



VFW State of West Virginia  
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GENERAL ORDERS NO. 2  
 SERIES 2023-2024, AUGUST 2023

All General Orders will be forwarded electronically and posted on the state website at <https://vfwv.com/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=60909>. Posts or individuals who want a hard copy of the General Orders and accompanying documents, send \$25 to VFW State HQS, PO Box 9431, South Charleston, WV 25309.

1. **MEMBERSHIP:** Great work by Posts recruiting new members and reinstating expired members. So far we have gained 29 new members and 14 reinstated members. To be eligible for All-American a Post must achieve 102% in membership. For assistance with membership, contact Junior Vice Commander Simmons at 205-434-0490.

2. **UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

*Districts serve lunch before meeting. Time listed is lunch time.*

District 1	Sistersville	August 27	12:00 PM	Ogden	Smith
District 2	Mason	August 20	12:00 PM	Heaney	Chippis
District 3	Clarksburg	August 19	12:00 PM	Simmons	Crum
District 4	Wardensville	August 20	1:00 PM	Simmons	Kennedy
District 5	Sophia	August 19	12:00 PM	Elliott	Chippis

Schedule subject to change.

**In accordance with Section 218(a)(1)k, Post Commanders are to assure that the Commander or their representative attend all properly called District meetings or Convention. Information for members to participate in the meeting electronically will be provided at a later date.**

3. **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Aug 31, 2023	2024 Accountable Officer Bond applications due State HQS
Oct 31, 2023	Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year entries due to Posts
Oct 31, 2023	Post Trustees Quarterly Audit for July – September due State HQS
Nov 2-5, 2023	Southern Conference Tulsa, OK
Nov 15, 2023	2022 Tax Filings due for Posts whose accounting year runs 1 July – 30 June
Nov 30, 2023	Post Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher entries to District
Nov 30, 2023	Post Public Servant entries (one each Law/FF/EMT) to District
Dec 20, 2023	District Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entries due State HQS
Jan 19-21, 2024	Mid-Winter Conference Stonewall Jackson Resort

5. **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, PATRIOT'S PEN AND TEACHER OF THE YEAR:** With school starting in August now is the time to prepare to provide public and private schools and other civic organizations with this year's entry forms. Information on the programs can be found at <https://www.vfw.org/community> and <https://vfwv.com/di/vfw/v2/default.asp> under the Programs drop-down menu.

4. **2024 VETERANS AND MILITARY SUPPORT (VMS) DONATION:** As a reminder to be eligible for All-American Posts can only make the VMS donation via the All-American Dashboard. Once you access the Dashboard, click on “VMS Donation” in the upper right-hand corner.
  
5. **2023-2024 OFFICER TRAINING GUIDES:** The 2023-2024 Officer Training Guides for Commanders, Quartermasters and Trustees are now available on the National website at <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/bylaws-training-forms-and-templates>. Additional valuable training videos, webinars and other materials are available also.
  
6. **2023-2024 ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER BOND AND EMPLOYEE BOND APPLICATION AND COST SHEETS.** 2023 Accountable Officer and Employee Bonds expire on August 31, 2023. The 2023-2024 applications and cost sheets are available on our website at <https://vfwv.com/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=60863>. Applications are due to State Headquarters in order to forward the applications and be received by Tallman Insurance by August 31, 2023.
  
7. **2023-2024 COMMANDER’S MANUAL:** Commander Elliot’s manual are being mailed out to Posts who did not have representation at the State Convention. The manual has been placed on the website at <https://vfwv.com/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=60882>.
  
8. **COMMUNITY SERVICE ENTRIES:** Posts are reminded to enter community service achievements in the All-American Dashboard as soon as practical after completion.
  
9. **COMMANDER CALENDAR:** Any Post requesting the presence of Commander Elliott through June 2024 need to send a request in writing to State Headquarters.

