

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS

GENERAL ORDERS #2
2020-2021

AUGUST 2020

Commander-in-Chief

Attached please find executive Order #1 issued by Commander Roesch in regards to electronic meetings at all levels.

COMMANDER'S NOTES

Commander-in-Chief Roesch has issued an executive order allowing Post to meet via electronic means, waiving that you must have 5 members physically present, only due to COVID, and this order is posted on our website. Live's and wellness matter to us above all other needs. With that being said, suicide rates and drug abuse are up due to these stressful times. Please follow our Surgeons guidelines and let us know if you need anything from us to help.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S NOTES

It is time to rally around our great organization. The start of this command year will be unlike any other. We need to make sure we are behind programs that our State Commander wants to implement and that his goals are accomplished. We need to make sure that our Veteran's are taken care of. We need to make sure that we take the time to get together for camaraderie. I look forward to getting out to as many Post as I can this year and seeing members. I wish everyone the best of luck and as always, we look forward to any feedback from our members because I WORK FOR YOU.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDERS NOTES

State HQs encourages all VFW members and their loved ones to visit our Facebook page to stay current with important veterans-related news and event information. Please "Like" our page and share it veterans and those in the military. We encourage you to upload news and photos showing your Post success stories to our State HQs Facebook page. State HQs also encourages Posts to set up Facebook pages to keep members informed about upcoming events and Post programs. If you are new to Facebook there are numerous "how-to" guides on the Internet to help you launch your page. Posts are strongly encouraged to create their page as a "non-profit organization" or other service-minded category, not as a "Club", "Restaurant" or "Bar", and to stay involved in maintaining and updating their page. Your Facebook page should primarily show the VFW as a service/veterans organization, with canteen information (food and drink) secondary. Please carefully screen what goes on your Facebook page to avoid comments or photos that harm the reputation of the VFW. State HQs regularly visits Post Facebook pages to ensure that the VFW's

image is not being harmed. State HQs will request that Posts remove any material that does not live up to the VFW's legacy as a service organization. Just remember, always maintain the honor, integrity and respect that the VFW has earned.

Junior-Vice Commander, Justin Farrar

JUDGE ADVOCATE NOTES

What a start to the new year! I have personally enjoyed traveling around the state and want to thank everyone for their hospitality. As always, a big part of our success lies with our MEMBERSHIP. Don't forget, any annual member that pays their dues between 1 Jul and 1 Oct will automatically be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card. 5 winners will be drawn at the Commander's homecoming on 3 Oct. I have already spoken to several posts and if you have not heard from me yet, you will in the coming weeks. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything myself or the A-Team can do to assist! **ARKANSAS STRONG!!**

SURGEON NOTES

Comrades please call and check on all your members, or at least the ones you know for sure you have not heard from. It might be just what they need during these hard times.

CHAPLAIN'S NOTES

Greetings, Comrades! As I reflect on this past month, I feel humbled and extremely fortunate to be a member of the VFW in Arkansas. I see an increase in our social media posts, reaching out to one another, updates and invites. This is especially critical during such an unprecedented time. I pray we, as a group, continue to check in on those who do not have access to internet with a phone call or even a note in the mail. Communication is extremely important, knowing that someone cares, makes you feel valued and not alone. Please join me in prayer for the future of our country, our leaders, our military and their families, our law enforcement, and for the teachers and youth of America as they begin this month to head back to school. Many blessings to all! ♥us

God bless, Chaplain, Tanya Taylor

COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S HOMECOMING

FALL Council Meeting

This year the Commanders and Presidents homecoming is combined. It will be at the Airport Holiday Inn. Service Officer Training along with Post and District Service Officer training will be September 30-2 October, Leadership, Quartermaster, Adjutant training will be October 2 – 3, Council meeting Friday 2 October at 7 p.m. and Commander and Presidents Homecoming will be Saturday afternoon. Agenda subject to change, due to COVID restrictions and safety. Airport Holiday Inn, 501-490-1000 room rate \$86.00.

