

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**



**DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA**

**NUMBER 4**

403 Lee Jackson Highway  
(540) 886-8112

**"Unity Brings Victory"**

FAX: 866-416-0586  
Website: [www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)  
Email: [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org)

**October 1, 2025**

Staunton, Virginia 24401  
In Virginia 800-888-3521

**GUIDE TO THE GO:**

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**1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:**

Comrades and Auxiliary,

As we head into fall, it's a great time to reflect on the work we've accomplished and prepare for the busy months ahead. With cooler weather and seasonal events approaching, let's stay focused on supporting our veterans and communities through outreach, service, and engagement.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed in October—a time to honor survivors, remember those we've lost, and raise awareness about the importance of early detection. Please help spread the word and encourage regular screenings.

Thank you to all the Posts that have completed their VFW Community Activity Reports. Your dedication to documenting service and outreach efforts helps showcase the impact we have across our communities. Timely and accurate reporting strengthens our ability to advocate for resources and recognition at every level.

Recruiting remains vital to the strength and future of the VFW. Fall is one of the best times to host recruiting events, with many community gatherings, Veterans Day observances, and cooler temperatures creating ideal opportunities to connect with potential members. Every new member strengthens our mission and expands our reach.

A reminder that the Commander and Auxiliary President's Homecoming will be held on October 11 at 5:00 pm at VFW Post 1503. If you haven't registered yet, please refer to the flyer included in this month's General Orders for details.

Thanks again for all you do and for your continued support of our veterans and community. Your commitment truly makes a difference.

Yours in Comradeship  
Douglas "Doug" Hoffman, State Commander

**2. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:**

The National Bylaws provide for only one type of membership: active membership. There are no provisions in the National Bylaws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW Bylaws or procedures.

**3. ALL STATE UPDATE:**

Attached in the General Orders in an updated All State Program and All State Post Check list.

**4. AUDIT REPORTS:**

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 ended September 30<sup>th</sup> and is **NOW PAST DUE**.

**5. BONDS:**

**All bonds expired August 31, 2025.**

Please see July or August General Orders for the rate schedule for the cost of your bond and return completed forms and payment to State Headquarters. Please note Quartermaster Bond rate **is for** the Post Officers. There is a separate schedule for your canteen employees and others who are not Post Officers but need to be bonded. Remember that persons on any/or all accounts the Post has **MUST BE BONDED**.

**EACH PERSON BONDED MUST BE ON A SEPARATE FORM. EXAMPLE DO NOT PUT QM AND COMMANDER ON SAME FORM, THERE MUST BE TWO FORMS COMPLETED BEFORE BONDS CAN BE PROCESSED. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHICH FORM YOU SHOULD BE USING CONTACT STATE HEADQUARTERS.**

**6. BUDDY POPPY:**

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.

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.

**7. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:**

All officers should obtain current 2025 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the revised edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2025 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 125th National Convention, which became effective on Aug. 13, 2025.

**8. CONTROL OF UNITS:**

All Commanders are reminded that Section 709, Manual of Procedure - Control of Units, requires that any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or in behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department and that all money, property or assets of any kind or nature, must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster. All Commanders should ensure that all provisions of Section 709 are enforced.

**9. DELINQUENT:**

District	Post	Fee	Bonds	Audits	District	Post	Fee	Bonds	Audits
2	2296	\$ 10.00	Expired	June	11	4204		Expired	
2	12217		Expired		11	8479		Expired	
3	7167		Expired	June	11	9339	\$ 10.00	Expired	
4	7819	\$ 10.00			12	District		Expired	
4	7897		Expired		12	4301	\$ 10.00		
4	12200		Expired		12	5715			March, June
6	2157	\$ 15.00			12	6975		Expired	
6	4299	\$ 5.00			12	7360	\$ 10.00		
6	5311	\$ 15.00			12	9600		Expired	
7	8613	\$ 15.00			12	9830		Expired	
9	4667		Expired		12	9864	\$ 10.00	Expired	
9	7726		Expired		13	District		Expired	
10	5412		Expired		13	8947		Expired	
10	8241		Expired						

**10. DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS:**

Members now have the ability to download their digital version of their membership card. Depending on whether a member has an iPhone or Android, they will be able to download and access their digital membership card from the VFW app.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card on their smart phone.

## 11. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Date: February Meeting: TBD Location: Sponsored by Post 8252  Rep:	7 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 1/17/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Ways State Cdr Doug Hoffman
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Date: 11/8/25 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 4809 Norfolk 5728 Barte Street Rep: PSC Eric Mallett	8 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 12/6/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 7728 Bealeton 12496 Harpers Run Rd Rep:
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Date: 11/8/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: To follow Meeting Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane Rep: St Adj/QM Mann	9 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 1/17/26 Meeting: 10:00 am Location: Post 9696 Bluefield 131 Loverslane St Rep:
4 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 11/15/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 8759 Amelia 16440 Five Forks Road Rep: State Cdr Doug Hoffman	10 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 12/6/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 8241 McLean 1051 Springhill Rd Rep: St JVC Charles Bush
5 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 11/15/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep:	11 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 1/24/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9339 Stuarts Draft 3251 Stuarts Draft Highway Rep: State Cdr Doug Hoffman
6 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 12/6/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke (sponsored Post 4299) 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: PSC Mitch Rubenstein	12 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 11/15/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 17581 Lee Highway Rep: St Judge Advocate Randy Coker
		13 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 11/15/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville 1170 River Road Rep: St JVC Mark Maggio

## 12. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts will reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails the week after the State Convention. This will be the primary means of sending correspondence from State Headquarters to Post and District Officers.

You will receive all General Orders, special notices and any other documentation that you need via email. This will help cut down on postal expenses and speed up the response time for you receiving the information.

Here are directions for logging into your new account for the first time.

1. Go to Department web site [www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org).
2. Click on Resources, Microsoft 365.
3. The username is your email address; put that on the first line (see below for your new address).
4. Your default password will be **VFW2025!** once you have accessed the mail program you will be asked to change it; it must contain at least one uppercase letter and one number.

For Post Officers, your address will be [cdrpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrpost176@vfwva.org) where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

[adjpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:adjpost176@vfwva.org)  
[qmpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:qmpost176@vfwva.org)

For District Officers your address will be [cdrdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrdist1@vfwva.org) for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with your district # **Please note District Senior Vice Commander's now have an email address**

[svrdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:svrdist1@vfwva.org)  
[adjdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:adjdist1@vfwva.org)  
[qmdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:qmdist1@vfwva.org)

### 13. GENERAL ORDERS:

The cut off for the General Orders is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. No EXCEPTIONS. Subscriptions for hard copy General Orders are \$30.00 for the year. Contact State Headquarters for more info.

### 14. IMPORTANT DATES:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| October 11, 2025         | Homecoming at VFW Post 1503, 14631 Minnieville Rd, Dale City at 6:30 pm Deadline for tickets, September 22, 2025 (see insert)  |
| November 6 - 9, 2025     | Southern Conference, Montgomery, TX (see Department of Texas website for more information)   |
| January 8 - 11, 2026     | Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is Monday, December 8, 2025, by 5:00 pm. |
| May 27 - 30, 2026        | State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$99.00 per night. Cutoff Date is April 26, 2026, by 5:00 pm.          |
| July 25 - 29, 2026       | National Convention, Reno, Nevada  |
| October 22 - 25, 2026    | Southern Conference, Mobile, AL  |
| January 13 - 15, 2027    | Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$110.00 per night. Cutoff Date is December 12, 2027, by 5:00 pm.        |
| June 6 - 12, 2027        | State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$119.00 per night. Cutoff Date is May 5, 2027, by 5:00 pm.            |
| July 31 - August 4, 2027 | National Convention, Milwaukee, WI   |

January 12 - 14, 2028 Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$119.00 per night. Cutoff Date is December 11, 2028, by 5:00 pm.

June 21 – 24, 2028 State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is May 20, 2028, by 5:00 pm.

August 5 - 10, 2028 National Convention, San Antonio, TX

## **15. INCORPORATION:**

The attention of the Post Commander is directed to section 708 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the procedure for the Incorporation of Units. It shall be the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure full compliance with both sections and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc., are met in a timely manner.

Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of section 708 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities.

## **16. IRS FORM 8822-B:**

IRS Form 8822-B, it is now a requirement by the IRS that all Posts submit this form. This form must be submitted anytime the Post Quartermaster changes and/or the Post address changes. This has been effective January 1, 2014.

Here is the link to get the form and instructions – <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822b.pdf>. This will also apply to all Auxiliaries that have their own EIN numbers.

## **17. JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:**

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations met on September 18 at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, VA.

The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services, Chuck Zingler, reported that Virginia's Digital Hub has been upgraded to make it more user friendly. He asked the JLC to encourage veteran signups. He also reported that the Puller Veterans Care Center at Vint Hill is scheduled to open by the end of 2025.

In the past year DVS has processed over 130,000 claims with the VA with approximately 80% of those being successfully settled. Other claims may require appeal or additional information.

The JLC reviewed initiatives for the upcoming legislative session. I am pleased to report that the VFW Virginia's initiative to ban Claim Sharks was assigned Priority One.

