

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

October 2026

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

Membership 71.45%

The deadline for the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the year to be turned in to the Post is 31 October.

COMMANDER'S NOTES

We're shaking things up - we're trying something new with training by holding it right before District meeting's begin so we can get more people involved. We're also putting together a brand new incentive program with a chance for your Post to win something big. Stay tuned, work your programs, and come ready to learn how your Post can take the prize.

~Commander Johnson

Important Dates

October

9 October Fishing Derby – Fort Roots
12 October Columbus Day (observed) – Department Closed
13 October Navy Birthday
22-25 October Southern Conference, Mobile, AL
31 October Entries for the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year need to be turned in to the Post

November

3 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
25-27 November Thanksgiving – Department Closed

December

5 December Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Entries due to Department Chairman
5 December District Commanders must have 1st place Patriots Pen and VOD winner info (Not essays) to Dept. HQ so invites can be sent for Mid-Winter
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

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER'S NOTES

The Backbone of the Mission: The Vital Partnership Between Posts and Auxiliaries

When we talk about the health, vitality, and success of a local Post, the conversation almost always turns to programs, community outreach, and membership numbers. But behind every successful community drive, every veteran assisted in a time of crisis, and every well-run post home stands an indispensable force multiplier: the Auxiliary. The relationship between a VFW Post and its Auxiliary is not merely a supportive tradition; it is the beating heart of our organizational mission. Understanding and intentionally strengthening this partnership is one of the most effective ways to secure the future of our posts across the Department.

1. Division of Labor, Unity of Purpose

While Posts and Auxiliaries operate under separate charters and distinct administrative structures, their ultimate objectives run parallel. **The Post** traditionally focuses on veteran advocacy, military assistance, legislative support, and maintaining the structural integrity of the home front. **The Auxiliary** brings specialized strength to youth programs, community volunteering, hospital and nursing home visitations, and patriotic education. When both bodies coordinate their efforts rather than operating in silos, the impact in the local community doubles. A joint initiative—such as a community awards banquet, a veterans' appreciation dinner, or a school-based patriotic essay contest—sends a powerful message of unity and strength to the public.

2. Shared Leadership and Mutual Respect

Healthy Posts understand that leadership cannot be a one-way street. The most successful posts cultivate open lines of communication between Post Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents. Regular joint executive meetings ensure that calendars align, fundraising efforts do not compete with one another, and both organizations pull in the same direction. Mentorship also plays a critical role here. By encouraging active collaboration, we create a pipeline of dedicated members who understand the broader scope of veteran service, paving the way for sustained leadership growth at both the local and departmental levels.

3. Engaging Families and Strengthening the Roots

The Auxiliary offers something crucial that traditional post structures sometimes struggle to capture: deep, multi-generational family involvement. By welcoming spouses, family members, and qualified relatives into the fold, the Auxiliary anchors the post within the fabric of the local community. Families see firsthand the good work being done, turning individual service into a shared family tradition.

Moving Forward: Action Steps for Local Posts

To breathe new life into this partnership for the upcoming term, posts can take a few concrete steps:

Hold Quarterly Joint Sessions: Dedicate time during the year for a joint meeting specifically focused on brainstorming community projects.

Co-Host Community Outreach: Plan at least one major community-facing event per quarter where post and auxiliary members work side by side under a unified banner.

Recognize Together: Celebrate milestones, awards, and anniversaries jointly to reinforce that our victories belong to the entire post family.

The mission we share is too important to carry alone. By locking arms with our Auxiliaries, we ensure that our posts remain resilient, active, and deeply rooted in the communities we swore an oath to protect.

Remember, even though we work together, VFW Business is VFW Business and Auxiliary Business is Auxiliary Business. We stay out of one another's business.

~JVC Powell

JUDGE ADVOCATE'S NOTES

It is a busy time for everyone I know, with everyone working on membership and all the programs. The Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen and Teacher of the Year are due to the post at the end of the month. Please use the scholar's app to send the winners to the district commanders.

If you need help with this please contact the chairperson or me.

The new podium book is available to order and can currently be found on our website under the Members Only tab and on vfw.org. Read your by-laws and make sure you know and understand what the responsibilities are for each officer. The by-laws are the best way to ensure your post or district are conducting business in the proper manner. If you have any questions, please reach out. We are here to help. Thank you for all your hard work.

~JA Morris

SURGEON'S NOTES

Comrades

As we move into fall and hopefully cooler weather, let us take care of some preventative medical issues. Now is the time to get flu, Pneumonia vaccines to get a jump on those aches, and things that can keep us from enjoying the Fall season. Also, Fall is the time for avid outdoor activity. Archery season is open, so all you hunters out there need to use those safety harnesses and take care when handling raw meats or fish.

~SGN Rodney

Mid-Winter February 12-13, 2027

The dates for the Mid-Winter Conference for the Department of Arkansas are February 12-13, 2027, at The Wyndham Executive Center (Formerly the Airport Holiday Inn), Little Rock. The awards banquet will take place on Saturday, February 13th. 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 1 – Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

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 Wyndham Executive Center (Formerly the Airport Holiday Inn), Little Rock, June 3-6, 2027.

More information will be posted as it becomes available

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

Please pay Attention to the Department deadline dates.

Youth Coordinator – Patsy Morris – 931-980-7377

Chairmen: Teacher of the Year – Mark Mellott – 501-607-2336 – 15 Dec due to Dept. Chairman
Voice of Democracy – Chester Starr – 479-235-8357 – 20 Nov entries to District
Patriots Pen – Diana Mohr – 501-281-3892 – 20 Nov entries to District
JROTC Cadet of the Year – Due to Dept. HQ - 28 March
Scout of the Year – Terry Daniel – 870-230-2303 - Due to Post 1 March
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 2027.

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

Other Important Deadlines:

Auxiliary of the Year – Due to Dept HQ - 28 February
VFW Employer of the Year – Chuck Kinler – 870-421-5420 - 28 March due to Department Chairman
Public Servant – Trisha Leslie – 870-810-8229 – 1 Jan to Department Chairman
VFW Member of the Year – Jim Bob Davis – 870-807-3975 - 28 February to District

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS

**GENERAL ORDERS #5
Series 2026-2027**

OCTOBER 2026

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:
Suspension:
Post 3252

BY COMMAND OF

Linda Johnson
State Commander

OFFICIAL

Jeffrey Byrd
State Adjutant

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