NEW NATIONAL OFFICERS

Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars: Hal Roesch from Hampton, Virginia
Senior-Vice Commander: Fritz Mihelcic from Illinois
Junior-Vice Commander (will be voted on during a National C of A)

2019-2020 ALL AMERICAN All American Department

Commander Will Beams – Post 2278

All American District

District 1 – Commander Frank Lee – Post 1674
District 5 – Commander Teddy Pipkin – Post 2330

All American Post

Post 1316 – Commander Edward Clark - Little Rock
Post 2952 – Commander David Vining – Springdale
Post 4548 – Commander Michael Ritchey – Jacksonville
Post 4554 – Commander Jim Bob Davis – Camden
Post 7769 – Commander Rodney Wood –Beebe

Post of the YEAR

Post 2952 – Springdale – Commander David Vining – District 1

District Commander of the Year

Frank Lee – District 1

Post Commander of the Year

Commander Teddy Pipkin – Post 2330 – Searcy – District 5

Recruiter of the Year

Darrell Darner – Siloam Springs Post

All State Districts

District 1 – Commander Frank Lee
District 5 – Commander Teddy Pipkin
District 6 – Commander Scott Bramlett
District 9 – Commander Linda Johnson

All State Post

Post 1316 – Commander Edward Cross - Little Rock – District 13
Post 1674 – Commander Frank Lee – Siloam Springs – District 1
Post 2256 – Commander Wesley Jones – Benton – District 9
Post 2330 – Commander Teddy Pipkin – Searcy – District 5
Post 2952 – Commander David Vining – Springdale - District 1
Post 4451 – Commander Linda Johnson – Mena – District
Post 4453 – Commander Roger White – Morrilton – District 6
Post 4501 – Commander Curtis Matheny – Batesville – District 5
Post 4513 – Commander Todd Willey – Fairfield Bay - District 6
Post 4548 – Commander Michael Ritchey – Jacksonville - District 13
Post 4554 – Commander Jim Bob Davis – Camden – District 10
Post 7769 – Commander Rodney Wood –Beebe - District 5
Post 9777 – Commander Danny Crow – Salem – District 2

Congratulations to the above-mentioned awardees

All State Team

Several Posts made All State during and after the Department Convention prior to the end of year. If your Post was one and you want to order a hat for Commander or Quartermaster for the 2019-2020 year, please contact Mary for order and payment, at the State Headquarters prior to 16 August and an order will be submitted.

Additional Department of Arkansas Chairmen: 2019-2020

Commanders Project – Curnie Bryant – Post 1316 - Little Rock
Asst Project Chairman – Tanya Taylor – Post 6527 - Greenwood
AARP Liaison – Robert Fureigh - Post 9095 - Little Rock
National Legislative – Patrick Flenniken – Post 288 - Harrison
Post revitalization Coordinator – Mark Davis – Post 2881 - Jonesboro
Action Corps – Patrick Flenniken – Post 2881 - Harrison
Service Officer – Terry Thurman - Post 8109 - Pea Ridge
Public Servant & Safety – Jim Lee - Post 4515 - Monticello
Scouts – Carder Ferguson – Post 8845 – Fort Smith
ROTC/JROTC – Darrell Darner - Post 1674 - Siloam Springs
Veterans and Military Support – Matthew Hicks - Post 1322 - Van Buren
Americanism – Tim Griffin - Post 4548 - Jacksonville
Buddy Poppy – Ashleigh Bishop – Post 4501 - Batesville
Community Service – Frank Lee - Post 1674 - Siloam Springs
POW/MIA – Mike Nuckolls - Post 2330 – Searcy
State Bugler – Mike Nuckolls – Post 2330 - Searcy
By-laws/Resolutions – Will Beams – Post 2278 – Hot Springs

