

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

GENERAL ORDERS #1  
2020-2021 Series

JULY 2020

Congratulations to all newly elected Department of Arkansas Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary Officers.

The following officers having been duly elected and installed at the 89th State Convention and will be afforded the recognition due them:

Commander, Don Barnes	Post 8245	Huntington
Senior-Vice Commander, Mark Davis	Post 1991	Jonesboro
Junior-Vice Commander, Justin Farrar	Post 4548	Jacksonville
Quartermaster, Christine Oldham	Post 4548	Jacksonville
Chaplain, Tanya Taylor	Post 6527	Greenwood
Judge Advocate, Jeffrey Byrd	Post 2330	Searcy
Surgeon, Teddy Pipkin	Post 2330	Searcy

**All previous appointments are expired and are now declared null and void.**

**The following appointments are hereby announced:**

State Adjutant, Christine Oldham	Post 4548	Jacksonville
Chief-of-Staff, Ashley Little	Post 4548	Jacksonville
Inspector, Bob Emmons	Post 1991	Jonesboro

**Chairmen:**

Teacher Award, Matthew Hicks	Post 1322	Van Buren
Youth Programs, Teddy Pipkin	Post 2330	Searcy
Patriot's Pen, Rodney Wood	Post 7769	Beebe
Voice of Democracy, Teddy Pipkin	Post 2330	Searcy
Credentials, Todd Willey	Post 4513	Fairfield Bay
Hospital, Michael Dobbs	Post 2256	Benton
Membership (New), Darrell Darner	Post 1674	Siloam Springs
Membership Retention, Jeffrey Byrd	Post 2330	Searcy
National Home, Justin Farrar	Post 4548	Jacksonville
Nick Bacon Scholarship, Todd Willey	Post 4513	Fairfield Bay

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS:

Hours of operation

Monday – Thursday (8:30 - 4:30)

Friday (8:30-12:00)

Ofc. Ph. # (501) 834-8392

Fax: (501) 833-0205

**\*\*NO PETS ALLOWED; WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CERTIFIED SERVICE ANIMALS THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY TRAINED TO AID A DISABLED PERSON\*\***

Mailing Address:

4210 E. Kiehl Ave., Sherwood, AR 72120.

Email: [headquarters@arkansasvfw.org](mailto:headquarters@arkansasvfw.org)

Dept. website: [www.arkansasvfw.org](http://www.arkansasvfw.org)

**Commander**

**Please direct attention to the letter at the bottom of the General Orders Or  
visit**

[www.vfwar.org](http://www.vfwar.org)

**Resources / Words from the Commander**

## **Senior Vice Commander**

I am excited in the direction I see our VFW Department going and honored to be your Senior Vice. I want to remind everyone to promote the Poppy Program and to keep in mind all it stands for. Remember, every day can be a poppy day.

**Senior-Vice Commander Mark Davis**

## **Junior Vice Commander**

Comrades, I hope all are well and looking forward to a new year with the department. At this time, I would like to thank each and every post in the state for allowing me to serve as your Department Junior Vice Commander for the ensuing year. I would like to congratulate the following individuals on being elected by you (the post) into their respective positions: Don Barnes (Commander); Mark Davis (SVC); Christine Oldham (QM); Jeffrey Byrd (Judge Advocate); Teddy Pipkin (Surgeon) and Tanya Taylor (Chaplain). To each of the District Commanders, I congratulate you all and I am looking forward to working with you all. Together we can make the department shine and make ARKANSAS STRONG.... Remember, NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!!!!

**Junior-Vice Commander Justin Farrar**

## **Judge Advocate**

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve the best Department in the entire VFW. As a team, I know there isn't anything we cannot accomplish. A big part of our success lies within our MEMBERSHIP, so as co-chairman please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything I can do to help your post reach their MEMBERSHIP goals (100%)! ARKANSAS STRONG!!

**Judge Advocate Jeffrey Byrd**

## **Surgeon**

Thank you, Comrades, for having faith in me to become your new state surgeon. Remember in this time of the pandemic to wear your mask whenever possible, wash and sanitize your hands frequently. Remember summertime is upon us, stay hydrated and watch out for your fellow comrades.

**Your State Surgeon, Teddy Pipkin**

## **Chaplain**

Greetings, Comrades, Just a reminder that our Spiritual health is equally important as our mental and physical health. Therefore, as we venture out on our daily walks or begin hitting the gym, be sure to include time to develop your relationship with God. Personally, one way I do this is through a Bible Study group held at my Post, where we also fellowship and pray

together. I encourage you, today, to walk with our Heavenly Father, as He is seeking to have a more meaningful relationship with you!

**God Bless, Chaplain Tanya Taylor**

**\*\*ATTENTION ALL POST AND MEMBERS\*\***

**The Department of Arkansas' Leadership Team, nicknamed The A-TEAM is on the move. We are beginning to resurrect something that has not been done in a long while. WE, the A-TEAM are beginning to travel the state. Whether it is an event at your post or just to stop in and say HOWDY. We are traveling and looking forward to visiting post and its members around the Great State of Arkansas.... So be on the lookout, cause we are COMING SOON TO A POST NEAR YOU!!!!!!**

**Members**

Your attention is directed to Section 803 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedures in regards to Manufacture and Use of Seals, Emblems, Badges, Insignia and Uniforms.

**2020 Annual Report for Nonprofit Corporation Deadline:**

**August 1, 2020**

All Post and Districts need to go online at [www.sos.arkansas.gov/BCS](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/BCS) and update their 2020 annual nonprofit Corporation Report. **This is due by August 1, 2020.** If you have concerns or need assistance please contact the Secretary of State office at 501-682-3409. If you got your notice in the mail. There is a very small print about the address that has your filing number.