OFFICIAL:  
S. KEVIN LIGHT, ADJUTANT  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

BY ORDER OF:  
KAMI M. ELLIOTT, COMMANDER  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

VFW State of West Virginia  
memstats as of 073123

City	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year*	Percent	Div	RS	N/R LM	Prior Annual	Retention	N/R %
MOUNDSVILLE	437	1	0	0	0	3	3	155	1.93%	6		0	60	16.67%	0.00%
MORGANTOWN	548	1	0	1	0	2	3	123	2.43%	7		0	23	21.74%	0.81%
TERRA ALTA	578	1	0	0	0	2	2	97	2.06%	8		0	22	13.64%	0.00%
FAIRMONT	629	1	0	0	1	1	2	400	0.50%	3		0	33	12.12%	0.25%
KINGWOOD	826	1	0	0	0	0	0	60	0.00%	10		0	10	0.00%	0.00%
MASONTOWN	1589	1	0	0	0	1	1	95	1.05%	8		0	21	61.90%	0.00%
TUNNELTON	2345	1	0	0	0	1	1	48	2.08%	11		0	10	10.00%	0.00%
BRUCETON MILLS	2523	1	0	3	1	2	6	52	11.53%	10		0	19	21.05%	7.69%
WEIRTON	2716	1	0	0	0	2	2	223	0.89%	5		0	90	15.56%	0.00%
ROWLESBURG	3008	1	0	0	0	1	1	33	3.03%	11		0	1	0.00%	0.00%
NEW CUMBERLAND	3526	1	0	0	0	4	4	95	4.21%	8		0	54	18.52%	0.00%
ELM GROVE	4442	1	0	0	0	11	11	196	5.61%	5		0	103	19.42%	0.00%
SISTERSVILLE	6327	1	0	1	0	22	23	152	15.13%	6		0	79	59.49%	0.66%
CHESTER	6450	1	0	0	0	88	88	757	11.62%	2		0	128	56.25%	0.00%
EAST FAIRMONT	7048	1	0	4	0	3	7	267	2.62%	4		0	38	28.95%	1.50%
WESTOVER	9916	1	0	0	0	3	3	116	2.58%	7		0	20	30.00%	0.00%
<b>District 1 Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>2869</b>	<b>5.47%</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>0</b>			<b>0.38%</b>

PARKERSBURG	1212	2	0	0	0	15	15	445	3.37%	3		0	111	21.62%	0.00%
WEST UNION	3408	2	0	0	0	3	3	55	5.45%	10		0	14	28.57%	0.00%
CHARLESTON	3466	2	0	0	0	6	6	142	4.22%	7		0	31	48.39%	0.00%
HARRISVILLE	3554	2	0	0	0	2	2	92	2.17%	8		0	22	22.73%	0.00%
CLAY	4419	2	0	0	0	0	0	57	0.00%	10		0	12	8.33%	0.00%
BELLE	5269	2	0	0	0	1	1	60	1.66%	10		0	21	9.52%	0.00%
GLENVILLE	5469	2	0	0	0	0	0	38	0.00%	11		0	8	100.00%	0.00%
RIPLEY	5501	2	0	0	0	6	6	228	2.63%	5		0	122	18.03%	0.00%
SAINT ALBANS	6418	2	0	0	0	2	2	63	3.17%	10		0	12	25.00%	0.00%
RAVENSWOOD	6669	2	0	0	0	3	3	127	2.36%	7		0	42	21.43%	0.00%
CHESAPEAKE	8363	2	0	0	0	10	10	117	8.54%	7		0	42	28.57%	0.00%
ELKVIEW	8516	2	0	0	0	2	2	70	2.85%	9		0	16	18.75%	0.00%
MASON	9926	2	0	2	8	73	83	549	15.11%	3		0	66	98.48%	1.82%
<b>District 2 Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>2043</b>	<b>6.51%</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>0</b>			<b>0.49%</b>

