

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

BEGINNING A NEW CENTURY OF SERVICE



JEFFREY ELKINS  
2021-2022 STATE COMMANDER

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## A Message From The Commander

Let me begin by saying Thank You and Congratulations!! Thank you for stepping up, during these difficult times, to a VFW Leadership position in our organization; and Thank You for honoring me through the election process as your State Commander. Congratulations on your election, and continuing your service to our veterans and their families.

**Beginning a New Century of Service!!**

As we begin this new century of service for WV VFW, let us not forget our first 100 years of those comrades who served our community of veterans. We'll take the valuable lessons our comrades have taught us and move this patriotic state forward through this pandemic. Living up to the VFW Motto, "No One Does More For Veterans", should be a daily goal as we go out into our communities and serve.

**Community Service/Projects:** I ask that each of you exercise caution as we navigate through the end of this pandemic. Scheduling community service projects, working your Post membership and/or just taking care of our veterans and their families in our communities. Take no risks on your health and well-being, but do your best for those in need.

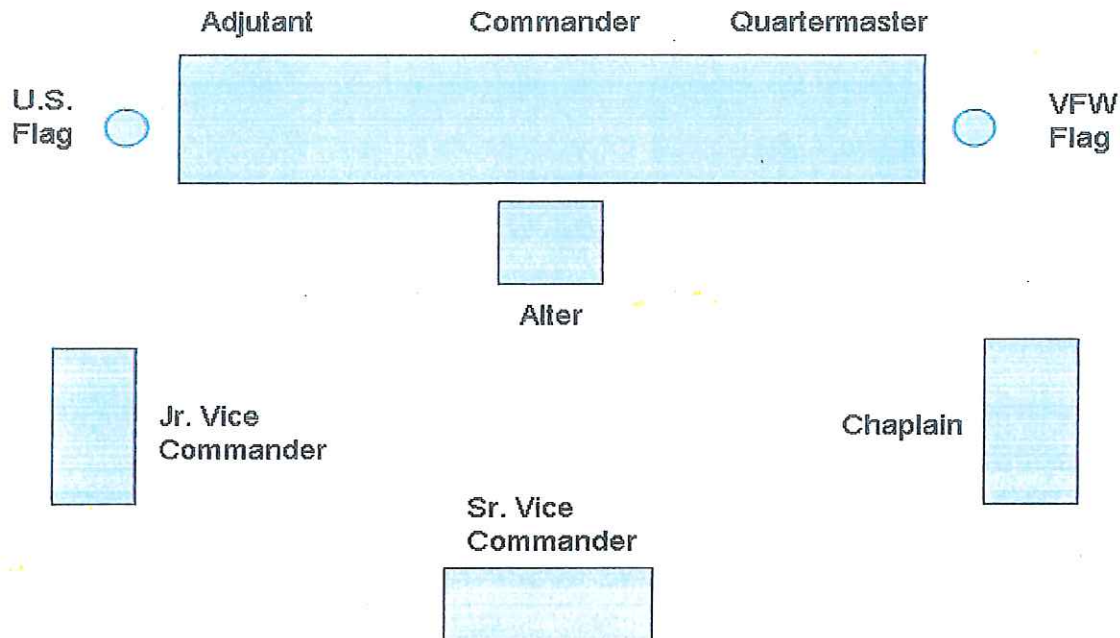
As comrades we need to keep an open mind to any new ideas that may assist us in reaching our goals. Again, thank you for your trust in representing you as your State Commander. May God watch over you and yours.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Elkins". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jeffrey Elkins, Commander  
VFW State of West Virginia  
"Beginning a New Century of Service"

## 1. OPENING POST CEREMONIES



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(The hour of opening has arrived, the Officer of the Day displays the Flag of the United States and Bible on the altar, leaving Bible closed, after which the Commander takes station and gives one rap for attention).

One (1) gavel rap for attention if sitting, one (1) gavel rap if standing, to sit down, two (2) gavel raps to stand.

**COMMANDER:** *THE OFFICERS WILL TAKE THEIR RESPECTIVE STATIONS. ALL PERSONS NOT MEMBERS OF THE V.F.W. WILL KINDLY RETIRE, AND THE GUARD WILL CLOSE THE DOORS. (The Commander ascertains if nonmembers have retired). All unauthorized caps to be removed, only VFW regular caps allowed.*

**COMMANDER:** *BY THE POWER AND AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, I AM ABOUT TO OPEN \_\_\_\_\_ POST NO. \_\_\_\_\_ FOR THE TRANSACTION OF ANY BUSINESS THAT MAY LAWFULLY COME BEFORE IT (two gavel raps). OFFICER OF THE DAY, SATISFY YOURSELF THAT ALL PRESENT ARE ENTITLED TO REMAIN.*

**OFFICER OF THE DAY:** *COMRADE COMMANDER, I FIND ALL, EXCEPT THOSE STANDING, IN POSSESSION OF OFFICIAL V.F.W. DUES RECEIPTS FOR THE CURRENT CALENDAR YEAR.*

**COMMANDER:** OFFICER OF THE DAY, YOU WILL PREPARE THE POST ROOM FOR THE

SALUTE TO THE COLORS. (two gavel raps).

**COMMANDER:** ATTENTION: COMRADE CHAPLAIN, YOU WILL DELIVER THE OPENING PRAYER.

**COMMANDER:** UNCOVER, PARADE REST.

CHAPLAIN OPENS THE BIBLE AND GIVES FOLLOWING PRAYER:

**CHAPLAIN:** LET US BOW OUR HEADS. O, SOVEREIGN RULER OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO ARE THE LORD OF HOSTS AND GOD OF PEACE, WITHOUT THEE OUR EFFORTS ARE VAIN.

CONTINUE THY BLESSINGS UPON US AND OUR FAMILIES, WE PRAY THEE, AND GUIDE US DURING OUR DELIBERATIONS.

WE BESEECH THEE, O GOD, TO BLESS THE DEPENDENTS OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES, AND TO COMFORT ALL WHO GAVE THEIR LOVED ONES TO OUR NATION'S CAUSE.

