

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

GENERAL ORDERS #3

SEPTEMBER 2019

## MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP: Veterans of Foreign Wars National By-Laws provide for only one type of membership; that is active membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. There are no provisions in the National ByLaws for national membership cards, associate member cards, honorary membership cards, courtesy membership cards or conducting club operations open to the public. This activity endangers the VFW standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW By-Laws or procedure.

## COMMANDERS AT ALL LEVELS

### AUDITS

At Post and District levels we are forgetting the importance of reporting, Audits are to be turned into Department by the following dates July 31, 2019, October 31, 2019, January 31, 2020 April 30, 2020. As of August 29, 2019, there are 37 Post and 4 Districts that have not submitted audit reports. Post Quartermaster Bonds are now past due. Over 20 Post in the Department have not shown proof of bonding to the Department, please forward any information as soon as you can.

Though these have probably been completed, the following Post have not submitted the Report of Audit that was due by July 31<sup>st</sup>. Post that have not transmitted the report to the Adjutant by 14 September will be placed on suspension pending receipt at headquarters.

<b>Dist 1:</b> 10021 Kingston	<b>Dist 2:</b> Post 4687 Melbourne 5742 Cotter 7730 Calico Rock	<b>Dist 4:</b> 2242 Paragould 4449 Mariana 4566 Wynne 4679 Harrisburg 10480 Rector	<b>Dist 5:</b> 4501 Batesville 4683 Newport 4766 Mt View 7514 Quitman
<b>Dist 6:</b> 2259 Conway 3141 Dardanelle 8525 Plainview 12127 Leslie	<b>Dist 7:</b> 1322 Van Buren 8245 Huntington 8383 New Blaine	<b>Dist 9:</b> 2245 Benton 4521 Dequeen 10483 Hot Springs Vil.	<b>Dist 10:</b> 2746 Star City 4515 Monticello 4562 Texarkana 8671 Prescott 9360 Hamburg

**Dist 13:**  
2935 Little Rock

## PROGRAMS

Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2019-20 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teachers' Awards, "Buddy"® Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Please pay Attention to the Department deadline dates, they are different for the District and Department that the National Calendar.

\*\*\*\*\*Please review Commander-in-Chief 2019-2020 Program's update: For Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year all three (3) categories (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) you may make a donation of \$75.00 in lieu of **each** missing entry. However, the deadline for these donations is October 31, 2019.\*\*\*\*\*

Chairman: Teacher of the Year – Matthew Hicks – 479-650-6551  
Voice of Democracy – Teddy Pipkin – 501-827-6544  
Patriots Pen – Trisha Leslie – 870-810-8229

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## ALL MEMBERS

### Department Training

Training time line, VFW Training, Airport Holiday Inn, 501-490-1000

We are honored to have presenting some of the Training - Rick McKenna Assistant Director Membership, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

#### Service Officer Training

Nov 1 – 10:00 – 5:00 lunch and dinner provided

Nov 2 – 8:30 – 12:00 breakfast and lunch provided

#### Dashboard, Adjutant, Quartermaster Chaplain and Retention

Nov 1 – 8:30 – 5:00 lunch and dinner provided

Nov 2 8:30 – 12:00 lunch provided

Nov 2 – 1:00 – 3:30 Advanced Quartermaster Training

## Post ByLaws

**POST BYLAWS:** Every Post operating any type of activity, particularly a canteen, should adopt Post By-Laws. Unfortunately, a relatively small number of Posts have done so. Few have complied with Section 202 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure which requires that such By-Laws be submitted to the State Commander and Commander-in-Chief for review. By-Laws will save many hours of argument and remove causes for misunderstanding and dissension.

*You can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets.*

Remember that all actions of a Post shall be subject to ratification by vote of its members at a regular post meeting.

## **Removal of Officers**

Removal and Vacancies of Elected Officers or Committee Members: Section 220 Of our National ByLaws and Manual of Procedures outline how to remove an officer for one of the two following reasons:

1. Absent themselves from two (2) consecutive meetings or who has
2. Failure to fulfill the duties of officer specified in Section 218 of the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

## **Dashboard**

All Post and District Adjutants now have obligations on reports on the dashboard through OMS. Please submit all community service and program participation at this location. Vfw.org, on your main page under My VFW that is a training video for assistance.

## **Discipline of Members**

We often forget that as members we have rights, but we also have standards to conduct ourselves by. The purpose of this corporation are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational:

Often members need to be reminded of this. For this reason, our ByLaws and Manual of Procedures outline Discipline of Members in Sec 901. Section 902 governs Offenses, an offense that is so commonly abused is Sec 902, 6. Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct unbecoming a member in their relations to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or other members. Please review these Sections and remind members at all levels.

