General Orders No. 5 - November 2026-2027 Series

All General Orders will be forwarded electronically and posted on the state website at https://vfwwv.com under the Resources pulldown tab. Posts or individuals who want a hard copy of the General Orders and accompanying documents, send $25 for the 2026-27 year to: VFW State HQS, PO Box 9431, South Charleston, WV 25309.

1. **District Meetings** will be held in November (please see Calendar for dates and locations). In accordance with **Section 218(a)(1)k. of the National Manual of Procedure**, the Commander, or their representative, will attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings.

   Section 220 of the National By-Laws/Manual of Procedures, Section 220: Removal - Department. "The Department Commander may, with respect to any post within their Department, remove any Post officer for cause who fails to fulfill their duties of office as required by Section 218."

2. **Filing deadline for all versions of the 2025 Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T**, where applicable for most Posts and Districts, is **November 15th**. Make sure your taxes are filed on time or an extension filed, and that a copy of proof of filing or the approved extension is sent to State HQS. Posts/Districts who have not yet completed 2024 Federal Income Tax filings need to complete **immediately.**

3. **All officers should obtain current 2027 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual**. Copies of the revised edition are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2027 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 127th National Convention, which became effective on Aug. 28, 2026. 

4. **Post Voice of Democracy, Patriots' Pen, Teacher of the Year, and Public Servant** (one each – Law, FF, EMT) should be sent to, and ***received by*** the District by **November 20th**. Districts should send winning VOD and PP entries to be ***received by*** State HQs by December 20th.

5. **Music Licensing Requirements for VFW Posts.** If your Post plays background music, operates a jukebox, or hosts karaoke, DJs, or live bands, please take a moment to review the attached **Music Licensing for Posts** guidance provided by VFW National Headquarters.

   Many Posts may not be aware of the music licensing requirements and copyright laws that apply to these activities. Failure to comply could result in **significant fines, penalties, or legal action against your Post.**

   We strongly encourage all Post Commanders, Quartermasters, and House Committees to review this important information sent by Adjutant General Dan West, and ensure their Post is following the proper procedures.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
5532 MacCorkle Ave SW
South Charleston, WV 25309

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PO Box 9431
South Charleston, WV 25309

CONTACT
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vfwwvqm@gmail.com
vfwwv.com

Please remember: Even if your Post is a nonprofit veterans organization, it is not automatically exempt from music licensing requirements. Taking a few minutes to review this guidance now could help protect your Post from costly copyright infringement violations in the future.

6. Posts in arrears need to contact their District Commanders for help or assistance. The District should be able to help answer any questions you may have, provide training and feedback, and guide you through the steps you will need to take to resolve outstanding issues.

7. Any Post requesting a post visit by Commander Link through June 2026 needs to send a request in writing to State Headquarters.

OFFICIAL:
D. ANDREW SOCKETT, ADJUTANT
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

BY ORDER OF:
KEVIN E. LINK, COMMANDER
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

WEST VIRGINIA | VOLUME 1, NO. 5 | NOVEMBER 2026

Membership

West "by God" Virginia is currently holding 1st place in "THE" Southern Conference, but Virginia is quickly gaining on us, and we are currently 11th place in the Nation! Get those memberships in and **keep recruiting**!

The Department Commander would like to recognize the Posts that have achieved 100% in Membership, with a special shout-out to Petersburg Post 6454 for leading the charge, at 106.25% membership!

Posts at 100% or greater:

Petersburg Post 6454	-	106.25%	Wardensville Post 2102	-	102.19%
Weston Post 1976	-	105.55%	Mason Post 9926	-	100.20%
Charles Town Post 3522	-	103.74%	Harman Post 5781	-	100.00%

Top Recruiting Districts:
1st: District 4 – 50 recruits
2nd: District 2 – 31 recruits
3rd: District 3 – 21 recruits

Top Recruiting Posts:
1st: Post 3522 – 30 recruits
2nd: Post 2102 – 13 recruits
3rd: Post 3466 – 12 recruits

Top State Recruiters:
1st: Edward Scherz (3522) – 18 recruits
2nd: Roger Young (9926) & Randy Delawder (3522) – 10 recruits
Honorable Mention: Department Commander, Kevin Link (2102) – 13 recruits & Department A/Q Andrew Socket – 12 recruits

Alabama-Connecticut-West Virginia Department Commander Rivalry
West Virginia is still in the lead over Alabama and Connecticut – let's hold that line! West "by God" Virginia is currently at 89.74%, Alabama is gaining momentum at 84.12%, and Connecticut trails behind at 80.30%.