BLESS AND STRENGTHEN THE SICK, THE NEEDY AND THE AFFLICTED.

BLESS, WE ASK THEE, THE WIDOWS AND CHILDREN IN OUR NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN, AND HELP US TO FULFILL OUR DUTY TOWARD THEM.

CONTINUE THY FAVOR UPON OUR ORDER, AND HELP US TO PRACTICE THE SPIRIT OF TRUE COMRADESHIP, BOTH IN OUR COUNCILS AND WITH THE WORLD AT LARGE. ENABLE US TO BETTER THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH WE LIVE THROUGH OUR DEVOTION TO DUTY AS CITIZENS.

WE NOW HAVE A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER FOR OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND FOR THOSE MISSING IN ACTION AND THOSE HELD AS PRISONERS OF WAR.

(Short Pause).

THESE AND ALL OTHER NECESSARY BLESSINGS WE ASK OF THEE, MIGHTY RULER OF THE UNIVERSE. AMEN.

**COMMANDER:** ATTENTION, COMRADES, YOU WILL JOIN ME IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. ONE (salute) 'I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL'.

**COMMANDER:** COMRADES; WE ARE ASSEMBLED AGAIN TO TRANSACT BUSINESS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT. DO NOT LET PETTY JEALOUSIES OR TRIVIAL PERSONALITIES INFLUENCE OUR DELIBERATIONS. LET US UPHOLD ALWAYS THE OBLIGATIONS OF UNSELFISH COMRADESHIP AND LOYALTY TO OUR ORGANIZATION AND TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I NOW DECLARE \_\_\_\_\_ POST NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DULY OPENED FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS. GUARD, YOU WILL ADMIT ANY IN WAITING WHO MAY BE WORTHY. (One gavel rap to be seated).

## **2. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

(Post)

**COMMANDER:** (Leading all members in recitation of Section 230102 of the Congressional Charter).

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CORPORATION SHALL BE FRATERNAL, PATRIOTIC, HISTORICAL CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL; TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN COMRADESHIP AMONG ITS MEMBERS; TO ASSIST WORTHY COMRADES; TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY AND HISTORY OF OUR DEAD, AND TO ASSIST THEIR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS; TO MAINTAIN TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND FIDELITY TO ITS CONSTITUTION AND LAWS; TO FOSTER TRUE PATRIOTISM; TO MAINTAIN AND EXTEND THE INSTITUTIONS OF AMERICAN FREEDOM; AND TO PRESERVE AND DEFEND THE UNITED STATES FROM ALL HER ENEMIES.

3. CALLING THE ROLL OF OFFICERS
4. READING, REFERRING, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS.
5. REPORT OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP.
6. BALLOTING FOR APPLICANTS.
7. MUSTERING IN OF RECRUITS.
8. READING OF MINUTES AND APPROVAL.
9. QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT; DISBURSEMENTS.
10. QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT; RECEIPTS
11. READING OF BILLS.
12. REPORT OF SERVICE OFFICER.



13. IS THERE A COMRADE OR THE FAMILY OF A COMRADE IN DISTRESS?

14. REPORT OF ALL COMMITTEES (Membership, Buddy Poppy, etc.)

15. REMEMBER OUR NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN.

16. (Interrupt business at 9:00 p.m. or as close to 9:00 p.m. as is practical for the National Home Ceremony).

**COMMANDER:** *(Raps gavel twice). ALL PRESENT WILL RISE. PARADE REST. COMRADE CHAPLAIN, YOU WILL ASK DIVINE BLESSINGS UPON OUR NATIONAL HOME).*

**CHAPLAIN:** *ALMIGHTY GOD, WE ASK FOR YOUR DIVINE BLESSING ON THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND STAFF OF OUR NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN IN EATON RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.*

*MAY YOUR SPIRIT DWELL WITH THEM FOREVER, GIVING THEM HEALTH AND GUIDING THEIR LIVES. HELP US TO ALWAYS BE FAITHFUL TO OUR FALLEN COMRADES BY PROVIDING (SHELTER AND GUIDANCE) SUPPORT FOR THEIR FAMILIES. WE ASK IN YOUR HOLY NAME. AMEN.*

*(Commander raps gavel).*

17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

*(Reading of communications associated with unfinished business. Read and vote).*

16. NEW BUSINESS.

*(Reading of communications associated with new business. Read and vote).*

17. GOOD OF THE ORDER.

*(Reading of communications associated with Good of the Order. Read and vote).*

18. **CLOSING CEREMONIES**

**COMMANDER:** THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, WE WILL HAVE OUR CLOSING CEREMONY. (Two 30-second raps, all rise).

**COMMANDER:** OFFICER OF THE DAY, PREPARE TO RETIRE THE COLORS.

**COMMANDER (OR OFFICER OF THE DAY):** ATTENTION. SALUTE THE COLORS

**COMMANDER:** COMRADE CHAPLAIN, YOU WILL DELIVER THE CLOSING PRAYER.

**COMMANDER:** PARADE REST!

**PRAYER**

**CHAPLAIN:** ALMIGHTY GOD, THE HOUR HAS COME WHEN WE MUST PART. WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO THY CARE. THOU, WHO ART OUR STRONG TOWER OF DEFENSE, AND OUR PROTECTION, GRANT THAT IN LIFE'S BATTLES WE MAY BE STRONG AND BRAVE, LIVING SUCH LIVES OF STAINLESS INTEGRITY AS SHALL REFLECT HONOR UPON OUR COUNTRY AND THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND GLORIFY THY GREAT AND HOLY NAME.

MAY THY GOOD PROVIDENCE SHIELD US FROM ALL HARM, WATCH OVER THOSE WHO EVEN NOW GUARD THE GATES OF FREEDOM, AND BRING US TOGETHER AGAIN IN TRUE COMRADESHIP AND PEACE, AMEN.

