

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

GENERAL ORDERS #7  
2019-2020

January 2020

## COMMANDER CHALLENGE

Alright Comrades, We need 1654 members to reach 100%. That's 10 members a day!

It's going to be a challenge, but if it can be done, Arkansas can do it!!!

Pull your roster from OMS and start by reaching out to recently expired members first. Call members that expired in 2018, then 2017, then 2016 and let them know we need them.

We need a couple folks willing to reach out to expired and expiring Members at Large... We can get them renewed and potentially into a post. Let me or [Christine Oldham](#) know if you want to tackle this.

**COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE - The first 10 members that can get 10 New or reinstated members between now and State convention will earn a ticket to the Convention Banquet, on me!!! (Or a \$50 VISA GIFT CARD IF YOU DON'T GO TO CONVENTION).**

**THE FIRST MEMBER TO GET 25 GETS A \$100 VISA GIFT CARD AND A BANQUET TICKET!!!**

LET'S GO ARKANSAS!!!

**Current Membership: Department – 85.11%**

## District Standings

District 1 – 88.86%	District 6 – 87.93%
District 2 – 89.25%	District 7 – 76.68%
District 4 – 86.21%	District 9 – 90.49%
District 5 – 75.13%	District 10 – 87.98%
District 13 – 82.53%	

## DISTRICT WINNERS

### VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

District 1 -	Post 3031	Hannah Miller
District 2 -	Post 7831	Shelby VanGinhoven
District 4 -	Post 1991	Sebastion Moore
District 5 -	Post 4501	Kenneth Moore
District 6 -	Post 4453	Emilee Burroughs
District 7 -	Post 6527	Jonathan Lamb

### PATRIOTS PEN

Post 1674	Cenzi Johnson
Post 9777	Machenzie Hall
Post 3225	Yared Belete
Post 7769	Alyson Beason
Post 4453	Harley Andrews
Post 8245	Fontaine Rossi

District 9 - Post 2256	Lawson White	Post 10483	Tessa Green
District 10 - Post 4515	Sean Cunningham	Post 8124	Heidi May
District 13 - Post 2935	Emily Beason	Post 11474	Talan Hutcherson

### Teacher of the Year

This year the Teacher's of the Year will not be attending the Mid-Winter Banquet, we are going to be sending Department Officers to the sponsoring schools to present these awards in front of their peers and students.

Kindergarten – 5 grade	-	Susan Hicks – Post 1322 – Van Buren
6 <sup>th</sup> grade – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	-	Jennifer Hosley – Post 1322 – Van Buren
9 <sup>th</sup> grade – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	-	Danny Fuller – Post 1322 – Van Buren

### Mid – Winter

This year mid-winter will be held at the Airport Holiday Inn Airport, January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>h</sup>, 2020. For hotel reservations please call 501-490-1000. For Awards Banquet tickets please contact the Department Headquarters @ 501-834-8392. Tickets in advance \$30.00, tickets at door, \$35.00. Deadline for advance tickets will be January 23, 2020.

### Commander-in-Chief William J, “Doc” Schmitz to speak at Mid-Winter

This year we are honored to have Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz as our guest for our Mid-Winter Convention. He will be flying in on Wednesday 22 of January and depart on Sunday January 26. He will be visiting some of the local Post. Please see attached tentative agenda for locations that he will be visiting. This schedule can change pending weather and resources.

National Representatives – VFW National Commander-in-Chief William J. “Doc” Schmitz  
VFW National Auxiliary Chaplain Jean Reape

#### Commander-in-Chief's visit (schedule of events)

**Wednesday: 11:35am: Arrival: Delta Flight 5057**  
**3:00pm: Veterans Home visit – House 1 and 4**  
**Thursday: 9:00am - 12:30pm: Camp Robinson – Blackhawk orientation and flight Lunch**  
**2:30pm - 4:30pm: Post visit, Searcy VFW (Firing range)**  
**5:30pm - 6:30pm: Post visit, Jacksonville VFW**  
**Friday: LRAFB simulator and possible schedule more Post visit if time permits.**  
**Saturday: Meetings at the Airport Holiday Inn**  
**Sunday: Departure**

### “Buddy” Poppies

Commanders on all levels should begin organizing their 2019 Memorial Day “Buddy” ® Poppy Campaign. Every Post is urged to order and distribute VFW “Buddy” ® Poppies. **Chairman – Ashleigh Brashers –**

**Buddy Poppy Display Contest – CATEGORY 2.** Memorial or Inspirational Displays (Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes) (a) Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy” ® Poppy. (b) At least one (1) of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached. **Chairman – Ashleigh Brashers – 870-612-9809.**

## **Service Officer Training**

From the Desk of Hot Spring County Veterans Service Officer:

I hope this finds us all well. I have been ask to cover this training session so that Terry Thurman can get some training in some other areas. I will share some of the information I have received in the last few months and a few resources to gain information as you see fit. Some is from the Secretary to employees. Sensitivity is asked. I don't feel it an issue the websites are open to all, Just don't think it wise to post the message on the bulletin board. I hope to see you then, be safe, I will try to keep as short as possible.