For any questions or assistance with membership, please contact the 2026-27 Membership Chairman, Dept. Jr. Vice Commander Harold "Butch" Chipps (contact info in the Directory).

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DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
BULLETIN

VFW 101

DID YOU KNOW?

Your VFW Post and VFW Auxiliary should NOT share the same EIN (Employer Identification Number)!

Although we work together toward the same mission, the VFW Post and its Auxiliary are separate organizations and should each maintain their own EIN with the IRS.

Why does this matter?

Allowing an Auxiliary to operate under a Post's EIN can create serious tax reporting issues, financial complications, and potential liabilities for the Post.

Remember:

- Each organization should have its own EIN.
- Having an EIN does NOT automatically make an organization tax-exempt.
- Each organization is responsible for maintaining its own tax-exempt status and filing required annual IRS returns.

Protect your Post! Ensure your Post and Auxiliary are properly registered and compliant with IRS requirements.

VFW Post Operations

Music Licensing Requirements for VFW Posts. If your Post plays background music, operates a jukebox, or hosts karaoke, DJs, or live bands, please take a moment to review the attached **Music Licensing for Posts** guidance provided by VFW National Headquarters.

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DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

Please remember: Even if your Post is a Nonprofit Veterans Organization, it is not automatically exempt from music licensing requirements. Taking a few minutes to review this guidance now could help protect your Post from costly copyright infringement violations in the future.

Sponsorship Program

The Department of West Virginia is looking for *your* help in finding supporters for the Department Sponsorship Program. What we are striving to accomplish with Corporate Sponsorship is, "we will be able to divert more of our regular income to supporting the Department and our various programs for Veterans and our Communities".

We offer a wide range of sponsorship opportunities to suit businesses of all sizes, from the smallest local shop to the largest corporation. Whether you are interested in sponsoring an event session, supporting a veteran recognition activity, or advertising your business in our Convention Book, there is a place for you. Each sponsorship level offers unique benefits and visibility, helping you demonstrate your commitment to veterans and the community.

As Chairman of the Sponsorship Program, I am available to help any Post go into their communities and talk with Businesses and Corporations to sponsor our Fall Conference or State Convention. This can be done through ads in our convention booklet or, possibly sponsoring our convention dinner, or meeting rooms, thereby freeing up our monies for other programs we are passionate about.

I thank you for considering this meaningful partnership, and we look forward to collaborating with you to serve our veteran community throughout the state of West Virginia.

~ Sponsorship Chairman, Department Sr. Vice Commander, Ronie Wheeler

Combat Tested Gaming

STATEWIDE TETRIS TOURNAMENT. Combat Tested Gaming is organizing a statewide Tetris tournament! Posts who wish to participate have until December 31 to report a Post-level champion to the Department CTG Chair (vfwwvctg@gmail.com) AND to the Department Adjutant.

The CTG Team will host the District-level tournaments at each of the April District meetings to determine the five district champions; each of the five District champions will receive a two-night hotel stay at the Bridgeport Conference Center for the State finals to be held at the 2027 State Convention and a $50 cash prize each to help cover travel expenses!

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The tournament will be conducted on the Nintendo Switch platform, played on the head-to-head version of Tetris featured in the title "Puyo Puyo Tetris". Participants are limited to VFW and VFW Auxiliary members who are members of the Department of West Virginia BEFORE June 15, 2026, to ensure a fair playing field.

The champion's Post will receive a custom streamer for their Post flag (WV CTG CHAMPION 2026-27). Individual cash prizes to be announced (possible sponsors incoming!), and the Department Champion will be awarded the West Virginia CTG Championship Belt (see flyer attached).

~ CTG Chairman, Joshua Rife

Chaplain's Corner

The arrival of November invites us to pause in gratitude for our country, for the freedoms we enjoy, and for the sacrifices that have preserved them. We solemnly honor the brave men and women who served in defense of those freedoms, especially those who have shed blood, and those still missing in action. As each new day begins, may we remain thankful for safe passage, cherished time with family, and every opportunity to serve others. Let us live faithfully in service to the Lord, carrying grateful hearts and remembering that tomorrow is never promised.

