

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

**These orders are to be read at each Post meeting.**

GENERAL ORDERS  
2021-2022 Series

March 2022

**Membership – 84.63%**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

As a Department we 1773 members to be 100%, District Commanders please start contacting your Post Commanders and push for the results. It is going to take each and every one of us to do our part to make this happen.

Arkansas has 6 Post that have reached 100% or higher, first the first time in a long time our Department is way behind the power curve, we can't make it alone, it takes a TEAM.

## **TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Congratulations to this years Teacher of the Year, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Arkansas

Angela Greene – District 9, Post 2586 Malvern  
Angela is from Wilson Intermediate School in Malvern, Arkansas

## **Districts Membership Percentages**

District 1 - Commander Tobey – 94.26%  
District 2 – Commander Lowman – 83.55%  
District 4 – Commander Tate – 93.39%  
District 5 – Commander Kidd – 82.40%  
District 6 – Commander Ham – 80.53%  
District 7 – Commander Strange – 77.98%  
District 9 – Commander Lafond – 86.35%  
District 10 – Commander Walker – 84.09%  
District 13 – Commander Callahan – 81.74%

## **Senior Vice Commanders Notes**

Everywhere I have traveled this year (and there have been a lot!) it has truly been humbling to see the many great things happening across the Department of Arkansas. From recruiting, to Post revitalization's, fund raisers, community service events, and so much more. If your Post or District are planning an event in your area, please keep in mind to get the word out and promote it as best you can. You never know who might just show up!

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!!

SV~ Jeffrey Byrd

### **Junior Vice Commanders Notes**

I would like to thank all the members who have donated to the VFW national home, we have raised over \$3100.00! The department has multiple revitalization teams working at this time. The department line officers and staff have been traveling to these posts and putting hours on the phone in our efforts to get all the posts in the state in good standing. Our efforts sometimes may not work but I can promise one thing, it is not from a lack of traveling, time or hours on the phone. In our efforts we have found that it is essential for you to be in contact with your members as much as possible. Some members may want to join our organization, not all want to be in a leadership role or even feel Comfortable coming to the post. One phone call could make all the difference. Thank you for all the hard work you have done for your Post, District, and YOUR Department.

JV ~Teddy A. Pipkin

### **Judge Advocate Notes**

Comrades sometimes things can get confusing at different levels of our Department, so always refer to the your Bylaws and Manual of Procedures to make sure that you're doing VFW's business the correct way. It's very important that you attend your post meetings and send a representative from your post to District meetings so that everyone is on the same page and is updated with the information that's put out at those meetings. If you have any questions, all of us at Department will make ourselves available for you at all times. Go Team Arkansas!!!

JA ~ Elvin Tate

### **Surgeon Notes**

March is a challenging month for Arkansas spring is trying to come in and winter is still trying to hold on. We will have temperatures go from 70's in the day to 20's at night. We all experience colds this time of year and we still have COVID to worry about. The big problem is that both symptoms are tied close together, so please if you have any breathing problems or think that the possibility is there go to the doctor. They are the only ones that will be able to tell you what is going on with your health. If you would like to get a home COVID test go to <https://www.covidtests.gov/> to get your free test. Please take care of yourself because every member of this organization is important.

SURGEON ~ Rodney Wood

## **Parade of Winners Legislative Conference**

Due to circumstances out of our control the VFW, Legislative Conference has been moved to virtual. Therefore April 7, 2022 @ 7:00 pm will be the virtual parade of winners, please go and watch and support.

The Legislative portion will also be virtual on March 9, 2022 for Legislative Chairman and Department Leadership. If there is a topic you think needs to be brought up please contact our Legislative Chairman Tanya Taylor, [chaplain@vfw.org](mailto:chaplain@vfw.org).

### **SCOUT OF THE YEAR Deadline 1 March, 2022**

All entries for Scout of the Year should be submitted to Department Chairman Carder Ferguson, 1030 South 66<sup>th</sup> Street, Ft Smith, AR 72903 email [carderman72903@yahoo.com](mailto:carderman72903@yahoo.com)

### **NICK BACON SCHOLARSHIP Deadline 4 March, 2022**

All entries for Nick Bacon should be submitted to Department Chairman Todd Willey, 601 Dave Creek Parkway, Fairfield Bay, AR 72088, email [todd.l.willey@gmail.com](mailto:todd.l.willey@gmail.com). Phone 479-857-6069.