The following initiatives were approved:

1. Prohibit companies from preying on veterans seeking to obtain or modify their VA entitlements
2. Veteran Suicide Death Information Access
3. Veteran Textbook Support Grant
4. Exempt Veterans Service Organizations from Use of Proceeds Requirements

## 5. Inclusion of USPHS and NOAA in Income Tax Subtraction

Full text of these initiatives can be found at: <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/about-us/boards-foundations/joint-leadership-council-of-veterans-service-organizations>

Additionally, a letter to be sent to the Commissioner in support of continued VMSDEP funding was approved.

VFW/JLC Day on the Hill will be January 15, 2026.

Rick Raskin, PSC, JLC Representative

## 18. LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

The following will be the 2025-2026 Life Member Payout. The National Council of Administration concurred with the payment amounts at its March 2, 2025, meeting.

- Plan ABC - A total payout of \$10.50 for each life member (\$3.50 to each Post, Department and National).
- Plan D - A total payout of \$11.70 for each life member (\$3.90 to each Post, Department and National).
- Plan E - A total payout of \$23.10 for each life member (\$7.70 to each Post, Department and National).

Note: At-Large Members' corresponding plan pay out amount is divided by two. For example, Plan ABC At-Large Payout is \$5.25 (\$10.50 / 2, Department & National).

This information will also be placed in the VFW General Orders and other communications. As indicated in the By-Laws, payment will be made in September 2025 for all Life Members recorded as of August 31, 2025. In addition, a payment will be made in January 2026 for all Life Members processed during the period September 1 through December 31, 2025.

We wanted to get this information to you as soon as possible, because we know it affects your Post's budget projections for the ensuing year.

Marc Garduno, QM General, VFW National Headquarters

## 19. LIABILITY INSURANCE:

Posts with Post Homes must have liability insurance and list State Headquarters and VFW National Headquarters as additional insurers. State Headquarters does not need a copy of your whole insurance policy, only a copy of the Certificate of Insurance listing State Headquarters and VFW National Headquarters as additional insurers.

The Certificate of Insurance needs to be sent to State Headquarters every year and it can be emailed to [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org), faxed 1-866-416-0586 or regular mail to VFW State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at State Headquarters.

Ed Mann, State Adj/QM

## 20. MEMBERSHIP:

Commanders and Comrades,

As we enter the Fall Season the weather is perfect for outdoor recruiting. County Fairs, Festivals, Car Shows and other events are at your doorstep. Please take advantage of these opportunities to recruit new members for your Post. Don't forget to set out donation cans or jars while you are working membership. Remember that we have a

shorter timeframe to meet our goal for All State this year due to the early State Convention. Also review the State Membership plan and the checklist on our website. Make sure you check the requirements as we progress thru the year. I am impressed by the number of recruiters that I see on the National Recruiter Report for the Department. Remember we have our first Female National Commander, and we want her to see that Virginia is supporting her the most.

Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the State Membership Team, myself or State Headquarters for questions or assistance in recruiting. Our contact info is in the July General Orders under Committees. Let's make this a banner year for Doug.

Tom Hines PSC, Membership Team Chairman  
Cell. 434 774 7729

## **21. MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE:**

Cootie event is Tomb Trek in Arlington in November.

Our Grand of Virginia website is <https://lotcsva.org/> and the Supreme website is <https://lotcs.org/> where you can find more information on starting a Pup Tent.

For more information on the Military Order of the Cootie please contact Michael Chism Grand Seam Squirrel at [grandcdr@vfwva.org](mailto:grandcdr@vfwva.org).

Sincerely,  
Michael "Chiz Wiz" Chism, Grand Seam Squirrel

## **22. OFFICE CLOSURE:**

State Headquarters will be closed October 13, 2025, in observance of Columbus Day.

State Adjutant/Quartermaster Mann will be available by phone and email.

## **23. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:**

Procedure and Ritual establish that *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12th Edition* shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. This edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* is readily available at local bookstores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

## **24. PARTNERS IN PATRIOTISM:**

Adjutant General Dan West would like you to join him in supporting the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families. The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis, which helps reduce expenses and eliminates the amount of fundraising mail you receive. 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 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.

## 25. REPORTING:

Comrades to view whether your Post has submitted an Audit Report, Americanism, Community Service, Safety, Youth or Hospital report you should visit the Department website ([www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)). The website is updated daily. If you have any questions, please call State Headquarters. There will be no form for Homeless when reporting for assistance to a homeless veteran please put it on a Community Activity report under aid to others.

## 26. ROSTER CHANGES:

Post 1115 JVC  
Donald M. Armstrong  
543 Random Rd  
Hillsville, VA 24343  
276-229-5028  
[adon543r@gmail.com](mailto:adon543r@gmail.com)

Post 2424 QM  
Mark Durland  
2117 Mt Hermon St  
Waynesboro, VA 22980  
540-471-3998  
[qmpost2424@vfwva.org](mailto:qmpost2424@vfwva.org)

Post 2582 Cmdr  
Richard J. Nelson  
757-434-1681

VFW Post 5412  
Mailing Address  
5249 Ridge Ct  
Fairfax, VA 22032

VFW Post 5412 QM  
Charles Sleeper  
5249 Ridge Ct  
Fairfax, VA 22032  
703-980-8084  
[qmpost5412@vfwva.org](mailto:qmpost5412@vfwva.org)

VFW Post 7589  
Meeting Change  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 7:30 pm

Post 9835 QM  
Jeffrey Dombroff  
7711 Piccadilly Dr  
Warrenton, VA 20186  
540-229-0593  
[qmpost9835@vfwva.org](mailto:qmpost9835@vfwva.org)

Post 12202 Phone Number  
757-846-4714

Post 12202 SVC  
Bradley J. Suckow  
8487 Reagan Dr  
King George, VA 22485  
540-684-7147  
[bsuckow@juno.com](mailto:bsuckow@juno.com)

Post 12202 JVC  
Robert Dolensky  
210 Cary St  
Smithfield, VA 23430  
757-536-1877  
[bobdolensky2713@gmail.com](mailto:bobdolensky2713@gmail.com)

Post 12217 QM  
Brian K. Combs  
1268 Old Somerton Rd  
Suffolk, VA 23434  
757-650-2318  
[qmpost12217@vfwva.org](mailto:qmpost12217@vfwva.org)

## 27. SCHOLARSHIP THEMES:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is now accepting entries for its 79th annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions. The 2025-2026 theme asks America's students "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

Student entries may be submitted (along with a completed entry form) to their local participating VFW Post. The deadline for both contests is **Oct. 31, 2025**.

[Read more about the contests](#), or submit your essay and entry form at your local participating [VFW Post](#).

**28. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 10:**

The records of disciplinary action ordered by the Commander of VFW Post No. 5715, against EDDIE L. REASOR, Life Membership No. 10111872, John Fox Jr. Post No. 5715, Big Stone Gap, Virginia, have been received. The accused failed to request a hearing or summary disposition whereupon the Post Commander with the concurrence by majority vote of the Post imposed a penalty of TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that EDDIE L. REASOR be removed from the rolls of John Fox, Jr. Post No. 5715, Big Stone Gap, Virginia, his Life Membership terminated in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States with fees forfeited and his Life Membership card returned to the Adjutant General.

Pursuant to Section 908 of the National Bylaws, the accused has the right to petition the Commander-in-Chief to have their conviction pardoned or their sentence commuted provided at least five (5) years of the pertinent sentence has been served.

By order of  
Carol L. Whitmore  
Commander-in-Chief

**29. STATE CONVENTION:**

The link for VFW's 2026 State Convention below. This block's cutoff date is **April 26th, 2026**.

Booking link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4846760>

**30. TEACHER RECOGNITION:**

Hopefully you have contacted your local school principals by now to alert them to the opportunity for them to nominate outstanding teachers at all levels for the Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award. Review the qualifications and forms available on the National website (Community/Youth & Education/Teacher of the Year) or the State website (Programs/Teacher of the Year) and get them out to schools and your communities. You'll be amazed as to how many people have actually seen the movie "Kindergarden Cop". Holding that up as an example (at the elementary school level at least) actually lets people focus on what we're looking for in a teacher. Remember that the due date to your Posts is October 31<sup>st</sup> and they should be submitted to District by November 14<sup>th</sup>. These are not through ScholarsApp so hard copies are required at all levels. I will provide information on Department judging next month.

J. I. Dombroff, Chairman

**31. STATE SURGEON:**

Comrades,

We all should by now have been through the Department School of Instruction. As I had iterated in all the ones I attended, the information is all online and you should avail yourself of the information if you have any questions, and if they remain unanswered reach out to your District and State Officers..

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. The theme for DVAM 2025 is "With Survivors, Always". This is a call to action to stand with solidarity with survivors and explore what it means to be a partner in their journey toward safety and support. DVAM is observed every October to raise awareness about the impact of domestic violence, support survivors, and advocate for prevention efforts.

As always, we need to look out for one another... be sure to talk with your comrades ensure we all have someone out there that we can openly talk to. It doesn't matter if it is domestic issues, thoughts of suicide, or as strange as it may sound for one of us who may just be lonely and need a friendly face to chat with.

Take care Comrades! We are here for each other.