## **All American 2018-2019**

The All American materials from the 2019-2020 year have come into the headquarters. If you are All American and attended the National Convention your plaques and pins can be picked up at the Department Headquarters or we will bring them to the C of A for Distribution. If you did not attend the National Convention Past Commander Griffin will be getting with us on a distribution date prior to the C of A or we will also bring them to the meeting for distribution. Department will be mailing reminded to all Post about these.

## **Post Leadership**

### **From the Desk Of Hot Spring County Service Officer**

If you are in need of urgent Care be sure to check for a provider in your area prior to getting care. The web address is <https://vaurgentcarelocator.triwest.com/locator> If you go to a non program care provider you will most likely be on the hook for cost. This is not for any primary care.

Blue Water service should be applied for and re-opened for any denied claims. It is important to refile I have heard two different stories must refile for consideration and may be

adjudicated by old classification coding. I find that all claims are on stay until 1-1-2020 but get in the pile by having the record of re-open. Don't count on VA to pull all old claims and add to their stack. If Spouses were not able to File because of a denial be sure to have them file for DIC and any accrued benefits.

Be sure to join any registry's (Burn Pit, Agent Orange) Go to VA.gov and check for one that fits your situation.

Million Vet program is still looking for veterans to sign up and donate their services.

I will be out of the office from September 12 thru 24 as I am in training classes to get to assist veterans in a more efficient manner.

Looking forward to your call and visit.

Robert Lafond  
Post 2586  
District 9  
Hot Spring County  
Veterans Service Officer  
**501-467-6778**

### **Council of Administration Meeting/Homecoming**

This year the Commanders and Presidents homecoming is combined. It will be at the Post Home of Post 2278, However the Council Meetings and housing will be offered at Courtyard by Marriott, Hot Springs, 200 Marriott Court, Hot Springs, AR 71913, 501-6511-4366, Room rate \$86.00. The Council of Administration will be held Saturday, 28 September 2019, time to be determined, with homecoming to follow at Post 2278.

### **SOUTHERN CONFERENCE**

Southern Conference – October 17-20, 2019, in Baton Rouge, LA. For more information please go to [vfwla.org](http://vfwla.org) and look under news and events. Hilton hotel 225-334-5866.

### **POW/MIA DAY**

POW/MIA Day September 20.2019

POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony, Friday, September 20, 2019, 10:00 a.m. Arkansas State Capital Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Rotunda, Little Rock, AR. (time to be published on web site [vfwar.org](http://vfwar.org) calendar and NEWS)

A day of remembrance and hope for the speedy and safe return of American Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action. It also seeks the return of the remains of Fallen Service Members and honors our former Prisoners of War, those still Missing in Action, and their families.

### **ATTENTION POST COMMANDERS**

Your attention is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990-T, where applicable. All Posts with gross income under \$50,000.00 must file Form 990n (e-postcard). Forms may be obtained from your local branch office of the Internal Revenue Service, Department Headquarters or on line at [IRS.Gov](http://IRS.Gov). **FILING DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15th FOR ALL POSTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS.** Ref.: Section 501(C) 19 of the IRS

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Code. Be reminded that the Department Headquarters does assist several posts with this task. If you are not sure if we do, just give us a call.

**Post Commanders:** Section 218(a)(1)k states: Post Commander will assure that he or his representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings (if applicable). **Note:** For those Posts not able to attend the District, they are asked to forward a report of their Post activities to the District Commanders prior to the District meeting to keep the District Commander informed of your activities also assist him in preparation for upcoming Council of Administration meetings. When you or your Rep attend the District meeting, they should be going back to the post meeting and sharing this information with all members. Please, we need your help in keeping the communications flowing at all levels.

Post Commanders are urged to start planning suitable programs for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedures). Show your Post Pride by taking part in a Parade. Distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a part of your Veterans Day activities.

### **National Home**

We are encouraging each Post to conduct a Buddy Poppy Drive, and a portion of the proceeds be considered going to the National Home.

National Home Chairman Mark Davis

Department Business: Post 7514 – Suspended – Quitman Post, District 5

Important Dates:

2 September Labor Day – Department Closed

28 September C of A – Commanders Homecoming, Hot Springs, AR

20 September – POW/MIA Day State Ceremony held at the Arkansas State Capital at 10:00 @

**Rotanda (spelling)**

27 October – District 1 meeting, Post 2952, Springdale

27 October – District 9 Meeting, Post 2586, Malvern

31 October VOD/PP/Teacher Post Entry Deadline

**Please see [vfwar.org](http://vfwar.org) go to calendar for location and rep for all meetings.**

**BY COMMAND OF**

**Will Beams  
State Commander**

**OFFICIAL**

**Christine Oldham  
State Adjutant**

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