Northwest Veterans Home – Johnny Gothard - Post 1322 - Van Buren
Central Veterans Home – Wesley Jones - Post 2256 - Benton
Motorcycle Group – Greg Birnschein – Post 4548 – Jacksonville
M.O.C. Coordinator – Justin Farrar – Post 4548 - Jacksonville

V.A.V.S. Reps

Little Rock/North Little Rock – Wesley Jones – Post 2256 - Benton
Fayetteville – Johnny Gothard – Post 1322 - Van Buren
Memphis – Elvin Tate - Post 5225 - West Memphis
Poplar Bluff – Darwin Wetherspoon - Post 2242 - Paragould
Shreveport - Linda Johnson – Post 4451 - Mena

2019-2020 Program Books and Directories

The Directories can all be found on line only. You district Commander have a printed copy if needed go to www.vfw.org.

BONDING

Current Bonds for Post Quartermaster will expire August 31, 2020, and canteen mangers will expire September 30, 2020. All posts should remit the correct amount to Department Headquarters **now**. Amounts: Quartermaster \$4.00 per thousand minimum of \$2,000. Club manager and all others \$8.00 per thousand minimum of \$2,000. If you are bonding through an outside agency, please forward proof from company to VFW State Headquarters. These forms were mailed on July 24, 2020 to all Post and District Commanders. They can also be found on line at www.vfwar.org, under the resources tab / reports and forms.

Commanders are reminded that all persons handling post funds, including the Club Manager and Bingo Chairman, shall keep accurate and complete records. Post Trustees shall audit these records in the same manner as Post Quartermaster records.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Just because it is summer doesn't mean that we shouldn't be working on our Youth Programs. There are several activities that the youth of Arkansas are participating in during the summer. Look around, there are VBS, 4H

activities, Ball leagues, and summer camps of all types, just for a few examples. With the cost of college going up every year most parents and students are going to need as much help as possible in paying for it. So, let's get out there and promote our programs. Making your programs successful will assist the Post with being successful.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY: Time starts **NOW!** Posts are requested to contact the high school principals and teachers the first week of school to discuss plans to sponsor the 2020-2021 Voice of Democracy Program. This year's theme: "**Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned**". All audio CD's or flash drive's and entry forms for District judging must be in the possession of VFW District Chairmen, before the date of the District judging. District Chairmen must notify all Posts and Auxiliaries in their jurisdiction of the date of the District judging and where to send the recorded audio and entry form of the winner of each participating school. Program materials are available from the Department Youth Development, Recognition & Scholarship Chairman. They are also available on the website, www.vfwar.org under Programs tab / Voice of Democracy.

PATRIOT'S PEN: Time starts **NOW!** Posts are requested to contact school principals and teachers the first week of school to discuss plans to sponsor the 2020-2021. This year's theme: "**What is Patriotism to Me?**". All essays and entry forms for District judging must be in the possession of VFW District Chairmen, before the date of the District judging. District Chairmen must notify all Posts and Auxiliaries in their jurisdiction of the date of the District judging and where to send the essays and entry form of the winner of each participating school. Program materials are available from the Department Youth Development, Recognition & Scholarship Chairman.

They are also available on the website, www.vfwar.org under Programs tab / Patriot's Pen.

BUDDY POPPIES: You are requested to place your order for the Buddy Poppy Program as soon as possible. Remember they get shipped directly from National so it takes up to 6 weeks to receive (Orders **MUST** still come through Department Headquarters). Prices are \$65.00 per 500 and \$125.00 per 1,000. Please plan you Buddy Poppy Drive now.

POW/MIA Flag

POW/MIA Flag – Official Display Days: Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, and National POW/MIA Day.