Todd Taylor, State Surgeon

### 32. TIME AND PLACE:

A quick look at the list of important dates listed above in these General Orders will show you the most important news regarding future locations. You will see that the Department has signed a contract with the Madison Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisonburg that will keep our Department Conventions and Winter Conferences at that site through June 2028. Everyone's feedback was influential in the effort to secure this site advantageously for the next three years. We will, of course, keep looking elsewhere for potential venues in future years but for now, this is a great location with a hotel that has indicated a willingness to work with the Department to keep our major events there. Our willingness to advance next year's Convention to late May because of the hotel's scheduling commitments was instrumental in their working with us in the future.

I look forward to seeing many of you again in Harrisonburg in January 2026. And of course, your feedback and comments on our locations are always appreciated.

J. I. Dombroff, Chairman

### 33. 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 read [VFW success stories here](#) 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!

### 34. VIRGINIA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

**"Donut Dollies"** Vietnam veterans remember the "Donut Dollies". But their presence pre-dated the Vietnam War. During World War II numerous teams of three female Red Cross volunteers operated club-mobiles equipped with a kitchen area with a stove for heating water for coffee and a built-in donut-making machine. These club-mobiles traveled with the rear echelon units, but each day their teams ventured out to different operating areas to visit Soldiers, play records on the Victrola, pass out sundry items, and serve hot coffee and fresh-made donuts to the troops. Female Red Cross workers answered the call to duty again during the Korean War. In its early stages, they earned the endearing nickname, "Donut Dollies," turning out up to 20,000 donuts a day for American Soldiers disembarking troop ships in Pusan.

The Donut Dollies were most visible to troops serving in Vietnam. Between February 1962 and March 1973, they logged over 2,000,000 miles by jeep, deuce-and-a-half, and helicopter, visiting combat troops at remote fire bases from An Khe to Yen Giang. And they didn't pass out a single donut during this war. Instead, usually traveling at least in pairs and dressed in their signature pale blue outfits, this time they brought smiles, songs, games, and a touch of back home to the guys who were in the bush counting the days down from 365.

Most of us who served on the ground in Vietnam encountered these wonderful ladies and the cheer and touch of home they brought. A member of my Post actually married one. Last March, Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) introduced legislation (HR 2081) entitled the Donut Dollies Gold Medal Act encouraging Congress to authorize a special gold medal in honor of the thousands of women who served so magnificently on our (and our father's)

behalf. The Bill has been referred to the House Financial Service Sub-Committee where it will undoubtedly languish. There are no co-sponsors listed. Perhaps a note to your local Representative encouraging co-sponsorship of HR 2081 might get it moving.

Welcome home!

Jeff Dombroff, Chairman

**35. VVF COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT:**

The Virginia Veterans, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, as opened the window to apply for a grant to perform community service. There will be of ten (10) grants worth up to \$300 each for the 2025-2026 year. Should any money remain after the ten grants are paid out, those not selected in the first round of grants will be considered a second time. The requirements and application are in the attachments. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the application is **due no later than November 30, 2025**. Posts **AND** Auxiliaries can apply for this grant, but only one grant will be given to an individual Post or their Auxiliary, regardless of who applies. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

**36. VFW POST HOME IMPROVEMENT AND ASSISTANCE GRANT:**

The Virginia Veterans, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, as opened the window to apply for a grant to perform improvements on your Post home. There will be ten (10) grants worth up to \$500 each for the 2025-2026 year. All requirements and application are in the attachments. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the **application is due no later than November 30, 2025**. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

**37. WINTER COUNCIL:**

Below is the booking link for the January 2026 Winter Council of Administration Meeting. This block's cutoff date is **December 8, 2025**.

Booking link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4636143>

Official:



Ed Mann  
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Douglas Hoffman  
State Commander

**VFW/AUX DEPARTMENT of VIRGINIA  
COMMANDER & PRESIDENT HOMECOMING**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 11, 2025  
VFW POST 1503 - DALE CITY  
SOCIAL HOUR 5-6 DINNER 6:30  
-70's THEME-**

**COME GET YOUR GROOVE ON**

**BE READY to DANCE and DRESSED to IMPRESS!!**

**FREE EVENT**

**YOU MUST REQUEST TICKETS BY  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, VIA EMAIL TO**

**TOM LEVITT AT:**

**NLCTLEVITT@VFWVA.ORG**

**WHEN EMAILING - PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR  
NAME & PHONE NUMBER  
LIMIT TWO (2) TICKETS PER PERSON**

**HOTEL INFO:**

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS  
3901 FETTLER PARK DR.  
DUMFIRES, VA 22026  
703-441-9001**

**HAMPTON INN  
16959 OLD STAGE RD.  
DUMFRIES, VA 22025  
703-441-9900**



**MUST BE 21 to ATTEND  
ABSOLUTELY NO  
OUTSIDE ALCOHOL**

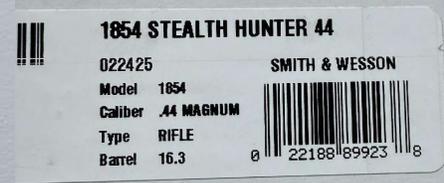






# VFW Post 2894 Chesapeake, VA Fall Rifle Raffle

## Smith & Wesson Model 1854 .44 Magnum *Stealth Hunter!*



### This NEW weapon features:

- 11/16-24 Threaded Barrel
- Accepts mounts compatible with Marlin® 1894 hole patterns
- Black synthetic stock with textured grip panels
- M-LOK® synthetic for end with textured grip panels
- Gold bead front sight
- XS Sights ghost ring rear sight
- 1:20" RH Twist 8-Groove Rifling
- Large loop operating lever
- Forged 416 SS Receiver
- 19.25" 410 SS Barrel

### Raffle Tickets - \$10

Drawing to be conducted at the Chesapeake City Hall, Veterans Day, 11 November 2025. Do not need not be present to win.

Contact VFW Post 2894 Members for Raffle Tickets or email: [vfw2894mkust@gmail.com](mailto:vfw2894mkust@gmail.com)

PayPal: [post2894qm@gmail.com](mailto:post2894qm@gmail.com)

Winner is subject to firearm eligibility

Sponsored by Freedom Outdoors

# REGISTRATION DEADLINE DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

## WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 8 – 11, 2026

Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center ~ Harrisonburg, Virginia ~

540-564-0200

\$129.00 Per night

*(Hotel Group Rate Deadline is December 8<sup>th</sup>)*

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET

\$55.00

**ALL TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED. THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE WINTER COUNCIL MEETING.**

### Dinner Menu

#### **Marinated Pork Loin with Apple Cider Reduction**

Served with:

Market Fresh Greens

Roasted Asparagus    Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Freshly Bake Bread and Butter

Flourless Chocolate Torte with Raspberry Sauce

Coffee Regular and Decaffeinated    Iced Tea    Iced Water

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RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **DECEMBER 18, 2025** (NO EXCEPTIONS)

Check, Discover, American Express, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out completely for each person you are registering including Post number or Auxilliary number:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my card: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle One: Discover American Express MasterCard Visa SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401

You may also e-mail this form to: [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org) or fax it to 1-866-416-0586 if paying by Credit Card only

*Pre-paid tickets will not be mailed to you; they will be available for pick up at registration.*



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES  
AND  
VFW AUXILIARY**

Winter Council of Administration Meeting  
January 8 - 11, 2026  
Hotel Madison Shenandoah Conference Center  
Harrisonburg Virginia  
540-564-0200

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026**

1:00 PM	3:00 PM	Virginia Veterans Foundation Board Meeting	Madison Boardroom
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**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026**

10:00 AM	5:00 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Conf Center Foyer
12:30 PM	2:30 PM	Microsoft 365 Training	Allegheny A,B &C
1:00 PM	5:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Audit (Treasurer and Audit Team)	Madison Boardroom
2:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting	Allegheny A
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Charitable Gaming Laws & Regs	Allegheny A,B &C
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	MOC Meeting and Degree Work	Shenandoah B
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Cornhole Tournament	Shenandoah B

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026**

7:30 AM	8:30 PM	PDP Breakfast	Dolley Madison
8:00 AM	2:30 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Conf. Center Foyer
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Commanders Club Meeting	Shenandoah B
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	VFW Council of Administration Meeting	Shenandoah B
8:00 AM	12:00 PM	Post Benefits Advisor Training	Allegheny A,B &C
9:00 AM	12:30 PM	VFW Auxiliary Business/Program Presentation	Shenandoah A
12:30 PM	1:00 PM	VFW Riders Meeting	Allegheny A,B &C
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	MOCA Meeting	Shenandoah A
1:30 PM	2:30 PM	Membership & Recruiting Workshop	Allegheny A,B&C
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Women's Veterans Forum	Allegheny A,B &C
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	VOD & PP BANQUET	Shenandoah A & B

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026**

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Joint Devotional Service	Shenandoah A
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TEACHER OF THE YEAR, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET TICKETS: \$55.00

