

## Membership

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DUANE SARMIENTO!**

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, renewed, 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 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!**

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS:**

The Triple Crown Pin is awarded to those who achieved All-American Commander at the Department, District and Post level.

Luddie Austin (NJ)  
William Beams, Jr. (AR)  
Bobby Edwards (IL)  
Barbara Hagemann (NJ)  
John Hamilton (FL)  
Dale Hoogeveen (MN)  
Richard Leirer (IN)  
Geoffrey Lyster (VA)  
Warren Maxson (Pacific Areas)  
Dean Rakoskie (GA)  
Michael Raymond (MA)  
Eric Segundo (MA)  
Richard Shawver (TX)

Edward Stefanak, Jr. (SC)  
Danny Zaharias (UT)

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NATIONAL RECRUITER OF THE YEAR:**

Steven L. Woodward

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022-23 ELITE RECRUITERS:**

Steven L. Woodward  
Tim Borland  
Joseph M. Young  
Larry M. Gerlt

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 48 DEPARTMENTS, 232 DISTRICTS AND 854 POSTS FOR THEIR DISTINCTION AS 2022-23 ALL-AMERICAN!**

Thank you for all your hard work and a job well done!

## **ALL-AMERICAN POST CAP ORDER INFORMATION**

All-American Quartermasters and Post members may submit their cap order through the VFW store.

## **2023-24 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

The 2023-24 Membership Program is available online at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), under MY VFW, scroll down to Membership Quick Links, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention. You will see the 2023-24 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

## **MEMBERSHIP OBJECTIVES**

As the membership year has begun, keep in mind our membership objectives, also written in the 2023-24 Membership Program.

- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member.
- Increase membership drives and/or events.
- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts.
- Increase Life membership and Legacy Life Membership.
- Provide membership assistance, using teams from your conference to assist and mentor those who request assistance.

## **POST DEVELOPMENT**

The 124th National Convention is in the past and we are moving forward to 102% in membership! As your membership committees begin to meet and discuss your Post's recruiting events and your mentorship program, look ahead to mitigate known problems early in the year to set yourself up for success. If you are trying to charter a Post and you have more than (15) members on a charter application, give me a call, Corey Hunt at 816.968.2788. We have many resources available to help you.

## NEW POST DEVELOPMENT AND POST REVITALIZATION DEPARTMENT AWARD

**New Post Development and Post Revitalization Department Award:** For each new Post chartered, and/or revitalized, the Department Quartermaster will receive:

- A \$250 credit from the VFW Store to be used towards necessary materials for the new Post.

For details on this and all other All-American membership incentives, view the Commander-in-Chief's National Membership Program at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under *Membership Recruiting & Retention*.

For any questions or further information, please contact the Membership Department via email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

## UPCOMING TRAINING

Membership Monday training webinars will be in August 2023. We will be covering topics intended to help grow membership at the Post level. Long-term planning, how to set benchmarks and achievable goals for the future of your Post, District or Department are all ingredients we use in our presentations. Every VFW member can benefit from this training. We urge you to pass along this information to all who would be interested.

## LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

### Enrollment Cost:

### Annual Payouts:

<u>Levels</u>		<u>Posts</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
Gold-	\$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver-	\$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze-	\$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

*What will your Legacy be?*

## VFW Foundation

The VFW Foundation announces the engagement with our new independent fundraising contractor, Tony Lowe. Tony will initially focus on contributions from the eastern U.S., especially the Washington, DC and Atlanta metro areas. Tony is an Air Force veteran who has experience working with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He has also served for over five years as a VFW National Service Officer, and as the COO for the Washington, DC VFW office and is currently VFW Post 341 (Washington, DC) Commander. He has nonprofit experience as the Executive Director of Miles of Giving (a charity that provides financial assistance to wounded warriors and their families).

The May 2023 Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs campaign has raised over \$384,000 which brings total fundraising for this fiscal year to nearly \$700,000.

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse, [RFreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:RFreiburghouse@vfw.org).

## Development

Here is some helpful information about why the support of every VFW member is vitally important. The VFW's life-changing programs are not possible through membership dues alone. In fact, **membership dues alone cover just 18% of the cost of programs**. As a nonprofit organization, the VFW relies heavily on the generosity of its members and patriotic supporters. When members donate, 100% of their net donation goes directly back to support their Department. *Please spread the word and give as generously as you are able.*

**VFW 2024 Special Edition Calendar** – The exclusive 2024 VFW Calendar package was mailed the first week of July. We hope you have received it and are pleased with the special Fly the Flag calendar along with the Songbird calendar.