## **Training at Mid-Winter**

Friday January 24 - 1:00 – 3:30 – Dashboard Training – Quartermaster Oldham - Kitty Hawk  
Friday January 24 - 3:30 – 5:00 – Quartermaster Training – Quartermaster Oldham – Kitty Hawk  
Friday January 24 – 1:30 – 3:30 – Chaplain Training – Chaplain McGee - hobby  
Saturday January 25 1 – 2:30 – Service Officer Training – Blue Water Navy – Robert Lafond – Enterprise  
Saturday January 25 1:00 – Motorcycle Group Meeting - Hobby

## **SERVICE ANIMALS UPDATE**

Please read House Bill 1192. It is an amendment of the right to be accompanied by a service animal; It adds a definition of service animal, as well as gives guidance on what rights one has to remove a service animal from an establishment and why. Go to [vfwar.org](http://vfwar.org) PROGRAMS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Quartermaster General on bonding**

I have recently received several inquiries regarding the subject of bonding. Specifically, Quartermasters are asking if insurance is an acceptable alternative to the requirement that accountable officers be bonded. The information below seeks to clarify this requirement and the difference between bonds and insurance.

VFW By-Laws Section 703 Bonds states:

Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department, District, County Council, or Post, as the case may be, to which each officer is accountable.

The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit.

Sections 218, 418, and 518 of the Manual of Procedures require bonding of the Quartermasters at each level.

The purpose of bonding is to protect the VFW against actions of the Quartermaster, or other officer being bonded.

There is a difference between bonds and insurance.

A surety bond is an agreement under which one party (the surety company) guarantees to another party (VFW) the performance of an obligation by a third party (the accountable officer). Surety bonds do not have a deductible and do not require a conviction of the officer in order to be paid for the loss. Surety bonds serve to protect the obliged party (VFW) against losses that result from the failure of the principal (accountable officer) to meet their obligation.

Insurance is an agreement under which one party (the insurance company) guarantees protection to another party (VFW) due to dishonesty, forgery, computer fraud, theft, etc. Crime or employee dishonesty insurance policies may be subject to a deductible and may require a conviction of the officer, which can take time, before payment will be made.

So any policy that provides insurance against theft where there is a deductible and a conviction is required is not considered a bond. A bond is taken out by a party (post) to cover a specific person (post officer) who promises to act in a certain way. There is never a deductible, and no conviction is required. An insurance policy will generally apply to all officers, volunteers and employees who have access to Post funds. Posts need to look at the terms of the contract to make sure they getting are a bond and not an insurance policy. In many cases, a post may need both an insurance policy for the post and a bond for the individual handling funds.

### **Discipline of Members**

Attention of all members is directed to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "Discipline of Members." Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned. In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another's ability to participate in VFW events. All members should be treated with dignity and respect.

### **Arrears**

Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National Bylaws 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 and District meetings; County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

4. Trustees shall not be eligible to serve as an elected officer, Adjutant or on a committee whose books, records and accounts are audited by the Trustees. Among the duties of the three (3) elected Post Trustees, they shall:

- A)** At least monthly, review the Monthly Report of Receipts and Expenditures of the Post Quartermaster.
- B)** Within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, properly audit the books and records of the Post Quartermaster, Post Adjutant and any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of the Post and submit a Post Trustee's Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector.
- C)** The Report shall be in accordance with and upon such form as may be prescribed by the Adjutant General. The audit shall be signed by the Post Commander and Trustees, who shall, by their signatures, certify to the accuracy of the information contained therein.
- D)** Perform such other duties as may be incident to the office or may from time to time be required by the laws and usages of the organization or lawful orders from proper authority.

## **FLY THE FLAG ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S BIRTHDAY.**

The U.S. federal flag code has been amended by Congress and signed by the president to add Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to the list of days on which the flag should be displayed. His birthday is observed on the third Monday in January; therefore, the flag should be flown on that day. To purchase a U.S. flag from the VFW Store, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags>.

Many communities are conducting community service projects that day. It is highly suggested that all members support this day of service

### **Commanders**

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, Pos Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in District meetings, County Council meetings (if applicable), District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

### **Section 216. Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.**

- (a) The officers of each Post will consist of a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Adjutant, Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Surgeon and three (3) Trustees.
- (b) The Post shall elect the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and three trustees.
- (c) The appointed officers of each Post shall consist of at least an Adjutant, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day, Service Officer and Guard to be appointed as prescribed in Section 216 in the Manual of Procedures.

### **VFW COMMUNICATIONS:**

Do you have the latest VFW mobile app?

The official app of the VFW puts the power of the nation's largest organization of combat veterans directly in users' hands. We are excited to release the latest version of the VFW app including the following enhancements:

- Speed improvements
- Better Find-a-Post search with bug fixes
- Bug fixes for Login with ID.me
- Fixes and suggestions thanks to your feedback!

The VFW mobile app is available for Apple and Android users and can be found by searching "VFW" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or by direct download here:

- [Apple App Store](#) [Google Play Store](#)

**Department Business:**

The below list is changes for the 2019-2020 Department Council of Administration

Department Inspector Teddy Pipkin  
District 6 Commander Scott Bramlett  
District 7 Commander Adam Strange  
District 10 Commander Jim Lee

For District meetings dates, times and representatives, please check, [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) listing in the events/calendar

**BY COMMAND OF**

**Will Beams  
State Commander**

**OFFICIAL**

**Christine Oldham  
State Adjutant**