

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

October 2025

ALL GENERAL ORDERS MUST BE READ AT POST MEETINGS AND FILED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, PER THE STATE COMMANDER

Membership 75.56%

COMMANDER'S NOTES

I want to let everyone know that the 2026 Podium addition is available to download at <https://vfw.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?nid=10> or <https://www.vfw.org/>. The big change you will see is that Districts and Posts no longer have a position of Service Officer. This position has changed to Benefits Advisor. With this change there is no reason to update your Post or District bylaws to reflect this change. As you know, if there is any conflict between National and other bylaws, National Bylaws will always supersede.

I would also like to take a minute and talk about membership. Membership is such a vital part to this organization, it makes it where we can protect the rights of all the veterans that have served before us. I am reminded of a newly elected President who wanted to take the service-connected unemployable status of thousands of veterans above a certain age away because he felt they were too old to work anyway. You see he only saw the dollar amount and not the veteran themselves that this would hurt. When it was announced that he was going to do this, the VFW and other service organizations went to work to show him the damage it would cause to thousands of veterans and their families. He was quickly convinced that this was such a bad idea and scrapped the thought. If it was not for the sheer number of veterans who belonged to our organization and the other service organizations, thousands of veterans would have had a grave injustice done to them. That is only one example of how your Post membership numbers count to help all veterans. The VFW has a Washington D.C. office who is constantly testifying in front of Congress working on our behalf. Please recruit to get our membership growing so we are relevant to our representatives.

~Commander Wood

Membership as of 1 October 2025

POST'S 101% OR GREATER				
Commander Mickchal Carnahan	105.35%	9834	Decatur	District 1
Commander John Hall	103.84%	10417	Lead Hill	District 2
Commander Brad Johnson	120.31%	4683	Newport	District 5
Commander Glen Powell	106%	7514	Quitman	District 5
Commander Matthew Haut	104.41%	10007	Bald Knob	District 5
Commander Donald Thompson	101.07%	8525	Plainview	District 6
Commander Wally Treece	102.94%	12233	Perryville	District 6

		86% Sep 30	96% Dec 31	101+% Mar 30
	District 1			
1674	Siloam Springs	42	58	71
2952	Springdale	201	239	273
3031	Rogers	11	35	55
7518	Berryville	10	15	19
8109	Pea Ridge	0	0	3
10021	Kingston	4	8	12
	District 2			
1341	Bull Shoals	7	23	42
2881	Harrison	13	19	24
3246	Mountain Home	3	21	37
3252	Marshall	0	2	4
4772	Highland	1	5	8
7730	Calico Rock	0	3	6
7831	Mammoth Spring	5	8	11
8042	Evening Shade	0	3	6
9777	Salem	6	12	17
	District 4			
1991	Jonesboro	13	39	62
2242	Paragould	9	17	23
4449	Marianna	8	10	12
4517	Piggott	9	12	15
4556	Pocahontas	7	12	16
4679	Harrisburg	33	38	42
5225	West Memphis	32	52	69
8347	Corning	0	3	6
10480	Rector	0	1	3
	District 5			
2330	Searcy	24	53	79
3543	Heber Springs	0	15	31
4501	Batesville	4	11	17
4766	Mountain View	0	0	3
7769	Beebe	325	378	424
	District 6			
2259	Conway	0	8	21
2283	Russellville	0	5	20
3141	Dardanelle	0	0	3
4453	Morrilton	8	12	16
4513	Fairfield Bay	0	4	9
4764	Choctaw	2	9	15
12127	Leslie	3	5	7
	District 7			
1322	Van Buren	5	25	42
1345	Waldron	1	3	5
6527	Greenwood	0	2	14
8245	Huntington	0	3	7
8383	New Blaine	3	6	9
8532	Coal Hill	0	0	1
8845	Fort Smith	0	10	21
8855	Mountainburg	7	10	12
	District 9			
2256	Benton	43	58	70
2278	Hot Springs	1	25	45
2586	Malvern	4	9	14
4451	Mena	21	30	38
4521	DeQueen	6	10	13
10483	Hot Springs Village	3	13	22

	District 10	86% Sep 30	96% Dec 31	101+% Mar 30
2413	El Dorado	0	3	9
2746	Star City	13	15	18
4455	Pine Bluff	31	45	57
4515	Monticello	31	39	47
4554	Camden	19	29	37
4562	Texarkana	9	21	32
4564	Warren	1	2	4
8124	Taylor	0	1	3
8671	Prescott	7	12	16
9360	Hamburg	2	5	7
	District 13			
1316	Little Rock	33	45	55
2935	Sherwood	36	42	47
4548	Jacksonville	177	258	330
9095	Little Rock	70	97	121
10442	Rose City	3	11	17
11474	Levy	21	32	42

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S NOTES

VFW is observing several dates and events in October. This is what's happening during October: Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Hispanic Heritage Month, Navy Birthday, Columbus Day, and Halloween. Additionally, VFW has activities and events to remind its members about Life membership challenge which encourages its members to pay for life membership.

