

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

AUGUST 2025

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

COMMANDER'S NOTES

Membership for the Department of Arkansas is currently at 4.49%.

I know we are always pushing membership so I would like to take this time to tell everyone what membership means to me. First, the stronger our membership is the stronger voice we have in Washington DC when it comes to Veteran benefits. I will be making a trip to DC during my year as Commander and can speak to all of our representatives about the bills that the VFW is representing. The more members we have in the VFW, which makes it where this becomes a more productive visit. Second, through my travels I could not tell you the number of people I have spoken to that tell me the VFW saved their life. It has given their life a direction they had not had since the military. For this reason alone, we should recruit as many veterans as we can. You never know when you will save a veteran's life.

I would also like to take this time to speak on what my Commander's Project is for the coming year. During the last Counsel of Administration meeting, we voted to start a scholarship for the Scout of the Year and JROTC Cadet of the Year. The amount of the scholarship is \$500 for each of the winners. I would like to raise enough money during my year to fund these programs for 10 years.

COMBAT TESTED GAMING: I have appointed Brian Gaston from Beebe VFW Post 7769 as our Combat Tested Gaming Chairman for the Department. He will be posting general updates in each of the General Orders to come.

~Commander Wood

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S NOTES

We are starting a new year, our Posts can strengthen their foundation by focusing on key areas: membership growth and engagement, informing our communities about our programs, keeping up and maintaining our quarterly audits, and successfully completing our annual audits. By completing these, our Posts can build a strong sense of camaraderie, serve their members, and continue to advance the VFW. If any Post needs help with any of these please feel free to give the leadership team a call. I also would like to remind everyone that with school starting this month, it's a good reminder to be extra cautious on the roads, especially in school zones. Our children are our future, and we want to keep them safe. Hope to see you at National this month.

~Senior Vice Commander Johnson

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER'S NOTES

Comrades, we are well into month two of the year under the Command of Rodney Wood. We have started out strong, let's continue to beat the pavement and get all our unpaid members back in good standing within your post. We can be number one again in the nation, it just takes every one of us to do our part. Example: as a State of 10k plus members, if each member would just recruit 1 the State of Arkansas would double in just one year. Remember, the leadership of this Department works for you. If you need anyone for any reason, please do NOT hesitate to contact the Department or us individually.

~Junior Vice Commander Ham

JUDGE ADVOCATE'S NOTES

Comrades,

I'd like to discuss this important point regarding Article 9, Section 902 - Offenses, number 7, in our National Bylaws, specifically concerning the divulging of private business of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) or any Post, County Council, District, or Department without proper authority.

This particular article is crucial for maintaining the integrity, trust, and effective operation of our organization. The VFW, like any large and complex organization, handles a significant amount of sensitive information. This can range from personal details of members, financial matters of the Post or Department, strategic discussions, internal grievances, or even confidential communications related to our advocacy efforts on behalf of veterans.

Why is this bylaw so important?

- * Protecting Member Privacy: We deal with personal information of our veterans and their families.

Unauthorized disclosure could violate privacy, potentially leading to identity theft, harassment, or other negative consequences for our members.

- * Maintaining Financial Security: Our Posts, Councils, Districts, and Departments manage funds for veteran support, community programs, and operational costs. Leaking financial information could expose us to fraud, misuse, or undermine public trust in our stewardship of donated funds.

- * Ensuring Effective Operations: Strategic discussions, internal debates, and planning for future initiatives often require a level of confidentiality to be effective. If these discussions are prematurely or improperly divulged, it can hinder our ability to make sound decisions, negotiate effectively, or even achieve our mission goals.

- * Preserving Organizational Reputation: The VFW's reputation is built on trust, integrity, and a commitment to our mission. Unauthorized disclosure of private business can erode that trust, not only among our members but also with the public, donors, and legislative bodies we interact with.

- * Preventing Internal Conflict: Uncontrolled dissemination of internal matters can easily lead to misunderstandings, misinformation, and unnecessary internal conflicts, diverting energy and resources away from our core mission.

