

# **ARKANSAS CHRONICLES**

## **February 2026**

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

### **Mid-Winter Conference**

Let me share some of the great things going on at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock at the VFW Mid-Winter Conference!! Room Check In is 4pm NOT Earlier!

**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Glenn Umberger will be our guest!**

**Classes:**

- Quartermaster training
- Suicide Prevention
- Benefits Advisors
- All Programs

**Buddy Poppy Competition – Category 2 – Memorial or Inspirational Display**

**Friday Night: Auxiliary Fundraiser – Spaghetti Dinner - \$10 (cash only)  
Karaoke**

**Awards Banquet      Business Casual or Semi-Formal – Your choice**

**Come and join us for training, rewards, and camaraderie**

**Current Membership: Department – 89.01%**

### **Top 10 Post in Department**

**Post 12233 – Perryville – Commander Wally Treece – 126.47%**

**Post 4683 – Newport – Commander Brad Johnson – 120.31%**

**Post 10417 – Lead Hill – Commander John Hall – 119.23%**

**Post 4453 – Morrilton – Commander Roger White – 116.07%**

**Post 3141 – Dardanelle – Commander Anthony Cunningham – 110.44%**

**Post 7514 – Quitman – Commander Glen Powell – 110%**

**Post 8525 – Plainview – Commander Donald Thompson -108.60%**

**Post 9777 – Salem – Commander Stan Robinson – 108.21%**

**Post 8245 – Huntington – Commander Justin Weaver – 106.45%**

**Post 10007 – Bald Knob – Commander Matt Haut – 105.88%**

### **Posts at 101%+**

**Post 2746, Post 9834, Post 8042, 8532, Post 3252, Post 2256, Post 2259, Post 4501, Post 2330, Post 4766, Post 4764, Post 4548**

### **Districts at 101%+**

#### **District 6**

Department of Arkansas is currently at 9453 current members, to achieve 101% we need 1,298 new, continuous and/or reinstated members. We can do this together. Arkansas, currently 22 Posts and 1 District have achieved 101% or better.

**Scout of the Year and Nick Bacon  
Employer of Year, JROTC, Auxiliary of the Year, and Auxiliary Member of the Year**

The following are the deadlines for these programs. They **do not** go to your District. **Send them to Department or the Chairman.**

28 February - deadline for Auxiliary and Auxiliary Member of the Year to be at Headquarters

1 March 2026 – deadline for Scout of the Year to be to Headquarters/Chairman

1 March 2026 – deadline for Nick Bacon Scholarship to be at Headquarters/Chairman

28 March 2026 – deadline for employer of Year and JROTC due to Headquarters/Chairman

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S NOTES**

**Hotel has asked us to remind everyone room check-in is 4pm, not earlier!**

I want to remind members that when you are wearing the VFW cap or out completing business for the VFW, you are a direct reflection of the VFW. I know this sounds silly to say but here I am having to say it. I want you to understand that now a days with social media, if you do or say something bad you give us a black eye to possibly thousands of people. Please remember if a person sees or hears one bad thing they will tell 10 people, if they see or hear one good thing they might tell one person. Like I said earlier with social media that 10 may become 1000. The way you act is so important to the good standing of our organization. When you are in leadership this is magnified greatly. When you are at a ball game, at a school function, or even in your canteen the public looks to you more than you know. It is very important to treat everyone with the respect that you would want to be treated with.

~Commander Wood

**Senior Vice Commander's Notes**

Our Mid-Winter Conference is February 6-7 at Doubletree in Little Rock. This event will include meetings, training, and state award banquet. This banquet is to honor our Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen essay winners.

Hope to see you there!!

~SVC Johnson

**Junior Vice Commander's Notes**

If you get this before Mid-Winter, I look forward to seeing each and every one of you. If you get this afterwards and didn't make it to the conference, sorry we missed you. There is always next year, so plan for a bigger and better gathering. Please, do NOT forget the Department is here to assist and help you. Don't look at calling the department or any line officer as a weakness. We can't fix what we don't know. Always, remember we have to treat and respect every member with pride and dignity.

~JVC Ham

## **Judge Advocate's Notes**

In a VFW Post, bonding is a mandatory requirement governed by Section 703 of the National Bylaws. The primary purpose is to protect the Post's assets from theft, fraud, or dishonesty. The general rule is that any person who has access to or is accountable for Post funds or property must be bonded.

