

## Membership

### **COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE "THE FINISH LINE IS IN SIGHT"**

With the possibility of historic growth ahead of us, it is time for every VFW Post to focus on recruiting and retention! We can make that 102% goal happen! From the beginning of May through the end of the membership year on June 30, the Commander-in-Chief is issuing one final membership challenge: the Post in each membership division that shows the highest membership increase in these last two months will receive a \$500 cash award and a \$500 gift certificate to the VFW Store.

This is going to count all dues-paying members: new members, renewing members, reinstates, and paying transfers! Get out there and push for that 102 % and beyond!

In addition, the Commander of the Department with the most Posts above 102 percent as well as the Commander of the Department with the highest percentage of their Posts above 102 % will each receive a special Commander-in-Chief windbreaker jacket to commemorate all the hard work shown by the Department through the year!

We've done amazing work so far, let's finish the membership year strong! This is our chance to make membership history. Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of it! It's time to make one final push this year to **MEET THE CHALLENGE!**

This contest will compare membership percentages from May 1-June 30, 2024. Applications and payments processed online before close of business will be credited that day, payments and applications made through the mail will be processed when received. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

### **DEPARTMENT "102 PERCENT" INCENTIVE**

Any Department that attains 102% in membership by close of business on June 30, 2024, will be entered into a random drawing. The Commander and the Quartermaster for the Department that is selected will each receive:

- **A \$2,500 voucher through Veterans Travel Services (VTS) applied towards airfare, accommodations, and transportation for a trip of their own choice.**

### **NEW POST DEVELOPMENT & POST REVITALIZATION DEPARTMENT AWARD**

Congratulations to the Department of Arkansas for chartering a new Post 12233, Perryville, Arkansas, on May 18, 2024, and the Department of Texas for chartering another Post 12234, Lago Vista, Texas, on May 21, 2024. If you have questions about Memstats, Post Query, or if you are trying to charter a Post and you have more than (15) members on a charter application, give me a call, Matt Nute at 816.968.1122. We have many resources available to help you.

**New Post Development and Post Revitalization Department Award:** For each new Post chartered, and/or revitalized, the Department Quartermaster will receive:

- A \$250 credit from the VFW Store to be used towards necessary materials for the new Post.

For details on this and all other All-American membership incentives view the Commander-in-Chief's National Membership Program at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under *Membership Recruiting & Retention*. For any questions or further information, please contact the Membership Department via email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

### **UPCOMING TRAINING**

Membership Monday training webinar will be on June 10, 2024, at 2:00 PM, CDT, Topic: **Mistakes to Avoid at Year End**. As you push through the end to finish strong this year, there are some things you can do to make next year even better! Join the webinar to learn more best practices. We urge you to pass along this information to all who would be interested.

### **CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to view the latest membership news, Post Shout-Outs, and important resource information throughout the year - [facebook.com/VFWmembership/](https://facebook.com/VFWmembership/).

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!**

Top Three Recruiters (as of 5.28.24):

**Timothy M. Borland – 742**  
VFW Post 9972, Dept. of AZ

**Steven L. Woodward – 735**  
VFW Post 2224, Dept. of WA

**Ed Stefanak, Jr. – 320**  
VFW Post 9539, Dept. of SC

### **LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are 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:**

| <b><u>Levels</u></b> | <b><u>Posts</u></b> | <b><u>Departments</u></b> | <b><u>National</u></b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 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                 |

*What will your Legacy be?*

## VFW Foundation

The Burger King®/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign was held in May with nearly 1,150 Burger King® Franchise restaurants participating. Customers were able to donate a dollar or round up their purchase price. Since 2007, Burger King® Franchisees have raised nearly \$7.5 million in support of the Unmet Needs program which provides financial aid grants to veterans, service members, and their families who are experiencing unexpected financial difficulties. When final donation totals are calculated, we will provide updated information.

The VFW Foundation received a \$10,000 grant from Brown Forman in support of the VFW National Convention and \$50,000 from Fiserv (\$10,000 for Convention sponsorship, \$40,000 for NVS support).

Brooke Brown, Director, Corporate & Foundation Relations is finalizing VFW National Convention sponsorships with a total of \$518,000 secured thus far!

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse, [RFreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:RFreiburghouse@vfw.org).

## VFW National Convention

Housing opened March 17 and the response, again this year, has been overwhelming! Many Department blocks are now **SOLD OUT**. Where, and if possible, we have secured additional rooms at our official VFW hotels. However, as we have a large number of rooms blocked with the hotels, we are at capacity. VFW Departments were notified on Thursday, May 9, any remaining rooms available by Monday, May 13, would be put into “general sale” (one main block) in order to fulfill as many waitlisted reservations as possible. The **June 10** housing reservation deadline was **NOT** a guarantee there would be rooms available in your Department block by that date. Housing reservations are **always first-come, first-served**. Based on our needs, and if available, we will work with overflow hotels to secure additional rooms as needed. We will keep VFW Departments updated on the housing situation.