- * Safeguarding Advocacy Efforts: Much of our work involves advocating for veterans' rights and benefits. This often requires strategic discussions and confidential information. Unauthorized disclosure could compromise our effectiveness in influencing policy and supporting legislation.

What constitutes "private business" and "without proper authority"?

"Private business" generally refers to any information that is not intended for public dissemination and is related to the internal workings, financial status, membership details, strategic planning, or confidential communications of the VFW at any level.

"Without proper authority" means that the information is disclosed by an individual who has not been explicitly authorized by the appropriate VFW leadership (e.g., Post Commander, Department Commander, National Commander, or a designated committee) to share that specific information. This doesn't mean that information should never be shared, but rather that there is a process and legitimate reason for its disclosure, and it should be done by an authorized individual.

In conclusion, this bylaw is not intended to stifle open communication or transparency where it is appropriate and beneficial. Rather, it is a critical safeguard designed to protect our members, our resources, our reputation, and ultimately, our ability to effectively serve veterans and their families. It emphasizes the importance of discretion, loyalty, and a shared understanding that certain information must be handled with care and only disclosed through official channels when authorized.

I encourage all comrades to be mindful of this bylaw and to exercise good judgment when discussing VFW matters, ensuring that we always act in the best interests of our organization and our fellow veterans.

As always, I'm here if you need anything at any time.

Thank you.

~Judge Advocate Powell

SURGEON'S NOTES

Heat, humidity and mosquitoes continue to pose a persistent threat. To mitigate these risks, it is essential to continue hydrating, using sunscreen, insect repellent, and cooling devices. Everyone should be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses, such as heat cramps and heat stroke, and have a plan in place.

As our children return to school, it is crucial to exercise caution while driving, particularly in areas with increased pedestrian activity. With the start of the new school year, there is typically a rise in common illnesses, making this an opportune time to schedule flu and pneumonia vaccinations to protect our community.

Remember, We are Stronger Together. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

~Surgeon Morris

CHAPLAIN'S NOTES

Greetings, fellow Comrades, I would like to thank everyone for their vote of confidence in me to continue praying for you and your family. Last year was a tough year for each Post but this year Arkansas shall shine brighter than a new penny. We can do this!

For our Old & New Chaplains there are monthly Chaplain training with the National Chaplain teams each month on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m. Central Time. September 18, 2025, is the first session. There will be a special training session for newly appointed chaplains on August 28, 2025, at the same time as well. I will be mailing out further information regarding this. Previous training can be viewed at https://www.lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html

Let's continue to pray for one another and for our nation. Take care. I shall continue to lift each one of you and your family to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

~Chaplain Brown

*******ANNOUNCEMENTS*******

Commander Wood would like to let everyone know about his membership challenge for the month of August. The Post that has the highest membership percentage increase for the month will receive \$250 from him! So, let's get out there to recruit new members and retain the ones we already have. Also, don't forget about our reinstates as well! If you need any assistance, we are always available! Good luck to all!

Department Headquarters will be closed from 8-15 August due to the National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S HOMECOMINGS

***** This year the Commander and President's homecoming will be separate*****

The Commander's homecoming will be at VFW Post 1341, 1206 Central Blvd, Bull Shoals, AR 72619. October 3-4, 2025. More information and updated times coming soon!

The President's homecoming will be at VFW Post 2283, 4162 N Arkansas Ave, Russellville, AR 72802 September 12-13, 2025.

AGENDA

FRIDAY:

5PM - Meet and Greet with Karaoke

The Riders Group will be selling Hamburgers

****NO ONE UNDER 21 FOR THE FRIDAY NIGHT FESTIVITIES****

SATURDAY:

9:00am - Council of Administration meeting

10:15am - Program Training

**we will not stop for lunch. A lunch of hotdogs and chips will be handed out during the training, we will eat while training.*

3:30pm - Meal will begin

The meal will consist of: Fried Chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, baked beans, corn, rolls, and dessert.

Any gifts will be presented during this time.

We should be finished by 5:30pm. You are invited to stay and enjoy the other activities going on at Post 2283 following Homecoming.

