

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

GENERAL ORDERS #2  
2019-2020

AUGUST 2019

## COMMANDER'S NOTES

Greetings Comrades,

Our 2019-2020 year is underway, National Convention is over, and its time to hit the grindstone. I'd like to congratulate the All-American Commanders for their outstanding performances last year and receiving their awards at National.

As of today, the state is at 2.24% in total membership. That's a pretty good start. We finished last year at 102%. That means we only have 97.75% left to go out and get. It is possible for us match last year's 102%. So, lets make that our goal in each post.

In order to qualify for participation toward All-American this year, the Commander-in-Chief has the requirement of one submission per category, for Teacher of the Year. That means one Elementary, one Middle School, and one High School teacher from each post. Having this information now allows posts time to cultivate the relationships with teachers in their communities to overcome this challenge.

There is a new "All-American Dashboard" on [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) on which Quartermasters can view the Posts standings for All-American. It can be found at: [vfw.org](http://vfw.org)>**OMS**>**Reporting**>**All-American Dashboard**. Winners keep score! This Dashboard is the official scoreboard for Posts. Please ensure your quartermasters can access this information or delegate an assistant that can.

I look forward to visiting you around the state this year. Headquarters, the State Line-officers, and I are here to help you achieve the goals you have for your Posts. Reach out anytime.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Will Beams  
Commander  
Dept. of Arkansas

## COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S HOMECOMING

### FALL Council Meeting

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.

## **NEW NATIONAL OFFICERS**

Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, William J. "Doc" Schmitz from New York  
Senior Vice Commander Hal Roesch from Hampton, Virginia  
Junior Vice Commander Fritz Mihelcic from Illinois

### **2018-2019 ALL AMERICAN**

**National Achieved over 100% for the first time in 27 years.**

#### **All American Department**

Commander Michael Griffin – Post 8671

#### **All American District**

District 5 – Commander Jeffrey Byrd - Post 2330

#### **All American Post**

Post 1674 Siloam Springs – Commander Frank Lee - District 1  
Post 4556 Pocahontas – Commander Trisha Leslie – District 4  
Post 2330 Searcy – Commander Teddy Pipkin – District 5  
Post 4501 Batesville – Commander Curtis Matheny – District 5  
Post 7769 Beebe – Commander Kevin McGee - District 5  
Post 2259 Conway – Commander Chris Ray – District 6  
Post 4764 Choctaw – Commander Scott Bramlett – District 6  
Post 1322 Van Buren – Commander Earl D. Duty - District 7  
Post 8532 Coal Hill – Commander Larry Rutt – District 7  
Post 4451 Mena – Commander Linda Johnson – District 9  
Post 9095 Little Rock – Commander Terry Callahan – District 13

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 2018-2019 year, please contact Kim for order and payment, at the State Headquarters prior to 16 August and a order will be submitted.

#### **Additional Department of Arkansas Chairmen:**

**2019-2020**

Commanders Project – Tom Kleck – Post 9095, Little Rock  
AARP Liaison – Robert Fureigh, Post 9095, Little Rock  
National Legislative – Patrick Flenniken – Post 2881, Harrison  
State Legislative – William Beams – Post 2278, Hot Springs  
Post revitalization Coordinator – William Beams, Post 2278, Hot Springs  
Action Corps – Patrick Flenniken – Post 2881, Harrison

Service Officer – Terry Thurman, Post 8109, Pea Ridge  
Public Servant & Safety – Jim Lee, Post 4515, Monticello  
Scouts – James Baum, Post 9095, Little Rock  
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 Brashers, Post 4501, Batesville  
Community Service – Frank Lee, Post 1674, Siloam Springs  
POW/MIA – Mike Nuckolls, Post 2330, Searcy  
Resolutions – Michael Rhodes, Post 4562, Texarkana  
Northwest Veterans Home – Johnny Gothard, Post 1322, Van Buren  
Central Veterans Home – Wesley Johnson, Post 2256, Benton  
Motorcycle Group – Richard VanGorder, Post 2283, Russellville

#### 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 – Darvin Wetherspoon -Post 2242, Paragould  
Shreveport - Linda Johnson – Post 4451, Mena

### **2019-2020 Program Books and Directories**

The Directories will be mailed out to the Post Commanders this month. Each Commander will receive 2 small Directories (1 for Commander and 1 for Post of each) the Directory will include, phone numbers for all officers, chairmen, post and Post officers, Auxiliary officers, Auxiliary Chairmen, District presidents and Department All State, recruiting, Post of the quarter, and District of the quarter. This information will also be online at [www.vfwar.org](http://www.vfwar.org). District Commander will have every document needed in paper form. If you can't get on line please contact your District Commander for forms and they will get them to you. If you would like additional printed copies they can be purchased for \$10.00 through the Department Headquarters while supplies last. If any information is found to be incorrect, please contact the State Headquarters so that we can get the information corrected.

