

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

GENERAL ORDERS #12  
2020-2021 SERIES

June 2021

## **Department Membership Standing: 103.95%**

As of May 27, 2021, the Department of Arkansas has 46 Post and 7 Districts that achieved 100% or better in membership for this year. Congrats to those post and districts. Keep up the good work.

The membership year does not end till June 30, 2021. Don't stop now. Continue to push to the finish line. Current membership for the Department is 11,153.

## **National Commander-in-Chief's Challenge**

Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch has laid down a challenge to all VFW Post for the month of June 2021!!! The finish line is in sight! As we head into the final month of the membership year, our goal is to continue the momentum we've built up the year and work to increase our membership totals!

For this month's Commander's Challenge, the top Post in each Division with the largest increase in Memberships Percentage for the month of June will receive a \$1,000 award deposited into the Post account.

Membership Percentage is figured by taking your current paid membership total divided by your previous year total, (Total/Prior Year)

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!!!

## **State Convention**

It is time!!! June 10-13, 2021, at the Airport Holiday Inn, for reservations please call 501-490-1000.

Kabab Cook off contest!!!! Sign up is currently underway for the Kabab Cook off contest. Please go to [www.vfwar.org](http://www.vfwar.org), under news and events for entry and details for this and all other events. Chairman for the Kabab contest is Rodney Wood, 501-658-5519, call or text cut off is June 3, 2021. Cash prizes are being offered to the winning team and HUMANA is looking at donating a grill to the winning post.

If you are a Past All State Post and/or District and want to purchase a Medallion please bring proof with you to convention and after Friday nights awards you can purchase them. \$20.00 medal and pins \$10.00

## **Senior-Vice Commander Notes**

Remember that the command year for Commander Barnes is still in full swing. We need to do everything we can to finish strong to keep his year successful. I am counting on all of you to be "Arkansas Strong"!

I hope that many of you will attend the State Convention on 10-13 of June. I look forward to your support as I move into my command year beginning 13 June. I am issuing a challenge to myself: I want to get out and see as many Posts and Districts as I can in our great Department.

Please let State Headquarters know of your upcoming events so I can plan for them. I want to keep my weekend calendar full!!!

~SVC Mark Davis

### **Judge Advocate Notes**

As leaders we have a responsibility to pass along the knowledge we have gained through our years of service. When I was a Post Commander our post was in the running to achieve All American (AA) status. Unfortunately, due to a clerical oversight by myself we missed out on a tremendous honor. My point being... this year several posts are in the running for AA. Do you know the requirements? Where to find them? The "A-Team" is here to help!

<https://vfw.org/uploads/Documents/VFWNationalMembershipProgram20-21.pdf>

Before I forget...THANK YOU to each and every member for everything you do! As always, I will continue to make myself available at any time to anyone who needs assistance. ARKANSAS STRONG!!

~JAG Jeffrey Byrd

### **Surgeon Notes**

Comrades the time is here. We are just a few days away from being together again. This upcoming convention is going to be so much fun. This will be the first time we have all been able to gather together in sometime. The joy that is comradeship is just a short time away please come out if you can. We all miss you. The State Adjutant and staff at our headquarters have been working to make this the best experience you can have all year, so come on out and show your support to all the other posts and auxiliaries, have a little fun, learn something, see old friends and make some new ones. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Department Surgeon. I look forward to see what this next year brings us.

~SURG Teddy Pipkin

### **Service Officers Notes**

I am seeing that the Army will review all Discharges under Other than Honorable. The items they will be looking at will be Behavior, PTSD, MST, TBI, and other Mental health conditions from 2010-2020. 51,400 such discharges are in the queue to be reviewed. If you fall into this category keep an eye on the records.

Robert Lafond  
Hot Spring County  
Veteran Service Officer  
[cvsohsc@icloud.com](mailto:cvsohsc@icloud.com)

**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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 117<sup>th</sup> National Convention should be mailed with each delegate's name and address to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **DEPARTMENT BUSINESS**

### **Suspension:**

Post 1316 – Little Rock

Post 5742 - Cotter

Don Barnes

State Commander

### **OFFICIAL:**

Christine Oldham

State Adjutant