With gratitude, we remember, with faith, we serve, with hope, we look toward tomorrow.

Bible Verse: "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18

Prayer: Heavenly Father, with grateful hearts, we remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. May their courage and sacrifice never be forgotten, and may their families find comfort and peace. We pray for those families who still wait for those who never made it home. We pray for all who are currently serving and pray that Your word directs our lives to bring honor and glory in Your name, Lord. Amen.

~ Department Of West Virginia State Chaplain, Maria Saunders

Commander's Note

The Heartbeat and the Engine: How Our Canteen Drives Our Mission

When you step into our VFW Canteen, you are stepping into the welcoming heartbeat of our entire organization. It is a place of camaraderie, shared stories, and deep fellowship. But look a little closer, and you will see that the Canteen is also the operational engine that powers everything we do out in the community.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
BULLETIN

Operating a successful Canteen isn't just about day-to-day business—it is a vital part of our sacred mission. Every shift worked, every cup poured, and every gathering hosted directly transforms into the fuel we need to give back. The revenue generated within these walls is what funds our veteran relief funds, drives our youth programs, and sustains our local community outreach.

Proper management and dedicated hospitality ensure that our doors stay open and our legacy remains secure. When we run an inviting, organized, and compliant Canteen, we create the perfect gateway for recruitment. It is often the very first place a prospective member experiences our culture. By welcoming fresh faces into a vibrant atmosphere, we bring in the new energy, diverse skills, and passionate voices needed to strengthen our collective advocacy for veterans' rights.

A thriving Post relies on a thriving Canteen, and it takes a village to sustain that momentum. By drawing our community together, we share the workload and ensure that a dedicated few do not have to carry the load alone. To every volunteer, staff member, and patron who keeps our Canteen running strong: thank you. Your everyday dedication behind the scenes is a powerful force for good that directly advances the cause we proudly serve. Let's keep up the incredible work and keep fueling the mission together!

~ Department Commander, Kevin Link

Did you notice an unexpected "guest" anywhere in the General Orders or Bulletin? If you located the Prime Beef Bull, please call Commander Link on 304.703.2771 from 4-8pm, Monday – Friday to let him know where you found it, and ***be entered into a drawing***!

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PLANNING CALENDAR

NOVEMBER EDITION

Schedule of VFW Meetings and Events

** Changes or Updates to the previous month's calendar are shown in **RED**.**

2026

November 1	District Meeting • **District 4** – Moorefield Post 9606 @1pm (Reps: Kevin Light, Joyce Dyer)
November 7	District Meeting • **District 3** – Grafton Post 3081 @12pm (Reps: Harold Chipps, Donna Bodkins & Andrea Wilfong) • **District 5** – Location: Sophia 4326 @12pm (Reps: PSC Corrina Boggess, Pres. Linda Smith)
November 14	District Meeting • **District 2** – Location: Coppers Auction, 681 N Church St, Ripley WV 25271 @12pm – Hosted by: Ripley Post 5501 (Reps: Josh Rife, Mary Chipps & Lisa Harbour)
November 15	District Meeting • **District 1** – Chester Post 6450 @12pm (Reps: Ronie Wheeler, Donna Bodkins)
November 15	Post judging should be completed for VOD, PP, Teacher of the Year, and Public Servant
November 20	Post VOD, PP, Teacher of the Year & Public Servant (one each – Law / FF / EMT) entries received by District
December 15	Deadline for Districts to complete VOD & PP judging
December 20	District Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen winners received by State HQs

2027

January 1	The Chapel of Four Chaplains Nomination to State HQS
January 1	District Teacher of the Year entry (one entry only) received by state HQS
January 1	District Public Servants of the Year (one each – Law / FF / EMT) received by State HQS
January 15	Deadline for District Program Chairmen to report participating Posts to Department Chairman