### **BONDING**

Current Bonds for Post Quartermaster will expire August 31, 2019, and canteen mangers will expire September 30, 2019. All posts should remit the correct amount to Department Headquarters **now**. Amounts: Quartermaster \$3.50 per thousand minimum of \$2,000. Club manager and all others \$7.50 per thousand (which is a .50 cents increase) minimum of \$3,000. If you are bonding through an outside agency, please forward proof from company to VFW State Headquarters. Theses forms were mailed on July 31, 2019 to all Post and District Commanders. They can also be found on line at [vfwar.org](http://vfwar.org), resources under 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 2019-2020 Voice of Democracy Program. This year's theme: "**What Makes America Great**". 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 (District judging date November 22,2019), 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. Winning District essay must be in the hands of the Department Chairman on or before December 12, 2019. Department judging will be held December 14, 2019.

**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 2019-2020. This year's theme: "**What Makes America Great**". 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 (District judging date November 22, 2019) 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. Winning District essay must be in the hands of the Department Chairman on or before December 12, 2019. Department Judging will be December 14, 2019.

**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.

### Legislative

For August, I have selected Health Care and Compensation and Benefits for membership to question their Congressmen and Senators on. When attending town hall meetings ask the congressional candidates what their stand is on these issues. Don't forget last month we covered Budget and Work Force Development and Accountability. Next month we'll be looking at Education, Employment and Transition Assistance and Defense/Homeland Security.

**Health Care:** To ensure that veterans receive timely access to high quality, comprehensive, and veteran-centric care at no added cost to veterans, Congress, VA and DOD must:

- Consolidate VA's community care programs into a single, integrated system.

- Modernize VA's health IT systems.
- Expand current caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras.  Strengthen VA and DOD health care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injuries (TBI).
- Further expand gender-specific programs and competencies.  Provide care and benefits to veterans and family members impacted by toxic exposures
- Prevent the increase of pharmaceutical copayments.  Conduct medical research on the benefits of medical cannabis.
- Extend telehealth services.
- Make nursing home eligibility part of the VA health care benefits package.

**Compensation and Benefits:** To ensure veterans and their dependents have timely access to earned benefits, Congress and VA must:

- Require treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Establish presumptive service connection for hearing loss, tinnitus, TBI, and exposure to certain toxic substances.
- Increase burial allowances to account for inflation and include spouses' information on all headstones.
- Reform the Gulf War Illness Disability Benefits Questionnaire.
- Address veterans' homelessness by increasing the availability of affordable housing.  Adjust Grant and Per Diem Program rates for inflation.
- Prohibit VA compensation and non-service-connected pension from being considered countable income for homeless programs.

### **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>

**2019 Annual Report for Nonprofit Corporation  
PAST DUE**

**Deadline: August 1, 2019:** 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](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/BCS) to file your 2019 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 [vfw.org](http://vfw.org). Attached please find form for future password protection of certain items on web site, It is not activated yet, but will be soon.

#### DEPARTMENT BUSINESS:

Suspensions:

Post 7514 – Quitman, District 5

BY COMMAND OF

Will Beams  
State Commander

OFFICIAL:  
Christine Oldham  
State Adjutant

#### District Meeting Information

3 August - District 5 – Post 2330 – Searcy – Rep. Judge Advocate Farrar  
10 August – District 2 – Post 1341 – Bull Shoals – Surgeon Byrd  
10 August – District 6 – Post 4513 – Fairfield Bay – Junior Vice Commander Davis  
17 August – District 10 – Post 4455 – Pine Bluff – Adjutant Oldham  
18 August – District 4 – Post 1991 – Jonesboro – Junior Vice Commander Davis  
18 August – District 7 – Post 1322 – Van Buren – Surgeon Byrd  
18 August – District 9 – Post 2256 – Benton – Senior Vice Commander Barnes  
8 September – District 13 – Post 11474 – Levy – Surgeon Byrd  
27 October – District 1 – Post 2952 – Springdale -