BELINGTON	410	3	0	0	0	1	1	188	0.53%	5		0	18	11.11%	0.00%
CLARKSBURG	573	3	0	1	1	26	28	482	5.80%	3		0	163	15.34%	0.41%
WESTON	1976	3	0	0	0	0	0	39	0.00%	11		0	15	13.33%	0.00%
GRAFTON	3081	3	0	0	0	5	5	144	3.47%	6		0	40	25.00%	0.00%
BUCKHANNON	3663	3	0	0	0	1	1	173	0.57%	6		0	28	17.86%	0.00%
WEBSTER SPRINGS	3738	3	0	0	0	0	0	40	0.00%	11		0	15	0.00%	0.00%
BURNSVILLE	3757	3	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.00%	11		0	5	100.00%	0.00%
QUINWOOD	4484	3	0	0	0	2	2	120	1.66%	7	S	0	39	12.82%	0.00%
MARLINTON	4595	3	0	0	0	2	2	50	4.00%	11		0	17	11.76%	0.00%
SUMMERSVILLE	6106	3	0	2	0	1	3	70	4.28%	9		0	19	10.53%	2.86%
ALDERSON	6723	3	0	1	0	3	4	66	6.06%	10		0	17	11.76%	1.52%
RENICK	6737	3	0	0	0	0	0	16	0.00%	11		0	6	0.00%	0.00%
CRAIGSVILLE	8614	3	0	0	0	2	2	31	6.45%	11		0	12	33.33%	0.00%
SALEM	9151	3	0	0	0	0	0	68	0.00%	9		0	7	0.00%	0.00%
<b>District 3 Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1501</b>	<b>3.19%</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>0</b>			<b>0.33%</b>

VFW State of West Virginia  
memstats as of 073123

City	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year*	Percent	Div	RS	N/R LM	Prior Annual	Retention	N/R %
MARTINSBURG	896	4	0	0	0	3	3	265	1.13%	4		0	62	14.52%	0.00%
ROMNEY	1101	4	0	3	0	0	3	88	3.40%	8		0	27	14.81%	3.41%
WARDENSVILLE	2102	4	0	0	0	5	5	147	3.40%	6		0	86	11.63%	0.00%
KEYSER	3518	4	0	0	0	4	4	147	2.72%	6		0	33	30.30%	0.00%
CHARLES TOWN	3522	4	0	4	0	1	5	598	0.83%	3		0	29	100.00%	0.67%
ELKINS	3647	4	0	0	0	4	4	128	3.12%	7		0	40	17.50%	0.00%
BERKELEY SPRINGS	4019	4	0	0	0	4	4	120	3.33%	7		0	41	43.90%	0.00%
COALTON	5583	4	0	0	0	0	0	17	0.00%	11		0	4	25.00%	0.00%
HARMAN	5781	4	0	0	0	1	1	20	5.00%	11		0	13	30.77%	0.00%
RIDGELEY	6452	4	0	1	0	0	1	82	1.21%	9		0	31	3.23%	1.22%
PETERSBURG	6454	4	0	0	0	0	0	110	0.00%	8		0	0	100.00%	0.00%
FORT ASHBY	6667	4	0	0	1	7	8	152	5.26%	6		0	41	29.27%	0.66%
MATHIAS	7780	4	0	0	0	1	1	17	5.88%	11		0	2	50.00%	0.00%
MOOREFIELD	9606	4	0	0	0	3	3	110	2.72%	8		0	59	8.47%	0.00%
SUGAR GROVE	9666	4	0	0	0	0	0	90	0.00%	8		0	2	50.00%	0.00%
<b>District 4 Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2091</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>0</b>			<b>0.43%</b>

