



26 June 2020

Greetings, Arkansas VFW!

Thank you for electing me as your state commander. You have my solemn promise I will give 110% toward being your Commander.

We have a huge task before us as COVID-19 has and is still impacting our posts. I'm asking for your assistance in combatting this.

Due to recent events taking place all across our country, I believe Arkansas communities will start to grow. Parents will be seeking a better place to raise their children and I think Arkansas is that place. As the communities start to grow, so will our posts. We need to start now building up the inner structure of our posts so we will be more appealing. Here is where you come into the picture.

It is imperative that we contact members who have not been making meetings and let them know they are missed and needed. If your post has an auxiliary, get with their leadership and begin working together in recruiting members for both organizations.

If your post does not have an auxiliary, begin work on forming one. They are an asset and can help you meet your goals. Have your post and auxiliary assist the community with Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day and any other events the community might have. When these new community members see how active the VFW and auxiliary are they will want to join.

We must get our programs out in the community and actively promote:

- Scout of the year
- Essay contests
 - Patriots Pen
 - Voice of Democracy
- Teacher of the year, and
- Gold Badge.

Flag education is needed now more than ever, as patriotism is at an all-time low. Work with your schools. Churches usually have a youth night. Check with their leadership and see if your post can set up a night to give a flag education class. Yes, it will take time and volunteers but it will be rewarding and build post camaraderie.



Through the year, we will be offering classes on the following:

- Quartermaster
- Dashboard
- Post revitalization
- The navigation of our website, vfw.org
- Membership
- Post Commander tools at vfw.org.

Encourage your members to attend these classes. They are open to all members whether officers or not.

Check with Headquarters as to when they will be available in your area.

It is my intent to visit as many posts as possible in this year. Rest assured it will only be a social call, as I only want to meet and thank you for all you do. The line officers/staff at Headquarters and I are ready to assist you in obtaining your goals.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might"... —Ecclesiastes 9:10

Steadfastly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Barnes, State Commander

Esprit de corps (a feeling of pride, fellowship and common loyalty within an elite unit)