

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

JULY 2026

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

Congratulations to all the newly elected Department of Arkansas Veterans of Foreign Wars Officers.

2026-2027 Department Officers

Commander, Linda Johnson, Post 4451, Mena
Senior Vice Commander, Terry Ham, Post 2259, Conway
Junior Vice Commander, Glen Powell, Post 7514, Quitman
Quartermaster, Jeffrey Byrd, Post 2330, Searcy
Judge Advocate, Patsy Morris, Post 8525, Plainview
Surgeon, Carlton Rodney, Post 2330, Searcy
Chaplain, Doreen Brown, Post 5225, West Memphis
Past State Commander, Rodney Wood, Post 7769, Beebe

The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant, Jeffrey Byrd, Post 2330, Searcy
Chief-of-Staff, Will Beams, Post 2278, Hot Springs
State Inspector, Johnny Gothard, Post 1322, Van Buren

Chairmen:

Commander's Project, Marc Calcaterra, Post 4548, Jacksonville
Commander's Project, Jerry Hulsey, Post 2952, Springdale
Commander's Project, Elvin Tate, Post 5225, West Memphis

Youth Programs, Patsy Morris, Post 8525, Plainview

Combat Tested Gaming (CTG) – for all of those gamers out there, we are currently looking for a new Chairman for CTG. Please contact Department Headquarters if you are interested.

2025-2026 Awards

All State 2025-2026

Team Captain Commander Wally Treece – District 6 and Post 12233 – Perryville

All State Districts

District 7 – Commander Chester Starr
District 9 - Commander Ricky Hendricks
District 13 – Commander Marc Calcaterra

All State Posts

Post 4548 – Jacksonville – Commander Marc Calcaterra
Post 4453 – Morrilton – Commander Roger White
Post 4556 – Pocahontas – Commander Christopher Smith
Post 9777 – Salem – Commander Stanley Robinson
Post 2330 – Searcy – Commander Diana Mohr
Post 1991 – Jonesboro – Commander Charles Fuss
Post 9095 – Little Rock – Commander Mark Mellott
Post 8532 – Coal Hill – Commander Brook McReynolds
Post 4515 – Monticello – Commander Jim Lee
Post 10417 – Lead Hill – Commander John Hall
Post 3252 – Marshall – Commander James White
Post 3031 – Rogers – Commander Jerry Tobey
Post 2256 – Benton – Commander Steven Davis
Post 7514 – Quitman – Commander Glen Powell
Post 2242 – Paragould – Commander Mark Davis
Post 2278 – Hot Springs – Commander Terry Daniell
Post 2259 – Conway – Commander – Thomas Holt
Post 4451 – Mena – Commander Linda Johnson

POST OF THE YEAR 2025-2026

Rice – Young Post 7514 - Quitman
Commander Glen Powell

District Commander of the Year

Commander Wally Treece
District 6

Post Commander of the Year

Commander Terry Daniell
Jack E. Smoot/Ralph G King Post 2278, Hot Springs

Commander Marc Calcaterra
Michael W. Ray Post 4548, Jacksonville

Member of the Year

Burt Burns
Michael W. Ray Post 4548, Jacksonville

Employer of the Year

Little Rock Coaches
Sponsored by Jack E Smoot/Ralph G King Post 2278 – Hot Springs

Buddy Poppy Display Contest Overall Winner

Michael W. Ray Post – Post 4548, Jacksonville

Category – 3 – Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

Many more celebrated Post and Auxiliaries were recognized; there is not enough time in one day to congratulate all. Thank you for the hard work.

Commander's Notes

I am deeply humbled and grateful for the trust you've placed in me by electing me as your State Commander. This honor is not mine alone - it belongs to every member and every Post that makes our organization strong. Together, we'll keep Helping Veterans One At A Time.

My Commander's Project for this year will be supporting 2 causes: 1) Gold Star Family Kids Camp, giving children of fallen a place to heal and bond 2) special Fisher House project. Fisher House ensures military families have comfort and lodging during medical treatment.

Beginning in August, our State Leadership Team will be visiting Posts statewide with targeted training and support. We'll focus on membership, programs, and leadership tools to help every Post be successful. Check with your District Commander for your post visit date. Looking forward to working with you.

~Commander Linda Johnson

Junior Vice Commander's Notes

I want to extend my humblest thanks and deepest gratitude to all the delegates and members of the Department of Arkansas for placing your trust and confidence in me by electing me as your State Junior Vice Commander for the 2026–2027 term. It is an incredible honor to serve this Department, and I do not take the responsibility lightly.

Our mission to care for our veterans, their families, and our local communities remains our top priority. As we embark on this new administrative year, I am fully committed to working alongside State Commander Johnson, Senior Vice Commander Ham, and each of you to strengthen our membership, protect our programs, and ensure that the Department of Arkansas remains a leading voice for those who wore the uniform.