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PLANNING CALENDAR

NOVEMBER EDITION

January 15	Department HQS reports State VOD & PP winners to NHQS
January 31	**2nd Quarter Audits due (October – December)**
February 1	Chaplain of the Year nominations to State HQS
February 19 – 21	**Midwinter Conference – Bridgeport, WV**
February 27 – March 4	Washington Conference – Washington, D.C.
March 1	Scout of the Year Entries to Post
April 1	Post Scout of the Year entry to State HQS
April 10	3rd District Meeting • District 3 – Buckhannon Post 3663 (Reps: Harold Chipps, Diana Stout)
April 11	3rd District Meeting • District 4 – Wardensville Post 2102 (Reps: Kevin Light, Linda Smith)
April 17	3rd District Meeting • District 2 – Mason Post 9926 (Reps: Josh Rife, Linda Smith)
April 18	3rd District Meeting • District 1 – East Fairmont 7048 (Reps: Ronie Wheeler, Mary Chipps & Andrea Wilfong)
April TBD	3rd District Meeting • District 5 – Madison Post 5578 (Reps: PSC Corrina Boggess, Sherry Flanagan)
April 30	**3rd Quarter Audits due (January – March)**
April 31	Deadline for Posts and Districts to meet requirements for All-State
May 1	JROTC Cadet of the Year entries to State HQS
May 15	Rich Homan Award nominations to State HQS
May 15	All-State Team selected
June 1	Completed Post and District Election Reports to National and State HQS
June 10 – 13	State Convention – Bridgeport, WV
July 31	**4th Quarter Audits due (April – June)**
July 31 – August 4	National Convention – Milwaukee, WI

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Department of West Virginia All-State Program 2026-2027

*Indicates All-State Requirements

#Indicates Bonus Points

Updated 10-31-26			*100% by May 1st	*Purchase 5 Buddy Poppies per member by May 1st	*Donate $275 to VFW Programs	*Submit Monthly Community Service Report in Dashboard	*Nursing Home or Hospital Visit	*Submit VoD or PP Entry (To District by 11/30/26)	*National Home $50	*DPAA $75 (Dist $100)	*District Meeting Attendance	#CTG $50	Rich Holman Award Nomination	Chaplain of the Year Nomination	JROTC
Post	**Name**	**Total**	*100 points by 4/01/27 #250 bonus points by 12/31/26	10 pts	*100 Points by 3/1/27 #250 bonus Points by 10/01/26	25 Points Per Month	20 Points	VoD and PP 10 pts ea. (20 points max)	10 Points	25	25 pts per meeting	#250 Points	#50 Points	#50 Points	#10 Points
3522	Charles Town	1140	350	10	350	100	20		10	25	25	250			
6454	Petersburg	1140	350	10	350	100	20		10	25	25	250			
9926	Mason	1105	350		350	75	20		10	25	25	250			
2102	Wardensville	1095	350	10	350	75			10	25	25	250			
410	Belington	790		10	350	100	20		10	25	25	250			
7048	East Fairmont	770		10	350	100			10	25	25	250			
8363	Chesapeake	770		10	350	100			10	25	25	250			
4768	Alum Creek	670		10	350				10	25	25	250			
4	District 4	625			350					25		250			
3663	Buckhannon	540		10	100	100	20		10	25	25	250			
3466	Charleston	510			350	100			10	25	25				
9606	Moorefield	485		10	350	100					25				
3647	Elkins	475			100	100					25	250			
6327	Sistersville	475			350	100					25				
1101	Romney	460		10	350	50				25	25				
4442	Elm Grove	450			350	75					25				
6723	Alderson	445			350	25	20			25	25				
1144	Iaeger	425			350	50					25				
1976	Weston	425	350			50					25				
6669	Ravenswood	385		10	350						25				
1	District 1	375			350					25					
548	Morgantown	375			350						25				
826	Kingwood	375			350						25				
3554	Harrisville	375			350	25									
9097	Hurricane	375			350						25				
1589	Masontown	350			350										
5781	Harman	350	350												
8516	Elkview	160		10		100				25	25				
573	Clarksburg	155		10		100	20				25				
629	Fairmont	150				100				25	25				
4469	Beckley	145				100	20				25				
8364	Oceana	145				100	20				25				