### **1. Mandatory Positions**

The following individuals are almost always required to be bonded:

- Quartermaster: As the primary "accountable officer," the Quartermaster must be bonded in an amount at least equal to the liquid assets of the Post.
- Commander: Since the Commander often has signature authority on bank accounts and is responsible for ensuring the Post is properly bonded, they are typically included in the bond.
- Any Other Signers: Any officer or member whose name is on the Post's bank signature cards must be bonded.

### **2. Employees and Volunteers**

If your Post operates a "Canteen" (bar), Bingo, or other fundraising activities, the following people should also be bonded:

- Club/Canteen Managers: Anyone overseeing the daily cash flow of the bar or social club.
- Bartenders & Waitstaff: Any employee or volunteer who handles cash regularly.
- Bingo/Gaming Chairmen: Individuals responsible for the large amounts of cash associated with gaming operations.

### **3. Key Bonding Requirements**

- The Amount: The bond must be for a sum at least equal to the amount of liquid assets (cash, checking, savings, and investments) for which the person is accountable. The Department of Arkansas has a minimum bond of \$3000 per position/person. You can find more information on rates by going to VFWAR.org, Resources, Reports and Forms, Bonds
- The Deadline: Position bonds run on a cycle from September 1 to August 31. Employee bonds run on a cycle from 1 October to 30 September. They must be renewed annually to avoid the Post being placed in "not in good standing" or suspended.
- The Responsibility: Under the National Bylaws, the Post or District Commander is personally responsible for ensuring that all accountable officers are properly and adequately bonded.

~JA Powell

## **Surgeon's Notes**

It is that time of the year when we have a lot of Veterans and family members come down sick with a cold or flu. Neglecting these symptoms may lead to complications such as walking pneumonia. Please utilize hand sanitizer or wipes when handling items that are also being used by others. If you're sick, go to the doctor, stay away from others, drink plenty of fluids, and take your vitamins. What's the weather changing? Make sure you are prepared for emergencies on the roadside. Check your tires, your belts and your fluid levels on your vehicle. Make sure you carry extra blankets, water and even food like crackers along with a good flashlight while you're traveling. You never know when the weather might change and you get stranded. Stay warm and stay healthy. I hope to see you all at the upcoming Mid-Winter Conference.

~SGN Morris

**PUBLIC SERVANT OF THE YEAR**

Dispatcher of the Year – Salem Post 9777

EMT of the Year – Pocahontas Post 4456

Firefighter of the Year – Mena Post 4451

Law Enforcement of the Year – Benton Post 2256

EOD of the Year -Searcy Post 2330

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Grades K - 5 – Carla Perryman – District 2 – Post 9777 Salem

Grades 6 – 8 – Shella Marsh – District 13 – Post 4548 Jacksonville

Grades 9 – 12 – Julie Nelson – District 5 – Post 7514 Quitman

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

**GENERAL ORDERS #7  
2025-2026 SERIES**

**February 2026**

## **MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Members have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs. Once enrolled in either program, automatic payments are processed using the credit card information provided on the application. These are simply added options on the membership application. The traditional methods of signing up for both annual and Life membership are still options as well.

VFW Autopay—renews your annual membership automatically!  Life Installment Plan—automatic monthly payments option—with this option, there is no need to complete a payment authorization form.

Department and Post Quartermasters have the option to enroll new members as installment Life on the Online Membership System.

Recruiting Notes: Encourage annual members to take advantage of the Life member installment plan. Encourage Life installment plan and annual members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.

Legacy Life Membership: This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

Levels	Post	Departments	National
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$ 6.00

## **VFW FOUNDATION:**

### **VFW's Partners in Patriotism**

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 7108 or email us at [partners@vfw.org](mailto:partners@vfw.org) with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

### **"Buddy" Poppy "BUDDY" ® POPPY:**

Order Buddy Poppies NOW for Memorial Day events. Email the Headquarters or fill out the form you can obtain online at [vfwar.org](http://vfwar.org) under programs and mail it to Headquarters.

Remember that your Poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the Poppies are required, do not use "ASAP."