Thank you for your support, your dedication on the convention floor, and for everything you do daily at the Post and District levels. Let's get to work and make this a historic year for Arkansas.

Yours in Comradeship,

~JVC Glen Powell

Judge Advocate's Notes

I would like to thank everyone for your support and your vote of confidence. I am honored to continue serving as your Judge Advocate and will do my very best to represent and assist each and every one of you.

As Judge Advocate, it is my responsibility to understand our bylaws and ensure that we follow them, as well as to be aware of any legal issues that may affect our organization. During the coming year, if you need assistance understanding the bylaws or have questions about procedures and how things should be done, please don't hesitate to reach out. I am here to help.

I look forward to serving you throughout the next year and working together to make our organization successful.

Thank you again for your support and trust.

~Judge Advocate Patsy Morris

Surgeon's Notes

Comrades,

First, I want to express my gratitude to the membership for electing me as your 2026-2027 VFW Department of Arkansas State Surgeon. Your confidence and trust in my ability to excel in this position hasn't gone unnoticed. I will dedicate 100% effort to support and work for the Membership of this Department. I am always available if assistance is needed. I am here for you. You can contact via, phone, email or text and I will respond. I look forward to working with Commander Johnson as she leads this Department in a great and productive year. As your Department Surgeon, let me remind you that we are in the summer months and care should be taken to beat the heat. Remember to utilize work-rest period and not exert yourselves too much. As we all know, proper hydration is critical. Make sure to drink plenty of water and avoid energy drinks and sodas. Always try to wear loose and light-colored clothing while working or spending excessive time outside.

Stay safe VFW Department of Arkansas!

~Surgeon Carlton Rodney

BONDING **Web only**

Current Bonds for Post Quartermaster/Officers will expire **August 31, 2026**, and Canteen Manger/Employee Bonds will expire **September 30, 2026**. All Posts should remit the correct amount to Department Headquarters now. Amounts: Quartermaster/Officer \$5.00 per thousand minimum of \$3,000. Club manager and all others \$8.00 per thousand minimum of \$3,000. If you are bonding through an outside agency, please forward proof from the company to State Headquarters. These forms will be on the web site at VFWAR.org under Resources, Reports and Forms. District Commanders will be emailed a copy of the forms. The bond applications will **not** be mailed out this year. Please note – **the minimum bond amount for both the Quartermaster bond and the club manager bond is \$3,000**. These applications must be completed in full.

Commanders are reminded that all persons handling post funds, including the Club Manager and Bingo Chairman, shall keep accurate and complete records. Post Trustees shall audit these records in the same manner as Post Quartermaster records.

Members Only

On our web site, vfwar.org, you now have a directory of contact information for all Posts, Department Leadership, and Program Chairmen. You must have a Members Only account set up through the Headquarters to access this information. This information is for personal use only. No one is authorized to give to any third parties for any type of solicitation. If you need an account or need assistance finding these please contact the headquarters at 501-834-8392.

IMPORTANT DATES

AUDITS – Don't forget that all Audits are due to Department Headquarters by July 31, 2026. This is not an option.

July 24-31 – the Department will be closed for National Convention. It will re-open on August 3, 2026

August 28-29 – Commander Linda Johnson and President Rhon Mohr's Homecoming – Post 2330 – Searcy – more information coming soon

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Arkansas General Orders

#1
2026-2027

July 2026

BOUNDARIES

Each Post and District is outlined by boundaries. Any Post, District, Riders Group or Foundation must receive permission to solicit or recruit outside your Post boundaries. If you have permission to come into a District or Post area, you can only represent what you are there for. Example: If Post 1234 Riders Group has permission to go to another Post area to recruit riders, they cannot go with the canopy of VFW Post 1234 and recruit and misrepresent, they can only work under Riders Group 1234.

To first obtain approval from the Post and/or District, send a letter to said Post and/or District requesting permission and get a response in writing. If any questions arise, send copies to the Department Headquarters.

MEMBERS

Attention of all members is directed to the purposes listed within the VFW's Congressional Charter. "To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom" is one of the VFW's chartered purposes; as such the VFW represents fighting for American rights, civil rights and humanitarian impulses that have always guided the VFW's principles.

Today the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States reaffirms its commitment to that chartered purpose by first recognizing that in order to end racism within our organization, it is not enough to be non-racist/non-discriminatory: we must be proactive. While we focus on education and mentorship we work to identify, address, and eradicate any and all forms of racial bias and discrimination. We will work to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization. The VFW's leadership is united in the pursuit of ending racial bias and discrimination while empowering our members and the greater veteran community towards this collective goal.

Attention of all members is directed to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "Discipline of Members." Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned. In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another's ability to participate in VFW events. All members will be treated with dignity and respect.

