

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Utah



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Department of Utah Commander

Membership

All-State

and

Requirements

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Membership & All-State Requirements 2025-2026

Listed below is a list of criteria that should be utilized when planning your membership programs for the coming year. A membership program has a better chance of success when the Post and District Commanders and membership teams reach the goals and requirements listed as achievable.

Department has officers, committee and program chairs to assist the Districts or Posts with programs or if District or Post has concerns that need resolved. A list of the Officers and Committee Chairs are sent to all District, and Post Commanders and Quartermasters.

1) Membership Program

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 a strong tradition of service, leadership, and community outreach.

Build a strong organization for the future through growth and retention.

Our requirement this year is to continue growth and achieve at least 101% in membership. If a member has been lost due to passing away or not renewing their dues, then that means we must fill that gap in addition to recruiting new members to meet the 101% goal.

Work together to achieve the VFW's goals. The VFW State Headquarter staff is here to assist in coordinating programs, developing new membership initiatives, and build awareness among our comrades and the entire veteran community. Lead and mentor new members. *Show leadership skills and patience when mentoring. Not everyone sees the world as you do.*

Membership Objectives & Goals

- Recruit new and recover unpaid members
 - Goal 101%
- Retain and mentor existing membership
 - Goal 100%

- Develop new Posts and revitalize existing Posts

Post Responsibilities

- Name a Membership Chairman by Aug 31, 2025 and report that name to the District Membership Chairman
- Hold at least two (2) membership drives during the year.
Report to the District Membership Chairman monthly on your progress.
- Officer Recruiter requirements
 - Post Commander: Two (2) New Members
 - Senior & Junior Vice: One (1) New Members each

District Responsibilities

- District Commanders will be the District Membership Chairman
- Monitor Mem Stats frequently to monitor & advise Posts in the District as to their progress.
- Hold at least of two (2) membership drives with Posts in the District. iv) Report to the Department Membership Chairman monthly on the progress of the District.
- Ensure that all Posts have promotional material and applications for membership drives.

Membership Program Details & Incentives

- Individual VFW Recruiter Awards**
 - Bronze Star Award:**
 - Any member recruiting 8 new and/or reinstated members by May 31, 2026 will receive a "2025-26 TOP RECRUITER" Commander Shirt.
 - Silver Star Award:**
 - Any member recruiting 10 new and/or reinstated members by May 31, 2026 will receive a "2025-26 TOP RECRUITER" Commander Shirt and a \$25.00 Gift Card.

"Lead Boldly...with Patience"

c. **Gold Star Award:**

- i. Any member recruiting 15 new and/or reinstated members by May 31, 2026 will receive a "2025-26 TOP RECRUITER" Commander Shirt and a \$50.00 Gift Card

d. **Legion Of Merit Award:**

- e. The top five recruiters, signing up the most new and/or reinstated members

2) All-State Requirements

Post Requirements

i) **Membership**

- a. Membership is 101%,
 - i. Post Membership will be at 101% by June 30, 2026.

ii) **Recruiting/Retention** The Post must perform two Recruiting Events.

- a. Recruiting Event is an event with the goal of recruiting new members or contacting unpaid or inactive members. All recruiting events must be coordinated through the Department Membership Chairman to ensure that scheduling conflicts do not occur. Upon completion of the event, a report showing the results is required to be submitted to the Membership Chairman.

b. Officer Recruiter requirement

- i. Post Commander: Two (2) New Members
- ii. Senior & Junior Vice: One (1) New Member each

iii) **Organize and participate in a "Day of Service" event.**

- a. Day of Service must be within the Month of May 2026. Holidays are not Day of Service qualified. Day of Service must be organized and participated by the Post. Day of Service is not improving your own Post. It must be a

community project such as cleaning statues or improving a park, helping in a homeless shelter or making a community center better.

b. Election Reports

- b. Following any election throughout the year, a report is required to be submitted to the Department and National Headquarters.

iv) Bonding

- a. The Quartermaster is required to be always bonded. Bonds must be renewed yearly. Bonding may be done through the Department Quartermaster or an indemnity company. If a company is used, a copy of the bond must be sent to the Department Quartermaster. The bond must be at least equal to the amount of liquid assets of the Post. The bonding period for this year will be from September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026.

v) Post Audit Reports (June, September, December, and April)

- a. The trustees must audit the books of the Post Quartermaster quarterly, ensuring all financial transactions are properly documented. The trustees must also audit the books of the Post Adjutant quarterly ensuring all transactions have been properly approved and documented. A report must be filed with the Department no later than the end of the next month following the audit.

vi) vii) Attendance at Department/District Meetings (Post Dues Paid)