****MUST BE 21 FOR ANYTHING AFTER HOMECOMING****

There will be a Country Store on Saturday. There will be Baskets to win, a Silent Auction, and a 50/50 - all proceeds from the Country Store go to help the VFW Auxiliary Dept. of Arkansas

There will be a special basket that will be auctioned off for the State Commander Rodney Wood and President Tommy Hughes joint project. Their joint Project this year is helping to Sponsor the Fishing Derby on October 10th at Lake Good Hope located at Fort Roots.

Hotel Information

LaQuinta Inn/Suites

111 E Harrell Dr.

Russellville, AR 72802

Phone: 479-967-2299

Rate: \$96.90 (this rate includes all taxes and fees)

You are responsible for your own reservations

When making reservations, use code "VFW"

*******MID-WINTER*******

Mid-Winter will be February 6-7, 2026

Location: Doubletree in Little Rock, more details later

2025-2026 Program's

The Directories can all be found online only at vfw.org. Your District Commander has printed copies to assist any Post. If you have a vfw.org account, a full list of contacts for all post is located there. If you would like an account, it is open to all members, please call the Headquarters Monday through Friday.

Department of Arkansas Chairmen:

a full list can be found on our web site

2025-2026

Post Revitalization Coordinator – Terry Ham – Conway - Post 2259
Youth Coordinator – Glen Powell – Quitman - Post 7514
Scouts – Terry Daniell – Post 2278 – Hot Springs
ROTC – Darrell Darner, Post 1674 - Siloam Springs
JROTC – Marc Calcaterra – Jacksonville – Post 4548
National Military Services – Carlton Rodney – Post 7769 - Beebe
Buddy Poppy – Ashleigh Bishop – Post 4501 - Batesville
Community Service – Jeffrey Byrd – Post 2330 - Searcy
POW/MIA – Mike Nuckolls - Post 2330 – Searcy
Motorcycle Group –Adam Strange – Post 1322 – Van Buren
Commanders Project – Terry Ham – Conway - Post 2259
Commanders Project – Glen Powell – Quitman - Post 7514
Commanders Project – Carlton Rodney – Post 7769 - Beebe
M.O.C. Coordinator – Martin Gann – Post 2256 – Benton
Combat Tested Gaming – Brian Gaston – Post 7769 Beebe

V.A.V.S. Reps

Little Rock/North Little Rock – Michael Huggins – Post 7769 - Beebe
Fayetteville – Johnny Gothard – Post 1322 – Van Buren
Memphis – Doreen Brown – Post 5225 – West Memphis
Poplar Bluff – Robert Emmons – Post 1991 - Jonesboro

BONDING

Web only

Current Bonds for Post Quartermaster/Officers will expire August 31, 2025, and Canteen Manger/Employee Bonds will expire September 30, 2025. All Posts should remit the correct amount to Department Headquarters now. Amounts: Quartermaster/Officer \$4.50 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 VFW 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. Bond applications will not be mailed out this year.

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.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Just because it is summer doesn't mean that we shouldn't be working on our Youth Programs. There are several activities that the youth of Arkansas are participating in during the summer. Look around, there are VBS, 4H activities, Ball leagues, and summer camps of all types, just for a few examples. With the cost of college going up every year most parents and students are going to need as much help as possible with paying for it. So, let's get out there and promote our programs. Making your programs successful will assist the Post with being successful.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY: Time starts **NOW!** Posts are requested to contact the high school principals and teachers during the first week of school to discuss plans to sponsor the 2025-2026 Voice of Democracy audio-essay program. This year's theme: **"How are you Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"** All audio CD's or flash drives and entry forms for District judging must be in the possession of VFW District Chairmen, before the date of the District judging. District Chairmen must notify all Posts and Auxiliaries in their jurisdiction of the date of the District judging and where to send the recorded audio and entry form of the winner of each participating school. Program materials are available from the Department Youth Development, Recognition & Scholarship Chairman.