Department Hospitality Room – Shenandoah C

**(Tentative schedule subject to change)**



## VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

### BENEFITS OF AN AUXILIARY TO A VFW POST

#### THE VFW DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA HAS **57** UNAFFILIATED POSTS

PURPOSE OF THE VFW AUXILIARY	Since 1914, the VFW Auxiliary has been fulfilling its original objectives by supporting the Veterans of Foreign Wars, serving veterans and active-duty military and their families, and spreading patriotism nationwide.
WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN THE VFW AUXILIARY?	Male and female relatives (listed below) of persons who served in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members must be at least 16 years old.</li><li>• Husband/wife; widower/widow; father/mother; brothers/sisters; sons/daughters; grandfathers/grandmothers; grandsons &amp; granddaughters.</li></ul>
HOW THE AUXILIARY ASSISTS THE VFW POST.	<p><u>A few examples:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Helps raise funds for charitable projects that benefit veterans, military service personnel, and their families.</li><li>2. Assists the VFW to pass or block legislation that impacts veterans benefits and their families.</li><li>3. Prepares care packages for the military stationed overseas.</li><li>4. Works to instill patriotism in our youth and provides youth scholarships.</li><li>5. Volunteers in the VA Medical Centers and other medical facilities.</li><li>6. Raises awareness for military and veteran suicide.</li><li>7. Assists the Post, if requested, with their Buddy Poppy Drives.</li><li>8. Assists with preparing and delivering meals for aging veterans.</li><li>9. Assists the VFW with their holiday celebrations and veteran's events.</li></ol>
VFW STEPS TO START AN AUXILIARY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A VFW Post must by 2/3 majority vote of the membership present at a regular meeting (or a special meeting) to have an Auxiliary.</li><li>2. Consult the <b><u>VFW Bylaws</u></b> regarding required notice to the Post membership when voting to form an Auxiliary to the Post.</li><li>3. The approval to form a Post Auxiliary is to be recorded in the VFW meeting minutes.</li><li>4. If the Post votes to approve an Auxiliary, then the Post notifies the Department President who will appoint an official organizer, and the organizer must be a <b><u>VFW Auxiliary</u></b> member.</li></ol>
WHO TO CONTACT REGARDING FORMING AN AUXILIARY?	Patricia Jurgensen Department Chief of Staff Email: <a href="mailto:pjurgy@aol.com">pjurgy@aol.com</a> Phone: (703) 380-3024
UNITY BRINGS VICTORY	The VFW's approval to print this letter certainly proves that "Unity Brings Victory" between our two Department leaders, Doug Hoffman and Kelli Levitt. Your support is much appreciated.



Roll Call!

# **WE SERVE THOSE THAT SERVED. VETERAN LED PROGRAMS**

We recognize that veterans have distinct experiences that require customized outpatient care for addiction. At Master Center, we offer services and programs specifically designed to meet your unique needs.

**Veteran Led Support Groups**

**Veteran Staff**

**Convenient Veteran Programs**

**Customized Outpatient Treatment Plans**

**Confidential & Judgment-Free Support**

**Recovered Peers/Coaches Assigned**

**Military Spouse, Survivor & Caregiver Resources**

**Rapid Appointments Available**

**Support for All Eras of Service**

**Easy Access - No Referral Needed**

Reach out to Kelly Freel, Veteran Outreach Coordinator

E: [kfreel@mastercenter.com](mailto:kfreel@mastercenter.com) | P: 804.944.0274

**MC** Master  
Center  
For Addiction Medicine

[mastercenter.com](http://mastercenter.com)  
888.Try.MCAM | 888.879.6226

**FOR SALE!**

The Department of Virginia Auxiliary has a QuickBooks program ( never been used) for sale for \$500.

interested in buying or questions contact our Department Treasurer Cathy Graham

[cg12dc12@outlook.com](mailto:cg12dc12@outlook.com)



# **THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION**

## *VFW Community Service Grant*

The purpose of the VFW Community Service Grant is to assist VFW Posts and Auxiliaries in Virginia who need assistance with funding community service projects. There will be of ten(10) grants worth up to \$300 each for the 2025-2026 year. All requirements must be met, or the grant must be returned, in part or in whole, depending on the circumstances. **Grant application is due no later than November 30, 2025.**

The requirements of the grant are as follows:

- 1) The project must be initiated, completed and receipts submitted in the period of July 1, 2025, through June 1, 2026.
- 2) The VFW Post or Auxiliary in question must have a current non-profit status on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Post must provide the IRS paperwork proving this.
- 3) The Post or Auxiliary must be in good standing with the VFW National Headquarters and the Department of Virginia.
- 4) If the project is hosted at a building, it must be a non-smoking building regardless of the owner's rules for the use of the building.
- 5) The grant is not to be used for work on a VFW Post home or the property owned by any membership-based organization.
- 6) Receipts for the project must be provided and payment of the grant will not occur until this is done with all payments coming after project completion.
- 7) Should the project costs total less than \$300 once completed, the balance of the grant will not be paid. Additional projects may not be added to an approved grant. Alterations to an approved grant require approval by the Virginia Veterans Foundation before the grant can be claimed.
- 8) The VFW Post or Auxiliary receiving the grant must agree to allow the VFW Department of Virginia and Virginia Veterans Foundation the opportunity to promote the project on social media, in official communications, and in other forms of marketing.
- 9) The grant will only cover materials and the Post is responsible for providing labor. This can be done through paying for labor or by doing the work themselves.
- 10) All decisions on grants are final and will be made by the Board of Directors for the Virginia Veterans Foundation.
- 11) Funding from this grant program may be combined with other grants but the total of the funding received cannot exceed actual costs and the amount received from this grant may be reduced accordingly.
- 12) Only one grant per year will be provided to an individual Post or Auxiliary, regardless of who applies for the grant.

# **THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION**

## *VFW Community Service Grant*

### Official Grant Application

(All questions must be answered in full)

Name and number of the Post/Auxiliary: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical address of the event: \_\_\_\_\_

Commander/President name, phone number, and email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Quartermaster/Treasurer name, phone number, and email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Description of the project to be completed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Estimated cost of the project: \_\_\_\_\_

How will labor be provided: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, you acknowledge the requirements of the grant program. Furthermore, you acknowledge that you have provided all needed documents and that the decision on this grant application rests solely with the Virginia Veterans Foundation. Finally, you agree to provide all needed receipts for the project and to cooperate with the Virginia Veterans Foundation and the VFW Department of Virginia in promoting the project and grant.

Commander/President: \_\_\_\_\_ QM/Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

## *VFW Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant*

The purpose of the VFW Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant is to assist VFW Posts in Virginia who need assistance with funding projects to improve, expand, or repair their Post home as well as assisting those Posts in financial need. There will be ten (10) grants worth up to \$500 each for the 2025-2026 year. All requirements must be met, or the Post will be required to return the grant, in part or in whole, depending on the circumstances. **Grant application is due no later than November 30, 2025.**

The requirements of the grant are as follows:

- 1) If funding a project, it must be initiated and completed in the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Post must submit a thorough justification for the grant.
- 2) If asking for emergency assistance, the Post must explain the reason for the emergency and provide a plan for how the Post will raise money in the future and prepare for future problems.
- 3) The VFW Post in question must have a current non-profit status on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and must provide the IRS paperwork proving this.
- 4) The Post must be in good standing with the VFW National and Department Headquarters.
- 5) If funding a project, the Post must own or lease the Post and must provide a copy of the documents showing either ownership or a current lease. For Posts who lease the property, there must be at least 2 years remaining on the lease to receive a grant.
- 6) The Post must not allow smoking in their Post building but may use the grant to repair damage after voting to ban smoking. A ban on smoking is defined as no smoking allowed inside the building of the Post home. It may be allowed outside of the building.
- 7) Receipts for the project or bills covered by the assistance requested must be provided and payment of the grant will not occur until this is done with all payments coming after project completion or for bills already paid.
- 8) Should the project costs or assistance requested total less than \$500.00 once complete, the balance of the grant will not be paid.
- 9) The VFW Post receiving the grant must agree to allow the VFW Department of Virginia and Virginia Veterans Foundation the opportunity to promote the funded project on social media, in official communications, and in other forms of marketing.
- 10) The grant will only cover materials and the Post is responsible for providing labor. This can be done through paying for labor or by doing the work themselves.
- 11) All decisions on grants are final and will be made by the Board of Directors for the Virginia Veterans Foundation.
- 12) Funding from this grant program may be combined with other grants but the total of the funding received cannot exceed actual costs and the amount received from this grant may be reduced accordingly.

# **THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION**

## *VFW Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant*

### Official Grant Application

(All questions must be answered in full)

Name and number of the Post: \_\_\_\_\_

Post mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical address of the Post: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Commander name, phone number, and email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Quartermaster name, phone number, and email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated cost of the project or assistance requested: \_\_\_\_\_

How will labor be provided: \_\_\_\_\_

**On a separate page, give either a description of the project to be completed or justification for assistance requested. For emergency assistance, also include in your description a plan for how the Post will raise money in the future and prepare for future problems.**

By signing below, you acknowledge the requirements of the grant program. Furthermore, you acknowledge that you have provided all needed documents and that the decision on this grant application rests solely with the Virginia Veterans Foundation. Finally, you agree to provide all needed receipts for the project and to cooperate with the Virginia Veterans Foundation and the VFW Department of Virginia in promoting the project and grant.

Post Commander: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Quartermaster: \_\_\_\_\_



# MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR<sup>®</sup>



**Help us find  
Operation  
Homefront's next  
award recipients!**



For more information,  
scan the QR code or visit  
[operationhomefront.org/mcoy](https://operationhomefront.org/mcoy)

## WHAT

Operation Homefront's Military Child of the Year Awards celebrate and recognize the tremendous achievements of outstanding military children.