Department of West Virginia All-State Program 2026-2027

*Indicates All-State Requirements

#Indicates Bonus Points

Updated 10-31-26			*100% by May 1st	*Purchase 5 Buddy Poppies per member by May 1st	*Donate $275 to VFW Programs	*Submit Monthly Community Service Report in Dashboard	*Nursing Home or Hospital Visit	*Submit VoD or PP Entry (To District by 11/30/26)	*National Home $50	*DPAA $75 (Dist $100)	*District Meeting Attendance	#CTG $50	Rich Holman Award Nomination	Chaplain of the Year Nomination	JROTC
Post	Name	Total	*100 points by 4/01/27 #250 bonus points by 12/31/26	10 pts	*100 Points by 3/1/27 #250 bonus Points by 10/01/26	25 Points Per Month	20 Points	VoD and PP 10 pts ea. (20 points max)	10 Points	25	25 pts per meeting	#250 Points	#50 Points	#50 Points	#10 Points
578	Terra Alta	125				100					25				
896	Martinsburg	125			100						25				
1212	Parkersburg	135		10		100					25				
3408	West Union	125				100					25				
6450	Chester	125				75				25	25				
6667	Fort Ashby	125				100					25				
4326	Sophia	120				75	20				25				
9666	Sugar Grove	120				75	20				25				
5578	Madison	105		10		50	20				25				
5269	Belle	100				100									
5469	Glenville	100				75					25				
3081	Grafton	95				50	20				25				
5501	Ripley	75				50					25				
9916	Westover	60				25			$10		25				
3518	Keyser	50				25					25				
4019	Berkeley Springs	50				25					25				
6106	Summersville	50				25					25				
437	Moundsville	25									25				
1064	Huntington	25									25				
2523	Bruceton Mills	25									25				
3008	Rowlesburg	25									25				
3526	New Cumberland	25									25				
3738	Webster Springs	25									25				
4500	Hinton	25									25				
6418	Saint Albans	25									25				
6452	Ridgeley	25									25				
7695	Ansted	25									25				
9796	Milton	25									25				
4419	Clay	10		10											
5583	Coalton	10		10											
2	District 2	0													
3	District 3	0													

Department of West Virginia All-State Program 2026-2027

*Indicates All-State Requirements

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Post	**Name**	**Total**	*100 points by 4/01/27 #250 bonus points by 12/31/26	10 pts	*100 Points by 3/1/27 #250 bonus Points by 10/01/26	25 Points Per Month	20 Points	VoD and PP 10 pts ea. (20 points max)	10 Points	25	25 pts per meeting	#250 Points	#50 Points	#50 Points	#10 Points
5	District 5	0													
2345	Tunnelton	0													
2716	Weirton	0													
6153	Chapmanville	0													
6737	Renick	0													
8614	Craigsville	0													