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION** – Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states 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 VFW National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register online by going to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

## Development

Here is some helpful information about why the support of every VFW member is vitally important. VFW's life-changing programs are not possible through membership dues alone. In fact, **membership dues alone cover just 17% of the cost of programs**. As a nonprofit organization, the VFW relies heavily on the generosity of its members and patriotic supporters. When members donate, 100% of their net donation goes directly back to support their Department. *Please spread the word and give as generously as you are able.*

**June Currency Campaign** – This month, the VFW will be sending a special package to its members, containing currency and a check. As a committed member and advocate for your fellow veterans, you understand the critical importance of supporting the VFW. Every nickel and each check returned to the VFW makes a significant impact and contributes to supporting vital programs. These programs work tirelessly to advocate for veterans' rights, assist veterans in accessing their deserved benefits, and provide essential support to military families. Please return the nickels and check so that the VFW can maximize its resources to provide life-changing assistance to fellow veterans and service members. Additionally, we kindly ask for your most generous contribution. Displaying the United States flag is a powerful symbol of your solidarity with your fellow veterans. Thank you for your unwavering support.

**Independence Day is Coming Up** – The VFW is preparing for a special online celebration of freedom with our annual observance of Independence Day. Please visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) to find ways you can honor our nation's veterans and service members by spreading a message of patriotism and remembrance to your friends and family.

**July Matching Gift Campaign** – Also coming up next month, good friends of the VFW are extending an offer to **triple your donation**. By sending back one of the vouchers included in your package, your generosity will help fellow defenders get the vital support they need— times three!

**Free Estate Planning Resources from the VFW** – What's the best way to plan out your estate if you have an extended family, a complex set of assets, or want to leave money to a nonprofit like the VFW? You hire a qualified estate planning attorney. While this may seem difficult, we've compiled several simple steps you can follow to find the best person for the job: <https://vfw.planmylegacy.org/find-estate-planning-attorney>. You can also always contact the VFW Planned Giving Office with your questions at 816.968.1119 or by sending us an email at [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org).

**Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism?** – Adjutant General Dan West would like you to join with him in supporting 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 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 and a Year-End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department toll-free at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at [partners@vfw.org](mailto:partners@vfw.org) with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

**VFW Friends of Freedom** – If you are not already a member of the VFW's online community, please visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and look for the gold banner that says "**Find Out What's Happening**" to sign up. As a member of the VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts, and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit [vfw.org/VFWatWork](http://vfw.org/VFWatWork) and click on "**Read VFW success stories**" to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans' rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

**Department Resources** – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. By visiting [heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools](https://heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools), you will find the latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mail schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the tools found on the VFW Department Resources Page to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

To qualify for All-American, a **minimum donation of \$100** must be donated to **VMS** by **June 30, 2024**. VMS donations will only be handled through the Dashboard. All Posts must click on the “VMS Donation” tab on the Dashboard to donate. The link will point them to OMS. Please do not send checks to the National Headquarters. If a Post does not use a credit card, the Post will send their donation to their Department HQs and the Department HQs will submit the donation for their Post. Credit will automatically update on the Dashboard daily. Overseas Departments will donate for the other programs through the link also in lieu of participation. This will automatically update daily.

**Do not use the red donate link** in the upper right-hand corner of this webpage. This is for general donation purposes only.

### **125<sup>th</sup> National Convention – Louisville, KY**

As we plan for the **2024 National Convention**, we have already sent out the **2024-2025 VMS Lapel Pin notification and order form and the May 15, 2024, deadline to order has passed**. They will be available for pick up at our booth at the convention. **Payment cannot be made prior to July 1, 2024**. Please use the **VMS Donation** link on the Dashboard to pay for your order after **July 1, 2024, for the 2024-2025 program year**.

### **VMS Program Chair Tools**

The Veterans & Military Support Program Chair Tools webpage is updated every month. Link to the webpage is <https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support/VMSP-Chair-Tools>.

### **VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”**

The **2025 Spring Semester** will open August 1, 2024, and will be available online at [vfw.org/Scholarship](https://vfw.org/Scholarship).

**Continue to do what you are doing and thank you for your support!**

## VFW Programs

**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 [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag](https://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag).