## WHO

Each year, hundreds of military teens (ages 13–18) are nominated by a parent, teacher, mentor or guardian. Candidates for the Military Child of the Year Awards demonstrate resilience, strength of character, and the ability to thrive in the face of the challenges of military life.

## WHEN

The Awards Gala will be held in Washington, D.C. on April 23, 2026 during the Month of the Military Child.

## RECIPIENTS

Military Child of the Year Award recipients receive a \$10,000 cash award, a laptop computer, and are flown with a parent or guardian for a 3-night stay in Washington, D.C.

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**Nominations accepted  
September 3 to  
December 2, 2025**

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have also been duly elected and installed by the 126th National Convention and will be accorded with the recognition due them:

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Cory L. Geisler, Post 721, Waukesha, Wisconsin

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Glenn R. Umberger, Jr., Post 7155, Trappe, Pennsylvania

Quartermaster General

Marc Garduno, Post 3238, Camden, Delaware

Chaplain

Timothy “Darren” Atkins, Post No. 5829, Whitesburg, Kentucky

Judge Advocate General

Ronald Rusakiewicz, Post 9460, Stratford, Connecticut

Surgeon General

Douglas E. Welch, Post 10043, Lewiston, Idaho

National Council of Administration Members

Alabama	Scott F. Gedling, Post 6226, Arab, Alabama
Alaska	Daniel F. Garcia, Post 1685, Anchorage, Alaska
Arizona	Jeffrey A. Eiler, Post 1433, Glendale, Arizona
Arkansas	Donald R. “Don” Barnes, Post 8245, Huntington, Arkansas
California	Dawn M. “Dusty” Napier, Post 9561, Willow Creek, California
Colorado	David L. Stone, Post 3917, Security, Colorado
Connecticut	Stanley W. Borusiewicz, Jr., Post 201, Waterbury, Connecticut
Delaware	John G. Mitchell, Post 7234, Ocean View, Delaware
Europe	Peter J. Mascetti, Jr., Post 27, Wiesbaden, Germany
Florida	Kenneth Corr, Post 10097, Fort Myers Beach, Florida
Georgia	Jeff Carroll, Post 2667, Newnan, Georgia
Hawaii	Ron H. Schaedel Sr., Post 10276, Honolulu, Hawaii
Idaho	Bobby D. Tettleton, Post 9036, New Plymouth, Idaho
Illinois	Matthew C. Claussen, Post 2868, Brookfield, Illinois
Indiana	Johnny R. Capps, Post 972, Terre Haute, Indiana
Iowa	Robert P. Quinn, Post 6414, Riverside, Iowa
Kansas	Patrick M. Briggs, Post 3111, Great Bend, Kansas
Kentucky	Robert A. Daugherty, Post 1298, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Louisiana	Robert J. Lovergne, Jr., Post 3750, Luling, Louisiana
Maine	Anthony R. Kimble, Post 3108, Belfast Maine

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**WASHINGTON OFFICE**

Maryland	Michael J. Eason, Post 9376, Clinton, Maryland
Massachusetts	Keith Jackson, Post 6538, Townsend, Massachusetts
Michigan	Kevin A. Conklin, Post 6248, Decatur, Michigan
Minnesota	Dale E. Hoogeveen, Post 1791, Chaska, Minnesota
Mississippi	Steven M. "Steve" Organ, Post 5395, Pontotoc, Mississippi
Missouri	Eric D. Sullivan, Post 5789, Lee Summit, Missouri
Montana	James L. Layton, Post 4067, Malta, Montana
Nebraska	Joseph E. Smith, Post 2280, Bellevue, Nebraska
Nevada	David A. Sousa, Post 3396, Sparks, Nevada
New Hampshire	Leon Rideout, Post 3041, Lancaster, New Hampshire
New Jersey	Luddie H. Austin, Post 12165, Trenton, New Jersey
New Mexico	Victoria R. Haddox, Post 5890, Rio Rancho, New Mexico
New York	Eugene J. "Gene" Ratigliano, Post 420, Saratoga Springs, New York
North Carolina	Victor R. Letourneaut, Post 9960, Cedar Point, North Carolina
North Dakota	William L. "Bill" Tuff, Post 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota
Ohio	Christopher W. "Chris" Haynes, Post 7596, Franklin, Ohio
Oklahoma	Curtis A. "Curt" Watts, Post 2027, Stillwater, Oklahoma
Oregon	Bert W. Key, Post 4273, Sandy, Oregon
Pacific Areas	Kenneth A. Stein, Post 12146, Ban Chang, Rayong Thailand
Pennsylvania	Nathaniel Smith, Post 7293, Egypt, Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	Scott F. Gould, Post 6342, North Smithfield, Rhode Island
South Carolina	Edwin A. Tufts, II, Post 3433, Summerville, South Carolina
South Dakota	Barbara K. McKean, Post 3298, Parkston, South Dakota
Tennessee	Brian K. Walker, Post 5066, Collierville, Tennessee
Texas	Ingeborg A. Conley, Post 12075, Humble, Texas
Utah	Heath N. Silcox, Post 12087, West Jordan, Utah
Vermont	Charles A. Magnant, Post 778, Swanton, Vermont
Virginia	Kenneth B. Wiseman, III, Post 1503, Dale City, Virginia
Washington	Paul M. Herrera, Post 2224, Puyallup, Washington
West Virginia	Richard E. Ogden, Post 3663, Buckhannon, West Virginia
Wisconsin	Thomas E. Heath, Post 1621, Janesville, Wisconsin
Wyoming	Danielle P. Smith, Post 9439, Casper, Wyoming

3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

Dan West, Post 3413, San Marcos, Texas

Executive Director, Assistant Adjutant General, Washington Office

Ryan M. Gallucci, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia

Assistant Adjutant General, Administration & Programs

Brian K. Walker, Post 5066, Collierville, Tennessee

Chief of Staff

Kevin C. Jones, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Inspector General

Christopher W. "Chris" Haynes, Post 7596, Franklin, Ohio

Sergeant-at-Arms

Brian Willette, Post 3104, South Hadley, Massachusetts

General Counsel

John R. Muckelbauer, Post 3712, Paola, Kansas

Director, Administrative Operations

Quentin S. Carroll, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Marketing & Communications, Kansas City

Randi K. Law

Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Outreach, Washington Office

Robert Couture, Department of Maryland Member-at-Large

Director, Development

Kelly J. Jones

Director, Human Resources

Sari Maple

Director, Information Technology

Sean Barnes, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Meetings & Events

Taylor Engle

Director, Membership & Member Services

David E. Prohaska, Post 4434, Belleville, Michigan

Director, National Legislative Service

Kristina Keenan, Post 605, Paris, France

Director, National Veterans Service

Michael S. Figlioli, Post 2017, Dedham, Massachusetts

Director, Operations & Administration

Bradley G. Hazell, Post 1677, Casa Grande, Arizona

Director, Publications, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, VFW Magazine

Tim Dyhouse

Director, VFW Programs

Lynn W. Rolf, III, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kansas

Director, Supply & Logistics

Hank Ellis

5. Attention of all members is directed to the purposes listed within the VFW's Congressional Charter. "To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom" is one of the VFW's chartered purposes; as such the VFW represents fighting for American rights, civil rights and humanitarian impulses that have always guided the VFW's principles.

Today the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States reaffirms its commitment to that chartered purpose by first recognizing that in order to end racism within our organization, it is not enough to be non-racist/non-discriminatory: we must be proactive.

While we focus on education and mentorship we work to identify, address, and eradicate any and all forms of racial bias and discrimination. We will work to eliminate racial injustices and

discriminatory practices within our organization. The VFW's leadership is united in the pursuit to end racial bias and discrimination while empowering our members and the greater veteran community towards this collective goal.

6. Attention all members, Pursuant to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "*Discipline of Members,*" any member who commits offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Acts of sexual harassment, racial or sexual discrimination, or any other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or deemed unbecoming of a member will not be tolerated. Harassment and discrimination includes any verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, or that otherwise interferes with another's ability to participate in VFW activities. All members are expected to conduct themselves with dignity, respect, professionalism, and common courtesy at all times.
7. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary.
8. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2025-26 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"® Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.
9. Post Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to federal legislation or to the policy or procedure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other governmental agency, to their respective Department Headquarters for consideration and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies. Posts, County Councils, Districts and officers and members thereof shall not publicly communicate or promulgate any such resolutions until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.
10. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable.
11. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. **Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.**
12. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.

13. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).
14. The Manual of Procedure amendment passed by the 119th National Convention modified Section 1001(25) to read, “The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited.”
15. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department Bylaws and directives. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.
16. U.S. Army ARDEC has issued guidance on the operation and maintenance of the M1 Garand. The manual can be found in the VFW Training & Support under Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates in the Training section at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).
17. The distribution of VFW “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws 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. All profits accruing from the distribution of “Buddy” Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.
18. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:
  - Post No. 1747 and 5731 consolidated as Post No. 1747, Oroville, California
  - Post No. 5539 and 10045 consolidated as Post No. 5539, Harvard, Nebraska
  - Post No. 454 and 2029 consolidated as Post No. 454, Bloomington, Illinois
  - Post No. 699 and 1190 consolidated as Post No. 699, N. Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania
  - Post No. 7028, 6219 and 9155 consolidated as Post No. 7028, Trenton, Nebraska
19. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charter for the following Post:
  - Post No. 12243 – Union, Missouri

BY COMMAND OF  
CAROL L. WHITMORE  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:



Dan West  
Adjutant General

## 2025-2026 POST ALL-STATE REQUIREMENTS

**\*\*\*There is no limit on the number of Posts that can earn All-State honors\*\***

### All-State Post Requirements:

1. The Post must meet their 101% membership quota by May 1, 2026, to receive their awards at the 2026 State Convention. (**NO EXCEPTIONS**).
2. The Post must recruit at least one (1) **NEW or reinstated** life or life installment member. Otherwise, the Post may have one annual member upgrade to life membership.
3. All members of the Post with access to assets must be bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National Bylaws.
4. The Post must have been inspected, and the inspection report must be received by State HQs no later than 4pm on December 12, 2025, with all documented discrepancies corrected by Thursday, April 30, 2026.
5. The Post Commander and Quartermaster must sign into their state email account and send one (1) email to either [cdr@vfwva.org](mailto:cdr@vfwva.org) or [dhoffman@vwfva.org](mailto:dhoffman@vwfva.org) no later than Sept 19, 2025. It is the responsibility of each of those officers to ensure this is met. It will be visible in the District Reports section of the online reporting page on the State HQs website, [www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org).
6. The Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster or Adjutant must attend each meeting of their District. More than one of these officers can attend, and all are encouraged to attend.
7. The Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, or Adjutant must attend the School of Instruction (SOI). More than one of these officers can attend, and all are encouraged. These will be held five times on different dates and at different locations around the state. Dates and locations of these will be posted in the General Orders, which are located under the news section of the State HQs website.
8. The Post must have at least one member complete the online Recruiting School of Instruction (RSOI). Posts are encouraged to have more than one member complete this training and those who are recruiters on your Post's membership and recruiting team or listed in your Post's membership plan are great candidates for this training. Information on where to find this online training will be posted in the General Orders.
9. All audit reports must be submitted to, and accepted by, the State HQs as required by Section 218 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Posts may not have more than one late audit out of the four required.
10. The Post must purchase 500 Buddy Poppies per 100 members or a fraction thereof. Contact the State HQs to make this purchase.
11. The Post must donate to the Virginia Veterans Foundation (VVF). This is the official foundation for the State HQs, and you can contact the State HQs to make this donation. Donations are based on the size of each Post and are as follows:
  - \* 99 members or less: \$100.00 – *For every \$100 above the donation, the Post earns (1) Team Point*
  - \* 100 to 399 members: \$200.00 – *For every \$200 above the donation, the Post earns (1) Team Point*

\* 400 or more members: \$300.00 – *For every \$300 above the donation, the Post earns (1) Team Point*

12. The Post must submit reports of their activities in the online reporting portal of the State HQs. The reports must be submitted **at least once a quarter** by Sept 30, 2025, Dec 31, 2025, Mar 31, 2026, and June 30, 2026, respectively and the reports shall be as follows:

- (1) Americanism Report
- (2) Community Activities Report
- (3) Safety Report
- (4) Youth Activities Report
- (5) Hospital Report

13. The Post must participate in **at least** 3 of the 4 following categories of programs:

**Patriot's Pen Program:** Theme: "How are you showing Patriotism and Support for our Country?" Posts must submit at least one entry to their District for judging. Entries must be turned into the Post by Friday, October 31, 2025. Posts must submit them to their District no later than Friday, November 14, 2025.

**Voice of Democracy Program:** Theme: "How are you showing Patriotism and Support for our Country?" Posts must submit at least one entry to their District for judging. Entries must be turned into the Post by Friday, October 31, 2025. Posts must submit them to their District no later than Friday, November 14, 2025.

**JROTC, Sea Cadets, or Civil Air Patrol:** Entries for any **one** of these three programs will earn the Post credit for this category. Posts will not receive credit for doing more than one of the three programs in this category. Entries for these programs must be turned into the Post by Friday, February 13, 2026. Posts must submit a copy of the Cadets certificate to the State HQs no later than Friday, March 6, 2026, to receive credit for the All-State program.

**Teacher of the Year Program:** Posts must submit at least one teacher to their District for judging. Entries must be turned into the Post by Friday, October 31, 2025. Posts must submit them to their District no later than Friday, November 14, 2025.

**\*\*For Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy, Posts shall use the Scholar App for judging and delivery.**

**Posts who complete ALL requirements by April 30, 2026, will receive their awards at the 2026 State Convention. Posts who complete all requirements EXCEPT membership by April 30, 2026, will have until June 30, 2026, to complete ONLY their membership goal of 101% and will receive awards as noted in this document at the first District meeting of the 2026-2027 year.**

**Note 1:** Five (5) additional Team Points towards being the Captain of the All-State Team will be awarded to Posts submitting entries in all four (4) program categories.

**Note 2:** Posts will receive additional Team Points towards being the Captain of the All-State Team for membership. One fifth (1/5) of one (1) point will be assigned for each additional member above 101%.

**Note 3:** Posts will receive additional Team Points towards being the Captain of the All-State for submitting of entries for Scout of the Year, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Emergency Medical Technician of the Year, 911 Dispatcher of the Year, and/or Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician of the Year.



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES  
STATE OF VIRGINIA  
2025-2026 ALL-STATE PROGRAM**

**(JULY 1, 2025– JUNE 30, 2026)**

This membership awards program has been designed with incentives to increase life membership, promote VFW programs, and increase both meeting attendance and the submission of reports. Post and District membership 101% requirements will be based on the membership report dated Monday, June 30, 2025, as adjusted by National HQs. Except where noted, the quota will not be reduced because of members who die or transfer to another Post. A new Post will be assigned a membership quota of 30 members. This requirement of 101% is for both All-State and All-American.

**Virginia's membership goal percentages and goal dates 2025-2026**

- Tuesday, September 30, 2025, state membership of 75%
- Tuesday, December 30, 2025, state membership of 88%
- Friday, March 27, 2026, state membership of 93%
- Thursday, April 30, 2026, state membership of 101%

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP INCREASE AWARD AND PLAQUES**

A Life Membership Increase Award plaque and \$200.00 will be awarded at the State Convention to the Post with the greatest increase in life members (must be at least 3 new life members not including those on payment plans) in each category. The judging will be based on life membership as of Thursday, April 30, 2026.

- Category A – Posts with membership of 10 thru 75
- Category B – Posts with membership of 76 thru 150
- Category C – Posts with membership of 151 thru 250
- Category D – Posts with membership of 251 thru 500
- Category E – Posts with membership of 501 or more

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP DRAWINGS**

There will be four (4) Life Membership Drawings. One (1) Post will be selected for each drawing. Posts must meet their membership quota by the day prior to a drawing to be eligible. Posts with 10 thru 75 members will have one (1) chance, Posts with 76 thru 150 members will have two (2) chances, Posts with 151 thru 250 will have (3) chances, Posts with 251 through 500 members will have four (4) chances, and Post with 501 or more members will have five (5) chances.

- The first drawing will be held on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, and the Post must have 75% of their 2026 membership quota to participate.
- The second drawing will be held on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, and the Post must have 88% of their 2026 membership quota to participate.



- The third drawing will be held on Friday, March 27, 2026, and the Post must have 93% of their 2026 membership quota to participate.
- The fourth drawing will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026, and the Post must have 100% of their 2025 membership quota to participate.

### **2025-2026 POST ALL-STATE REQUIREMENTS**

**\*\*\*There is no limit on the number of Posts that can earn All-State honors\*\*\***

#### **All-State Post Requirements:**

1. The Post must meet their 101% membership quota by May 1, 2026, to receive their awards at the 2026 State Convention. (**NO EXCEPTIONS**).
2. The Post must recruit at least one (1) **NEW or reinstated** life or life installment member. Otherwise, the Post may have one annual member upgrade to life membership.
3. All members of the Post with access to assets must be bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National Bylaws.
4. The Post must have been inspected, and the inspection report must be received by State HQs no later than 4pm on December 12, 2025, with all documented discrepancies corrected by Thursday, April 30, 2026.
5. The Post Commander and Quartermaster must sign into their state email account and send one (1) email to either [cdr@vfwva.org](mailto:cdr@vfwva.org) or [dhoffman@vwfva.org](mailto:dhoffman@vwfva.org) no later than Sept 19, 2025. It is the responsibility of each of those officers to ensure this is met. It will be visible in the District Reports section of the online reporting page on the State HQs website, [www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org).
6. The Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster or Adjutant must attend each meeting of their District. More than one of these officers can attend, and all are encouraged to attend.
7. The Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster or Adjutant must attend the School of Instruction (SOI). More than one of these officers can attend, and all are encouraged. These will be held five times on different dates and at different locations around the state. Dates and locations of these will be posted in the General Orders, which are located under the news section of the State HQs website.
8. The Post must have at least one member complete the online Recruiting School of Instruction (RSOI). Posts are encouraged to have more than one member complete this training and those who are recruiters on your Post's membership and recruiting team or listed in your Post's membership plan are great candidates for this training. Information on where to find this online training will be posted in the General Orders.
9. All audit reports must be submitted to, and accepted by, the State HQs as required by Section 218 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Posts may not have more than one late audit out of the four required.