Control of Units

Section 709 – Control of Units, National By-laws paragraph 6. In addition to other legal requirements under existing local laws or Department By-Laws, no Post, County Council, District, or any holding company or corporation subordinate thereto, shall purchase, sell or otherwise transfer title or any interest in any real estate unless written notice of such proposal has first been given to each member of said unit ten (10) days prior to such regular or special meeting at which the proposal is to be considered and then only by two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval of those members present and voting at such regular or special meeting. In addition, at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting notice shall be provided to the Department Commander who shall review any sale, purchase, transfer or encumbrance to determine whether such transaction serves the purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as prescribed in the Congressional Charter. Failure to comply with these provisions shall nullify said transactions.

POST COMMANDERS
Notify IRS of Quartermaster Change

In January 2014, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) began requiring entities with and EIN to file IRD Form 8822-B to report the latest change of address or responsible party. Form 8822-B must be files within 60 days of the change. The purpose of Form 8822-B is to notify the IRS of you changes your business mailing address, your business location or the identity of your responsible party. The IRS Form 8822-B and its instructions can be found at the following link:
<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822b.pdf>

2020 Annual Report for Nonprofit Corporation PAST DUE

Deadline: August 1, 2020: Just received information from the Secretary of the State office that Posts were waiting for the postcard mail out regarding Annual Nonprofit renewals. It is all on line now. Please go to www.sos.arkansas.gov/BCS to file your 2020 report of officers. There is no penalty for being late, but it could hurt the post in the future. Please go online and complete today. If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Julie Wolfe at 501-682-3482, at the Secretary of the State's office.

REMOVAL OF AN OFFICER

Section 220 of the National By-Laws, "Vacancies and Removal of Elective Officers" states that "Any elective Post Officer removed by the Department Commander, by reason of failure to pay current dues or by vote of the Post under the provisions of this section, shall not be eligible to serve in any Post office in the same administrative year in which the Officer is removed."

GENERAL ORDERS: All General Orders are to be read at a regular meeting, acted upon, posted, and filed for future reference. These orders will be published every month, except January. They will be with your District Commanders and on web site www.vfwar.org.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS: none

BY COMMAND OF

Don Barnes

Don Barnes
State Commander

OFFICIAL:

Christine Oldham

Christine Oldham
State Adjutant

District Meeting Information

Please go to the department website for future district meetings. They can be found at www.vfwar.org under News tab / Calendar OR under Resources / Officer Assignments

Commander Barnes has put our safety first. If your District chooses to change their meeting due to COVID, that is your choice. The Commander-in-Chief has published Executive order #1 allowing you to have options. We will support which ever decision your District makes. Commander Barnes has also instructed that if any Department Rep does not feel safe about repping a district meeting, to call the district commander and advise them that they will not have a district representative for their meeting.



Executive Order No. 1

July 29, 2020

Pursuant to Section 618(a)(4) and the National Council of Administration's July 27, 2020 concurrence for navigating the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 restrictions, the following mandate is hereby issued. This order applies to all levels of the organization and supersedes all other guidance that would otherwise conflict with conducting the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 restrictions.

National:

Pursuant to Section 618 (a)(5) of the National Bylaws, the Commander-in-Chief shall "insist that the business and activities of the organization are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance, or regulation or bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on this organization."

Therefore, the Commander-in-Chief at his judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings and conventions electronically.

Departments:

Pursuant to Section 518 (a)(1)(c) of the Manual of Procedure, Department Commanders shall "insist that Department business and activities are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on the Department, its members or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States."

Therefore, Department Commanders at their respective judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings and conventions electronically.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Kansas City, MO 64111

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Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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Washington, D.C. 20002

Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

Districts:

Pursuant to Section 418(a)(1)(d) of the Manual of Procedure, District Commanders shall “insist that District business and activities are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on the District, its members or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.”

Therefore, District Commanders at their respective judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings and conventions electronically.

Posts:

Pursuant to Section 218(a)(1)(c) of the Manual of Procedure, Post Commanders shall “insist that Post business and activities be conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment upon the Post, its members or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.”

Therefore, Post Commanders at their respective judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings electronically.

By order of:



Harold “Hal” Roesch II, Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Official:



Kevin C. Jones, Adjutant General
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