**DISTRICT COMMANDERS**

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to verify that all Posts within your District have received copies of the General Orders. If they do not, go on line, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to get copies to them.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS are reminded that notice of District Meetings should be at Department Headquarters no later than the 25th of the month, in order to be published in the General Orders. Please indicate the time of the meal and the time of the meeting.

All dates and time will be posted on our web site [www.vfwar.org](http://www.vfwar.org). Go to news / events and pull up the calendar.

## **ALL MEMBERS: 2019-2020 Awards**

On July 11, 2020 at approx. 12:45 at the State Headquarters, along with the Auxiliary will be holding a Joint Memorial and presenting awards for the 2019-2020 year. There will be a lunch and hospitality. Please come and join us in celebrating our accomplishments.

### **Training**

We are working on scheduling some training throughout the state, open to all members regardless of title or Post or District. Currently working with District 2 to conduct training in that area on July 24-25, 2020. Included in this training will be Adjutant / Quartermaster, Leadership and General information. Please watch our web site for the location and exact times. Most of, if not all of the Department Staff and Leadership will be involved.

### **COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S HOMECOMING**

Training and Council Meeting

October 1-3, 2020

- 1-3 October (Service Officer Trn / ADVA Service Officers)
- 2-3 October (VFW Trn / QM Trn / Homecoming / CoA)

**\*\*Agenda TBA\*\***

Congratulations to Auxiliary President Martha Cothren and Commander Don Barnes. We will be combining a weekend of training with a VFW Council meeting and Homecoming at the Airport Holiday Inn, please put it on your schedule, more information to follow.

### **POST COMMANDERS**

PROGRAMS GUIDE: No Program guides this year. All District Commanders will have printed copies. On or around July 1, 2020, it will all be available on line. We are also working on our web site for a secure area that will allow us to publish the leadership contact information for each Post and District.

Your attention is directed to Sections 218 of the By-Laws and Manual of Procedures. Your duties and those of the post officers are outlined.

### **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN THE POST MEETING**

“It is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit alcoholic beverages in the

Post, District and Department meeting rooms during official meeting. Accordingly, the presence, dispensation, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Post, a District and Department meeting is unacceptable and shall be terminated immediately.”

**ALL GENERAL ORDERS MUST BE READ DURING YOUR POST MEETINGS.** They must also be placed on Post bulletin board and filed for future reference.

**QUARTERMASTER BONDS - AUDITS:** It is the duty of the Post Commander (reference Article VII, Section 703 to see that the office of the Post Quartermaster is bonded and that trustees report of audits are completed and mailed to the Department Headquarters at the end of each quarter, June 30th, September 30th, December 31st and March 31st. All Quartermaster bonds carried by the Department expire August 31 every year. Quartermasters must be bonded in a sum equal to or greater then the amount of the liquid assets of the Post. Bonds are \$3.50 per thousand. The minimum bond is \$2,000.00.

**ALL CHANGES:** Changes in names, addresses and telephone numbers of Post Officers, dates, and meeting places should be reported immediately to Department Headquarters and National Headquarters.

**IRS REQUIREMENT:** All posts with a gross income normally \$50,000.00 or less must file an annual electronic notice, form 990-n (e-postcard) between July 1, 2020 and November 15, 2020. Go to [www.irs.gov/eo](http://www.irs.gov/eo) for more info. Due to COVID have not yet

For Post that have lost your EIN status, they have all been contacted, this is the final report to get these errors corrected and submitted.

BY COMMAND OF

*Don Barnes*

Don Barnes  
State Commander

OFFICIAL:

*Christine Oldham*

Christine Oldham  
State Adjutant



26 June 2020

Greetings, Arkansas VFW!

Thank you for electing me as your state commander. You have my solemn promise I will give 110% toward being your Commander.

We have a huge task before us as COVID-19 has and is still impacting our posts. I'm asking for your assistance in combatting this.

Due to recent events taking place all across our country, I believe Arkansas communities will start to grow. Parents will be seeking a better place to raise their children and I think Arkansas is that place. As the communities start to grow, so will our posts. We need to start now building up the inner structure of our posts so we will be more appealing. Here is where you come into the picture.

It is imperative that we contact members who have not been making meetings and let them know they are missed and needed. If your post has an auxiliary, get with their leadership and begin working together in recruiting members for both organizations.

If your post does not have an auxiliary, begin work on forming one. They are an asset and can help you meet your goals. Have your post and auxiliary assist the community with Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day and any other events the community might have. When these new community members see how active the VFW and auxiliary are they will want to join.

We must get our programs out in the community and actively promote:

- Scout of the year
- Essay contests ○ Patriot's Pen ○ Voice of Democracy • Teacher of the year
- Gold Badge.

Flag education is needed now more than ever, as patriotism is at an all-time low. Work with your schools. Churches usually have a youth night. Check with their leadership and see if your post can set up a night to give a flag education class. Yes, it will take time and volunteers but it will be rewarding and build post camaraderie.

Through the year, we will be offering classes on the following:

- Quartermaster
- Dashboard
- Post revitalization
- The navigation of our website, [www.vfwar.org](http://www.vfwar.org)
- Membership
- Post Commander tools at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

Encourage your members to attend these classes. They are open to all members whether officers or not. Check with Headquarters as to when they will be available in your area.

It is my intent to visit as many posts as possible in this year. Rest assured it will only be a social call, as I only want to meet and thank you for all you do. The line officers/staff at Headquarters and I are ready to assist you in obtaining your goals.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might"... —Ecclesiastes 9:10

Steadfastly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Barnes". The signature is written in dark ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Don Barnes, State Commander

Esprit de corps (a feeling of pride, fellowship and common loyalty within an elite unit)