West Virginia as of Monday, November 2, 2026

Dept	Post	Dst	New Annual	Cont Annual	Reinst Annual	New Life	Cont Life	Reinst Life	Life Upgrade	Current	Prior	Percentage	Division	City	State
West Virginia	437	1	0	13	0	1	84	0	1	98	128	76.56%	6	MOUNDSVILLE	WV
West Virginia	548	1	0	2	1	0	77	0	0	80	101	79.20%	8	MORGANTOWN	WV
West Virginia	578	1	1	5	0	0	77	0	1	83	105	79.04%	7	TERRA ALTA	WV
West Virginia	629	1	0	1	1	1	331	1	1	335	355	94.36%	2	FAIRMONT	WV
West Virginia	826	1	0	2	0	0	38	0	0	40	48	83.33%	11	KINGWOOD	WV
West Virginia	1589	1	0	2	0	0	91	0	3	93	101	92.07%	8	MASONTOWN	WV
West Virginia	2345	1	0	5	0	0	32	0	0	37	43	86.04%	11	TUNNELTON	WV
West Virginia	2523	1	0	3	0	0	45	0	1	48	58	82.75%	10	BRUCETON MILLS	WV
West Virginia	2716	1	0	15	1	0	142	0	1	158	182	86.81%	5	WEIRTON	WV
West Virginia	3008	1	0	1	0	0	27	0	0	28	30	93.33%	11	ROWLESBURG	WV
West Virginia	3526	1	0	13	0	0	33	0	0	46	84	54.76%	9	NEW CUMBERLAND	WV
West Virginia	4442	1	0	10	0	0	79	0	1	89	124	71.77%	7	ELM GROVE	WV
West Virginia	6327	1	0	29	0	1	127	2	1	159	168	94.64%	5	SISTERSVILLE	WV
West Virginia	6450	1	7	165	0	0	672	0	8	844	845	99.88%	1	CHESTER	WV
West Virginia	7048	1	3	6	1	0	220	0	0	230	248	92.74%	3	EAST FAIRMONT	WV
West Virginia	9916	1	0	3	0	0	103	0	0	106	121	87.60%	7	WESTOVER	WV
District Totals		**1**	**11**	**275**	**4**	**3**	**2178**	**3**	**18**	**2474**	**2741**	**90.25%**	**1**		
West Virginia	1064	2	0	19	1	0	276	1	0	297	354	83.89%	2	HUNTINGTON	WV
West Virginia	1212	2	0	27	5	0	299	1	1	332	412	80.58%	2	PARKERSBURG	WV
West Virginia	3466	2	1	24	5	0	165	1	1	196	198	98.98%	4	CHARLESTON	WV
West Virginia	3554	2	0	5	0	0	67	0	0	72	81	88.88%	9	HARRISVILLE	WV
West Virginia	4419	2	0	2	0	0	38	0	1	40	45	88.88%	11	CLAY	WV
West Virginia	5269	2	0	4	1	0	33	0	0	38	64	59.37%	10	BELLE	WV
West Virginia	5501	2	0	3	0	0	107	0	0	110	125	88.00%	6	RIPLEY	WV
West Virginia	6418	2	2	3	0	0	48	0	0	53	70	75.71%	9	SAINT ALBANS	WV
West Virginia	6669	2	0	6	1	0	72	0	0	79	94	84.04%	8	RAVENSWOOD	WV
West Virginia	8363	2	0	7	1	0	83	0	0	91	110	82.72%	7	CHESAPEAKE	WV
West Virginia	8516	2	1	4	0	0	45	0	1	50	65	76.92%	10	ELKVIEW	WV
West Virginia	9097	2	2	9	3	2	123	0	4	139	163	85.27%	5	HURRICANE	WV
West Virginia	9796	2	0	6	0	0	62	0	0	68	85	80.00%	9	MILTON	WV
West Virginia	9926	2	0	18	21	0	446	1	0	486	485	100.20%	2	MASON	WV
District Totals		**2**	**6**	**137**	**38**	**2**	**1864**	**4**	**8**	**2051**	**2351**	**87.23%**	**2**		
West Virginia	410	3	5	66	4	0	151	0	2	226	227	99.55%	4	BELINGTON	WV
West Virginia	573	3	5	35	4	2	371	1	5	418	483	86.54%	2	CLARKSBURG	WV
West Virginia	1976	3	0	1	0	0	34	3	11	38	36	105.55%	11	WESTON	WV
West Virginia	3081	3	1	11	0	0	95	0	1	107	130	82.30%	6	GRAFTON	WV
West Virginia	3408	3	0	1	1	0	37	0	0	39	46	84.78%	11	WEST UNION	WV

