

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

GENERAL ORDERS #4
Series 2021-2022

OCTOBER 2021

Membership 73.06%

Department Officers 2021-2022

Commander Mark Davis – Post 1991
Senior Vice Commander – Jeffrey Byrd – Post 2330
Junior Vice Commander – Teddy Pipkin – Post 2330
Judge Advocate – Elvin Tate – Post 5225
Surgeon – Rodney Wood – Post 7769

Commander-in-Chiefs Challenge October

The top post in each Division with the highest increase in membership between October 1 and October 31st will receive \$1000.00 deposited into the Post account.

COMMANDER'S NOTES

I don't have to tell you that membership is the key to being a success. In today's hard times you might wonder how to achieve these goals: PROGRAMS! If you would support your community and work hard on your programs, everything should fall into place. October 31 is the deadline for youth entries for the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy. Make yourself visible to your educators and community. If you work hard now, the benefits will pay off.

~Commander Davis

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S NOTES

In the links below are the rules/eligibility and entry form for the Teacher of the Year.

<https://vfw.org/uploads/Documents/TeacheroftheYearRulesandEligibility.pdf>

<https://vfw.org/uploads/Documents/TeacheroftheYearEntry.pdf>

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

Please keep in mind the deadline to have your entries submitted to Department Headquarters is January 1st, 2022. If I can assist in any way please do not hesitate to let me know.

In closing, THANK YOU to each and every member for everything you do! As always, I will continue to make myself available at any time to anyone who needs assistance. ARKANSAS STRONG!!

~ SVC Jeffrey Byrd

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER'S NOTES

I would like to thank the Council of Administration for electing me as the new JR Vice Commander for the Department of Arkansas. It is an honor and privilege to serve the members of the Department of Arkansas. As the Department revitalization chairman, I would like to reach out to any post in the department that may need some help revitalizing their post. It is important that the Department know if you need help. We can help, but, only if we know what the problems are. You always hear about membership. You always hear "let's get out and get new posts set up". I am here to tell you, let's start with the posts we have. We have heard statements that State doesn't care. I am here to tell you otherwise. Don't let your post get to the point where it gets suspended. Let us help you before it gets to that point. Having problems with membership, you can call the Department recruiter, Darrell Darner, and he will help you recruit. Having problems with compliance with state and national, get with the State Adjutant/Quartermaster, Christine Oldham. She can get you the information to get you back into compliance. It is vital that your 990's are completed. This will keep your non-profit status from being revoked. There are post that have not done their report of non-profit with the secretary of state. We have found when we go into a post to revitalize it after they send out letters to the members and tell them how vital it is for them to show up to a meeting, we have seen members start showing up and getting involved. Please, if you need help, reach out. That is what we are here for.

~JVC Teddy A. Pipkin

Chaplain's Notes

Romans 12:9-21, NIV

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Comrades, I know it's difficult to see our country, and the world, battling fires, floods, earthquakes, sickness, death, and division, among other things. I advise and pray that you have your own personal relationship with Jesus and keep His Word embedded in your heart.

If your Post is interested in starting a Bible Study, contact me @ 479-252-2700.

~Chaplain, Tanya Taylor

Veterans Service Officer

Please note the misinformation being circulated about VA refusing service to veterans due to not getting shots for Covid-19. The VA is not refusing service to veterans for this reason. Please refute any notices or conversations referring to this.

Robert Lafond Hot Spring County

DEPARTMENT - QUARTERLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following winners
Post of the Quarter – Post 4679 – Harrisburg – Commander Palmer
District of the Quarter – District 1 – Commander Tobey

Riders Group Meeting

The fall quarterly Riders Group meeting will be held at Post 5225, West Memphis Post, October 23, 2021. Lunch will be at noon with the meeting starting at 1300hrs. Come out and support and if your post is interested in having a Riders Group please attend to obtain more information.

Important Dates

Service Officer Training

Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs Training will be offered at the Airport Holiday Inn, October 13-15. Wednesday 12:00 p.m. thru Friday 12:00 p.m.
We sponsor, therefore any District and/or Post Service officers are welcome to attend, as long as there are seats available, please go to the website to register. <https://forms.gle/WexwzuENk2vaKxaR7>

Mid-Winter change

The dates for the Mid-Winter Convention Department of Arkansas are January 14-15, 2022 at Airport Holiday Inn.

State Convention location and date are pending

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

Update to Youth Programs and Deadline dates

Due to the change in Officers and change in Mid-Winter dates, we have adjusted the Youth Programs:

Youth Program Coordinator: Rodney Wood – 245 Swinging Bridge Road, Beebe, AR 72012, 501-658-5519, Rodney.wood7769@gmail.com

Voice of Democracy: Diana L. Rerucha – 19975 Legion Road, Harrisburg, AR 72432, 870-680-2936, srerucha@aol.com

Patriots Pin: Rodney Wood – 245 Swinging Bridge Road, Beebe, AR 72012, 501-658-5519, Rodney.wood7769@gmail.com

Teacher of the Year: Jeffrey Byrd – 110 Lake Ct, Beebe, AR 72012, 501-743-5235, jeffreybyrd2013@gmail.com

Deadline Dates: (VOD and PP)

Post receiving entries from youth	October 31, 2021
1 st place Post winners due to District's	November 20, 2021
1 st Place District winners due to Department Chairman	December 13, 2021

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Program Chairmen.

It is recommended that all VOD flash drive or CDs are one entry per participant. Participants should be encouraged to record their scripts using professional equipment at radio stations.

Nick Bacon: March 4, 2022, all entries due to Department Chairman
Scout of the Year: April 1, 2022, all entries due to Department Chairman
Teacher of the Year: Post winners are due to the Department Chairman by December 13, 2021

Winners will be announced at Mid-Winter. Presentation will come at a later date in their communities.

Nick Bacon Chairman -Please send the Nick Bacon Scholarships for Chairman Todd Willey, to VFW Department of Arkansas, Nick Bacon scholarship, 4210 East Kiehl Ave, Sherwood, AR 72120. They must be in his hands no later than March 4, 2022. Email todd.1.willey@gmail.com, phone 479-857-6069. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Scout of the Year Chairman – Please send District winners to Chairman Carder Ferguson, 1030 South 66th Street, email carderman72903@yahoo.com, 479-459-4317.

Public Servant & Safety - (Gold Badge) is Jim Lee, 252 South Bowser Road, Monticello, AR 71655, email monticellofem@aol.com, 479-387-6610. Deadline for all entries to be to the Department Chairman, 1 January 2020.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above-mentioned youth programs, please contact the Youth Program Coordinator, Rodney Wood – 245 Swinging Bridge Road, Beebe, AR 72012, 501-658-5519, Rodney.wood7769@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Update to community Service entries. After a detailed class from Director Rolf, National Programs Director, Arkansas is making the following changes to Community Service entries: Enter everything that you do outside your post that you are doing in the name of the VFW. Things inside the Post home, although you CANNOT include BINGO or dinners for Veterans, you CAN include the following: putting food together to deliver to Veteran's and Veteran's families, wrapping gifts to deliver to Veteran's kids. As you record these events, a lot of the credit has to do with how you word your description, be creative.

Remember, there is only one chairman reporting from each Post so please, write you hours down and get it to the leadership so they can consolidate, and the Post will get credit for Community Service.

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 8525- Plainview

BY COMMAND OF



Mark Davis
State Commander

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham
State Adjutant

Scheduled District Meetings: Check the Website vfwar.org; (calendar)