### **STATE CONVENTION Save the dates – June 2-5, 2022**

State Convention will be at the Arlington Hotel located in Hot Springs, AR, June 5 – 12, 2022. The room rate is \$105.00 – single, \$110.00 – double, plus \$10.00 resort fee plus tax. Hotel number is 501-609-2558. There will only be one banquet, which will be Friday night awards and farewell, roaring 20's is the theme, \$40.00 a person. We will be mails information to all Post, please also share with your Auxiliaries. Buddy Poppies All three (3) categories.

### **Hospitality**

Department has blocked several hospitality suites at a cost of \$250.00 a night for convention, if your post and/or district is interested please notify the Department Quartermaster to make reservations, there is only four (4) remaining.

### **ALL-STATE**

Deadline for entry is April 22, 2022, **to assure hat orders** to include the NEW Department Medallion. Post and District Commanders, by 15 March 2021 there will be an All State check list on our web site [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under resources. If you would please get this form answer all questions and email it to the headquarters at [adjqm@vfw.org](mailto:adjqm@vfw.org) in order to be in the running for the award.

The Medallion is only for first award at Post or District level, any of the same awards is a pin that you would put on the ribbon of the award.

New Award, second year, the Department leadership team has established an All State Medallion for Posts and/or Districts, however if you are a previous All State we request that

you bring proof with you to State Convention. After awards have been presented, they will be available for purchase. (\$20 for Medallion and \$10 for pin)

### **ALL-AMERICAN**

The membership percentages are needed in order to qualify for the All-American status is over 100%, but only the top 25 post in your division will be selected. For Districts, you must be in the top 10 of your Division. Please watch your Division.

### **123<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION**

The 123<sup>rd</sup> National Convention for the currently slated for in-person July 16-21, 2022, in Kansas City, MO. The housing is officially opened. For reservations call 877-464-6840, the forms can be found on vfw.org.

### **Delegates**

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.

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.

On all levels are reminded that according to Section 105 of the National By-Laws, a member whose dues are unpaid after their anniversary date ceases to be a member in good standing and loses all rights of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They shall not attend meetings or conventions and shall not participate in Post, County Council, District, Department or National functions.

### **Resolutions and Department By-Laws Recommended Changes**

It is that time of year where we must start looking at the Department By-Laws for changes. Anyone having any recommended changes are to forward them NLT 15 April 2021 for the By-Laws Committee to review them at the April Committee meeting and inclusion in the General Orders for everyone to see.

### **DISTRICT COMMANDERS**

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. 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.

### **Loyalty Day and Memorial Day Observance**

Section 223 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.

### **INSTALLING OFFICERS**

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed.

Post Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-laws and the Manual of Procedures covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post-Election Reports forms are not being mailed. The Post must go online through Online Membership System no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Department Staff WILL help anyone with this task. Just give us a call and it takes about 3 minutes; have the newly elected officers' membership #'s and we will assist.

**PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICERS:** All Posts and Districts should be reminded of the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-laws and Manual of Procedure which states that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility has been submitted to their respective Adjutant for review.

**ROTC and JROTC Awards:** Each year scores of high school and universities write to National Headquarters requesting the VFW ROTC Awards. Posts willing to sponsor these awards should contact the Professor of Military Sciences at the school(s) in your area and inform them of your sponsorship. Medals and ribbon bars and citations are available through

the VFW Emblem and Supply Department or VFW Department Headquarters, certificate and medal are each at a cost of \$10.

## **BUDDY POPPIES**

“BUDDY”® POPPIES DISTRIBUTION: The distribution of VFW “Buddy”® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Section 711 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies in their respective areas.

NOTE: As the upcoming Memorial Day approaches and given the daily hazards confronting our military on a daily basis during operations in Afghanistan, it is appropriate that we direct as many VFW resources as possible to supporting our troops and their families.

In the ongoing effort to provide as much assistance as possible to those serving in the military, we recommend that proceeds or portions from this year’s annual poppy distribution be designated for the purpose of providing VFW support to our military. Posts and Departments now have the opportunity to assist qualified military personnel through the VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs.

In keeping with the intent of Sections 219(a)(c) and 704(a)(c) of the Manual of Procedure “Relief Fund,” this year’s poppy campaign can play a direct role in demonstrating to those who are charged with protecting and defending our way of life that we appreciate and value their sacrifice.

Post Business:

Charter Surrender –

Post 4566 -Wynne, District 4

Suspended –

Post 4687 – Melbourne, District 2

Post 5742 – Cotter, District 2

Mark Davis  
State Commander

OFFICIAL  
Christine Oldham

State Adjutant