

**** ATTENTION ****

PER THE VETERAN'S OF FOREIGN WARS, DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, DON BARNES, THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIVE WILL BE ADHERED TO:

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, ALL POST & DISTRICT MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY (ZOOM). THERE WILL BE NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS.

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

GENERAL ORDERS #7
2018-2019

January 2021

Current Membership: Department – 87.41%

National is currently experiencing problems with the computer system that process membership. The repairs are being made so be patient with processing time frames and membership cards distribution.

District Standings

District 1 – Commander Tobey – 95.75%
District 2 – Commander Lowman – 91.60%
District 4 – Commander Tate – 92.93%
District 5 – Commander Wood – 76.67%
District 6 – Commander Bramlett – 92.68%
District 7 – Commander Strange – 85.26%
District 9 – Commander Johnson – 87.15%
District 10 – Commander Rhodes – 81.61%
District 13 – Commander Callahan – 83.15%

Post and District of the Quarter

Congratulations to the following Post and District. They were chosen as the District and Post of the Quarter for October – December 2020.

District 1 – Commander Jerry Tobey – will be receiving \$100 for the District and \$25 for Commander Tobey

Post 4679- Turrell-Franks Post – located in Harrisburg – Commander Nathan Palmer - Post receives \$350 and \$50 to Commander Palmer.

Commander-in-Chief Challenge

Our Commander-in-Chief has laid down a challenge for January 2021! For January's Challenge, the top Post in each division with the most reinstated members between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31 will receive a \$1,000 stipend deposited into the Post account.

Department Commander Challenge

Any reinstated member proceeded through the Headquarters up to 200 for the month of January will only have to pay the National Dues amount of \$21.50, that is if your Post is willing to waive the Post dues, to begin each post will be limited to 10 if all 200 are not used by January 24, we will open the remainders up for anyone to use. These monies were donated by an anonymous member for all 200 members, no monies from the Department are allocated for this.

Senior Vice Commander

What to do When Someone Leaves Your Posts

Some things to do when it happens

1. Resist the urge to rationalize. We may come up with multiple explanations to explain why a comrade is no longer actively involved. This does nothing to help the situation.
2. Realize the person most likely has experienced some hurt and/or offence. If this is the case, we should seek and understand what happened. Even if there is no hurt or offence, how many times have comrades left our post, for any number of reasons, and no one reached out to them.
3. Reach out to them and try to understand why they have drifted away. The objective is not to change their mind, but to understand what caused them to disengage. Really try to hear what they say. So not make excuses.
4. Respond to them well. As an Officer and a Member, you are called to care for comrades and their families. Try to understand what they are going through and why this happened. Resist the urge to focus on trying to convince them to return. The goal at this point is not to change their mind, but to understand the dynamics that went to their decision. When you talk to them, listen carefully. Try to understand what the root issue is. In most instances, it will be that the person does not feel valued. Keep the door open and do not burn bridges.
As a VFW, we have put a high priority on membership and bringing members into our organization. But what about those who are slipping out the side door or going out the back door – those who were once actively involved in the Post who suddenly stopped showing up? Some of you reading this fall into this category. This is directed to all Members and most definitely Post leadership.

~SVC Mark Davis

Junior Vice Commander

Comrades, 2020 was a pretty challenging year for all of us. As a team, we did not achieve all the goals that were set out to be reached. The 2021 year will be better. So with this New Year, comes a new outlook for all of our post and their leaders. I encourage each of you to set your goals and encourage your post to be their best. Happy New Year to everyone, and in the words of our National Council-member, let's have an OUT-VFW-STANDING year!!!!

~JVC Justin Farrar

Judge Advocate

It's hard to believe as I write this we are now in the year 2021 and halfway through our VFW year. Despite every obstacle thrown our way, all of our membership goals are still in front of us and VERY much attainable! So let's start out the new year strong and leave no doubt in other states minds that team Arkansas is the best department this organization has to offer!