**COMMANDER:** ATTENTION! (Chaplain closes Bible).

**COMMANDER:** COMRADES, I NOW DECLARE THIS BUSINESS OF \_\_\_\_\_ POST

NO. \_\_\_\_\_ CLOSED. OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_.





OPENING PRAYER

CHAPLAIN: LET US BOW OUR HEADS. O, SOVEREIGN RULER OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO ARE THE LORD OF HOSTS AND GOD OF PEACE, WITHOUT THEE OUR EFFORTS ARE VAIN.

CONTINUE THY BLESSINGS UPON US AND OUR FAMILIES, WE PRAY THEE, AND GUIDE US DURING OUR DELIBERATIONS.

WE BESEECH THEE, O GOD, TO BLESS THE DEPENDENTS OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES, AND TO COMFORT ALL WHO GAVE THEIR LOVED ONES TO OUR NATION'S CAUSE.

BLESS AND STRENGTHEN THE SICK, THE NEEDY AND THE AFFLICTED.

BLESS, WE ASK THEE, THE WIDOWS AND CHILDREN IN OUR NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN, AND HELP US TO FULFILL OUR DUTY TOWARD THEM.

CONTINUE THY FAVOR UPON OUR ORDER, AND HELP US TO PRACTICE THE SPIRIT OF TRUE COMRADESHIP, BOTH IN OUR COUNCILS AND WITH THE WORLD AT LARGE. ENABLE US TO BETTER THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH WE LIVE THROUGH OUR DEVOTION TO DUTY AS CITIZENS.

WE NOW HAVE A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER FOR OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND FOR THOSE MISSING IN ACTION AND THOSE HELD AS PRISONERS OF WAR.

(Short Pause).

THESE AND ALL OTHER NECESSARY BLESSINGS WE ASK OF THEE, MIGHTY RULER OF THE UNIVERSE. AMEN.

## NATIONAL HOME PRAYER

CHAPLAIN: ALMIGHTY GOD, WE ASK FOR YOUR DEVINE BLESSING ON THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND STAFF OF OUR NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN IN EATON RAPIDS, MICHIGAN. MAY YOUR SPIRIT DWELL WITH THEM FOREVER, GIVING THEM HEALTH AND GUIDING THEIR LIVES. HELP US TO ALWAYS BE FAITHFUL TO OUR FALLEN COMRADES BY PROVIDING (SHELTER AND GUIDANCE) SUPPORT FOR THEIR FAMILIES. WE ASK IN YOUR HOLY NAME. AMEN.

## CLOSING PRAYER

CHAPLAIN: ALMIGHTY GOD, THE HOUR HAS COME WHEN WE MUST PART. WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO THY CARE. THOU, WHO ART OUR STRONG TOWER OF DEFENSE, AND OUR PROTECTION, GRANT THAT IN LIFE'S BATTLES WE MAY BE STRONG AND BRAVE, LIVING SUCH LIVES OF STAINLESS INTEGRITY AS SHALL REFLECT HONOR UPON OUR COUNTY AND THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND GLORIFY THY GREAT AND HOLY NAME.

MAY THY GOOD PROVIDENCE SHIELD US FROM ALL HARM, WATCH OVER THOSE WHO EVEN NOW GUARD THE GATES OF FREEDOM, AND BRING US TOGETHER AGAIN IN TRUE COMRADESHIP AND PEACE. AMEN.

## MONTHLY REPORTS

Post Commanders report Community Service Statistics to District Commanders. 7<sup>th</sup> of the month (Hours and Dollars only)

District Commanders provide a consolidated report of District Community Service Statistics to State Headquarters. 20<sup>th</sup> of the month (Hours and Dollars only)

## QUARTERLY REPORTS

Post Audits due to State Headquarters by July 31, October 31, January 31 and April 30

## POST COMMANDER DISTRICT MEETING/CONVENTION REPORT

Each Post Commander will make a report, utilizing the Post Commander's District Meeting/Convention form provided in this guide.

## DISTRICT COMMANDERS COA REPORTS

Each District Commander will make a report, utilizing the Commanders Report Form in the District Commander guide, during each Council of Administration meeting.

## Program and Required Reporting Deadlines

Post Quartermaster Bond	<u>August 31</u>
Voice of Democracy Entries to Post	<u>October 31</u>
Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Entries to Post	<u>October 31</u>
Citizenship Education Teacher Entries to Post	<u>October 31</u>

Post Voice of Democracy selection to District	<u>November 30</u>
Post Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Entry to District	<u>November 30</u>
Post Citizenship Education Teacher Entry to District	<u>November 30</u>
Post Public Servant entries (one each Law/FF/EMT) to District	<u>November 30</u>
District Voice of Democracy selection to VOD/PP to State HQS	<u>December 20</u>
District Patriot's Pen Youth Essay to VOD/PP to State HQS	<u>December 20</u>
State Voice of Democracy winner to National	<u>January 15</u>
State Patriot's Pen winner to National	<u>January 15</u>
District Teacher of the Year entry (one entry only) to State HQS	<u>January 15</u>
Public Servant of the Year (one each Law/FF/EMT) to State HQS	<u>January 15</u>
State Citizenship Education Teacher Citation request to National	<u>February 1</u>
State Voice of Democracy report to National	<u>January 15</u>
State Patriot's Pen Youth Essay report to National	<u>January 15</u>
Public Servants of the Year (Law/FF/EMT) citation request to National	<u>February 1</u>
Scout of the Year Entry to Post	<u>March 1</u>
Scout of the Year entries to State HQS	<u>April 1</u>
Post Community Service <u>Log</u> to District Commander	<u>April 1</u>
District Community Service <u>winner log/scrap book</u> to State HQS	<u>April 16</u>
State Community Service winner to National	<u>April 29</u>
Post Requirements for All-State	<u>May 1</u>
District requirements for All-State	<u>May 1</u>
"Bob and Rosa Kusterer" JROTC Cadet of the Year entries to State HQS	<u>May 1</u>
Scout of the Year citation request to National	<u>May 1</u>
Rich Homan Award nominations to State HQS	<u>May 15</u>
All-State Team selected	<u>May 15</u>
<u>Complete</u> Post and District Election Reports to State HQS	<u>June 1</u>

2021-2022

ALL-STATE POST REQUIREMENTS

1. Post must achieve 100% in membership, plus one new or reinstated member by end of June 2022.
2. Post conduct 2 Community Service projects/events, one in each half of the fiscal year. (Documentation in Community Service Scrap book needs to be completed, ie., newspaper, photos, etc)
3. Post Commander, Quartermaster and Adjutant shall attend school of instruction.
4. Post Commander or their representative shall attend all District meetings and conventions.
5. Post shall conduct at least two Poppy events.
6. Post makes a \$275.00 donation to State HQS for VFW Programs no later than May 1, 2022.
7. Post submits a Community Service Log/Scrap Book to District for judging by April 1<sup>st</sup>.