For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary

Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2024-2025 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"® Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

Posts

Attention is directed to Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides that each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee. Posts are encouraged to register their Post delegate online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that was mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing that went out in February. Advanced registration for the 126th National Convention should be mailed with each delegate's name and address to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

SECRETARY OF STATE

2025 Annual Report for Nonprofit Corporation deadline is August 1, 2026. All Quartermasters should have received a postcard in the mail over the past month regarding this. It is a large, white, postcard. On the address label at the top above the name is a filing ID. That is the account number you use when you go to the web site to file. www.ark.org/sos/corpfiling.

Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National By-Laws concerning any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council meetings (if applicable), District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

District meeting are located on VFWAR.org under Resources, District Meetings

Suspensions:

Post 2881

Post 3543

Post 4679

Linda Johnson

State Commander

OFFICIAL:

Jeffrey Byrd
State Adjutant

See Attachment Regarding Bonding and All State Programs

8. If this is a replacement for a current position, please advise who you are replacing : _____

Number of Persons Covered: 1 Number of Losses: _____

Printed Name of Covered Person

Signature of Covered Person

Contact Phone # _____

NOTE : Questionnaire is not valid unless all questions are answered.
IF COVERAGE IS NOT RENEWED, TERMINATED, OR CANCELLED, THE POLICYHOLDER
HAS ONLY 90 DAYS TO SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FOR THE LOSS.
Form 4B - Revised 2025



Questionnaire for VFW Accountable Officers Crime Coverage



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA

Dear Comrade Commander:

August 1, 2026

One of the most important communications you will receive during the year concerns appropriate bonding of your Post Positions. Section 703 of the National By-Laws requires that each Accountable Officer shall be bonded with an Indemnity Company as surety. The By-Laws place the responsibility for adequate bonding upon the Commander of the post. Section 218 of the National Manual requires **THE BOOKS AND RECORDS OF THE ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER BE AUDITED AT LEAST QUARTERLY BY THE TRUSTEES.**

The Department Headquarters carries a Crime Policy for the bonding of Department and Post Accountable Officers. Any unit may decide whether it prefers to take out a policy with another surety company or have its funds protected by the Department Headquarters Crime Policy. However, prompt attention is required because if your Accountable Officers had previously been covered through the Department Program, **a new premium payment is required by September 1, 2026 or it will be considered delinquent.**

COVERAGES OF THE POLICY REQUIRE:

1. You agree to make/or cause to be made, at least annually, an audit of your books and accounts, including complete verification of all securities and bank balances pertaining to each "employee and/ or volunteer".
If the above is not complied with, the Insurance Company may refuse to honor claim of missing funds which cannot be proven by records. Monthly audits and reconciliation of bank statements may avoid this denial of claim.
2. The Insurance Company may not pay for loss resulting from any unauthorized advances made by an "employee" to any member for delinquent dues and assessments.
3. "Employee" means any duly elected position, or any appointed officer as listed in the policy schedule.
4. **IF THE POLICY IS NOT RENEWED, TERMINATED, OR CANCELLED AT EXPIRATION DATE OF 9-1-2026, THE POST HAS ONLY 90 DAYS TO SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FOR PRIOR TERM. AFTER 90 DAYS PRIOR COVERAGE CEASES.**
5. **POST MUST SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FORM WITHIN 120 DAYS FROM THE FIRST DATE OF DISCOVERY OF THE LOSS.**

THIS POLICY IS ONLY FOR THE YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 TO AUGUST 31, 2027
The funds of your Post are protected only for that year. Premium for the following year will be due September 1, 2027

RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE **COMPLETED IN FULL** WITH YOUR PREMIUM CHECK PAYABLE TO YOUR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

STATE Arkansas POST# _____

I hereby apply for A1. Employee/ Volunteer Theft coverage for the year from September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027 in the

COVERAGE AMOUNT of \$ _____ for the POSITION of _____

Post Annual Income: \$ _____

Has the post had any Crime Coverage losses (theft of money) over the past 3 years by an Accountable Officer? YES NO

If yes, please contact your Department for a Loss Questionnaire. No Coverage can be extended until approved by insurance carrier

Number of Persons Bonded: 1

Number of Locations: 1

NOTE : Questionnaire is not valid unless all questions are answered. Coverage may be postponed if not completed in **FULL**.
Deadline for coverage is September 1, 2026 -
After this date you will be delinquent and not in compliance with the VFW By- Laws.

Form 2 - Revised 2026

QM or Commander or Adjutant or Sr Vice Signature

Date

Phone Number

Street Address, City and Zip



Questionnaire for Club Employees & Bingo Persons



A.1 Employee/Volunteer Theft (Crime Coverage)
TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA
Coverage Term: October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027

1. Name of Post _____ Post # _____

Post Address _____
Street City State Zip

2. Name of Person Covered: _____

3. Position to be Covered: _____

4. Coverage Amount Requested: \$ _____

5. Post Annual Income: \$ _____

6. Has the post had any crime losses (Theft of Money by Employee/ Volunteer) over the past 3 years? YES NO
If yes, please contact your Department for a Loss Questionnaire. No coverage can be extended until approved by insurance carrier.