**PROGRAMS DASHBOARD TOOL. (NOTE: Previously ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD)**

Please encourage Posts to read the 2023-24 Membership program. Military Assistance Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance has been received from National HQs to supplement the Unmet Needs financial grants & VFW Sport Clips Help a Hero scholarship statistics. The information charts reside in the KPI tools section.

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM.** This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time to outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards. For more information, see the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairperson's Guide or contact Tammy at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

**FLAG DAY, JUNE 14.** All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Friday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award (Product No. 4385) for those who have daily displayed our National flag.

**PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11.** Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11, is designated as "Patriot Day." The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here [vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic](http://vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic).

**VFW 22nd ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION SILENT AUCTION INFORMATION.** It is time again to check out the variety of great items that are donated by our VFW Departments. You will be able to view and bid on these items as they are received. Bidding begins at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 27, and goes on until Monday, July 29, at 3 p.m. when the bidding ends. Winners may pay for their items after 3:00 p.m., Monday at a specific register at the VFW Store until 4:00 p.m. For those winners unavailable Monday, may pay on Tuesday, July 30, beginning at 8:00 a.m., until NOON (12:00 p.m.), when the exhibit hall closes. Items not paid and picked up after this time will be returned to VFW National Headquarters and dispersed from there. Winning bidders are contacted for a shipping address and shipping costs will be applied to their bid. If we are unable to contact that person, the item will be offered to the next highest bidder.

**VFW HONOR'S AMERICA'S NATIONAL 2023-2024 TEACHERS IN JULY.**

Congratulations to the following teachers who were selected National winners for 2023-24:

Elementary School level – Eugene V. Struzik, III, Northwest Elementary School, Dodge City, Kansas, selected by VFW Post 1714, Dodge City, Kansas.

Middle School level – Monica Galloway, Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School, Laurel, Maryland, selected by VFW Post 9376, Clinton, Maryland.

High School level – Edward M. Graf, Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School, Bridgewater, New Jersey, selected by VFW Post 7858, Bernardsville, New Jersey.

Their national awards will be presented on Tuesday, July 30, during the VFW National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Please show your support during their presentations if you are available.

**NEW UPDATES.** VFW National Programs has updated the Fred C. Hall and Outstanding Community Service Post award programs starting this program year. Please share this with your Community Service Chairpersons.

**FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE.** Each year on July 1, the national Programs office will determine the top community service Posts in each conference, based off their community service reporting and total impact, from July 1 to June 30 the previous year. Your community service total impact is figured by the money spent to host and organize the community service event, plus total hours all volunteers participated, plus the mileage for all volunteers (Dollars Donated + Hours + Mileage = Total Impact).

These four Posts will be awarded the Fred C. Hall Memorial Award for Community Service and will be invited to attend the VFW National Convention. The Post Commander (or designated representative) and a guest will receive round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations for five nights, and a \$599 stipend to receive the award at the VFW National Convention.

**OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST OF THE YEAR.** Each Department will have an OCSF winner based on total impact also. National will select based on end of year reports on July 1. Winners will also be published in the Convention program booklet and receive a street sign identifying this national award for the Post to put up in their community.

**IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!** It is the perfect time to contact schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships.

Please remember that Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are VFW programs supported by the VFW Auxiliary. It is inappropriate for a VFW Auxiliary to conduct separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email [Jlinstra@vfw.org](mailto:Jlinstra@vfw.org) or call 816.968.1155.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2024–25 themes were chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt. The Voice of Democracy theme will be **"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"** and the Patriot's Pen theme will be **"My Voice in America's Democracy?"**

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ENTRY FORMS.** The new 2024-25 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: [vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy](https://vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy) for Voice of Democracy and [vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen](https://vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen) for Patriot's Pen.

**NOTE:** Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen posters are available!

**“UPDATED” POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS.** Under previous Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997), it indicated there were only six days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices were required to display the POW/MIA flag. Now under new law, Public Law 116-67 (Feb. 21, 2020), it is required that the POW/MIA flag be flown on all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to [vfwstore.org/products/GP237](http://vfwstore.org/products/GP237).

**IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot’s Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

## VFW Member Benefits

### **Benefit Program for VFW Members: Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+®)**

EA+ is designed to assist travelers in navigating unexpected medical challenges while on vacation, ensuring they can travel confidently, knowing that support is available when needed. EA+ provides services that are typically not covered by travel or health insurance. Services include:

- Medical Assistance
- Emergency Medical Evacuation
- Transportation Home
- Transportation of Remains
- Nurse Escort
- Companion Assistance

With year-round world travel protection, you can confidently book your next vacation, assured that EA+ has your back with 24-hour assistance you can trust. EA+ offers membership plans that best fit your needs. [Learn more.](#)

## “Buddy”® Poppy

**NATIONAL “BUDDY”® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.** The time frame for registering and setting up the Department winning Buddy Poppy displays for the National judging at convention will be the same as usual. Department winning entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 27, until noon, Monday, July 29, 2024. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced during the Business Session on Wednesday, July 31. **Please Note: Displays must be removed by noon on Tuesday, July 30.** Any displays left after this time will be removed by convention center personnel during the disassembly of the hall and be discarded.