- a. Post Commanders are required to attend District and Department meetings to include but not limited to CoA's (Council of Administration), Mid-Winter Conference and State Summer Convention. If a scheduling conflict occurs, then the Post Commander is required to send either the Senior Vice Commander or Junior Vice Commander. If all 3 Officer are unavailable a Post representative may attend in their place with approval from Department/District Commander.

vii) Buddy Poppy Program

- a. The Buddy Program supports the Post Relief Fund. A Post is required to order Buddy Poppies once a year through the Department Quartermaster. Buddy Poppies should be ordered as early as possible to ensure availability for popular holidays such as Veteran's Day and Memorial Day. (Sec 219 of the

By-Laws/Manual of Procedure): There is no minimum order for Buddy Poppies. Ordering poppies is required, however.

viii) **Community Service Report (include volunteer hours spent on VFW Programs)**

- a. Community service (helping others) should be given consistently throughout the year but at a minimum of Quarterly. All Community Service Reports will be inputted into the WWW.VFWUT.ORG website or WWW.VFW.ORG dashboard no later than May 15, 2026. quarters are July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Jan-Mar, and April-June.

ix) **VFW Programs Participation (participation is required in at least Four (4) programs)**

Participation reports must be submitted to the District Commander or Department Chairperson by established program deadlines.

a. Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year

- i. Given to an exceptional teacher for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and Patriotism

b. Voice of Democracy

- i. Audio/Essay open to students in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades with a theme of "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for our Country?"

c. Patriot's Pen

- i. Written essays open to students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades with the theme of "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for our Country?"

Note: Both VOD and Patriot's Pen themes are the same this year.

d. Scout of the Year

- i. Award given to an outstanding boy and/or girl scout who displays citizenship, patriotism and love of their country.

e. JROTC Cadet of the Year nomination

- i. VFW award for special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership for Junior ROTC Cadets. This award seeks to recognize a remarkable cadet who will become a leader in their community and serve their country.
- ii. [Nomination](#) forms are available at www.VFWUT.org under RESOURCES /REPORTS & FORMS

f. VFW Member of the Year nomination

- i. The award is to recognize a member of the VFW who has exemplified in their actions and accomplishments, the true spirit of our organization on serving the needs of their Post, Community, and who has dedicated themselves in a professional manner to addressing the pillars of our organization.
- ii. [Nomination](#) forms are available at www.VFWUT.org under RESOURCES /REPORTS & FORMS

g. Safety Awards

- i. Examples of safety awards
 - 1) Law Enforcement going above and beyond their line of duty.
 - 2) Firefighters going above and beyond their line of duty.
 - 3) EMTs going above and beyond their line of duty.

h. Veterans and Military Support Programs

- i. Donation of at least \$125.00 yearly to support financial assistance and scholarships through:
 - 1) Unmet Needs
 - 2) Military Assistance Program
 - 3) Help a Hero Scholarship Program

Donations may be made to the Department, and the Department Quartermaster will make your donation on your behalf or If the Post has a credit or debit card, a donation may be made on-line after login to www.vfw.org at <https://oms.vfw.org/aa/donation.aspx>.

District Requirements

i) Membership

- a. Membership is required to be 101%. Each District Commander is required to contact each Post monthly and send a monthly report to Department Membership Chairman identifying Posts contacted, person contacted and anticipated results of each contact in your efforts to get your Posts 100+%.

ii) Recruiting/Retention

- a. Recruiting Event is an event with the goal of recruiting new members or contacting unpaid or inactive members. District Commanders are obligated to support their Posts in meeting the requirements.

iii) Election Reports

- a. Following any election throughout the year, a report is required to be submitted to the Department and National Headquarters.

iv) Bonding

- a. The Quartermaster is required to be always bonded. Bonds must be renewed yearly. Bonding may be done through the Department Quartermaster or an indemnity company. If a company is used, a copy of the bond must be sent to the Department Quartermaster. The bond must be at least equal to the amount of liquid assets of the District. The bonding period for this year will be from September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026.

v) District Audit Reports (June, September, December, and April)

- a. The trustees must audit the books of the District Quartermaster quarterly ensuring all financial transactions are properly documented. The trustees

must also audit the books of the District Adjutant quarterly, ensuring all transactions have been properly approved and documented. A report must be filed with the Department no later than the end of the next month following the audit.

vi) **Attendance at Department Meetings (District Dues Paid)**

- a. District Commanders are required to attend Department meetings to include but not limited to CoA's, Mid-Winter Conference and State Summer Convention. If a scheduling conflict occurs, then the District Commander is required to send either the Senior Vice Commander or Junior Vice Commander.