2021-2022  
POINT SYSTEM TO DETERMINE POST AND POST  
COMMANDER OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION

Points	Categories (* denotes All-State requirement)
100	*Post achieves 100% in membership by May 1, 2022
05	For each new Life Member recruited
10	For each new Legacy Life recruited (10pts each level)
05	*Purchase 500 Poppies by May 1, 2022 (5pts per 500)
10	Submit monthly Community Service report to District by 7 <sup>th</sup> of the month (Hours & Dollars)
100	*Post donates \$275 to VFW Programs
5	Post donates \$50 to National Home for Children (West Virginia House)
10	Post submits Voice of Democracy entry to District
10	Post submits Patriot's Pen entry
10	Post submits Teacher of the Year entry
10	For each Public Servants of the Year entry (Max 1 per category)
10	Submit Scout Package
05	Submit JROTC Cadet of the Year package
10	*Post submits Community Service/Projects Log







## 2021-2022 RECOGNITION

### MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PERCENTAGE INCREASE

The Post in each of the five categories who show the most increase in membership percentage monthly beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> will be entered into a drawing and one Post will receive \$100 to be used at the Post's discretion.

### MID WINTER CONFERENCE AWARDS

#### BUDDY POPPY CONTEST AWARDS

The first, second and third place in each of the Buddy Poppy display categories will receive a plaque at the Mid-Winter Conference. The first-place entries will be eligible to be entered into the Buddy Poppy display competition at the National Convention.

### STATE CONVENTION AWARDS

#### POST COMMANDER OF THE YEAR

The top scoring Post Commander in each of the five (5) categories will be designated as Post Commander of the Year. Selection will require meeting of all Basic Post All-State Requirements in addition to the highest accumulation of points.

## AWARDS FOR POST OF THE YEAR

In conjunction with the Post of the Year award, the Post Commander will receive recognition at the State Convention.

## AWARDS FOR POST COMMANDER OF THE YEAR

The top scoring Post Commander in each of the five (5) categories that has achieved All-State status will receive recognition at the State Convention.

## ALL STATE TEAM CAPTAIN

The highest scoring All-State Team Commander will be named All-State Captain and will receive an All-State Team Captain cap at the State Convention. If the Commander has already received an All-State Team Captain cap, other recognition identifying the Commander as All-State Team Captain will be presented.

## AWARDS FOR ALL-STATE TEAM COMMANDERS

1. An official All-State Team Cap (for first time awardees only)
2. All-state embroidered apparel if cap already received.
3. An All-State lapel pin with year bar.
4. Commanders Coin

## AWARDS FOR ALL-STATE TEAM QUARTERMASTERS

1. An official All-State Team Cap (for first time awardees only)
2. All-state embroidered apparel if cap already received.
3. An All-State lapel pin with year bar.
4. Commanders Coin

## RECRUITING AWARDS

For every 5 new or reinstated members one recruits or recovers, their name will be placed in a drawing to be held at the State Convention.

The winner will be awarded with:

1. Upgrade to Life Membership, or
2. Upgrade to Bronze Legacy Life, or next level to Legacy Life, or
3. \$400 if already Gold Legacy Life.





## OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST

### Post Responsibilities

Each Post will receive a “log” that they will use to document each activity completed (see suggested activity list below). Each Post will also report to the District Commander the hours and dollars spent each month. The monthly reporting does not need to be kept in the “community service project log”.

### District Responsibilities

Each District Commander will collect the hours and dollars spent information from every post by the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month. This gives our District Commanders the opportunity to communicate with the posts and validate we are meeting the requirements of the VFW. These reports will be forwarded to State HQS monthly by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

The year total of volunteer hours and money contributed to Community Service as of April 30, 2022 will be entered into the All-American Dashboard by the Post, District or State Adjutant.

### Awards

Each District Commander will collect Community Service Log/scrap book from the Posts and their Auxiliaries (if applicable) by April 1, 2022. This allows the District Commander to schedule a board to select a winner. Each District winner will be submitted to State HQS by April 16, 2022. The District winners will then be judged at the State level, by a team of State Officers. Judging will be based on the number of projects, the nature of the projects and the impact on the community we serve. Each District winner will have their project/logs on display and the winner will receive a special award at the State Convention.

The State winner will receive the Community Service Post & Auxiliary (if applicable) of the Year award at the National Convention; the Post Commander may receive a stipend from National HQ to help defray the cost to attend the

National Convention; your Post & Auxiliary name may be printed in the Convention Program Book as the State Winner.

### Community Service Log/Scrap Book

This is the Post/Auxiliary's opportunity to document community events, projects, and activities. Each month, along with documenting in the log (date, event, # of participants), please attach any photographs, event write up, newspaper clippings, etc. This log/scrapbook is an additional way to show off your Post/Auxiliary events, community assistance, in addition to showing your admiration and respect for the community in which you serve.

### Suggested Post Activities

*(These are suggestions; please include any/all activities that support our veterans and/or our communities)*

Military Funerals

Veterans Assistance (Financial/Personal)

Care Packages

Unit send offs or Homecomings

Flag Programs (Flag replacements, donations, educations, etc)

Community Activities – Parades, Veterans Holidays, Homecomings, Program Recognition events, etc.