**“BUDDY”® POPPY CAMPAIGN.** Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades.



Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of three (3) weeks in advance of your distribution date.

#### BUDDY POPPY POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

- 1) Departments must order poppies through OMS.
- 2) All claims of non-receipt of a Buddy Poppy order must be made within 60 days of the date of the order or will NOT be replaced free of charge.
- 3) All orders for the traditional Buddy Poppy, Anniversary Poppies or tin tab poppies must be placed through your Department Headquarters. Auxiliaries must go through their Post to order all poppies.
- 4) The tin tabs do count towards the Buddy Poppy requirement for the All-American program.
- 5) If you do not receive your order within four weeks of placing it with your department, please contact your Department Headquarters to report you have not received your order.
- 6) All poppies are shipped within 10 days of ordering except orders placed in June and July, due to preparation for National Convention, please allow an additional five business days.

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at [vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy) or by calling Member Service Center at 1.833.839.8387.

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 chairperson’s guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit 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.

**VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES.** The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out unless you are currently in your 100th year. These are ordered through the Department in OMS and processed the same as the red poppies. Currently we have no plans to replenish inventory of Anniversary poppies due to increased cost and the small quantities we sell of Anniversary Poppies. Based on the past four years’ sales, we have sufficient inventory for the next 2.5 years of the Gold, 4 years of Diamond and 51 years of the Silver.

VFW is seeking volunteers including students who are willing to make a difference in a veteran’s life through the VA Voluntary Service program. Whether you can volunteer once, occasionally, or regularly your assistance and time is priceless to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and our Nation’s Veterans.

VFW membership is not required to participate in this program, so encourage family, friends, and community members to support veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors! See [www.vfw.org/VolunteerService](http://www.vfw.org/VolunteerService) for more information and to contact a VFW Volunteer Representative at your local VA facilities.

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

### VA Program to Help Veterans Facing Foreclosure

On May 31, 2024, VA launched the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase (VASP) program to help more than 40,000 veterans facing foreclosure on their homes. Through VASP, VA will purchase defaulted VA loans from mortgage servicers, modify the loans, and then place them in the VA-owned portfolio as direct loans. This will empower VA to work directly with eligible veterans to adjust their loans and monthly payments so they can keep their homes. In October 2022, VA ended its COVID-19 Veterans Assistance Partial Claim Payment program (COVIDVAPCP), which offered a financial option for veterans who lost their jobs during the pandemic and needed mortgage forbearance. Since the sunset of this temporary program, tens of thousands of veterans have ended their mortgage forbearances with few affordable options to pay back their missed payments and have been faced with foreclosure of their homes. Veterans with questions about avoiding foreclosure can contact a VA loan technician by calling 877-827-3702. [Read more.](#)

### VA Adds Option for Commemorative Plaque or Urn

Beginning on June 10, 2024, the families of certain cremated veterans may apply to receive a commemorative plaque or urn from VA. Family members are eligible to apply only if they have chosen not to inter a loved one in a VA National Cemetery or receive a government-furnished headstone, marker, or medallion for placement in any cemetery. [Read more](#) about additional eligibility criteria or [burial benefits](#).

## Administrative Operations

In an effort to better serve the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, tools are available at "VFW Training and Support." There you will find Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates; training material relating to Membership Recruiting and Retention; Community Service & Youth Programs; Communications & Public Affairs; Post Service Officers; and Veterans & Military Support. To utilize these valuable training guides, videos, forms and templates, please login at [vfw.org/#login](http://vfw.org/#login), proceed to "My VFW" and click the link "VFW Training and Support."

The online "Document Repository" is a system of managing documents utilized primarily by Department Officers and members of the National Council of Administration.

**Important Reminder:** The 2024-25 Department Roster is now an Online Membership System (OMS) submitted report. The interactive report will cover reporting of all Department elected and appointed officers and committee chairmen. In addition, the District Election Report is also contained within the Online Membership System (OMS). Portions of the District report will feed into the Department report (i.e. the District Commander position). Adjutants and Quartermasters can access the roster by logging into their OMS account under the "Election Report" drop down in the left-hand navigation pane. Membership numbers of each elected/appointed officer and/or chairman is needed to complete the report. Your cooperation in completing the roster immediately following your convention is appreciated. Any additions, corrections or changes will be submitted through OMS as they occur throughout the year.