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

My fellow comrades as we embark on this new year of 2021 let's all have hope that we can all turn the curve and make this the best year that we can. No one can understand that adversity that each one of you has had to endure, just know that we as a membership are here for you.

~Surg Teddy Pipkin

Chaplain

Many of us, myself included, have had a difficult year this year with illness, loss, uncertain employment, or isolation due to COVID-19, **and** a complete change in the way we live and interact and do business within our own communities on a day-to-day basis. So, what does the future hold? I can only say that, in His wisdom, God does not show us all that lies ahead. So, as we enter a new year, we are to live it day by day. Each day let us follow more faithfully, more courageously, and more boldly for the kingdom of God. Stand strong for what is right. BE A VOICE. And as Benjamin Franklin once said, "Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better person."

Your present circumstances do not determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

May God's light guide your way in 2021.

God Bless,
~CH Tanya Taylor

Mid – Winter cancelled due to pandemic

Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Awards

This year things are for sure a little different. Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen will officially be presented on January 23, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. on a Zoom meeting and Facebook live.

Instructions:

We only have room for 100 attendees so here are the guidelines to be followed. Each student participant will be allowed to have 3 entries, the other 54 will be used for District and Post Officers. So please get together in small groups and watch or go to our Facebook page VFW Department of Arkansas and watch the Facebook live. The Zoom ID is 898 3787 2911 no password needed. There will be limited access to the headquarters on this day following the Health Department guidelines. If you have questions please feel free to contact the headquarters.

National Representatives – VFW National Chief of Staff – Rosalyn Cox

The department of Arkansas would like to show our undying gratitude to the following individuals for their sponsorships. Comrade Ashley Little and wife Melissa will be sponsoring the 1st place Patriots Pen winner and Comrade Robert Fureigh will be sponsoring the 3rd place Patriots Pen winner. Don't mistake gratitude for passion though. We would like to express our deep gratitude for your generous support.

Any post or member or outside sponsor of this organization can sponsor a scholarship in the VOD / PP contest. If you choose to do so, please contact State Headquarters.

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 Bishop – 870-612-9809**. These will be displayed at the Department Headquarters. Entries will still need to be picked up on the 23rd or as soon as possible after that date.

Legislative Report

Let's make the Department of Arkansas a major root in the VFW's grass root national legislative initiative in Washington DC by signing up as many members and supporters of the VFW to become a part of the "VFW Action Corp". I'm asking that each Post canvas their members to get them to sign up. They can either go to the VFW's web page or provide the information to fill out the attached form. To sign up on the VFW web page go to the "Advocacy" button then select "Grass Roots". Once you get to that page click on the "Action Corp" button. Should they give you their information to fill out the attached form the Post can scan the completed forms and email them to me at pflenniken@windstream.net or you can send the forms to me via snail mail and my address is 2823 Big Oak Rd, Harrison, AR 72601. Upon receiving these forms I will input their information. Also I would like to know how many members each Post gets to sign up to be included in the February Legislative Report.

Patrick O. Flenniken
Department of Arkansas VFW
National Legislative Committee Member

"Buddy" Poppies

Commanders on all levels should begin organizing their Buddy Poppy Drive's distribution at this time has gone back to normal six (6) to eight (8) weeks. Get your orders in now. However, this requirement has been waived from the 2020-2021 All-American Requirement. **Chairman – Ashleigh Bishop – 870-612-9809.**

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION

122th National Convention – National is still planning a convention in Baltimore in July 2021, however that status is still unknown, please watch our web site and the future general orders for more details. As of right now they have not scheduled an opening day for room booking. Please remain flexible.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Packets being mailed next month. Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states 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 VFW National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the national convention will pay ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register online by going to www.vfw.org.

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, Post-Election Reports 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 • And 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:

No Post Business

BY COMMAND OF

Don Barnes
State Commander

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham
State Adjutant