*Any and all activities that the Post and Auxiliary participate in should be entered into the "log/scrap book".*

POST COMMANDER DISTRICT MEETING/CONVENTION REPORT

(To be turned in to District Adjutant for retention)

- POST MEMBERSHIP PERCENTAGE \_\_\_\_\_ %
- NUMBER OF MEMBERS NEEDED FOR 100% \_\_\_\_\_
- NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHOSE DUES HAVE EXPIRED \_\_\_\_\_
- NUMBER OF NEW & REINSTATED MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_
- POST ACTIVITIES HELD \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- VFW PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (NUMBER OF ENTRIES JUDGED):  
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY \_\_\_\_\_ PATRIOTS PEN \_\_\_\_\_  
PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD \_\_\_\_\_ TEACHER OF THE YEAR \_\_\_\_\_  
SCOUT OF THE YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ JROTC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED \_\_\_\_\_  
RICH HOMAN AWARD \_\_\_\_\_
- Date Post donated \$275 to VFW Programs \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of campers Post sponsored to attend Youth Camp \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ POST \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



Post Trustees Report of Quarterly Audit Completion Check List (retain with Post Copy)

- |  | <u>Initial</u> |
|--|----------------|
| ✓ Figures in Column 10 match figures from Column 13 in previous audit  | _____          |
| ✓ Entry in each column on line 3   | _____          |
| ✓ Entry in each column on line 4 (if your Relief Fund is included in in your General Fund, deduct the amount earmarked for the Relief Fund from the General Fund, and adjust the entries in line 3 accordingly ) | _____          |
| ✓ Bonds and Investments (to include savings and CD amounts) are entered in line 9, and should match figure(s) in block 17  | _____          |
| ✓ All questions in block 16 are properly answered with a yes, no or N/A  | _____          |
| ✓ All lines in block 17 are properly entered with a figure or 0  | _____          |
| ✓ The Total Cash and Investments amount in block 17 matches the total amount in block 15 (Line 14 Column 13 - Net Cash Balances at End of Quarter)   | _____          |
| ✓ All information in block 18 is included  | _____          |
| ✓ Quartermaster's name and address included  | _____          |
| ✓ All 3 Trustees have signed   | _____          |
| ✓ Bonding information is properly filled in  | _____          |
| ✓ The Commander has signed   | _____          |





# PATRIOT'S PEN



2021-2022 Theme

“How Can I Be A Good American?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2021

Patriotic Essay Writing Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

## What Is Patriot's Pen?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 138,000 students who participated last year in this contest. The national winners will receive at least \$500. The first place national award is currently \$5,000.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.

## Big National Prizes

National awards total: \$55,000

Prizes include the various amounts listed below:

1st: \$5,000	7th: \$1,750
2nd: \$4,000	8-10th: \$1,500
3rd: \$3,500	11-12th: \$1,250
4th: \$2,750	13-23rd: \$1,000
5th: \$2,500	24-25th: \$750
6th: \$2,000	26-53rd: \$500

The Internal Revenue Service requires that any recipient that receives more than \$599 award should receive a Form 1099, identifying the proceeds as taxable. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

## How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post competition. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. This participating Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by local VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The one first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. The winner from each Department (state) then competes for the national prizes.

## Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools can participate, too. (Foreign exchange students and former winners that placed in the National contest are excluded from the contest.)

## 2021-2022 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

### To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

( )

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

### To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature (if applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of students participating

No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$



# PATRIOT'S PEN

2021-2022 Theme

"How Can I Be A Good American?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2021

## I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition, is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

The winner  has been  will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on \_\_\_\_\_.

## How Am I Judged?

You will be judged on how well you understand, develop and present the theme. A positive approach is recommended to express your viewpoint.

### Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:

You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

### Theme development is worth 35 points:

Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

### Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:

Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

## How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing competition.
- Contact a local VFW Post within your local area within your state and indicate your interest in participating.
- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Oct. 31, 2021. You can submit your essay and entry form electronically (by email) upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to VFW National directly will be returned.

## What Are the Rules?

- Essay length: 300-400 typewritten words (+ or - 5 words max).
- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and cannot be less than 300 words or greater than 400 words in length. (Essays under or over these word amounts will be eliminated. Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count. At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on your essay. The entry form is your essay's cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition). Contestants found in violation of this rule will face elimination from the competition and will be required to return any and all prize money awarded or received.

The essay must be a contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retain non-exclusive rights to use your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

## Deadline Information

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2021.

## Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions:

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost) to "Find A VFW Post." Be sure this post is within the state you reside in.

If you need assistance, please email us at the VFW National Headquarters at [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org).



For assistance contact:  
816.756.3390 ext. 6155  
Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)

Revised 4/2021

## LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION:

CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BEST TIME TO CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BEST TIME TO CALL: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2021-2022 Theme

“America: Where do we go from here?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2021

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$30,000 Award

### What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 57,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, **America: Where do we go from here?**

### Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$154,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000.

### The Rules

#### Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

#### What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) audio essay and submit the recording, typed essay and completed entry form to your school/group competition or local VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org) for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin) although the recording and typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership. You may enter only one competition at one Post (if otherwise eligible) per year. At any time during the contest, additional participant personal information could be requested by the VFW, including but not limited to a photograph, SSN or biographical information.

### 2021-2022 Official Entry Form Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian  
(required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

( )

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

#### Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.



# VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

2021-2022 Theme

"America: Where do we go from here?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2021

## I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement (On Opposite Side)

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Post Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Post Email \_\_\_\_\_

No. of students participating \_\_\_\_\_

No. of winners advanced to District \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition, is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

The winner  has been  will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on \_\_\_\_\_

## Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the local VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students the local VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://www.vfw.org/FindaPost) to "Find A VFW Post." Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)

## What is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2021. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

## What Are the Judging Criteria?

### Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

### Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

### Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

*The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.*



For assistance contact:  
816.756.3390 ext. 6155  
Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)

Revised 4/2021

## LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION:

CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BEST TIME TO CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BEST TIME TO CALL: \_\_\_\_\_



## VFW Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Entry Form

NOTE: VFW Point of Contact should fill out their section below prior to distributing this form.  
This will provide individuals from outside of the VFW with the needed information to submit their packets successfully.