PATRIOT'S PEN: Time starts **NOW!** Posts are requested to contact school principals and teachers during the first week of school to discuss plans to sponsor the 2025-2026 Patriot's Pen annual youth essay contest. This year's theme: **"How are you Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"** All essays and entry forms for District judging must be in the possession of VFW District Chairmen, before the date of the District judging. District Chairmen must notify all Posts and Auxiliaries in their jurisdiction of the date of the District judging and where to send the essays and entry form of the winner of each participating school. Program materials are available from the Department Youth Development, Recognition & Scholarship Chairman.

BUDDY POPPIES: You are requested to place your order for the Buddy Poppy Program as soon as possible. Remember they get shipped directly from National so it takes up to 1 week to receive (Orders MUST still come through Department Headquarters.) Prices are \$145.00 per 500 for Legacy Poppies and \$90 per 500 for Tin Poppies. Please plan your Buddy Poppy Drive now. Poppies MUST now be paid for when the order is placed.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS

GENERAL ORDERS #2
2025-2026

AUGUST 2025

POW/MIA Flag

POW/MIA Flag – Official Display Days: Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, and National POW/MIA Day.

Control of Units

Section 709 – Control of Units, National By-laws paragraph 6. In addition to other legal requirements under existing local laws or Department By-Laws, no Post, County Council, District, or any holding company or corporation subordinate thereto, shall purchase, sell or otherwise transfer title or any interest in any real estate unless written notice of such proposal has first been given to each member of said unit ten (10) days prior to such regular or special meeting at which the proposal is to be considered and then only by two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval of those members present and voting at such regular or special meeting. In addition, at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting notice shall be provided to the Department Commander who shall review any sale, purchase, transfer or encumbrance to determine whether such transaction serves the purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as prescribed in the Congressional Charter. Failure to comply with these provisions shall nullify said transactions.

POST COMMANDERS Notify IRS of Quartermaster Change

In January 2014, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) began requiring entities with EIN to file IRD Form 8822-B to report the latest change of address or responsible party. Form 8822-B must be filed within 60 days of the change. The purpose of Form 8822-B is to notify the IRS of changes to your business mailing address, location, or the identity of your responsible party. The IRS Form 8822-B and its instructions can be found at the following link: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822b.pdf>

2025 Annual Report for Nonprofit Corporation PAST DUE

Deadline: August 1, 2025: Just received information from the Secretary of the State office that Posts were waiting for the postcard mail out regarding Annual Nonprofit renewals. It is all online now. Please go to www.sos.arkansas.gov/BCS to file your 2025 report of officers. There is no penalty for being late, but it could hurt the post in the future. Please go online and complete today. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Julie Wolfe at 501-682-3482, at the Secretary of the State's office.

REMOVAL OF AN OFFICER

Section 220 of the National By-Laws, "Vacancies and Removal of Elective Officers" states that "Any elective Post Officer removed by the Department Commander, by reason of failure to pay current dues or by vote of the Post under the provisions of this section, shall not be eligible to serve in any Post office in the same administrative year in which the Officer is removed."

GENERAL ORDERS: All General Orders are to be read at a regular meeting, acted upon, posted, and filed for future reference. These orders will be published every month except January. They will be with your District Commanders and on the web site **vfwar.org**.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS:

None

BY COMMAND OF

Rodney Wood
State Commander

OFFICIAL:
Jeffrey Byrd
State Adjutant

Homecoming

When: September 12-13, 2025

Where: VFW Post 2283

4162 N. Arkansas Ave.
Russellville, AR 72802

There will be a Country Store on Saturday. Baskets to win, a Silent Auction, 50/50 - Please bring your items to help the Department

AGENDA

Friday:

5pm - Meet/Greet with Karaoke

Riders Group will be selling hamburgers

Saturday:

9am - Council of Admin meeting

10:15am - Program Chairmen presentation will start (we will not stop for lunch - sandwiches/drinks will be distributed to attendees while Program Chairmen are presenting their Programs

3:30pm - Meal will begin, gifts presented at this time

We should be finished by 5:30 pm, you are invited to stay and enjoy the other activities of Post 2283

There will be a special basket to be auctioned for the State Commander Rodney Wood and Department President Tommy Hughes joint Project

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