**Twisted X** has partnered with the VFW and is offering a selection of footwear for sale through the VFW Store. Click [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=twisted%20x](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=twisted%20x) to shop.

Order your patriotic items now for your **4<sup>th</sup> of July** celebration. VFW Store has table runners, patriotic apparel, flags, jewelry and more. Go to [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/4thofjuly?page=1&size=100](http://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/4thofjuly?page=1&size=100).

Don't forget your **Officer Cap, pins and accessories**. Orders can be placed at [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org) or by calling 833.VFW.VETS. We also have a variety of business essentials, from business cards to padfolios, ink stamps to award certificates. To see all the options, go to [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/officergiftsandawards?page=1&size=100](http://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/officergiftsandawards?page=1&size=100).



1. **Posts that have not sent in a Post Election Report Form listing the Post Officers for 2024-2025 should do so immediately for matter of record and so mailings can be made to the proper officers within the Post. Not doing so will subject the Post to actions within our National Bylaws.**
2. Departments need to submit their official roster to National Headquarters immediately following their Department Convention so correspondence may be directed to the proper officers in each Department.
3. Attention is directed to the provision of Section 222 (d) of the National Bylaws, “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.” Post Quartermasters are encouraged to register their delegate on-line through the Online Membership System (OMS). Posts failing to comply with this provision will be considered delinquent and in arrears.
4. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:  
  
Post Nos. 7452 and 468 consolidated as Post No. 7452, Montgomery, Illinois  
Post Nos. 2289 and 6599 consolidated as Post No. 2289, Seattle Washington
5. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charter for the following Post:  
  
Post No. 12233 – Perryville, Arkansas  
Post No. 12234 – Lago Vista, Texas

BY COMMAND OF  
DUANE T. SARMIENTO  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:



Dan West  
Adjutant General

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

406 W. 34th Street      Office 816.756.3390  
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## PLANNING CALENDAR

### SCHEDULE OF VFW MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rev. June 2024

#### 2024

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| July 27 - August 1      | National Convention<br>Louisville, KY                            |
| August 22 - 25          | Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming<br>Savannah, GA                  |
| September 5             | National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting<br>Kansas City, MO   |
| September 6 - 7         | National Council of Administration Meeting<br>Kansas City, MO    |
| September 9 - 12        | Fall Legislative Committee Meeting<br>Washington, DC             |
| September 12 - 15       | Department Adjutant/Quartermasters Training<br>Kansas City, MO   |
| September 22 - 26       | Accredited Service Officer Skill Level Training<br>Annapolis, MD |
| September 22 - 27       | Accredited Service Officer BASIC Training<br>Annapolis, MD       |
| October 10 - 13         | Junior Vice Commanders Training<br>Kansas City, MO               |
| October 18 - 20         | Big Ten Conference<br>Indianapolis, IN                           |
| October 31 - November 3 | Western Conference<br>Honolulu, HI                               |
| November 1 - 3          | Eastern Conference<br>Burlington, VT                             |
| November 7 - 9          | Southern Conference<br>Nashville, TN                             |

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## **2025**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| February 28 – March 4 | Voice of Democracy<br>Washington, DC (Tentative)                           |
| March 1- 5            | Washington Conference<br>Washington, DC (Tentative)                        |
| April 10 – 13         | Senior Vice Commanders Training<br>Kansas City, MO                         |
| June 28               | VFW National Home 100th Anniversary Celebration<br>Eaton Rapids, MI        |
| August 9 - 13         | National Convention<br>Columbus, OH  |
| September 19          | National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting<br>Kansas City, MO             |
| September 20 – 21     | National Council of Administration Meeting<br>Kansas City, MO              |
| September 25 - 28     | Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming<br>Des Moines, IA                          |
| October 2 -5          | Department Adjutant/Quartermasters Training<br>Kansas City, MO (Tentative) |
| October 16 – 19       | Junior Vice Commanders Training<br>Kansas City, MO                         |
| October 24 – 26       | Eastern Conference<br>Wilmington, DE                                       |

## **2026**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| August 15 - 19  | National Convention<br>Salt Lake City, UT |
| October 22 - 25 | Southern Conference<br>Mobile, AL         |

## **2027**

|                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| July 31 - August 4 | National Convention<br>Milwaukee, WI |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|

## **2028**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| August 5 - 10 | National Convention<br>San Antonio, TX |
|---------------|--|