Please show your pride in our country and your fellow veterans by displaying your calendar in a prominent place in your home, office or Post. Your calendars are filled with patriotic images and beautiful songbirds. They also contain information on VFW programs available for veterans, service members and their families as well as patriotic holidays and observances. Please remember to display the U.S. flag. You can visit [heroes.vfw.org/Flag](https://heroes.vfw.org/Flag) to download and print a free flag poster to display.

If you haven't already, please send the most generous gift you can. Your support of the 2024 VFW Calendar program helps your VFW Department serve veterans in need throughout the year.

**Join the Prestigious VFW Heroes Circle!** – You can join an elite group of our most dedicated members and supporters in the VFW Heroes Circle! Comprised of those who wish to further our mission with a gift in their wills or other estate plans, the VFW Heroes Circle was created to honor our most loyal supporters who have made this extraordinary commitment to America's veterans, service members and their families.

To learn how easy it is to make an impact on future generations of veterans, please contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org). More information is available online at [vfw.org/PlannedGiving](https://vfw.org/PlannedGiving).

**Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism?** – Commander-in-Chief Duane T. Sarmiento would like you to join with him in supporting the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive. The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible and a Year-End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department toll-free at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at [partners@vfw.org](mailto:partners@vfw.org) with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

**VFW Friends of Freedom** – If you are not already a member of the VFW’s online community, please visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and look for the gold banner that says “**Find Out What’s Happening**” to sign up. As a member of the VFW’s Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation’s veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit [vfw.org/VFWatWork](http://vfw.org/VFWatWork) and click on “**Read VFW success stories**” to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans’ rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

**Department Resources** – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. By visiting [heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools](http://heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools), you will find the latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mail schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the tools found on the VFW Department Resources Page to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

If you ordered and received your **2023-24 VMS Lapel Pins**, please pay for them as soon as possible. You may utilize the VMS Donation link on the upper right-hand corner of the Dashboard.

### **VMS All-American Requirement**

As the **Veterans & Military Support Program** evolves and streamlines our operations, we have augmented the current **Veterans & Military Support Programs Chair Tools** webpage. This will be updated every month.

**VMS donations will only be handled through the Dashboard moving forward.** An email was sent out on **June 29, 2023**, annotating this change and explaining the **NEW donation page**. All Posts have to do is click on the **VMS donation tab on the Dashboard** to donate. **The link will point them to OMS. No more checks to the National Headquarters.**

**If a Post does not use a credit card**, the Post will send their donation to their **Department HQs** and the **Department HQs** will fill out the donation for their Post. Credit will **automatically update on the Dashboard daily**. No more weekly updates.

Overseas Departments will donate for the other programs through the link also in lieu of participation. Again, this will automatically update for credit daily.

Continue to do what you are doing and thank you for your continued support!

### **VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”**

The **2024 Spring Semester** will open **Aug. 1, 2023**, and runs through **Nov. 15, 2023**. The application is available online only at [vfw.org/Scholarship](http://vfw.org/Scholarship).

**It was great to see everyone at the VFW National Convention! Thank you for what you do every day!**

**DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS.** Military service flags, insignias, etc. should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag](https://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag).

**ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD.** Please encourage Posts to read the 2023-24 Membership Program. Military Assistance Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance has been received from National Headquarters to supplement the Unmet Needs financial grants and VFW Sport Clips Help-A-Hero scholarship statistics. The information charts reside on the KPI tools section.

**2023-24 SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM.** The Veterans of Foreign Wars wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions, and institutions effectively through this program.

Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available.

VFW Post Teacher Award chairpersons may submit one candidate, in each grade level (K-5, 6-8, 9-12), to their District by Nov. 15. If a Department does not have District judging, then the entries would be submitted to the Department Headquarters and/or Department Chairperson by Jan. 1. The Department may select a single candidate, in each grade level, and submit them to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1 for National judging.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the "VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form" which will be available on the VFW website soon. You can locate this form by logging in to [vfw.org](https://vfw.org) and searching under "My VFW" in the Training & Support section.

VFW's Department Citizenship Education Teacher award includes a citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

VFW's National Citizenship Education Teacher awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and an all-expenses-paid trip to attend a VFW National Convention.

**Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. have the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2023-24 program year. The teacher entry form will be up on the VFW website soon.** The dates are Oct. 31 for entries to the Post, Nov. 15 for completion of Post judging, Dec. 15

for completion of District judging, Jan. 1 for entries to Department, Feb. 1 for completion of Department judging and their winner, in each category, are due to National Headquarters.