HUNTINGTON	1064	5	0	0	0	3	3	239	1.25%	5		0	64	12.50%	0.00%
IAEGER	1144	5	0	1	0	0	1	39	2.56%	11		0	9	33.33%	2.56%
SOPHIA	4326	5	0	0	0	1	1	131	0.76%	7		0	49	8.16%	0.00%
BECKLEY	4469	5	0	0	0	2	2	102	1.96%	8	S	0	37	13.51%	0.00%
HINTON	4500	5	0	0	0	0	0	28	0.00%	11		0	14	7.14%	0.00%
ALUM CREEK	4768	5	0	0	0	6	6	71	8.45%	9		0	13	46.15%	0.00%
MADISON	5578	5	0	1	0	12	13	236	5.50%	5		0	82	26.83%	0.42%
CHAPMANVILLE	6153	5	0	1	0	0	1	101	0.99%	8		0	12	8.33%	0.99%
ANSTED	7695	5	0	0	0	2	2	63	3.17%	10		0	20	30.00%	0.00%
OCEANA	8364	5	0	0	0	0	0	60	0.00%	10		0	3	33.33%	0.00%
WELCH	8413	5	0	0	0	0	0	17	0.00%	11	S	0	5	40.00%	0.00%
HURRICANE	9097	5	0	0	2	6	8	166	4.81%	6		0	47	14.89%	1.20%
HUNTINGTON	9738	5	0	0	0	5	5	195	2.56%	5		0	56	23.21%	0.00%
MILTON	9796	5	0	0	0	2	2	101	1.98%	8		0	31	38.71%	0.00%
<b>District 5 Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1549</b>	<b>2.84%</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>0</b>			<b>0.32%</b>

Members at Large	15050	99	0	3	0	16	19	885	2.14%	2					0.34%
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<b>State Total</b>		<b>255</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>10938</b>	<b>4.05%</b>						<b>0.39%</b>
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## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Aug 31, 2023	2024 Accountable Officer Bond applications due State HQS
Oct 31, 2023	Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year entries due to Posts
Oct 31, 2023	Post Trustees Quarterly Audit for July – September due State HQS
Nov 2-5, 2023	Southern Conference Tulsa, OK
Nov 15, 2023	2022 Tax Filings due for Posts whose accounting year runs 1
July – 30 June	
Nov 30, 2023	Post Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher entries to District
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Dec 20, 2023	District Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entries due State HQS
Jan 19-21, 2024	Mid-Winter Conference Stonewall Jackson Resort

**2023-2024 VFW State of West Virginia District meeting schedule**

	<b>DISTRICT 1 12 PM</b>	<b>District 2 12 PM</b>	<b>DISTRICT 3 12 PM</b>	<b>DISTRICT 4 1 PM</b>	<b>DISTRICT 5 12 PM</b>	
<b>8/19/2023</b>			<b>Simmons Clarksburg Crum</b>		<b>Elliott Sophia Chipps</b>	<b>8/19/2023</b>
<b>8/20/2023</b>		<b>Heaney Mason Chipps</b>		<b>Simmons Wardensville Kennedy</b>		<b>8/20/2023</b>
<b>8/27/2023</b>	<b>Ogden Sistersville Smith</b>					<b>8/27/2023</b>
<b>10/21/2023</b>		<b>Ogden Parkersburg Smith</b>	<b>Simmons Grafton Kennedy</b>			<b>10/21/2023</b>
<b>10/22/2023</b>				<b>Elliott Martinsburg Kennedy</b>		<b>10/22/2023</b>
<b>10/28/2023</b>					<b>Heaney Milton Crum</b>	<b>10/28/2023</b>
<b>10/29/2023</b>	<b>Heaney Chester Chipps</b>					<b>10/29/2023</b>
<b>4/20/2024</b>		<b>Simmons Ripley? Bise</b>	<b>Elliott Buckhannon Chipps</b>		<b>Heaney Madison Smith</b>	<b>4/20/2024</b>
<b>4/21/2024</b>				<b>Ogden Charles Town Chipps</b>		<b>4/21/2024</b>
<b>4/28/2024</b>	<b>Simmons 7048 East Fairmont Crum</b>					<b>4/28/2024</b>



**Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento is issuing his first challenge to all our Posts to get a strong start to membership growth and to move us toward our goal of 102% for this membership year!**

**This membership year is already off to a strong start, and the Commander-in-Chief wants to keep that momentum going. To do that, he's set out the first of his membership challenges this year to encourage Posts to raise their membership numbers.**

**For this month's challenge, we're going to continue focusing on membership growth and see how many members a Post can bring in during the month of August. New members, renewing members, and reinstated members, as well as dues-paying transfers will all count towards this contest goal.**