West Virginia	3663	3	1	6	1	0	125	0	1	133	154	86.36%	5	BUCKHANNON	WV
West Virginia	3738	3	0	2	0	0	20	0	0	22	35	62.85%	11	WEBSTER SPRINGS	WV
West Virginia	5469	3	0	0	0	0	58	0	1	58	59	98.30%	10	GLENVILLE	WV
West Virginia	6106	3	3	11	0	0	54	0	1	68	92	73.91%	8	SUMMERSVILLE	WV
West Virginia	6737	3	0	4	1	0	10	0	0	15	18	83.33%	11	RENICK	WV
West Virginia	8614	3	1	2	0	0	21	0	0	24	28	85.71%	11	CRAIGSVILLE	WV
District Totals		**3**	**16**	**139**	**11**	**2**	**976**	**4**	**22**	**1148**	**1308**	**87.76%**	**3**		
West Virginia	896	4	0	12	5	0	195	0	1	212	238	89.07%	4	MARTINSBURG	WV
West Virginia	1101	4	0	8	1	0	52	0	1	61	72	84.72%	9	ROMNEY	WV
West Virginia	2102	4	0	2	5	0	179	0	0	186	182	102.19%	5	WARDENSVILLE	WV
West Virginia	3518	4	0	10	0	0	99	0	0	109	130	83.84%	6	KEYSER	WV
West Virginia	3522	4	23	4	5	2	686	0	6	720	694	103.74%	1	CHARLES TOWN	WV
West Virginia	3647	4	1	11	2	0	135	0	1	149	163	91.41%	5	ELKINS	WV
West Virginia	4019	4	0	3	1	0	112	0	1	116	130	89.23%	6	BERKELEY SPRINGS	WV
West Virginia	5583	4	0	2	0	0	13	0	1	15	18	83.33%	11	COALTON	WV
West Virginia	5781	4	0	3	1	0	8	0	0	12	12	100.00%	11	HARMAN	WV
West Virginia	6452	4	1	3	0	0	40	0	0	44	51	86.27%	10	RIDGELEY	WV
West Virginia	6454	4	2	15	4	0	98	0	0	119	112	106.25%	7	PETERSBURG	WV
West Virginia	6667	4	4	16	0	0	113	0	2	133	167	79.64%	5	FORT ASHBY	WV
West Virginia	9606	4	0	14	0	0	60	0	0	74	94	78.72%	8	MOOREFIELD	WV
West Virginia	9666	4	0	0	0	1	79	0	1	80	85	94.11%	9	SUGAR GROVE	WV
District Totals		**4**	**31**	**103**	**24**	**3**	**1869**	**0**	**14**	**2030**	**2148**	**94.50%**	**2**		
West Virginia	1144	5	0	5	0	0	42	0	0	47	50	94.00%	10	IAEGER	WV
West Virginia	4326	5	0	5	3	1	70	0	1	79	95	83.15%	8	SOPHIA	WV
West Virginia	4469	5	3	9	0	1	103	2	3	118	129	91.47%	6	BECKLEY	WV
West Virginia	4500	5	0	3	0	0	17	0	0	20	24	83.33%	11	HINTON	WV
West Virginia	4768	5	0	2	0	0	48	0	0	50	62	80.64%	10	ALUM CREEK	WV
West Virginia	5578	5	1	13	2	0	138	0	1	154	184	83.69%	5	MADISON	WV
West Virginia	6153	5	0	2	0	0	70	0	1	72	76	94.73%	9	CHAPMANVILLE	WV
West Virginia	6723	5	0	9	0	1	67	2	3	79	94	84.04%	8	ALDERSON	WV
West Virginia	7695	5	0	6	2	0	41	0	0	49	56	87.50%	10	ANSTED	WV
West Virginia	8364	5	0	2	0	0	62	0	0	64	67	95.52%	10	OCEANA	WV
District Totals		**5**	**4**	**56**	**7**	**3**	**658**	**4**	**9**	**732**	**837**	**87.45%**	**5**		
West Virginia	15050	99	7	35	18	6	661	1	8	728	825	88.24%	1	SOUTH CHARLESTON	WV
District Totals		**99**	**7**	**35**	**18**	**6**	**661**	**1**	**8**	**728**	**825**	**88.24%**	**5**		
State Totals			**75**	**745**	**102**	**19**	**8206**	**16**	**79**	**9163**	**10210**	**89.74%**			

General Counsel/Legal

Music Licensing for Posts

We continue to be contacted by Posts in different Departments with concerns about being contacted by companies regarding the need to obtain a license to play music. Please share the following with your Departments and Posts.

The issue is these Posts are playing music without the required license from a Performing Rights Organization (PROs), which collect and distribute royalties to songwriters, composers, and music publishers when their music is publicly performed/played. Generally, under U.S. copyright law, any business or organization that publicly performs copyrighted music must obtain a performance license from the copyright holders or their representatives. This includes playing music over a sound system, jukebox, karaoke machine, live band, or DJ — even if the music is purchased legally.

ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers), BMI (Broadcast Music International) and SESAC (Society of European Stage Authors and Composers) are the three largest PROs that are charged with collecting royalties for songwriters and publishers for "public performances" of songs in their respective catalogs. Whether your taste in music ranges from Billie Eilish to Englebert Humperdinck, Posts should be licensed to play it.

If the Post is running a business, then it is considered a business with all strings attached. For music, the Posts do not own the rights to play the songs for commercial use. That is a matter of licensing.

If you neglect the requirements that pertain to playing music in your Post, and just turn a device on and play what you want, you open your Post to legal claims by music rights holders, which could be very costly.

There is, however, a **limited statutory exemption** that may apply to certain events held by nonprofit veterans' organizations and fraternal organizations. This exemption is found in 17 U.S.C. § 110(10) of the U.S. Copyright Code.