~SVC Johnson

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER'S NOTES

Commanders and members 95% of you won't get this until after Commander Wood's homecoming. Sorry, we missed you if you were unavailable to make it. My key words to everyone are "Community Service". It is the responsibility of every post to submit their community service, not only is it for programs to meet for All American and All State, it's a Federal IRS requirement to report. That keeps the VFW's non for profit secure. Also it is an audited requirement if you get audited. The VFW has set up a login for every member within the VFW to get and have access to report all community service your post does. If you do not have an account set up, please contact the VFW headquarters and set that up. I am always available to set up training to assist you on any questions you many have and how to submit the report. I can do it at district meetings or even at your post meeting if you want a smaller group training. As always, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any of the state line offices for advice, questions or assistance.

~ JVC Ham

JUDGE ADVOCATE NOTES

This month I am going to discuss with you a matter of critical importance to the financial health and long-term security of our Posts: the proper procedures for buying and selling VFW property.

As State Judge Advocate, my primary duty is to ensure that our Department and its subordinate Posts operate in strict accordance with the National VFW Bylaws. These bylaws are our compass, guiding us in our mission and protecting our assets. When it comes to Post property—be it a building, land, or any other significant asset—the bylaws are very clear on how transactions must be handled.

The fundamental principle is that all Post assets are held in trust for the benefit of the members and our organizational mission. Therefore, the decision to buy or sell property cannot be made by a single individual or a small group. It must be a collective decision of the Post membership, carried out with transparency and proper due process. Specifically, I want to highlight the following key requirements that are essential for any such transaction:

1. Membership Approval: Any proposal to buy or sell Post property must be brought before the Post membership at a regular meeting. The proposal must be properly moved, seconded, and approved by a vote of the members present. This ensures that the decision reflects the will of the Post and not just the leadership.

2. Proper Notification: All members (not just the ones that regularly attend meetings) must receive adequate notice of the meeting at which a property transaction will be voted on. This notice should clearly state the purpose of the meeting so that every member has an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

3. Use of Funds: If a Post sells a property, the proceeds from that sale must be used solely for VFW purposes. These funds must be accounted for and used for activities that align with our charitable and fraternal mission, as approved by the membership.

Failing to follow these procedures can create significant legal and financial risks for the Post and its officers. Such actions can lead to the invalidation of the transaction, disciplinary action, and could even jeopardize the Post's charter.

My goal in sending this letter is not to police your activities but to serve as a resource. The Department is here to assist you in navigating these important decisions. Before your Post enters into a contract to buy or sell property, I strongly encourage you to contact the Department Headquarters. We can review your plans and provide guidance to ensure that everything is done correctly and in a way that protects your Post.

~JA Powell

SURGEON'S NOTES

Welcome to fall. I am aware that some days still evoke a sense of summer, while others bring cooler temperatures. Unfortunately, ragweed continues to cause significant allergy issues, so please remember to take your allergy medication as prescribed. This time of year, also marks the onset of flu and pneumonia seasons, so scheduling vaccinations is crucial. Moreover, COVID-19 remains a concern, and it is essential to continue practicing safety protocols, such as staying home when ill, washing your hands frequently, and seeking medical attention as needed. October is a month dedicated to raising awareness about various health-related issues, including breast cancer, ADHD, global handwashing, mental health, domestic violence, and bullying prevention. This serves as a poignant reminder to offer support to community members who may be experiencing challenging times, as sometimes all they need is someone to talk to or a comforting gesture. On a lighter note, October also brings celebrations like Homemade Cookie Day, Pumpkin Seed Day, World Egg Day, and National Apple Day, which, as my grandmother used to say, reminds us that "an apple a day keeps the doctor away." With the changing weather, wildlife will be more active, and hunters will be out in the woods, so please exercise caution and adhere to safety guidelines. As the month comes to a close, we can look forward to Halloween and the excitement of trick-or-treating. Please ensure that children wear bright, reflective clothing and are prepared for the weather conditions. Additionally, with the onset of cooler weather, fog, and earlier sunsets, please drive with caution. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

~SGN Morris

******BUDDY POPPIES******

National requires that a Post purchase 500 Poppies to qualify for the All-American Program this year.

There are now two different types of poppies: the Legacy and the Tin Tab. The Legacy is the one that we have been using for years. The Tin Tab is small, tin, and has a tab that can be folded over to grasp onto edge of a shirt or hat. The order form has been updated on-line. All orders must be submitted to the Department Headquarters and must be accompanied with your payment Please allow approximately 1-2 weeks for delivery. See below for pricing. Note: National still carries the Anniversary Poppies, please call Department Headquarters for details.