7. Has the employee/volunteer ever been convicted of a dishonest or fraud employment related act? YES NO

If yes, explain: _____

8. *If this is a replacement for a current position, please advise who you are replacing :* _____

Number of Persons Covered: 1 Number of Locations: 1

Printed Name of Covered Person

Signature of Covered Person Date

Contact Phone # _____

NOTE : Questionnaire is not valid unless all questions are answered. Coverage may be postponed if not completed in **FULL**.
IF COVERAGE IS NOT RENEWED, TERMINATED, OR CANCELLED AT EXPIRATION DATE OF 10-1-2026, THE POST
HAS ONLY 90 DAYS TO SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FOR PRIOR TERM, AFTER 90 DAYS, PRIOR COVERAGE CEASES.
Form 4B - Revised 2026

POST ALL STATE

- 1. Post must reach greater than 100% + 1 in membership by June 30th, 2027.
- A. To be eligible to receive a hat and other acknowledgements at the State Convention, Membership must be met by April 18, 2027.
- B. To be recognized at the State Convention, 100% + 1 must be reached prior to the convening of the 96th State Convention.
- C. Any post that becomes eligible after the State Convention will receive recognition at their next District Meeting. (Note: All State runs until June 30th, 2027)
 - 2. Must have 80% retention.
 - 3. Post must not be in arrears to District, Department or National for financial obligations.
 - 4. Post Quartermaster must be sufficiently bonded.
 - 5. Post must not have any current officer vacancies.
 - 6. Post quarterly audits must be current and received by Department Headquarters no later than April 18, 2027.
 - 7. Must show a cumulative growth of a minimum of 5% in community service from the previous year - total
 - 8. Post must purchase 5 Buddy Poppies per member with a minimum of 500 (**All American eligibility**)
 - 9. Must hold at least 2 recruiting drives . One must be with your post Auxiliary, if you do not have an Auxiliary, you must have a representative from the Auxiliary speak to your post about advantages of starting one
 - 10. 100% attendance at District meetings. (minimum of 1 representative per post)
 - 11. Post must donate to the Commander's Project - \$50
 - 12. Post must participate in the following programs: **All American eligibility**
 - Submit Voice of Democracy entry to District for judging.
 - Submit Patriots Pen entry to District for judging.
 - 13. Post must participate in Teacher of the Year.
 - 14. Post must make a minimum of \$75 donation to National Veterans & Military Support Services. (Note: minimum of **\$125 requirement for All American eligibility**)
 - 15. Must make a restricted donation, minimum of \$50, to National in support of DPAA (Defense Personnel POW/MIA Accounting Agency). Donations must be processed through the Programs Dashboard. (Minimum for **All American \$75**)

Special consideration will be used for breaking ties and consideration for Post of the Quarter, Post of the Year and All State Team Captain

- Special consideration for VFW JROTC Cadet entry
- Special consideration for VFW Employer of the Year entry
- Special consideration for VFW Scout of the year entry
- Special consideration for Adopt-a-Unit
- Special consideration for VFW Member of the Year

Please use the circles next to each requirement to mark it off as you achieve it so you will always know where you stand in your goal to reach Allstate.

All programs are subject to the Commander's Discretion

District All State

- 0 1. The District must reach greater than 100% + 1 in membership by June 30, 2027
 - To be eligible to receive a hat and other acknowledgements at the State Convention. Membership must be met by April 18, 2027.
 - To be recognized at the State Convention, 100% +1 must be reached prior to the convening of the 96th State Convention.
 - Any District that becomes eligible after the State Convention will receive recognition at their next District Meeting. (Note All State runs until June 30th, 2027)
- 0 2. The District must create/maintain a Facebook Page.
- 0 3. Retention must be a minimum of 80%.
- 0 4. The District must not be in arrears to the Department or National for financial obligations.
- 0 5. District Quartermaster must be sufficiently bonded.
- 0 6. District quarterly audits must be current and received by Department Headquarters no later than April 18, 2027.
- 0 7. Districts must submit one entry (1) for Patriots Pen to the Department Chairman for judging.
- 0 8. Districts must submit one (1) entry for Voice of Democracy to the Department Chairman for judging.
- 0 9. District Must hold two (2) Recruiting Drives and Submit to the Department Dashboard
- 0 10. District Must have all Post inspections completed or scheduled and submitted to the Department Inspector by December.

The All State Program is laid out to set each Post/District up for success to ensure they meet the criteria for the 2026-2027 All American recognition.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO COMMANDER'S DISCRETION