

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

September 2026

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

**2026-2027 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Commander-in-Chief
Cory Geisler**

Current Membership

4.04%

Commander's Notes

This year one of Commander-in-Chief Geisler's goals is that each and every VFW Post has a membership retention of at least 80%. Achieving 80% retention by the end of the year means more than just hitting a number. It's a commitment that four out of five comrades choose to stay because they see value, purpose, and family in their Post. Reaching this goal requires consistent contact with every member, addressing lapsed dues early, and reminding veterans why they joined the VFW in the first place. Retention happens when posts offer relevant programs for all generations, recognition of members for their service and contributions, and making sure no one feels forgotten between meetings. At 80% retention, a post protects its voice in the community, maintains strength for advocacy on Capital Hill, and ensures the VFW's legacy of "No One Does More for Veterans" continues for the next year and the next generation.

~CDR Johnson

Junior Vice Commander's Notes

Bridging the Generation Gap: Keeping Younger Veterans Engaged

Every Post leader faces the same challenge: how to get younger veterans through the door and keep them coming back. Post-9/11 and Gulf War veterans are balancing demanding careers, young families, and a faster pace of life. If we want our posts to thrive, we have to adapt how we operate.

Here is a quick roadmap to modernize engagement and secure our posts' future:

1. Shift from "Meetings" to "Value"

If a meeting is just an hour of dry procedural debate, busy veterans will stay home.

Keep business efficient: Streamline formal meetings so they don't drag on.

Lead with fellowship: Pair meetings with a pre-meeting meal, a social hour, or networking time.

Show impact: Focus on visible, active community results rather than just talking shop.

2. Modernize Communication and Respect Time

Younger members operate on digital timelines and have limited free time.

Go digital: Use active Facebook groups, text threads, or email updates to keep members informed.

Offer micro-volunteer roles: Create projects requiring a specific, short-term commitment (like a two-hour Saturday cleanup) rather than heavy monthly obligations.

3. Build Family-Inclusive Environments

Today's veterans want their spouses and children included in the community.

Host family events: Organize cookouts, holiday events, or family service days.

Empower the Auxiliary: Lean on a strong auxiliary presence to ensure events appeal to the entire household.

4. Create Leadership Pathways

New members want to contribute, but can feel intimidated by unwritten rules or long-standing traditions.

Hand over the reins: Give newer members ownership of specific events or tech upgrades.

Pair experience with energy: Use mentorship to pass down institutional knowledge while letting fresh ideas take root.

The Bottom Line

Our core mission is timeless, but our execution must evolve. When younger members see that their time is respected, their families are welcomed, and their voices matter, they don't just stay—they step up to lead.

~JVC Powell

Judge Advocate's Notes

Comrades,

I know everybody is busy working on getting their Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year information out to all the schools. I have spoken with someone from each Post and make sure that every Post is able to login to the Scholars app from the Scholars app. You will be able to see and print the flyers for your individual Post. On the vfw.org web site under programs you will see all the programs listed and have all the information about that particular program.

Please check your bylaws and make sure they are in compliance with the national bylaws. Make sure you have copies of National and State bylaws. The new podium book is out online currently on the national website and the Department website behind Members Only . You should be able to order podium book by the middle of October.

Friendly reminder, if you have a canteen or do bingo or raffles, make sure you got a copy of the state bingo and raffle laws. Make sure before your inspection is done that you have sent your election report and updated your post standings with the secretary of state. That has to be done every year. I know our veteran commanders know this, but we do have new commanders that might let some of this slipped through the cracks.

If you have any questions, please reach out, that's what we're here for, we work for you. One last piece of friendly of advice, read your bylaws and know what the podium book says that we're supposed to be doing. Do you have any questions needing any help please don't hesitate to call me. Thanks.

~JA Morris

FISHING DERBY

October 9, 2026 – 9am

Location: Lake Good Hope – Towbin VA (Fort Roots)

This is to give the Patients and Residents of Fort Roots a day of Fishing. We are there to assist them in whatever needs they have to fish: baiting their hook, taking the fish off the line, etc.
Volunteers needed!

MID-WINTER

February 12-13, 2027

Wyndham Grand Executive Center
(Formerly Airport Holiday Inn)

Little Rock

More details coming soon

STATE CONVENTION

June 3-6, 2027

Wyndham Grand Executive Center
(Formerly Airport Holiday Inn)

Little Rock

More details coming soon

COMMANDER'S AT ALL LEVELS PROGRAMS

Please pay Attention to the Department deadline dates.

Youth Coordinator – Patsy Morris – 931-980-7377

Teacher of the Year –
Mark Mellott - 9095
501-607-2336

Deadline to Post 31 Oct 2026
Deadline to Dept Chairman 15 Dec 2026

Voice of Democracy –
Chester Starr - 1322
479-235-8357

Deadline to Post 31 Oct 2026
Deadline to District Chairman 20 Nov 2026
Deadline to Dept Chairman- 5 Dec 2026

All District Winners contact info to Dept HQ by 5 Dec 2026 (no exceptions)

Patriots Pen -
Diana Mohr - 2330
501-281-3892

Deadline to Post 31 Oct 2026
Deadline to District Chairman 20 Nov 2026
Deadline to Dept Chairman – 5 Dec 2026

All District Winners contact info to Dept HQ by 5 Dec 2026 (no exceptions)