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog. **VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES.** The silver, gold and diamond anniversary "Buddy" ® Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don't pass those costs on to the Posts. The bigger issue is that we simply don't have the inventory on hand to fulfill the potential orders that could come in if we open these items up to be ordered by anyone at any time.

The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that nonprofit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of "Buddy" ® Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

**DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS.** Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>

## **Post registering for National Convention**

Attention of Post Commanders 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(s) online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that will be mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing going out later this month. Registration forms for the 119th National Convention may be mailed to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

**Post Elections:** Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers.

## **District**

Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure provides that Posts shall elect delegates and alternates to District conventions at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District convention at which District officers are to be elected: one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department convention.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National By-Laws – Regular Meeting, Districts shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings each year for purposes of transacting business and conducting schools of instruction.

Pursuant to Section 417 of the National Manual of Procedure, District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed.

District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.

## **Post**

Delegates and alternates to the Department conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department convention. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election.

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, one of which ends March 31.

All Post must have at least two members present at the election of the Department Convention in order to maintain all votes. (meaning, delegate votes plus Commander vote, one person cannot vote delegate strength and Commander vote.)

Department By-Laws and Resolutions: By-Laws and Resolutions for the Department By-Laws **MUST** be submitted to the State Adjutant NLT 15 April 2025 and shall be typewritten in order for the By-Laws Committee to review and publish them in the May and Junes GO's for all to review prior to the State Convention. You can hard copy or email them to the Department Adjutant adjqm@vfwar.org.

### **Department Business:**

Suspensions:  
None

**BY COMMAND OF**

**Rodney Wood**  
**State Commander**

### **OFFICIAL**

**Jeffrey Byrd**  
**State Adjutant**

**Mid-Winter Agenda**  
**DoubleTree Hotel, Little Rock**  
**Department of Arkansas VFW & Auxiliary**  
**Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Awards Ceremony**  
**All times are tentative**

**FRIDAY, February 6, 2026**

1:00 – 5:00 – Registration – **Riverside West**

Buddy Poppy Displays may be set up in the **Palisades** area starting Friday – look for signs

12:00 – Auxiliary – Ways N Means (Country Store & Baked goods) – No Baskets - **Palisades**

11:30 – 1:00 – Hospitality room – **14<sup>th</sup> Floor** – look for signage

1:00 – 5:00 – VFW Training – **Riverside East**

4:00-5:00 – Auxiliary Council Meeting – **Edgehill (1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

5:15 – Hospitality room – **14<sup>th</sup> Floor – look for signage**

6:00 – Auxiliary Dinner Fundraiser – Spaghetti \$10 per plate – **14<sup>th</sup> floor**

7:30 – Hospitality Room open – **14<sup>th</sup> Floor – look for signage**

**SATURDAY, February 7, 2026**

8:00 – 1:00 – Registration – **Riverside West**

Buddy Poppy Displays may be set up in the **Palisades** area starting Friday – look for signs

8:30 – 2:00 – Ways N Means (Country Store and Baked Goods) – **Palisades -NO BASKETS**

9:00 – 10:00 – Joint Openings – All Attendees – **Salon ABC**

10:15 – 12:00 – VFW Council of Administration – **Riverside East**

10:15 – 12:00 - Auxiliary Program Training – **Salon D**

12:00 – Buddy Poppy Judging – Category 2 (Ashleigh Bishop--Chairman)

12:00 – 1:00 – Lunch – You are on your own for lunch

12:30 – Riders Group Meeting – **Edgehill**

3:30 – 6:30 – VOD & PP Awards Banquet – Business Casual or Semi Formal – Your  
Choice – **Salon ABC**

12:00 – Hospitality Room - (closed during all meetings) – **14<sup>th</sup> Floor – look for signage**

6:30 – 8:30??? – Karaoke in the Hospitality Room – **14<sup>th</sup> floor**

Room rate - \$139 plus tax/night Parking - \$8/day

Registration - \$10

Banquet + Registration - \$65

**ALL TIMES AND EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**Riverside West – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

**Palisades (Foyer) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Salon ABC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Riverside East – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Edgehill – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

**Salon D – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**\$10 per person – Spaghetti Dinner**



*VFW Auxiliary  
Spaghetti Dinner  
Fundraiser*

**Mid-Winter Conference  
DoubleTree Hotel  
Little Rock**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2026  
6:00PM**