

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

GENERAL ORDERS #12
2018-2019 SERIES

June 2019

100% +

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

has reached 100% in membership for the first time in 27 years.

Department Membership Standing: 100%+

As of May 30, 2019, the Department of Arkansas has 38 Post and 5 Districts that achieved 100% or better in membership for this year. Congrats to those post and keep up the good work.

The membership year does not end till June 30, 2019. Don't stop now continue to push to the finish line. Current membership for the Department is 11821.

State Convention

This year the State Convention will be June 6 - 9, 2019, at the Airport Holiday Inn, for hotel registrations please call 501-490-1000. There will be a band Saturday night, 90 proof, please come to our business meeting and our celebration.

State Convention Registration Deadlines

June 3, 2019, close of business at the VFW, Department of Arkansas State Headquarters is the last day for preregistration. All others will have to wait till Thursday at convention to register. The headquarters will be closed on Wednesday June 5- June 11, 2018 for packing out to the convention.

Southern Conference

Southern Conference – October 17-20, Baton Rouge, LA for Hotel Reservations please call Hilton at 225-344-5866.

120th National Convention

July 20-24, 2018, Orlando, Florida please go to National VFW Web site, vfw.org for registration forms.

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.

Post/District Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters: Are reminded of the requirements of sections 216 and 416 of the Manual of Procedures 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.

8. Flag Day, June 14: All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Wednesday, June 14th and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award for those who have daily displayed our National flag.

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 117th National Convention should be mailed with each delegate's name and address to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

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 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 on your election report, this will facilitate complete 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. Given the daily hazards confronting our military 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.

Buddy Poppies will no longer be held at Department level. A Post MUST give 6-8 weeks for delivery. They will still be ordered through Department, however shipped direct in effort to save shipping costs. We will maintain a small amount at the headquarters for back up to assist with these transactions.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Michael Griffin

State Commander

OFFICIAL:

Christine Oldham
State Adjutant