Legacy Poppy: \$145 – 500

Tin Tab Poppy: \$90 – 500

**DEPARTMENT - QUARTERLY AWARDS will be announced at Training on October 4,
2025 at Bull Shoals Post 1341**

Homecoming

Hoevel-Barnett VFW Post 1341
1206 Central Blvd
Bull Shoals, AR 72619

Friday October 3, 2025 – 11am - Golf Outing (You are responsible for your own fees)

4pm - 6pm - Post 1341 is holding a Walleye Dinner - \$16 per plate

7pm - Meet and Greet with Commander Wood

Saturday October 4, 2025 – 9am - Training - Programs, Leadership, & Quartermaster
(Quartermaster training is a separate training)

Noon – Lunch

Homecoming October 4, 2025 – Dinner at 4pm-6pm followed by live entertainment from
Kickin' Kountry

Important Dates

October

4 October Homecoming/Training – Bull Shoals
13 October Navy Birthday
13 October Columbus Day (observed) – Department Closed
18 October Department Golf Tournament Burns Park
31 October Entries for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year need to be turned in to the Post

November

6-9 November Southern Conference – Montgomery, TX
4 November Election Day
10 November Marine Birthday
11 November Veteran's Day – Department Closed
20 November Post Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entries due to District
26-29 November Thanksgiving – Department Closed

December

5 December Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Entries due to Department Chairman
7 December Pearl Harbor Day
15 December Teacher of the Year due to Department Chairman
20 December Space Force Birthday
21 December- 2 January - Christmas Holiday - Department Closed

Department Golf Tournament 18 October Burns Park with a 0800 shotgun start

We are still in need of hole sponsorship and teams. The cost to sponsor a hole is \$150 and the cost to play is \$75 a player or \$300 a team. Contact myself at 501-658-5519 or Department Headquarters prior to 11 Oct please.

Mid-Winter February 6-7, 2026

The dates for the Mid-Winter Conference for the Department of Arkansas are February 6-7, 2026, at The Doubletree in Little Rock. The awards banquet will take place on Saturday, February 7th. Check the website and Facebook for more information coming soon.

It is now time to consider sponsorship of any of the VOD or Patriots Pen places as a Post or as an individual. Call the Department Headquarters for more details.

The Buddy Poppy display category for Mid-Winter will be Category 2 – Memorial or Inspirational Display

For more information regarding the Mid-Winter Conference, please go to VFWAR.org and look under News for Mid-Winter. This will be updated as more information becomes available.

State Convention

State Convention – The State Convention will be at the Doubletree in Little Rock May 28-31, 2026.

More information will be posted as it becomes available

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, PATRIOT'S PEN, TEACHER OF THE YEAR, Nick Bacon and Scout of the Year DEADLINES:

Please pay Attention to the Department deadline dates.

Youth Coordinator – Glen Powell – 501-556-2673

Chairmen: Teacher of the Year – Linda Johnson – 956-241-2633 – 6 Dec due to Dept. Chairman
Voice of Democracy – Marc Calcaterra – 479-531-8146 – 20 Nov entries to District
Patriots Pen – Patsy Morris – 931-980-7377 – 20 Nov entries to District
Public Servant – Adam Strange – 479-213-3211 – 1 Jan to Department Chairman
VFW Member of the Year – Diana Mohr– 501-281-3892 - 28 February to Department
Headquarters
JROTC Cadet of the Year – Marc Calcaterra – 479-531-8146 – 28 March due to
Department Chairman
VFW Employer of the Year - 28 March due to Department Headquarters
Nick Bacon – Todd Willey – 479-857-6069 – 1 March deadline to Department
Chairman

The Nick Bacon application is now posted on vfw.org under Programs. Please pay attention to the new due date, it is due to the Department by 01 March 2026.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above-mentioned youth programs, please contact the Youth Program Coordinator, Glen Powell.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS

**GENERAL ORDERS #4
Series 2025-2026**

OCTOBER 2025

MEMBERSHIP

Members are reminded that under the subscription dues plan, an annual members' dues expire on their anniversary month. Annual members are encouraged to renew their dues prior to their anniversary month to avoid a lapse in continuous membership. Officers and committee members, whose membership is not in good standing by reason of failure to pay current dues by their anniversary month, shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office the remainder of the administrative year.

In addition, every effort should always be made to renew the membership of continuous members and sign up new and recover former members during the year.

For clarification purposes, use of the VFW Legacy Life Membership card as suitable identification when verifying a member's credentials is permissible, however, the member's original Life Membership card may be required in certain circumstances where state/local laws, or Post rules, require proof of Post affiliation to participate in certain unit activities.

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to the Commander-in-Chief's decision in response to questions raised concerning alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting as set forth below:

It is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting. Accordingly, the presence, dispensation, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings is unacceptable and is prohibited. Any such practice known to exist shall be terminated.

It is the intent of the Commander-in-Chief's decision, regarding this response, to include Post, County Council, District and Department meetings, whereas it is held to be objectionable. Please refer to section 1001 (25) of the National Manual of Procedure.

Department Business:
None

BY COMMAND OF

Rodney Wood
State Commander

OFFICIAL

Jeffrey Byrd
State Adjutant

Scheduled District Meetings: Check the Website vfwar.org; Resources, District Meetings