW hotel based on your preference of rates or proximity and availability.

If hotel assignment is sold out, which is more important? (check one) ☐ Room Rate ☐ Location

State you reside in: _____

Room Type Requested: ☐ One Bed ☐ Two Beds

Submit only one room request per form, please make copies if additional forms are needed.

List all room occupants:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

☐ Check here if you have special needs and specify below.

Special Requests: _____

NOTE: All hotels are non-smoking properties. All have designated outdoor smoking areas.

DEPOSIT INFORMATION

All reservations requests must be accompanied with a one night's room and tax room deposit in the form of a credit card guarantee or check. Housing Forms received without a valid guarantee/deposit will not be processed. Check deposits must be mailed with a completed housing form.

☐ Call me for a valid credit card guarantee. Your hotel reserves the right to charge this card a deposit of one night's room and tax to my credit card on and/or after June 14, 2019 and authorize the participating hotel keep the one nights room & tax charge if I fail to cancel my reservation 5 days prior to my arrival date. This credit card must be valid through July 2019.

☐ Check deposit of one night's room and tax enclosed and made payable to Orchid Events. Mail check with completed housing form to: Orchid Events, 175 S. West Temple, Suite 30, Salt Lake City, UT 84101. Must be received no later than June 3, 2019.

Southern Conference 2019
Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary
October 17-20, 2019
Baton Rouge, LA
Hilton Hotel Downtown
Deadline October 10, 2019

Registration Form:

Name: _____ Title: _____
Department: _____ Post/Aux: _____
Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Pre-Registration fee is \$75.00 per person.

***Registration Fee covers:**

Banquet, Hospitality Room, and Entertainment
Registration at the Conference will be \$85.00

For Hotel Reservations please contact the Hilton at 225-344-5866

Make checks payable to:
VFW Department of Louisiana
10185 Mammoth Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70814
Earmark: Southern Conference

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY:

DATE RECEIVED: _____ **CK #:** _____ **AMOUNT:** _____

Southern Conference 2019
Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary
October 17-20, 2019
Baton Rouge, LA
Hilton Hotel Downtown

Tentative Menu**
Banquet Meal Request:
Please choose one.

Name: _____ Department: _____

No. of guest attending: _____ Amount paid: _____

_____ Chicken

_____ Prime Rib

Mail Form to:
VFW Department of Louisiana
10185 Mammoth Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70814

Southern Conference 2019
Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary
October 17-20, 2019
Baton Rouge, LA
Hilton Hotel Downtown

Request for Transportation:

A courtesy shuttle will be provided by the Hilton Inn Downtown Hotel to and from Baton Rouge International Airport.

Please complete the form below so that we can make sure the transition from the Airport to Hotel is smooth for everyone!

Name: _____ Airline: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Time: _____ Flight: _____

Departure Date: _____ Time: _____ Flight: _____

Mail Form to:
VFW Department of Louisiana
10185 Mammoth Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70814