Department Requirements

i) **Membership**

- a. Membership is 101%, The Department Commander and/or Line Officers are required to contact each District on a regular basis.
- b. Officer Recruiter requirement
 - i. Department Commander: Five (5) New Members
 - ii. Senior & Junior Vice: Three (3) New Members
 - iii. Other line Officers: Two (2) New Members

ii) **Recruiting/Retention**

- a. Recruiting Event is an event with the goal of recruiting new members or contacting unpaid or inactive members. Department Commander/Officers will assist the Districts and/or Posts to meet the requirements.
- b. Election Reports
 - i. Following any election throughout the year, a report is required to be submitted to the National Headquarters.

iii) **Bonding**

- a. The Quartermaster is required to be bonded at all times. Bonds must be renewed yearly. Bonding may be done through the Department Quartermaster or an indemnity company. If a company is used, a copy of the bond must be sent to the Department Quartermaster. The bond must be at least equal to the amount of liquid assets of the Department. The bonding period for this year will be from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026.

iv) **Attendance at Department Meetings**

- a. Department officers are required to attend Department meetings to include but not limited to CoA's, Mid-Winter Conference and State Summer Convention.

v) **VFW Programs Participation**

- a. Participation reports must be submitted to the National Headquarters by established programs deadlines.

vi) **Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year**

- a. Given to an exceptional teacher for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and Patriotism.

vii) **Voice of Democracy**

- a. Audio/Essay open to students in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades with a theme of "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country"?

viii) **Patriot's Pen**

- a. Written essays open to students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades with the theme of "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country"?

ix) **Scout of the Year**

- a. Award given to an outstanding boy and/or girl scout who displays citizenship, patriotism and love of their country.

x) JROTC Cadet of the Year nomination

- a. VFW award for special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership for Junior ROTC Cadets. This award seeks to recognize a remarkable cadet who will become a leader in their community and serve their country.
- b. Nomination forms are available at www.VFWUT.org under RESOURCES / REPORTS & FORMS: https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_jrotc_cadet_of_the_year_award

xi) VFW Member of the Year nomination

- a. The award is to recognize a member of the VFW who has exemplified in their actions and accomplishments, the true spirit of our organization on serving the needs of their Post, Community, and who has dedicated themselves in a professional manner to addressing the pillars of our organization.
- b. [Nomination](#) forms are available at www.VFWUT.org under RESOURCES/REPORTS & FORMS: https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_member_of_the_year_award

xii) Safety Awards

- a. Examples of safety awards
 - i. Law Enforcement going above and beyond their line of duty (ii) Fire Fighter going above and beyond their line of duty (iii) EMT going above and beyond their line of duty.

xiii) Veterans and Military Support Programs

- a. Donation of at least \$400.00 for the current year VMS pins yearly to support financial assistance and scholarships through:
 - i. Unmet Needs
 - ii. Military Assistance Program
 - iii. Help a Hero Scholarship Program

Donations must be made by the Department Quartermaster. They will make the donation online at www.vfw.org after login at <https://oms.vfw.org/aa/donation.aspx>.

Program Deadlines

Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen	
Entries submitted to Posts	October 31 st at Midnight
Post judging completed	November 15 th
Post winners sent to District	November 15 th
District judging completed	December 15 th
District winners sent to Department	December 15 th
Department judging completed	January 10 th
District participation reports sent to Department	January 15 th
Department Winners sent to Nationals	January 15 th
Department reports program participation to Nationals	January 31st
Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award	
Nominations submitted to Posts	October 31 st at Midnight
Post judging completed	November 15 th
Post winners sent to District	November 15 th
District judging completed	December 15 th
District winners sent to Department	December 15 th
Department judging completed	January 10 th
District participation reports sent to Department	January 15 th
Department Winners sent to National Headquarters	January 15 th
Scout of the Year	
Entries submitted to Posts	March 1st
Candidate selection sent to Department	April 1 st
Candidate selection sent to National Headquarters	May 1st
VFW Employer of the Year	
Entries submitted to Posts	January 15th
Candidate selection sent to District	February 15th

Candidate selection sent to Department	March 15th
Candidate selection sent to National Headquarters	April 28th
VFW Member of the Year	
Entries submitted to Posts	January 15th
Candidate selection sent to District	February 15th
Candidate selection sent to Department	March 15th
Candidate selection sent to National Headquarters	April 28th
JROTC Cadet of the Year	
Entries submitted to Posts	February 12th
Candidate selection sent to District	March 12th
Candidate selection sent to Department	April 12th
Candidate selection sent to National Headquarters	May 12th
Safety Awards	
Candidate selection sent to Department Chairman	January 1st
VFW Department Public Servant Award Citation Request Form sent to National Headquarters	February 1st
	April 12th
Veterans & Military Support Programs	
Donations sent to National Headquarters	As received