10. The Post must purchase 500 Buddy Poppies per 100 members or a fraction thereof. Contact the State HQs to make this purchase.

11. The Post must donate to the Virginia Veterans Foundation (VVF). This is the official foundation for the State HQs, and you can contact the State HQs to make this donation. Donations are based on the size of each Post and are as follows:

- \* 99 members or less - \$100.00 – *For every \$100 above the donation, the Post earns (1) Team Point*
- \* 100 to 399 members - \$200.00 – *For every \$200 above the donation, the Post earns (1) Team Point*
- \* 400 or more members - \$300.00 – *For every \$300 above the donation, the Post earns (1) Team*

*Point*

12. The Post must submit reports of their activities in the online reporting portal of the State HQs. The reports must be submitted **at least once a quarter** by Sept 30, 2025, Dec 31, 2025, Mar 31, 2026, and June 30, 2026, respectively and the reports shall be as follows:

- (1) Americanism Report
- (2) Community Activities Report
- (3) Safety Report
- (4) Youth Activities Report
- (5) Hospital Report

13. The Post must participate in **at least** 3 of the 4 following categories of programs:

- **Patriot’s Pen Program**: Theme: “How are you showing Patriotism and Support for our Country?” Posts must submit at least one entry to their District for judging. Entries must be turned into the Post by Friday, October 31, 2025. Posts must submit them to their District no later than Friday, November 14, 2025.
- **Voice of Democracy Program**: Theme: “How are you showing Patriotism and Support for our Country?” Posts must submit at least one entry to their District for judging. Entries must be turned into the Post by Friday, October 31, 2025. Posts must submit them to their District no later than Friday, November 14, 2025.
- **JROTC, Sea Cadets, or Civil Air Patrol**: Entries for any **one** of these three programs will earn the Post credit for this category. Posts will not receive credit for doing more than one of the three programs in this category. Entries for these programs must be turned into the Post by Friday, February 13, 2026. Posts must submit a copy of the Cadets certificate to the State HQs no later than Friday, March 6, 2026, to receive credit for the All-State program.
- **Teacher of the Year Program**: Posts must submit at least one teacher to their District for judging. Entries must be turned into the Post by Friday, October 31, 2025. Posts must submit them to their District no later than Friday, November 14, 2025.

**\*\*For Patriot’s Pen and Voice of Democracy, Posts shall use the Scholar App for judging and delivery.**



**Posts who complete ALL requirements by April 30, 2026, will receive their awards at the 2026 State Convention. Posts who complete all requirements EXCEPT membership by April 30, 2026, will have until June 30, 2026, to complete ONLY their membership goal of 101% and will receive awards as noted in this document at the first District meeting of the 2026-2027 year.**

**Note 1:** Five (5) additional Team Points towards being the Captain of the All-State Team will be awarded to Posts submitting entries in all four (4) program categories.

**Note 2:** Posts will receive additional Team Points towards being the Captain of the All-State Team for membership. One fifth (1/5) of one (1) point will be assigned for each additional member above 101%.

**Note 3:** Posts will receive additional Team Points towards being the Captain of the All-State for submitting of entries for Scout of the Year, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Emergency Medical Technician of the Year, 911 Dispatcher of the Year, and/or Explosive Ordinance Disposal Technician of the Year.

### **POST ALL-STATE TEAM AWARDS**

1. All-State Post Commanders who have met all criteria, including membership, by Thursday, April 30, 2026, and have not received an All-State cap for this level of leadership since June 2019 will receive an All-State cap, an All-State pin, and a citation. Additionally, a check in the amount of \$300 will be given to this commander to assist in paying expenses while attending the convention and participating in events. Time of payment will be at the discretion of the State Commander.
2. Those Post Commanders who meet all requirements except for the membership requirement by April 30, 2026, and then meet their membership requirement by Tuesday, June 30, 2026, will receive a citation and an All-State pin at the first District meeting of the 2026-2027 year but will not receive the monetary award or cap. Caps may be purchased.
3. All-State Post Quartermasters who have met all criteria, including membership, by Thursday, April 30, 2026, and have not received an All-State cap for this level of leadership since June 2019 will receive an All-State cap, an All-State pin, and a citation. Additionally, a check in the amount of \$300 will be given to this quartermaster to assist in paying expenses while attending the convention and participating in events. Time of payment will be at the discretion of the State Commander.
4. Those Post Quartermasters who meet all requirements except for the membership requirement by April 30, 2026, and then meet their membership requirement by Tuesday, June 30, 2026, will receive a citation and an All-State pin at the first District meeting of the 2026-2027 year but will not receive the monetary award or cap. Caps may be purchased.
5. From the All-State Team, the Post with the highest number of Team Points in the state on Thursday, April 30, 2026, will be designated as the Outstanding Post of the 2025-2026 Year. The Commander and Quartermaster of that Post will be Captains of the All-State Team.



6. The Awards and Citations Committee will break all ties, and their decision will be considered their recommendation to the State Commander.
7. The State Commander shall make the final decision on all recommendations of awards, and the State Commander's decision shall be final.

### **2025-2026 DISTRICT ALL STATE REQUIREMENTS**

**\*\*There is no limit on the number of Districts that can earn All-State\*\***

#### **All-State District Requirements:**

1. Districts must meet their 101% membership quota by May 1, 2026, to receive their awards at the 2026 State Convention. (**NO EXCEPTIONS**).
2. All Posts in the District and the District must be inspected. State HQs must receive the inspection reports for the District and all Posts in the District no later than Friday, December 12, 2025. All documented discrepancies must be corrected by Thursday, April 30, 2026, to complete this requirement.
3. The District Quartermaster and anyone with access to assets must be properly bonded.
4. The District Commander and Quartermaster must sign into their state email account and send one (1) email to either [cdr@vfwva.org](mailto:cdr@vfwva.org) or [dhoffman@vwfva.org](mailto:dhoffman@vwfva.org) no later than Sept 19, 2025. It is the responsibility of each of those officers to ensure this is met. It will be visible in the District Reports section of the online reporting page on the State HQs website, [www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org).
5. All audit reports for the District must be turned into the State HQs as required by Section 418 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.
6. The District shall ensure all Posts submit reports of their activities in the online reporting portal of the State HQs. The reports must be submitted **at least once a quarter** by Sept 30, 2025, Dec 31, 2025, Mar 31, 2026, and June 30, 2026, respectively and the reports shall be as follows:
  - (1) Americanism Report
  - (2) Community Activities Report
  - (3) Safety Report
  - (4) Youth Activities Report
  - (5) Hospital Report
7. The District must donate at least \$150 to the Virginia Veterans Foundation (VVF). This is the official foundation for the State HQs, and you can contact the State HQs to make this donation.



### **All-State District Awards**

1. All-State District Commanders who have met all criteria, including membership, by Thursday, April 30, 2026, and have not received an All-State cap for this level of leadership since June 2020 will receive an All-State cap, an All-State pin, and a citation.
2. Those District Commanders who meet all requirements except for the membership requirement by April 30, 2026, and then meet their membership requirement by Tuesday, June 30, 2026, will receive a citation and an All-State pin at the first District meeting of the 2026-2027 year but will not receive a cap. Caps may be purchased.
3. All-State District Commanders will receive a State Commander's Medallion if all Posts within their District are 100% or more in membership by Thursday, April 30, 2026.

### **POST COMMANDER MEMBERSHIP AWARD**

Post Commanders who have their Post at 100% in membership by Tuesday, December 31, 2025, will receive a State Commander's "100 Club" polo shirt. Winners will be announced at the Winter Council of Administration meeting, and shirts will be presented at a District meeting.

### **INDIVIDUAL RECRUITER AWARDS FOR LIFE MEMBERS AND LIFE MEMBER INSTALLMENT PLANS**

All individual recruiting awards will be awarded by using the National Recruiter Report dated Thursday, April 30, 2026. These awards will be presented at the State Convention. Individual recruiters will receive for:

- 3 New or Reinstated Life/Life Install Members – Commander's Challenge Coin
- 15 New or Reinstated Life/Life Install Members – State Aide-de-Camp Recruiting cap & citation
- 30 New or Reinstated Life/Life Install Members – \$250.00 and State Commander Medallion

### **THE SAMUEL B. DeVAUGHAN MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

**First Place:** The Samuel B. DeVaughan Membership Award is presented to the member who receives the most points for each type of new member recruited for the 2025-2026 membership year by using the National Recruiter Report dated Thursday, April 30, 2026. **The following points are awarded for each new or reinstated member:** 1 point for each annual member recruited, 3 points for each life member installment plan recruited, and 5 points for each life member recruited. They will receive the following:

- A check in the amount of \$300.00 to help defray expenses of the Convention.
- A citation.
- A distinctive cap and name badge
- State Commanders Medallion
- Commander's "Top Recruiter" Polo Shirt



There will be **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place** winners awarded in this competition. The recruiters who finish in second and third place in new member competition of the 2025-2026 Membership Year will receive the following:

- A citation
- State Commanders Medallion

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is presented to the most outstanding law enforcement officer. The selectee will receive a plaque and a monetary award. The deadline for submission to State HQs is Thursday, January 8, 2026. Send a resume of nominee's background, resume of background in law enforcement work, accomplishments in the field of law enforcement, title, and address. This award will be presented at the Post or District meeting or at a local venue. An additional (5) five Team Points will be earned for the submission of an entry. Each Post may submit a maximum of (1) entry.

