

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

These orders are to be read at each Post meeting.

GENERAL ORDERS
2019-2020 Series

March 2020

Membership – 88.90%

Special Notes

During the period 28 February - 6 March, Commander Beams and some Department officers will be in Washington, D.C. attending Legislative Conference and the Voice of Democracy awards. During this Period Sr Vice Commander Barnes will be available if anyone is needing assistance please call 479-597-0954 or email svc@vfw.org

MEMBERSHIP

As a Department we 1205 members to be 100%, District Commanders please start contacting your Post Commanders and push for the results. It is going to take each and every one of us to do our part to make this happen.

Operation Dauntless Resolve

The Department Commander with support of the Council has placed the following membership assistance into place.

For the next 265 members, new and reinstated, the Department will wave Department dues (\$5.50). **These applicants MUST BE PROCESSED THROUGH DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS to receive this incentive.** Maximum of 20 per post, and encouraging Post leadership to talk to their membership about waiving Post dues, this would make the cost at only \$21.50. From 3 February 2020 – 16 March 2020 maximum 20 per post, if there are any remaining after this date till the end of March first come first serve.

Districts

District 1 - Commander Lee – 94.59%
District 9 – Commander Linda Johnson – 93.84%
District 2 – Commander Stephens 91.66%
District 10 – Commander Lee – 91.38%
District 6 – Commander Bramlett – 90.66
District 4 – Commander Leslie – 88.23%
District 13 – Commander Farrar – 86.06%
District 5 – Commander Pipkin – 83.01%
District 7 – Commander Strange – 80.29%

Top 13 Post

Post 8109 Pea Ridge – Commander Snow – 126.92%
Post 2952 Springdale – Commander Vining – 120.41%
Post 9834 Decatur – Commander Carnahan – 108.69%
Post 4554 Camden – Commander Davis – 105.00%
Post 7415 Quitman – Commander Powell – 104.54%
Post 10021 Kingston – Commander Commerford – 104.16%
Post 2746 Star City – Commander Abney – 102.94%
Post 4521 DeQueen – Commander Hogg – 102.89%
Post 300, Post 7518, Post 3252, Post 8042, Post 9777

Congratulations to the above post keep up the good work, you are well on the road for All State and All American for the 2020 year.

Bottom 5 Post

Post 4687 Melbourne – Commander Rhodes – 54.68%
Post 8855 Mountainburg – Commander Plumbtree – 64.28%
Post 4501 – Batesville – Commander Curtis Matheny – 64.70%
Post 7769 Beebe – Commander Wood – 70.46%
Post 10417 Lead Hill – Commander Hall – 74.35%

Senior Vice Commanders Notes

My chairmen for the year 2020-2021 have been selected, during the month of March you will be receiving a letter if you have been selected for an appointment. If you receive a letter and don't fully understand it please contact me for clarification. However, let us all continue to support Commander Beams in the quest to obtain All American, my year will start soon enough.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Deadline 1 April 1, 2020

All entries for Scout of the Year should be submitted to Department Chairman Baum, through the Department headquarters.

Best of the Best

I hope that all is well on your ends! We are approaching our deadline for the "Best of the Best" Award presentations. A lot of you are new and may not be aware of this award. If a Post/Aux has had a minimum of three events with one of their adopted units, and it has been reported with AAU report submissions, then that post/aux and unit are presented with this award. All reports that you wish to submit must be turned in by the end of March in order to receive credit. A lot of posts have already submitted their reports as I know some posts like to wait and submit their reports all at once. Please pass this information along to your perspective post / aux's so that everyone gets a chance to participate and have ample of time to make their submissions. If you have any questions or concerns, as always, do not hesitate to contact me via phone or email and I will respond as soon as possible. Thank you all for your time.

STATE CONVENTION

There will be a mailout soon to All Post, Post Commanders, Post Adjutants and Auxiliary Officers. Please share with entire membership.

This year the State Convention is being held at the Airport Holiday Inn, June 11-13, 2020. 3121 Bankhead Drive, Little Rock, AR. Call 490-1000 for reservations, for hospitality rooms, we still have 2 left of the upstairs, downstairs suites. So get your room reservations now. \$86.00 + tax room rate.

Council of Administration meeting will be held on Thursday June 11, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m.

Hospitality

The following guidelines and rules have been established in regards to hospitality at the State Convention. Business session is starting on Thursday am. Hospitality Rooms can only be open daily from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, and after 3:30 so that Department business can be conducted.

ALL-STATE

Deadline for entry is April 17, 2020, **to assure hat orders**. Post and District Commanders if you think your Post and/or District has the potential to be in consideration for All State you will be contacted by Department staff and given a form to complete, these forms will not go out until 2nd week of March, if you do not get contacted by staff, but feel your Post or District is in the running please contact Commander Beams. All State Judging will be held April 22, 2020.

Commander has determined that 10 Post and 3 District could receive accolades if qualified for All State. However, if more posts qualify up to the end of the year, you will be listed as an All State, but you may purchase your own All State Cap, but information will be forwarded to National to compete for All American.