Simply visit [vfw.org/#login](http://vfw.org/#login), log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Additional Resources**. Here you will find all program manuals, in the near future, and on the same page are all other program materials.

**IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!** It is the perfect time to contact schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships.

Please remember that Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are VFW programs supported by the VFW Auxiliary. It is inappropriate for the VFW Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email [nlopez@vfw.org](mailto:nlopez@vfw.org) or call 816.968.1155.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2023-24 themes have been chosen by Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento. The Voice of Democracy theme is **"What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?"** and the Patriot's Pen theme is **"How are you inspired by America?"**

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ENTRY FORMS.** The new 2023-24 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: [vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy) for Voice of Democracy and [vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen) for Patriot's Pen.

**NOTE:** "NEW" Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen posters are now available!

**PATRIOT DAY, SEPT. 11.** Per Presidential Proclamation, Sept. 11 is designated as "Patriot Day." The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here [vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic](http://vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic).

**NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPT. 15.** Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click [vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia](http://vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia).

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM.** This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time to outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards. For more information, see the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairperson's Guide or contact Tammy at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

**"UPDATED" POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS.** Under previous Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997), it indicated there were only six days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices were required to display the POW/MIA flag. Now under new law, Public Law 116-67 (Feb. 21,

2020), it is required that the POW/MIA flag be flown on all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to [vfwstore.org/products/GP237](http://vfwstore.org/products/GP237).

**IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot's Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

## VFW Member Benefits

Dental problems can be unpredictable and expensive. For example, did you know the average cost of a dental crown is \$1,424. With Dental Insurance, you can reduce your out-of-pocket expenses and maintain your smile with preventive care.

Dental Insurance offers coverage that helps with dental expenses that may not be covered under your medical plan. It helps pay for routine cleanings and exams and reduces costs for X-rays, fillings and more.

Dental Insurance not only helps you pay for your dental care, it also can help prevent problems.

When your preventive care is covered, you're more likely to go for cleanings and checkups — this can help you avoid problems before they become too costly or complicated.

For additional information about Dental Insurance, click [here](#).

## "Buddy"® Poppy

### **NATIONAL "BUDDY"® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST WINNERS:**

#### Category 1 (Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign)

First Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Parnell-Burt Post No. 3615, Ruston, Louisiana

Second Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Lexington VFW Post No. 8738, Lexington, South Carolina

Third Place - VFW United Post No. 2975 and its VFW Auxiliary, Beresford, South Dakota

Honorable Mention - VFW Auxiliary to the Superstition Mountain Post 9399, Apache Junction, Arizona

#### Category 2 (Memorial or Inspirational Displays)

First Place – VFW Auxiliary to the Alfred Pepin VFW Post 798, Newport, Vermont

Second Place – Hometown-Murray VFW Post 9773 and its VFW Auxiliary, Hometown, Illinois

Third Place – Robert V. Lindsey VFW Post 10041 and its VFW Auxiliary, Bethel, Alaska

Honorable Mention – VFW Auxiliary to the Virgil Wilson VFW Post 4961, Seaford, Delaware

#### Category 3 (Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies)

First Place – Not Applicable

Second Place – VFW Auxiliary to the Private Allen J. Beck, Jr. VFW Post 5265, Spring Grove, Pennsylvania

Third Place – VFW Auxiliary to the Raymond L. Greene VFW Post 6917, Albuquerque, New Mexico



Honorable Mention – VFW Auxiliary to the Brigadier General Clifford H. Shuey VFW Post 6306, Golden Shores, Arizona

Director’s Award – Fort Morgan VFW Post 2551, Fort Morgan, Colorado & VFW Auxiliary to the Ralph Frank Janousek Post 2788, Penrose, Colorado

**“BUDDY”® POPPY CAMPAIGN.** Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of eight (8) weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required; do not use “ASAP.”

**BUDDY POPPY UPDATE:** National Headquarters conducted a review of the Buddy Poppy policy and procedures and implemented the following changes effective May 20, 2021:

- 1) If you do not receive your order within eight weeks of placing it with your Department, please contact National Headquarters to report that you have not received the order.
- 2) If you do not report a missing order three months after the eight-week processing time, the order will NOT be replaced free of charge, and you will have to resubmit your order.

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at [vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy) or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

The Manual of Procedure provides that Post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairperson’s guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the Post general fund.