### **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Firefighter of the Year Award is presented to the most outstanding firefighter. The selectee will receive a plaque and a monetary award. The deadline for submission to State HQs is Thursday, January 8, 2026. Send resume of nominee's background, resume of background in fire/emergency safety work, accomplishments in fire/emergency safety field, title, and address to State HQs. This award will be presented at the Post or District meeting or at a local venue. An additional (5) five Team Points will be earned for the submission of an entry. Each Post may submit a maximum of (1) entry.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Emergency Medical Technician of the Year is presented to the most outstanding Emergency Medical Technician. The selectee will receive a plaque and a monetary award. The deadline for submission to State HQs is Thursday, January 8, 2026. Send resume of nominee's background, resume of background in paramedic work, accomplishment in this professional field, title, and address to State HQs. This award will be presented at the Post or District meeting or at a local venue. An additional (5) five Team Points will be earned for the submission of an entry. Each Post may submit a maximum of (1) entry.

### **911 DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The 911 Dispatcher of the Year is presented to the most outstanding dispatcher. The selectee will receive a plaque and a monetary award. The deadline for submission to State HQs is Thursday, January 8, 2026. Send resume of nominee's background, resume of background in emergency services, accomplishment in the field, title, and address to State HQs. This award will be presented at the Post or District meeting or at a local venue. An additional (5) five Team Points will be earned for the submission of an entry. Each Post may submit a maximum of (1) entry.

### **EXPLOSIVE ORDINANCE TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The EOD Technician of the Year is presented to the most outstanding Technician. The selectee will receive a plaque and a monetary award. The deadline for submission to State HQs is Thursday, January 8, 2026. Send



resume of nominee's background, resume of background in EOD services, accomplishment in the field, title, and address to State HQs. This award will be presented at the Post or District meeting or at a local venue. An additional (5) five Team Points will be earned for the submission of an entry. Each Post may submit a maximum of (1) entry.

### **LARRY MATTERA MEMORIAL PATRIOT'S PEN AWARD**

The Larry Mattera Memorial Patriot's Pen Award is presented to the Post sponsoring the State's first place Patriot's Pen winner and will be presented at the Winter Council of Administration banquet.

### **CLARENCE E. KELLEY MEMORIAL VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AWARD**

The Clarence E. Kelley Memorial Voice of Democracy Award is presented to the Post sponsoring the State's first place Voice of Democracy winner and is presented at the Winter Council of Administration banquet.

**Note: The State Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners will receive a plaque and monetary award for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to be presented at the Winter Council of Administration banquet. The first three place winners are expected to attend the banquet where the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will be announced, and the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner will read their essay.**

### **TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

The Teachers of the Year awards are presented to the most outstanding teachers. The selectees will receive an award and a check. There are three winners – Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. These awards will be presented at the Winter Council of Administration banquet.

### **THE GEORGE E. McCracken Honor Guard/Color Guard Award**

The George E. McCracken Honor Guard/Color Guard Award is presented to the most outstanding Post Honor Guard/Color Guard. Deadline for submission to State HQs is the day prior to awards judging Thursday, April 30, 2026. This award will be presented at the 2026 State Convention.

### **THE W. I. WOODDELL MEMORIAL POST QUARTERMASTER AWARD**

The W. I. Woodall Memorial Post Quartermaster Award is presented to the Post Quartermaster who has shown outstanding dedication to their Post and the entire state. The Post Commander must send in a nominating letter on why the Post Quartermaster should be considered for this award. Submission must be received by Thursday, April 30, 2026. The recipient is to be selected by a committee headed by the State Quartermaster. The award will consist of a citation, plus a check in the amount of \$200 from the State HQs. This award will be presented at the 2026 State Convention.



## **SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

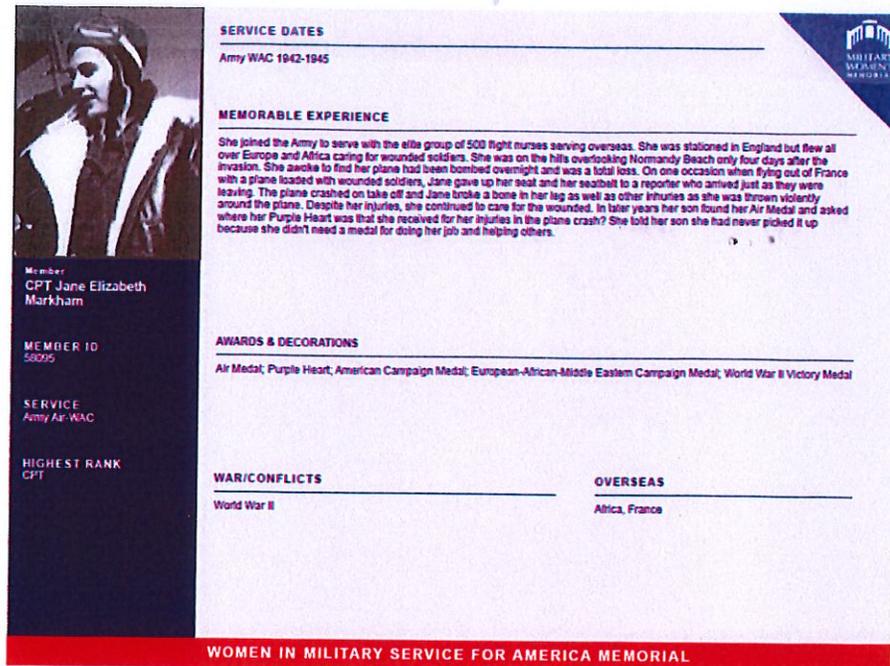
The Scout of the Year Award is presented to the State Scout of the Year winner. Submissions must be to the Scouting Committee Chairman by April 1, 2026. An additional (5) five Team Points will be earned for the submission of an entry for Scout of the Year with a maximum of one entry allowed from each Post. A plaque and a \$500.00 monetary award will be presented. This award will be sent to the Post to be presented at the time and place of the Post's choosing.

## **THE CHRIS MULHOLLAND COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD BOOK**

The Chris Mulholland Community Service Record Book should be kept from May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026, for judging. Plaques will be awarded to the top three (3) entries at the 2026 State Convention. Citations will be awarded to the fourth through tenth place awardees. Electronic submissions are accepted and must be submitted on a thumb drive. The Chris Mulholland Community Service Record Book **is not** a requirement to be All-State. Posts shall submit their entry no later than Thursday, April 30, 2026, to State HQs for judging.

Calling all VFW/Aux Women Veterans to Register for the Women In  
Military Service For America Memorial  
Register her service for free at [womensmemorial.org](http://womensmemorial.org)

Our *Register* is a one-of-a-kind interactive database that records and preserves the names, service information, photographs and memorable experiences of each registered servicewoman.



The screenshot shows a profile page for CPT Jane Elizabeth Markham. On the left is a black and white photograph of her in military uniform. To the right of the photo is a dark blue sidebar with white text: "Member: CPT Jane Elizabeth Markham", "MEMBER ID: 58095", "SERVICE: Army Air-WAC", and "HIGHEST RANK: CPT". The main content area is white with a blue header "WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL" at the bottom. The profile is organized into sections: "SERVICE DATES" (Army WAC 1942-1945), "MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE" (a paragraph about her service as a flight nurse, including a plane crash in Africa), "AWARDS & DECORATIONS" (Air Medal, Purple Heart, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal), "WAR/CONFLICTS" (World War II), and "OVERSEAS" (Africa, France). A small logo for the Women in Military Service for America Memorial is in the top right corner.

The

*Register* records and preserves the history of the powerful women who have defended this country—both past and present.

From the earliest days of the nation, women have been serving alongside men to gain and preserve liberty, but it was difficult to find them in our history books. There was no repository of women's service to the United States. That all changed in April 1987.

Not long after legislation authorized the Women In Military Service For America Memorial and ten years before the Memorial would open to the public in 1997, the *Register* was created. Servicewomen and women veterans were invited to make their military experiences visible by "registering" their service. By completing a simple form with their dates of service, branch of service, awards and decorations, at least one memorable experience, and a picture in uniform, women took their rightful and visible place in history for all time. For the first time in American history, there was a place to learn about the extraordinary servicewomen who defend or have defended our country.

For more than 30 years, the Memorial has been permanently documenting military women's experiences and their impact on American, military and women's history. Visitors are invited to look up

servicewomen in the *Register*, learn about their impact on our collective history, and purchase a print of individual profiles as a keepsake.

If you know a servicewoman or woman veteran, please take advantage of the FREE registration to ensure HERstory joins hundreds of thousands of individual stories that make up our *Register*.

History is not complete until every military woman's story is told.

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Let's get every VFW Woman Registered

I know we have a large number of Charter Members and Members out there, please reach out to Tara Jeffries or Joanne Smith to start our Department list.

For New Additions to the Register:

Register her service for free at  
[womensmemorial.org](http://womensmemorial.org)