### To be filled out by VFW representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #:  Sponsoring District #:

Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available)

#### VFW Post POC

Full Name:

Phone:  Email:

Address: (where to mail entry)

City:  State:  Zip:

### Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name:

Phone:  Email:

### Nominee Information

Choose appropriate teacher citation:(Elementary, Middle, High)

Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Phone :  Email:

Occupation Title: (if any) (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

School Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Address of School:

City:  State:  Zip:

School Phone:  School Email: (if available)

Please complete this form and submit to your local VFW Post using the information provided above by the Oct. 31 deadline. Ensure to include all required documentation that is outlined on the instructions sheet provided with this form. All winning Post entries must be received by their VFW Department Headquarters no later than Jan. 1. If you have any questions, please contact your Department Headquarters.





## VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form

NOTE: VFW Point of Contact should fill out their section below prior to distributing this form.  
This will provide individuals from outside of the VFW with the needed information to submit their packets successfully.

### To be filled out by VFW representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #:  Sponsoring District #:

Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available)

### VFW Post POC

Full Name:

Phone:  Email:

Address: (where to mail entry)

City:  State:  Zip:

### Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name:

Phone:  Email:

### Nominee Information

Choose appropriate citation: (EMT, Firefighter or Law Enforcement)

Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Occupation Title: (if any) (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Employer Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Address of Employer:

City:  State:  Zip:

Employer Phone:  Employer Email: (if available)

Please complete this form and submit to your local VFW Post using the information provided above. Ensure to include all required documentation that is outlined on the instructions sheet provided with this form: All post entries must be received by their Department Headquarters no later than January 1st. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tammy Beauchamp at 816-756-3390 x 6287, e-mail [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org)



## VFW Life Saving Award Citation Entry Form

NOTE: Please attach and send with this form all documentation of the event (newspaper clippings, articles, etc.).

### To be filled out by VFW Representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #:  VFW Department:

Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available)

#### VFW POC

Full Name:

Phone:  Email:

Address: (for mailing citation)

City:  State:  Zip:

### Nominee Information

Choose appropriate citation: (Regular, Line of Duty or Valor)

Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Gender:

Occupation Title: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation or N/A)

Employer Name: (If available)

Address of Employer: (If available)

City:  State:  Zip:

Employer Phone:  Employer Email: (if available)

Please complete this form and submit to VFW National Headquarters, Attn: Tammy Beauchamp at Fax# 816-968-1149 or E-mail to [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org) or Lynn Rolf at [lrolf@vfw.org](mailto:lrolf@vfw.org). Ensure to include all required documentation that is outlined above in reference to the event. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

## RICH HOMAN MEMORIAL AWARD

This award will be presented to an outstanding West Virginia VFW Member for their lifetime achievements with the Membership Program, Community Activities, Youth Activities, Project Chairman and the leadership they have demonstrated at their Post that has brought prestige to the VFW.

Four nominations per year are required. All nominations must be submitted in writing to State Headquarters no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. The selection committee will consist of all past Homan Award recipients. If there are less than three surviving past recipients, the State Commander will appoint a member to the committee.





## ROBERT M. (BOB) AND ROSA KUSTERER JROTC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, State of West Virginia is proud to announce that a \$750 Scholarship is being awarded to the top JROTC Cadet in the State. This award is named the Robert M. (Bob) and Rosa Kusterer JROTC Scholarship in honor of the late State Junior Vice Commander, Robert M. Kusterer and his wife Rosa.

The winning Cadet in the state will be given a check in the amount of \$750 to be used as needed to further their education (i.e. clothing, books, etc.)

The following criteria has been established for each nominee (must be a senior and only one nominee from each school.)

### CRITERIA:

1. Positive attitude toward the JROTC Program.
2. Outstanding military bearing and conduct in and out of uniform.
3. Personal attributes (self-confidence, initiative, flexibility, judgement.)
4. Patriotism, promotes Americanism
5. Courtesy (dependability, punctuality, human relations, respect, cooperation.)
6. Growth potential
  - a. Must be a High School Senior.
  - b. Must have a "B" or better average.
  - c. Must be active in at least one other student co-curricular activity or club.

The recipient of the \$750 Scholarship will be selected by a panel appointed by the State Commander.

All nominations for this scholarship must be submitted in writing to VFW State Headquarters, PO Box 9431, South Charleston, WV 25309.

**Deadline for nominations to be received is May 1.**



# VFW National Membership Program



Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic  
Commander-in-Chief

Updated: April 09, 2021

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## **Membership Mission**

To recruit, retain and mentor a stable membership base including all generations of veterans.

To cultivate a membership that is well versed in institutional knowledge and actively involved at all levels of the organization and in the local community. To establish Posts with an established vision of service, leadership and community outreach.

## **Introduction**

Over the past several years, the VFW has been successful in recruiting new members into the organization. The only way to make this success permanent is to retain those members, recover past members, and continue to recruit new veterans into our ranks. To do this, we must improve the way we communicate with our members at all levels of the organization. Posts, Districts, and Departments need to use all methods available to convey information for news and training to our membership; newsletters, emails, social media, and outreach teams are some of the most effective ways to maintain communication with our members. We need to know who our members are and how we can address their needs and concerns. We need to focus on the basic tenets of our organization: to take care of our members, their families, and the veteran community as a whole.

## **Membership Goals**

1. Build a strong organization through recruiting new members while retaining our current membership that creates a solid baseline for the future.
2. Work together to achieve the VFW's goals. The VFW National Headquarters staff is available to assist in coordinating programs, developing membership initiatives and building awareness among our membership and the entire veteran community.