Contact information: [BuddyPoppy@vfw.org](mailto:BuddyPoppy@vfw.org) or 816.756.3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

**VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES.** The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need. Anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we do not pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out unless you are currently in your 100th year. These are ordered through the Department and processed the same as the red poppies. Annotate on the order to National that it is for anniversary poppies and specify which one.

## National Veterans Service

### **ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING, ANNAPOLIS, MD, SEPT. 10-15, 2023**

National Veterans Service will conduct a hybrid training conference for VFW accredited representatives Sept. 10-15, 2023, at the DoubleTree Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, MD. This hybrid course will include in-person instruction that will be live-streamed simultaneously via electronic media to those who are unable to attend in person. Additionally, NVS will host Basic Skill Level Training during the same week which is intended for newly hired and accredited representatives. Formal notification to students who are required to participate in these conferences has already been sent out. Please address questions relating to accredited service officer training to Chris Macinkowicz, Assistant Director, Training & Quality Assurance, NVS, at [cmacinkowicz@vfw.org](mailto:cmacinkowicz@vfw.org).

### **JOHN A. BIEDRZYCKI ACCREDITED SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER FOR 2022-23**

During our recently concluded 124th National Convention held in Phoenix, Arizona, VFW National Veterans Service was pleased to recognize David Lowe, Service Officer, VFW Department of Oregon, as the recipient of the John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Representative of the Year Award for 2022-23. It was an honor to recognize him before the membership of our great organization.

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

### **August Recess – Your Congressional Members at Home**

Congress is in recess for the month of August, which means your congressional members will be back in their home states. This is a good opportunity for VFW members to contact and visit their district/state offices, or participate in town hall meetings and focus attention on the VFW's [legislative priorities](#). Familiarize yourself with [the VFW's stance](#) on topics including toxic exposure; suicide prevention; transition assistance; education and employment; and concurrent receipt and retirement compensation. Make sure your senators and representatives know what they need to do to meet the needs of our service members, veterans, and their families. Help us hold Congress accountable to the VFW's legislative priorities!

## Administrative Operations

### **2023-24 Commander, Quartermaster and Trustee Guides**

The newly revised 2023-24 Commander, Quartermaster and Trustee guides are now available online. You can access the guides behind the member's "LOGIN" at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), then navigate to My VFW, Member/Post Resources, Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates, then Training. The full guides are located in their respective section under "Elected and Appointed Officer-Specific Materials." These guides are a great resource for elected and appointed officers at every level of the organization to assist you in your roles and ensure our continued success.

**Stocked apparel** – Check out what's in stock at the VFW Store. Click [vfwstore.org/category/apparel/stockeditems-vfw?page=1&size=100](http://vfwstore.org/category/apparel/stockeditems-vfw?page=1&size=100).



1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have been duly elected and installed by the 124th National Convention and will be accorded the recognition due them:

**Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief**

Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt, Post 12002, North Fulton, Georgia

**Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief**

Carol L. Whitmore, Post 9127, Des Moines, Iowa

**Quartermaster General**

Marc Garduno, Post 3238, Camden, Delaware

**Chaplain**

David T. Frei, Post 4902, Cottonwood, Idaho

**Judge Advocate General**

J. Douglas Whitaker, Post 9675, Papillion, Nebraska

**Surgeon General**

Curtis O. Bohlman, M.D., Post 1335, Woodward, Oklahoma

**National Council of Administration Members**

Alabama	Scott F. Gedling, Post 6226, Arab, Alabama
Alaska	Johnathon "J.R." Hackett, Post 9365, Wasilla, Alaska
Arizona	Lewis E. "Gene" Wood, Post 9400, Sunnyslope, Arizona
Arkansas	Donald R. "Don" Barnes, Post 8245, Huntington, Arkansas
California	Dale E. Smith, Post 3783, Ramona, California
Colorado	David L. Stone, Post 3917, Security, Colorado
Connecticut	David G. Greene, Post 10004, Jewett City, Connecticut
Delaware	John G. Mitchell, Post 7234, Ocean View, Delaware
Europe	Peter J. Mascetti, Jr., Post 27, Wiesbaden, Germany
Florida	Kenneth Corr, Post 10097, Fort Myers Beach, Florida
Georgia	Jeff Carroll, Post 2667, Newnan, Georgia
Hawaii	Norbert K. Enos, Post 2875, Honolulu, Hawaii
Idaho	Rockey A. Davis, Post 10043, Lewiston, Idaho
Illinois	Matthew C. Claussen, Post 2868, Brookfield, Illinois
Indiana	Johnny R. Capps, Post 972, Terre Haute, Indiana
Iowa	Michael J. Braman, Post 3519, Knoxville, Iowa
Kansas	Patrick M. Briggs, Post 3111, Great Bend, Kansas
Kentucky	Robert A. Daugherty, Post 1298, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Louisiana	Robert J. Lovergne, Jr., Post 3750, Luling, Louisiana
Maine	Steven J. "Steve" SanPedro, Post 6859, Portland, Maine