Public Servant –
Trisha Leslie - 4556
870-810-8229

1 Jan 2027 to Department Chairman

VFW Member of the Year –
Jim Bob Davis - 4554
870-807-3975

28 Feb 2027 due to District
14 Mar 2027 to Department Chairman

VFW Auxiliary of the Year

28 Feb 2027 to Department Headquarters

Nick Bacon –
Todd Willey - 4513
479-857-6069

1 March 2027 deadline to Department Chairman

****The Nick Bacon application is now posted on vfw.org under Programs. Please pay attention to the due date, it is due to the Department by 01 March 2027.*******

Scout of Year
Terry Daniell - 2278
870-230-2303

1 March 2027 to Post
1 April 2027 to Department Chairman

JROTC Cadet of the Year

28 March due to Dept Headquarters

VFW Employer of the Year
Chuck Kinler - 1341
870-421-5420

28 March due to Department Chairman

DISTRICT MEETINGS

A lot of great information is passed along at your District meetings. Everything from Post happenings to pertinent information from the Department. The information isn't effective if no one from your Post is there to receive it.

There are numerous benefits which include but are not limited to networking, information sharing, and hearing from candidates for higher office

Unsure when your District is meeting? We've got you covered! Go to VFWAR.ORG, Resources, District Meetings to see up to date locations, dates, times, and reps. Be sure to check the website for any meeting changes.

District	Date	Meet	Eat	Location
District 1	10-18-26	2pm	1pm	Post 1674 Siloam Springs
District 2	11-15-26	2pm	1pm	Post 3246 Mt Home
District 4	11-15-26	2pm	1pm	Post 4556 Pocahontas
District 5	11-7-26	1pm	noon	Post 2330 Searcy
District 6	11-14-26	1pm	after	Post 4764 Choctaw
District 7	10-25-26	2pm	1pm	Post 8383 New Blaine
District 9	11-15-26	2pm	1pm	Post 2256 Benton
District 10	10-24-26	1pm	noon	Post 4562 Texarkana
District 13	10-11-26	1pm	after	Post 11474 Levy

Buddy Poppies

The Buddy Poppies must be purchased through the Department Headquarters, and they must be paid for at the time of ordering. The cost for Legacy Poppies is \$145.00 per 500 and for Tin Poppies the cost is \$90 per 500. They usually ship the same week as ordered.

Gold Star Family Weekend

The United States began observing Gold Star Mother's Day on the last Sunday of September, in 1936. Today the nation recognizes the sacrifice that all Gold Star Family members make when a father, mother, brother, sister, son daughter, or other loved one dies in service to the nation. Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day is the last Sunday of September and Gold Star Spouses Day is April 5. This observation will be held September 27, 2026.

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

**GENERAL ORDERS #3
2026-2027 Series**

SEPTEMBER 2026

General Orders will be read at all Post Meetings

ALL MEMBERS

Motions

Sec. 1001 No. 17 of our National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures. Once a motion is made and passed by the membership it is in effect until the motion is rescinded by membership. To rescind a motion a member who voted for the motion will have to bring it before the membership. After this a 2/3 vote of membership is required to rescind the motion.

Department Dashboard

All community service must be entered through vfwar.org. Your post should also be entering the VFW Auxiliary as well. Be sure to pick the drop down and mark as Auxiliary. If you have not received training or need an account under members only, please contact the headquarters on Tuesday through Thursday.

Bonding

Don't forget, Employee Bonds are due by 31 September. The rate for these is \$8 per thousand, minimum of \$3,000. The application can be found on vfwar.org under resources, reports and forms.

Discipline of Members

We often forget that as members we have rights, but we also have standards to conduct ourselves by. The purpose of this corporation is fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational: Often members need to be reminded of this. For this reason, our Bylaws and Manual of Procedures outline Discipline of Members in Sec 901. Section 902 governs Offenses, an offense that is so commonly abused is Sec 902, 6. Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct unbecoming a member in their relations to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or other members. Please review these Sections and remind members at all levels.

Removal of Officers

Removal and Vacancies of Elected Officers or Committee Members: Section 220 Of our National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures outline how to remove an officer for one of the two following reasons:

1. Absent themselves from two (2) consecutive meetings or who has
2. Failure to fulfill the duties of officer specified in Section 218 of the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

Post Leadership

ATTENTION POST COMMANDERS

Your attention is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990-T, where applicable. All Posts with gross income under \$50,000.00 must file Form 990N (e-postcard). **You must now file your 990 online at IRS.Gov.** FILING DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15th FOR ALL POSTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS. Ref.: Section 501(C) 19 of the IRS Code. Be reminded that the Department Headquarters does not do this task for post and/or districts, However, if you are not sure what to do, we will try and guide you.

Post Commanders: Section 218(a)(1)k states: Post Commander will assure that he or his representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings (if applicable). **Note:** For those Posts not able to attend the District, they are asked to forward a report of their Post activities to the District Commanders prior to the District meeting to keep the District Commander informed of your activities also assist him in preparation for upcoming Council of Administration meetings. When you or your Rep attend the District meeting, they should be going back to the post meeting and sharing this information with all members. Please, we need your help in keeping the communications flowing at all levels. (please see Judge Adv, Notes in the Chronicles for full duties)

Post Commanders are urged to start planning suitable programs for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedures). Show your Post Pride by taking part in a Parade. Distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a part of your Veterans Day activities.

Department Business:

Suspension:
Post 3252
Post 4679

Please see vfwar.org go to calendar for location and rep for all District meetings.

BY COMMAND OF

**Linda Johnson
State Commander**

OFFICIAL

**Jeffrey Byrd
State Adjutant**