

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

GENERAL ORDERS #11
2019-2020 Series

May 2020

Department Membership Standing: 94.08%

As of April 29, 2020

Post at 100% or above by District

District 1- 103.49%

Post 300: Carrollton; Post 1674: Siloam Springs; Post 2952: Springdale; Post 7518: Berryville; Post 8109: Pea Ridge; Post 9834: Decatur; Post 10021: Kingston

District 2 – 94.53%

Post 1341: Bull Shoals; Post 2881: Harrison; Post 3252: Marshall; Post 7730: Calico Rock; Post 8042: Evening Shade; Post 9777: Salem

District 4 – 90.71%

District 5 – 96.93%

Post 2330: Searcy; Post 3543: Heber Springs; Post 7415: Quitman; Post 7769: Beebe; Post 10007: Bald Knob

District 6 – 93.38%

Post 4513: Fairfield Bay

District 7 – 85.56%

Post 8383: New Blaine

District 9 – 97.84%

Post 2256: Benton; Post 4451: Mena; Post 4521: De Queen

District 10 – 95.57%

Post 2746: Star City; Post 4455: Pine Bluff; Post 4554: Camden

District 13 – 90.00%

Post 1316: Little Rock; Post 10442: North Little Rock

All of the above-mentioned Post and Districts over 100% have met the membership criteria for All-State and All-American eligibility. However, there are other requirements to be met, for example new/reinstated percentages.

Please check your programs books for specifics and watch your Division standings to stay competitive.

We currently have 78 Post in our state, 27 of which have reached 100% +. Our Department has the opportunity to reach 100% for the third year in a row. We are only 639 members away. Please look over your unpaid, expired and the needy in nursing homes. Each and every one of us need to do our part. Together, let's make this Department a great success.

Deadline for All-State is June 30, 2019. However, the deadline to receive hats at the state convention has passed.

If you receive All-State recognition, you can still purchase your hats at the Post and District level through the Department Headquarters. If you obtain 100% in membership please contact the Department Headquarters to obtain the form needed to complete, or find it on our web site www.vfwar.org and submit. Good luck and let us take our Department to the next level.

COVID-19

The below information was put out by our National Headquarters in executive order #2 dated 24 April 2020.

Districts: Districts that are able to conduct Conventions in accordance with Section 403 of the National By-laws no later than June 14, 2020 are encouraged to do so; otherwise, those Districts are to elect officers at their next regular or special meeting.

Alternatively, if on July 24, 2020 no business can be transacted at a District Convention and no elections held, the 2019-20 terms of all District officers are ended thereby vacating those offices. The incumbents having satisfactorily served to the end of the term as defined in Section 719 of the National By-laws. Those positions for which succession is provided will be immediately filled pursuant to Section 420 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedure (the Senior-Vice Commander will succeed to Commander and Junior-Vice will succeed the Senior-Vice respectively). Immediately thereafter, the District Commander shall appoint a Quartermaster Pro Tempore (as well as all other appointments pursuant to District and National By-laws); all other elected vacancies shall be filled at the next regular or special meeting.

If on a date no later than June 14, 2020 a District Convention cannot be held, a pro-forma District Convention shall be conducted for the purposes of maintaining compliance with Section 403 of the National By-laws; no business shall be transacted due to lack of a quorum as “the inability to transact business does not detract from the fact the society’s rules requiring the meeting to be held were complied with and the meeting was convened-even though it had to adjourn immediately” pursuant to Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.

Posts: Posts that are able to conduct meetings for the purpose of electing officers are encouraged to do so.

Alternatively, if on July 24, 2020 no election can be conducted, the 2019-20 terms of all Post officers are ended thereby vacating those offices the incumbents having satisfactorily served to the end of the term as defined in Section 719 of the National By-laws. Those positions for which succession is provided will be immediately filled pursuant to Section 220 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedure. Immediately thereafter, the Post Commander shall appoint a Quartermaster Pro Tempore (as well as all other appointments pursuant to Post and National By-laws); all other elected vacancies shall be filled at the next regular or special meeting.

Nothing within this section shall prevent a Post from deciding to have any elected and/or appointed officer serve consecutive terms in the same position so long as their subsequent election and/or appointment is done so in accordance with Section 220 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedure

Community Service

Commander has selected the Outstanding Community Service Post, the post will be announced at the State Convention.

National Home

Department Junior-Vice Mark Davis is not going to the National Home this year, however, if your post has any donations or items to go, please get them to him TODAY and he will assure that they get to the home.

State Convention

This year the State Convention will be June 13, 2020, at the Department Headquarters at 11:00 am. There will be a Council meeting at 10:00 am prior to. ALL Council members plan on attending and the Department will supply lunch while supplies last.

ATTENTION

DISTRICT COMMANDERS / COUNCIL MEMBERS: If you are a brand new elected council member, **BE SURE TO HAVE PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY ON HAND** at the State Convention. This proof will be handed over to the Department Adjutant and kept on file before you are sworn in.

Awards

Commander Beams has chosen to announce some of the awards at the State Convention, however the awards will be presented at an Awards event established when restrictions are lifted to have a celebration.

120th National Convention

The National Convention in Reno has been cancelled, if you made reservations through the VFW you should have got a cancellation confirmation by email. If you booked space outside the block you will have to contact that hotel for yourself.

Memorial Day

There will be no official state ceremony this year due to COVID-19.

Section 223 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedures provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observation of Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and United States Flags are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.

Installation

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.

Posts

Post Commanders: Delegate strength will be based on membership on May 15, 2019. Delegates to the Department Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the 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.

Post Commander: PRIOR TO ELECTIONS: VERIFY THAT ALL RUNNING FOR OFFICE ARE PAID MEMBERS. Over the past several weeks the Department Commander has obtained correspondence from National that individuals that have been elected, are unpaid. If any elected officers are annual

members we highly encourage that each quartermaster collect their dues now and pay them so no elected officers will be removed from offices during the 2019-2020 year.

ATTENTION is directed to Section 222 of the National By-Laws This portion of the By-laws states that each post will register one delegate to the National Convention. This is being waived this year. **DO NOT** send any registrations to National.

For those Post who do not have computers to 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 with correct phone # and addresses on your election report, this will facilitate preparation of the Department directory and USPS listing for mailing of General Orders.

Districts

District/Post Commanders: Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers: All Posts, Districts and Departments should be reminded of the provisions of Sections 216, 416, and 516 of the Manual of Procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Adjutant and properly reviewed.

All District Commanders are asked to make sure that the District election report is completed with all of 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 2020-2021 All newly elected District Commanders are reminded please try within 30 days to submit to the Department Adjutant a list of all meetings for the 2020-2021 year (if you have them). 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.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Department Business:

Suspended Post – Post 4687 - Melbourn

Candidates for Department Officers

Department Commander

Don Barnes

Senior Vice Commander

Mark Davis

Junior Vice Commander

Justin Farrar

Quartermaster

Christine Oldham

Judge Advocate

Jeffrey Byrd

Surgeon

Teddy Pipkins

Chaplain

Kevin McGee

Tanya Taylor

Above are the members that have announced. Members can still announce and run at the Convention. Department wishes all candidates good luck.

Will Beams

State Commander

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham

State Adjutant

District Meetings

District meeting dates are listed on the web site, however prior to attending please verify with you District Commanders.