ALL-AMERICAN

The membership percentages are needed in order to qualify for the All-American status is 100%, but only the top 35 post in your division will be selected. For Districts, you must be in the top 15 of your Division. Please watch your first Division.

Service Officers Notes

There is a new tab on the web site, under resources, Veterans Service Officers. Today we placed the regulations concerning Gulf War Syndrome.

121th NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 21th National Convention for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is being held July 18-23, 2020, at Reno, Nevada. The housing is officially opened, hotel assigned for Arkansas is the Grand Sierra Resort. For hotel reservations, please see department website, www.vfwar.org under the News & Events Tab / National Convention.

Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure: Provides that Posts shall elect delegates and alternates to District conventions at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District convention at which District officers are to be elected: one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election.

Delegates and alternates to the Department conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department convention. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election.

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, one of which ends March 31.

On all levels are reminded that according to Section 105 of the National By-Laws, a member whose dues are unpaid after their anniversary date ceases to be a member in good standing and loses all rights of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They shall not attend meetings or conventions and shall not participate in Post, County Council, District, Department or National functions.

Recent changes to the VFW National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual establish that Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Edition shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. This edition of Robert's Rules of Order is readily available at local book stores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

Resolutions and Department By-Laws Recommended Changes

It is that time of year where we must start looking at the Department By-Laws for changes. Anyone having any recommended changes are to forward them NLT 15 April 2020 for the By-Laws Committee to review them at the April Committee meeting and inclusion in the General Orders for everyone to see.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department convention. District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.

Loyalty Day and Memorial Day Observance

Section 223 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.

The Home Depot Foundation Grants is Open

Applications to submit The Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant are scheduled to begin on February 1, 2020. Eligible VFW Posts may receive up to \$5,000 to fix up their buildings. Grants are awarded on a first-come first-serve basis until funding is exhausted. To begin the process, go to: <https://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants>. To help you complete the application, the VFW Foundation has once again prepared a step-by-step how to apply guide. Any deviation from this guide will most likely result in not being able to submit the application. To receive this how-to-apply guide, send an email to: foundation@vfw.org. Type the following in the email subject heading: Home Depot Guide Request. Please note that the guide will not be emailed until HD Foundation Community Impact Grant application is reviewed first to ensure the how-to guide is up-to-date. The application must be filled out via the internet only (no telephone calls, emails or written submissions to HD will be accepted nor will you be able to turn this application in at your local HD store). If your Post receives funding, it will come in the form of HD gift cards that can be used to buy materials at your local HD store. You will need to recruit Post members or other community volunteers to do the work.

The project must be completed within six months. You will also be required to fill out a final project report. Failure to do so will negatively impact your Post's ability to receive any future funding from HD. After submission of the application, you should receive a written email response from HD Foundation, usually within six weeks, letting you know if you received the grant. Should you have any further questions or need to discuss special concerns, please contact Jason Couch, VFW Foundation Grants Coordinator, at (816) 968-1174 or jcouch@vfw.org.

INSTALLING OFFICERS

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed.

Post-election reports must be submitted following post-election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online election report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post-election reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-laws and the Manual of Procedures covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post-Election Reports forms are not being mailed. The Post must go online through Online Membership System no later than June 1st. The Department Staff WILL help anyone with this task. Just give us a call and it takes about 3 minutes, have the newly elected officers' membership #'s and we will assist.

PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICERS: All Posts and Districts should be reminded of the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedure which states that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility has been submitted to their respective Adjutant for review.

ROTC and JROTC Awards: Each year scores of high school and universities write to National Headquarters requesting the VFW ROTC Awards. Posts willing to sponsor these awards should contact the Professor of Military Sciences at the school(s) in your area and inform them of your sponsorship. Medals and ribbon bars and citations are available through the VFW Emblem and Supply Department or VFW Department Headquarters, certificate and medal are each at a cost of \$10.

BUDDY POPPIES

“BUDDY”® POPPIES DISTRIBUTION: The distribution of VFW “Buddy”® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Section 711 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies in their respective areas.

NOTE: As the upcoming Memorial Day approaches, and given the daily hazards confronting our military on a daily basis during operations in Afghanistan, it is appropriate that we direct as many VFW resources as possible to supporting our troops and their families.

In the ongoing effort to provide as much assistance as possible to those serving in the military, we recommend that proceeds or portions from this year’s annual poppy distribution be designated for the purpose of providing VFW support to our military. Posts and Departments now have the opportunity to assist qualified military personnel through the VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs.

In keeping with the intent of Sections 219(a)(c) and 704(a)(c) of the Manual of Procedure “Relief Fund,” this year’s poppy campaign can play a direct role in demonstrating to those who are charged with protecting and defending our way of life that we appreciate and value their sacrifice.

For questions about the Buddy Poppy program, please contact Ashleigh Brashers 870-612-9809.

Post Business:

OFFICIAL
Christine Oldham

Will Beams
State Commander

State Adjutant