## **Membership Objectives**

- Recruit new and recover unpaid members
- Involve members directly in VFW functions at all levels
- Retain and mentor existing membership
- Develop new Posts and revitalize existing Posts
- Increase Life Membership

- Increase Legacy Life Membership

## Membership Resources

In order to assist our Posts, Districts, and Departments in meeting the goals set out by the Commander-in-Chief in this membership program, the National Headquarters has a wealth of resources at your disposal. Many of those are available free of charge to our members.

- Membership materials ranging from applications, recruiting brochures, posters, and benefits brochures can be ordered directly from the Membership Department using the Membership Order Form (located under Membership Quick Links once you log into [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) )
- Resources for Post Development, Membership Campaigns, and Mentorship such as training guides, videos, and webinars are available in the Training & Support section on [vfw.org](http://vfw.org)
- Promotional tools such as radio spots, sample advertisements, public service announcements, and media kits are all available through the Media Room on [vfw.org](http://vfw.org)

See the trend? Just about anything you will need is at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), check it out.

The VFW National Headquarters staff is ready and trained to answer any questions you may have concerning membership, VFW programs, or other issues. You can contact our **Member Service Center** directly at **1.833.VFW.VETS**, or the **Membership Department** at **1.888.JOIN.VFW**.

## Triple Crown Award

Any commander who achieves All-American at the Post, District and Department level will receive a Triple Crown pin and recognition at the National Convention.

## Recruiting Awards

- **5, 10, 15** Corresponding numbered member pin
- **25** Commander-in-Chief membership coin & citation
- **50** VFW CIC Basecamp Backpack
- **75** Commemorative medallion set
- **100** Century cap and citation or \$50 VFW Store credit
- **150** \$250 VFW store gift certificate

### Department "100 Percent" Incentive

Any Department that attains 100% in membership by close of business on March 31, 2022 will be entered into a random drawing. The commander plus guest and quartermaster plus guest for the Department that is selected will each receive:

- **\$2500 voucher through Veterans Travel Services (VTS) applied towards airfare, accommodations and transportation for a trip of their choice.**

### Early Bird Award—VFW Legislative Conference

The top three Post commanders and quartermasters in each division on Jan. 1, 2022 will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW Legislative Conference, Washington D.C.**

### Department Early Bird Incentive

For every Department that achieves 92% in membership by Jan. 1, 2022; the Department commander will receive:

- **A Henry Golden Boy .22 Caliber Rifle (VFW Tribute edition if available) or a credit voucher of equal value for use with Veterans Travel Services (VTS) or the VFW Store.**

### Post Commander and Quartermaster - New & Reinstated Member Award

The top 10 Post commanders and quartermasters in each division who report more than 50 new and reinstated annual members by Jan. 1, 2022 will each be awarded:

- **A travel charger with the official VFW Commander-in-Chief logo.**



### **Kansas City Spree**

The top two Post commanders and the top two District commanders in each division who achieve 100% membership by April 1, 2022 along with their guest will each be awarded:

- Round-trip airfare to Kansas City, Mo. from the airport nearest the awardee's home.
- A fun-filled weekend (May 19-22, 2022) that may include but is not limited to touring, shopping and a complete tour of the VFW National Headquarters.

### **100% Post, District & Department**

A distinctive streamer will be awarded to every Post, District and State/Department that achieves 100% or greater in membership before July 1, 2022.

### **100% Commander Drawing**

Each Post and District commander that exceeds 100% in membership by June 1, 2022 will receive an entry in this drawing. Twenty Post commanders and 12 District commanders will receive:

- A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.

### **Post Commander and Quartermaster Division Challenge**

For every 10 new/reinstated members recruited between July 1, 2021 and April 1, 2022 Posts will earn one entry for both Post commander and quartermaster entered into a drawing. One Post per division will receive:

- A \$1,000 stipend each for commander and quartermaster to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.

### **Legacy Life Membership Acquisition**

Each Post that achieves the designated benchmarks of 25, 50 and 75 Legacy Life Members will be awarded:

- A Legacy Society Post Proclamation.

Each Post that achieves the distinctive benchmark of 100 Legacy Life members by July 1, 2022, commander or Post representative will receive:

- A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.
- Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.
- Legacy Society Post Proclamation.

#### **Elite Recruiter**

Any VFW member who signs up 250 or more new and/or reinstated annual members by July 1, 2022, will receive:

- A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.
- Distinctive cap, citation, and name badge.

#### **Recruiter of the Year**

The VFW member who signs up the greatest number of new and/or reinstated annual members greater than 250 by July 1, 2022, will receive:

- A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.
- Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.
- Distinctive cap, citation, and name badge.
- Commander-in-Chief's Crystal Eagle.

#### **New Post Development and Post Revitalization Department Award**

- For each new Post the department will receive two entries into a drawing, and one entry for increasing the membership of a Post of 50 members or less to over 50 members by July 1, 2022, the Department selected will receive:
  - \$1000 paid directly to Department.

### **All-American Criteria**

*The All-American program exists to recognize exceptional leadership and teamwork, authentic accomplishment in membership growth and VFW core programs.*

#### **All-American Post Criteria**

- Membership greater than 100%
- Meet all the following Program Participation Criteria:

- Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Post can donate \$75 to National in lieu of entry)
- Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Post can donate \$75 to National in lieu of entry)
- Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to Veterans & Military Support Programs Services, minimum of \$100.
- Partner twice with two separate organizations like Team RWB, Operation Ramp It Up, Operation Gratitude, Team Rubicon, Merging Vets & Players and other VSOs to include our friends at Sport Clips and Burger King. (Submit both online reports through dashboard).
- Create Post social media site or actively maintain existing site.
- 5 New Action Corps Sign-Ups: To sign up: Text "VFW" to "50457" to sign-up 5 previously unsubscribed members or VFW supporters.
- Have a 10% increase in total impact in Community Service. (\$ Donated + Hours = Total Impact) \* Baseline has been established within the KPI Tools for Community Service. \*See notes on page 12.

### **All-American Post Award**

- All Posts that meet the Qualifying Percentage and the program participation criteria will receive an All-American Post Citation, Post Streamer and be recognized in the VFW magazine.