**The Post in each membership division that shows the highest increase in their membership total will win a \$500 cash award and a framed citation for the Post!**

**This contest will specifically count Annual members; since Life Members will not show up in your Post's totals until September, they will not factor into this month's contest.**

**Membership is a continual process through the year, and it's always the right time to bring in new members, make sure your Annual members renew or convert to Life, and work those Unpaid/Expired lists to bring members back into the fold.**

**The goal for this year is 102%, and with hard work we know that it is within our reach. This is going to be the year that we show exceptional growth because this will be the year everyone will go out and**

**MEET THE CHALLENGE!**

MEET THE CHALLENGE



2023-2024

As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.

## THE VFW'S VITAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

**Educate** separating service members about their well-earned VA benefits through private benefits counseling sessions with a VFW Accredited Service Officer.

**Advocate** for America's veterans and their families on Capitol Hill, ensuring *promises made* to veterans are *promises kept*.

**Help** cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

**Deliver** morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.



**2,300+**

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

**3.4 million+**

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events since 2005.

**\$11.2 billion**

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits.

**\$12.3 million**

Amount of academic scholarships awarded to more than 2,700 veterans and service members since January 2014.

**18**

Number of times the VFW has testified to Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

**\$3 million+**

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

**\$12.9 million+**

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 46% of the funds covered basic housing needs.



**JOIN THE VFW**

**Connect With Us**



## About the VFW

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves. In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

**Our Mission:** *To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.*

**Our Vision:** *Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.*



### The VFW by the numbers

**1.5 million**  
Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

**5,754**  
Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



### Helping struggling military families

**11,509**  
Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through **VFW Unmet Needs** since 2004.

**\$5,917,950**  
Amount of grants provided through **VFW Unmet Needs** covering housing for struggling military families since 2004.

**4,074**  
Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs since 2004.



### Cutting red tape

**115,000**  
Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2022.

**Nearly 13,500**  
Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2022 resulting in more than \$64 million in disability compensation.

**20+**  
Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.



**1899**

Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



### Inspiring patriotism in young people

**26,250+**  
Number of high school students who competed in the 2022–23 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

**66,800+**  
Number of students who competed in the 2022–23 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.



### Improving life in America

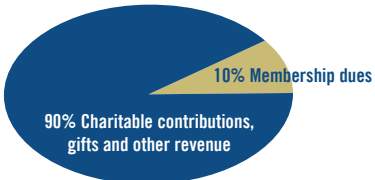
**5 million**  
Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

**\$44.5 million**  
Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.

### The VFW Relies on Donations

The VFW is a 501(c), and programs are made possible through membership dues and tax-deductible donations from good-hearted Americans.

**Cost of VFW Program Services: \$61.4 Million**



Source: VFW 2022 Annual Report



Deceased members  
5/30-7/30 2023

Post	First	MI	Last	Date
437	Robert	H	Noble	7/13/2023
437	Mark	E	Yoho	6/25/2023
1101	Lloyd	E	Rinker	7/20/2023
1212	Richard	D	Aldsworth	7/21/2023
1212	Walter	B	Wright	7/11/2023
1212	Stephen	R	Owens	6/16/2023
2716	John	N	Hughes	7/13/2023
2716	Rudy	J	Venditti	7/13/2023
3526	James	R	Bartlett	5/31/2023
3663	Gary		Leigh	6/15/2023
4768	Gary	N	Cochran	7/17/2023
5578	Roger	L	Marcum	7/17/2023
5578	Rodney	D	Kuhn	6/12/2023
5781	Willis	O	Vanscoy	7/21/2023
6450	Kenneth	C	Unger	6/21/2023
6669	Dana	W	Baldwin	6/13/2023
6723	Mikel	L	Sargent	7/27/2023
7048	Danny	G	Williams	6/30/2023
8364	Perry	F	Harvey, Jr	6/9/2023
9796	Clinton	K	Anderson	6/14/2023
15050	Gary	W	Pettrey	6/6/2023