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**WASHINGTON OFFICE**

Maryland	Denise E. Perry, Post 6054, Aberdeen, Maryland
Massachusetts	Eric Segundo, Post 3236, Ludlow, Massachusetts
Michigan	Kevin A. Conklin, Post 6248, Decatur, Michigan
Minnesota	Dale E. Hoogeveen, Post 1791, Chaska, Minnesota
Mississippi	Steven M. "Steve" Organ, Post 5395, Pontotoc, Mississippi
Missouri	Eric D. Sullivan, Post 5789, Lees Summit, Missouri
Montana	Jack A. Hawley, Post 1087, Great Falls, Montana
Nebraska	Joseph E. Smith, Post 2280, Bellevue, Nebraska
Nevada	Gerald L. "Jerry" Peterson, Post 12101, Las Vegas, Nevada
New Hampshire	Leon Rideout, Post 3041, Lancaster, New Hampshire
New Jersey	William F. "Bill" Thomson, Post 6192, Washington Township, New Jersey
New Mexico	Lenwood P. "Len" Hampton, Post 6917, Las Cruces, New Mexico
New York	Eugene J. "Gene" Ratigliano, Post 420, Saratoga Springs, New York
North Carolina	Gregory A. "Greg" Stafford, Post 6060, Elizabeth City, North Carolina
North Dakota	William L. "Bill" Tuff, Post 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota
Ohio	Christopher W. "Chris" Haynes, Post 7596, Franklin, Ohio
Oklahoma	Curt Watts, Post 2027, Stillwater, Oklahoma
Oregon	George E. Carroll, Post 3973, Molalla, Oregon
Pacific Areas	Kenneth A. Stein, Post 12146, Ban Chang, Rayong Thailand
Pennsylvania	Glenn R. Umburger, Jr., Post 7155, Trappe, Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	Eric A. Dukat, Post 152, North Kingstown, Rhode Island
South Carolina	Edwin A. Tufts, II, Post 3433, Summerville, South Carolina
South Dakota	Barbara K. McKean, Post 3298, Parkston, South Dakota
Tennessee	Brian K. Walker, Post 5066, Collierville, Tennessee
Texas	Ingeborg A. Conley, Post 12075, Humble, Texas
Utah	Dennis L. Parizek, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah
Vermont	Charles A. Magnant, Post 778, Swanton, Vermont
Virginia	Kenneth B. Wiseman, III, Post 1503, Dale City, Virginia
Washington	Frederick A. "Fred" Green, Post 1854, Gig Harbor, Washington
West Virginia	Thomas V. "Vernon" Anderson, Post 4442, Elm Grove, West Virginia
Wisconsin	Cory L. Geisler, Post 721, Waukesha, Wisconsin
Wyoming	Rodney A. Birkle, Post 3558, Wheatland, Wyoming

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

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

Dan West, Post 3413, San Marcos, Texas

Executive Director/Assistant Adjutant General, Washington Office

Ryan M. Gallucci, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia

Assistant Adjutant General, Administration & Programs

Brian K. Walker, Post 5066, Collierville, Tennessee

Chief of Staff

Carey W. Pritchett, Post 5579, Gibbstown, New Jersey

Inspector General

Peter J. Mascetti, Jr., Post 27, Wiesbaden, Germany

Sergeant-at-Arms

Brian Willette, Post 3104, South Hadley, Massachusetts

General Counsel

John R. Muckelbauer, Post 3712, Paola, Kansas

Interim Director, Administrative Operations

Quentin S. Carroll, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Communications, Kansas City

Randi K. Law

Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Washington Office

Robert Couture, Department of Maryland Member-at-Large

Director, Development

Kelly J. Jones

Director, General Services

Alisa Neilon

Director, Human Resources

Sari Maple

Director, Information Technology

Sean Barnes, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Meetings & Events

Vanessa Kane

Director, Member Services

David E. Prohaska, Post 4434, Belleville, Michigan

Interim Director, Membership

Corey R. Hunt, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas

Director, National Legislative Service

Patrick Murray, Post 152, North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs

Jeremy Williams, Post 341, Washington, DC

Director, National Veterans Service

Michael S. Figlioli, Post No. 2017, Dedham, Massachusetts

Director, Operations

Robert H. Jackson, Post 341, Washington, DC

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

Tim Dyhouse

Director, VFW Programs

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

Director, VFW Properties

D'Marillio Holland

Director, VFW Store

Hank Ellis

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

Today the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States reaffirms its commitment to that chartered purpose by first recognizing that in order to end racism within our organization, it is not enough to be non-racist/non-discriminatory: we must be proactive. While we focus on education and mentorship we work to identify, address, and eradicate any and all forms of racial bias and discrimination. We will work to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization. The VFW's leadership is united in the pursuit to end racial bias and discrimination while empowering our members and the greater veteran community towards this collective goal.

6. Attention of all members is directed to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "Discipline of Members." Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned. In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another's ability to participate in VFW events. All members will be treated with dignity and respect.

7. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary.

8. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2023-24 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"<sup>®</sup> Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

9. Post Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to federal legislation or to the policy or procedure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other governmental agency, to their respective Department Headquarters for consideration and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies. Posts, County Councils, Districts and officers and members thereof shall not publicly communicate or promulgate any such resolutions until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.

10. DEPARTMENT DUES RESERVE: Due to the passage of Bylaw Amendment B-38 at the 119th National Convention, it is no longer necessary for Departments to maintain a dues reserve fund effective August 24, 2018.

11. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable.

12. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. **Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.**

13. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.

14. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).

15. The Manual of Procedure amendment passed by the 119th National Convention modified Section 1001(25) to read, "The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited."

16. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department Bylaws and directives. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.

17. U.S. Army ARDEC has issued guidance on the operation and maintenance of the M1 Garand. The manual can be found in the VFW Training & Support section at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) or you can visit the M1 Garand Associated Website: [m1garandtraining.com](http://m1garandtraining.com).

18. The distribution of VFW "Buddy"<sup>®</sup> Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of "Buddy" Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of "Buddy" Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.

19. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:

Post Nos. 1747 and 10135 consolidated as Post No. 1747, Oroville, California  
Post Nos. 1631 and 11490 consolidated as Post No. 1631, Concord, New Hampshire  
Post Nos. 3289 and 8165 consolidated as Post No. 3289, New York Mills, Minnesota  
Post Nos. 7224 and 2265 consolidated as Post No. 7224, Shenandoah, Iowa  
Post Nos. 941 and 4119 consolidated as Post No. 941, Harlan, Iowa  
Post Nos. 1192 and 4888 consolidated as Post No. 1192, Marlow, Oklahoma



BY COMMAND OF  
DUANE T. SARMIENTO  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan West". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dan West  
Adjutant General



## PLANNING CALENDAR

### SCHEDULE OF VFW MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rev. August 2023



#### 2023

August 25	National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Kansas City, MO
August 26 - 27	National Council of Administration Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 10 - 14	Accredited Service Officer Skill Level Training Annapolis, MD
September 10 - 15	Accredited Service Officer <b>Basic</b> Training Annapolis, MD
September 11 - 14	Fall Legislative Committee Meeting Washington, DC
October 12 - 15	Junior Vice Commanders and Department Quartermasters Training Kansas City, MO
October 20 - 22	Eastern Conference Atlantic City, NJ
October 20 - 22	Big Ten Conference Itasca, IL
November 2 - 5	Southern Conference Tulsa, OK
November 2 - 5	Western Conference Salt Lake City, UT

#### 2024

March 2 - 6	Voice of Democracy Washington, DC
March 3 - 7	Legislative Conference Washington, DC
July 27 - August 1	National Convention Louisville, KY
August 23 - 25	Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming Savannah, GA

#### **NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

#### **WASHINGTON OFFICE**

406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
Office 816.756.3390  
Fax 816.968.1157

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
Office 202.543.2239  
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org  
www.vfw.org

September 5 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

September 6 - 7 National Council of Administration Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

September 9 - 12 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting  
Washington, DC

**2025**

June 28 VFW National Home 100th Anniversary Celebration  
Eaton Rapids, MI

August 9 - 14 National Convention  
Columbus, OH

**2026**

August 15 - 20 National Convention  
Salt Lake City, UT

**2027**

July 31 - August 5 National Convention  
Milwaukee, WI

**2028**

August 5 - 10 National Convention  
San Antonio, TX