- The Top 25 Posts in each Division will receive:

- Acknowledgment in VFW Magazine
- Acknowledgement during the All-American Awards Ceremony at the National Convention
- All-American Post citation
- All-American Post streamer
- All-American citation - commander
- All-American name badge - commander
- All-American cap (commander only, quartermaster and Post members may purchase "Post Member" cap)
- All-American lapel pin (commander only, quartermaster may purchase pin)
- All-American Team Post Member lapel pin (25 pack)

- The top *five* commanders in each division will also receive:
  - A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.
  - Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.

#### All-American District Criteria

- Membership greater than 100%
- Finish in top 10 Districts in your division that meet all the following criteria
  - Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry\*see last page)
  - Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry\*see last page)

#### All-American District Award

- All-American District streamer
- All-American District citation - commander
- All-American name badge - commander
- All-American cap (commander only, quartermaster may purchase cap)
- All-American lapel pin (commander only, quartermaster may purchase pin)
- The top *two* District commanders in each division will also receive:
  - A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.
  - Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.

#### All-American Department Criteria

- Membership must be greater than 100%
- Must conduct two Membership recruiting events; one between July 1 and December 31, 2021 and the other between January 1, 2022 and May 1, 2022. A report of these events must be submitted to the Membership Department.
- Conduct a Department Commander's "Good Will Tour" prior to Jan 1, 2022 with a report submitted to the Membership Department.

- **National Legislative Service**

- Monthly National Legislative Service committee member reports submitted to National Legislative Service in Washington, D.C.

- **National Veterans Services**

- Must have a State/Department service officer and submit his or her name and contact information to National Veterans Services in Washington, D.C. by July 31, 2021
- Monthly activity report from Department Service Officer or designated NVS Committee member to NVS in Washington, D.C.

- **Programs**

- Voice of Democracy - An entry advanced to National judging
- Patriot's Pen - An entry advanced to National judging
- Veterans & Military Support Programs – Must complete a State/Department fundraiser and proceeds donated to Veterans & Military Support Programs, Kansas City, Mo. (\*see last page)
- Must have at least 1 teacher submitted for the Teacher of the Year competition. (No longer three categories, entries can come from K-12).
- Have a 10% increase in total impact in Community Service.  
( $\$ \text{ Donated} + \text{Hours} = \text{Total Impact}$ ) \* Baseline has been established within the KPI Tools for Community Service.

### **All-American Department Award**

- All-American Department streamer
- All-American Department citation - commander
- All-American name badge - commander
- All-American cap - commander - *quartermaster may purchase cap*
- All-American lapel pin - commander - *quartermaster may purchase pin*
- \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention
- Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention Joint Opening Session

### Conference Membership Award

The State/Department leading each conference will be entrusted with the conference membership colors for the following year. The 2020-2021 Conference winners will return the colors to the membership booth at National Convention in Kansas City, MO no later than COB on Monday after the Joint Opening Session. The 2021-2022 Conference winners will then pick up the colors from the Membership Director at National Convention in July 2022 in Kansas City, MO any time after 0800 on Tuesday at the Membership booth.

The Conference with the highest membership percentage of the four Conferences will have their name and year engraved on a traveling trophy presented by the Commander-in-Chief to the Conference Chairman at the National Convention. The 2021-2022 Conference Chairman will return the trophy to the membership booth at National Convention in Kansas City, M) no later than COB on Saturday to ensure placement of the new nameplate. This trophy will be presented to the 2021-2022 Conference Chairman on stage during the Joint Opening Session\*\*.

### Post Membership Divisions and Minimum Qualifying Percentages

Division	Total Membership		Qualifying Percentage
1	951+		Over 100%
2	750	950	Over 100%
3	356	749	Over 100%
4	246	355	Over 100%
5	185	245	Over 100%
6	143	184	Over 100%
7	112	142	Over 100%
8	88	111	Over 100%
9	68	87	Over 100%
10	51	67	Over 100%
11	10	50	Over 100%

### District Membership Divisions and Minimum Qualifying Percentages

Division	Total Membership		Qualifying Percentage	# Eligible
1	5,000	14,000	Over 100%	10
2	3,282	4,999	Over 100%	10
3	2,172	3,281	Over 100%	10
4	1,447	2,171	Over 100%	10
5	906	1,446	Over 100%	10
6	1	905	Over 100%	10

## Important Notes

- In order to receive stipends, awardees must be in attendance at designated events
- Only **one** National paid stipend per event (National Convention, legislative Conference, etc.)
- All awards are non-transferable
- **Post/District/Department:** Membership must be greater than 100 percent, which means 100 percent plus one in overall membership.
- **Post member cap,** members must be in the Post during the membership year.
- **5 New Action Corps Sign-Ups:** VFW's strength on Capitol Hill rests with the voices of our members and patriotic supporters. It is vitally important that VFW's National Grassroots Advocacy network remains actively engaged in the fight for veteran's benefits. As a VFW advocate you receive an e-newsletter each week keeping you up to date on current issues facing our service members, veterans, and their families. When it is urgent that Congress hear from their constituents regarding a VFW legislative priority, VFW will release an Action Alert. The Action Alert will provide the necessary information and tools our advocates need in order to ensure their voices are heard.
- The *Department Commander's "Good Will Tour"* is for Department commanders to visit Posts in their Department to get face-to-face time with their Post and District leadership and assist with membership and Programs. For further information about the *Commander's "Good Will Tour"*, please contact the Membership Department by calling 1-888-JOIN-VFW or by email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org)
- Donations made to replace a Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen (By eligible overseas Post). **Do not donate through your Department or by any other means.** Use this link: <https://heroes.vfw.org/page/22948/donate/1>
- Veterans & Military Support Programs Services Donations for Post/District/Department as listed above will only be accepted only through the following link: <https://heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate/1>
- **\*\*For the Conference Membership Award traveling trophy, the Conference Chairman will be responsible for the return of the trophy to the Membership Department booth at the National Convention each year**