To qualify for this exemption:

1. The organization must be nonprofit veterans or fraternal organization of the Internal Revenue Code (which includes VFW Posts).
2. The music must be nondramatic, such as typical songs played on the radio or at social events (not musicals or operas).
3. The performance must occur during a social function conducted by the Post.
4. The event must not be open to the general public – it must be restricted to members and invited guests.
5. Any proceeds, after deducting reasonable costs for the performance, must be used for charitable purposes and not for financial gain.

To summarize:

- If your Post advertises an event to the public, sells tickets to the general public, or otherwise allows unrestricted public access, **the exemption will not apply**, and a license may be required.
- The exemption does **not cover businesses operating inside the Post**, such as canteens or restaurants that may play music for the general public.
- The exemption is limited to **live or recorded performances** of nondramatic musical works at qualifying private social functions.

The VFW remains committed to ensuring that our Posts operate in compliance with the law while keeping administrative burdens as light as possible. We encourage all Posts to take steps to understand and, where applicable, invoke the exemption under 17 U.S.C. § 110(10).

If you have any doubt as to whether you need to adhere to copyright laws, I draw your attention to the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, at Sec. 218, 418, 518, and 618 that requires Commanders to, "Insist that that the business and activities of the organization are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation or bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on this organization." Copyright laws are applicable laws.

Recommendations

- Review your Post's music use to determine whether it meets the criteria for the exemption.
- If you receive a letter or invoice from a performing rights organization, do not ignore it. Evaluate whether your Post qualifies for the exemption and respond accordingly.
- When in doubt, consider consulting legal counsel or reaching out to the VFW National organization for guidance.

Some additional information on this issue can be found here: Music Licensing for Bars and Restaurants: What You Need to Know | Bar Marketing - Bar Business - Opening a Bar - Bar Owner

~ From VFW Adjutant General, Dan West

DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS

2026 - 2027

1ST PLACE POST

PETERSBURG

POST 6454

106.25%

★ POSTS OVER 100% ★

CITY	POST	%
PETERSBURG	6454	106.25%
WESTON	1976	105.55%
CHARLES TOWN	3522	103.74%
WARDENSVILLE	2102	102.19%
MASON	9926	100.20%
HARMAN	5781	100.00%

POSTS OVER 95%

CITY	POST	%
CHESTER	6450	99.88%
BELINGTON	410	99.55%
CHARLESTON	3466	98.48%
GLENVILLE	5469	98.30%
OCEANA	8364	95.52%

★ POSTS OVER 90% ★

CITY	POST	%
SISTERSVILLE	6327	94.64%
FAIRMONT	629	94.36%
SUGAR GROVE	9666	94.11%
IAEGER	1144	94.00%
CHAPMANVILLE	6153	93.42%
ROWLESBURG	3008	93.33%
EAST FAIRMONT	7048	92.74%
MASONTOWN	1589	92.07%
BECKLEY	4469	91.47%
ELKINS	3647	91.41%

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TO ACHIEVE 100%?

LET'S KEEP THE M0MENTUM GOING!

RECRUIT ★ RENEW ★ RETAIN

STRONG POSTS ★ STRONG DISTRICTS ★ A STRONGER WEST VIRGINIA ★

★ DISTRICT STANDINGS ★

DIST.	%
4	94.36%
1	90.22%
3	87.76%
5	87.33%
2	87.15%
89.65%	DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE LEADERBOARD 2026–2027

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

CURRENT STANDINGS

TOP INDIVIDUAL RECRUITERS

1. **EDWARD G. SCHERZ** — POST 3522 — *18 Recruits*
2. **DAVID A J SOCKETT** — POST 3466 — *12 Recruits*
3. **ROGER D. YOUNG JR.** — POST 9926 — *10 Recruits*
3. **RANDY W. DELAWDER** — POST 3522 — *10 Recruits*

TOP DISTRICTS

1. **DISTRICT 4** — *50 Recruits*
2. **DISTRICT 2** — *32 Recruits*
3. **DISTRICT 3** — *25 Recruits*

TOP POSTS

1. **POST 3522** — *30 Recruits*
2. **POST 2102** — *13 Recruits*
3. **POST 3466** — *12 Recruits*

HONORABLE MENTION

KEVIN E. LINK — POST 2102 — *13 Recruits*

WHO WILL BE THE OVERALL RECRUITER CHAMPION?

RECRUIT ★ RENEW ★ REINFORCE

“HONORING SERVICE, STRENGTHENING OUR MEMBERSHIP”