

**Department of North Carolina
Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
2024-2025**



ANNIE CUMMINGS

Department Commander

ACCOUNTABILITY, ACTION, AND ATTITUDE – OPERATION “ALL-IN”

PURPOSE

As stated in Section 230102 of our congressional Charter “the purposes of the corporation are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, educational, and are:

1. To preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members.
2. To assist worthy comrades.
3. To perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans.
4. To maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States and fidelity to its Constitution and laws.
5. To foster true patriotism.
6. To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and
7. To preserve and defend the United States from all enemies.”

GOALS

The Department of North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in support of our Commander-In-Chief, Alfred Lipphardt, will adopt and support “Operation All In.”

We will further strive to be always forward-thinking, to see things not as they are but rather how and what they can be. Our members have, as a team, every experience to put us at the top tier of veteran support, advocacy, comradeship, and membership.

We will exercise our best efforts of cooperation, consideration, and communication to accomplish our goals and will exhibit the highest standards of accountability, take action to achieve our desired results, and maintain positive examples for our peers and successors.

We will live up to the expectations of our leaders to “transact business of mutual benefit.” We will NOT let petty jealousies or trivial personalities influence or interfere with our deliberations, and our loyalty to our organization and the government of the United States shall be unwavering.

MEMBERSHIP MISSION

1. Retain, mentor, and recruit a stable membership base inclusive of ALL generations of veterans.
2. Cultivate a membership that is well versed in institutional knowledge, at all levels of the organization.
3. Establish new and foster existing posts with a strong tradition of service, leadership, and community outreach.

MEMBERSHIP OBJECTIVES

1. Recruit, recruit, recruit!
2. Mentor all new and existing members to better understand and support the missions of our organization.
3. Inspire new leaders from within our ranks, who will bring innovative ideas, adjustments for changing times, and generational differences to ensure a sustainable and healthy membership, for all generations to follow.
4. Increase life and legacy membership through inspiration and sense of pride in our organization.
5. Inspire the development of new posts to better meet the needs of our veterans, their families, and their communities.

INDIVIDUAL RECRUITING AWARDS

- 1-5 Members – Commanders Pin
- 6-10 – Commanders Coin
- 11-25 Commanders Logo Shirt
- 26-50 – VFW Padfolio
- 51+ 100- \$100 Gift Card for VFW Store
- 100+ - Custom K Bar and VFW Backpack

POST COMMANDER AWARDS

- Top Post Membership percentage in each division (over 98%), as of January 31st, 2025, will receive 2 nights hotel, one banquet ticket and

one Hospitality pass at the Winter C of A. (Transferable to another post member, if already earned through Department)

- Top Membership percentage in each Division 1-11 as of May 15th, 2025, exceeding 102%, will receive 2 nights hotel, complimentary banquet tickets and hospitality passes, for two, for the Department Convention in 2025. (Transferrable to another post member if already earned through Department.)

DISTRICT COMMANDER AWARDS

- District Commander with a minimum of 98% District Membership by January 31st, 2025, will receive one complimentary banquet ticket and hospitality pass for the Winter C of A.
- District Commanders with 102% by May 15, 2025, will receive complimentary banquet tickets and hospitality passes, for two, at the June Convention.

POST AWARDS – FAST START

- Every annual membership renewal (paid by the member) achieved in July will result in \$7.50 for each paid to the post.
- Every annual membership renewal (paid by the member) achieved in August will result in \$5.00 for each paid to the post.
- Every annual membership renewal (paid by the member) achieved in September will result in \$2.50 for each paid to the post.
- Every fully paid life membership conversion from July 1 to September 30, 2024, will receive \$35 paid to the Post.
- Every new fully paid life membership from July 1 to September 30, 2024, will be paid \$20.
- Every Legacy Life member achieved from July 1 to September 30, 2024 will earn the post \$50 for each, regardless of level Bronze, Silver, or Gold (only one payout per member --- not \$50 for each level of legacy).

FIRST TO FINISH DISTRICT AWARD

First District to attain 102% will receive \$500 issued to the Quartermaster for the Districts general fund.

HONOR POST 102% plus one

- Divisions 8, 9, 10, and 11 achieved 102% plus one, and over fifty members by 1/31/2025.
- Division 4, 5, 6 and 7 achieving 102% plus one by 2/28/2025.
- Division 1, 2 and 3 achieving 102% plus one by 3/28/2025.

HONOR POST AWARD

- Each Honor Post will receive a pennant / plaque designating it as such.
- Each Honor Post will receive \$200 VFW Store Gift Card

ALL-STATE CRITERIA

The All-State Program exists to recognize exceptional leadership, above average accomplishments in membership growth and community service as well as support of and participation in the VFW core programs, all while maintaining a positive image to be the standard example presented to our members, sponsors, legislative representatives, and neighboring communities. Keeping these standards high will help to ensure the proliferation of our great organization.

ALL STATE POST CRITERIA

- Achieve membership not less than 102% by 6/30/2025.
- Voice of Democracy - Provide a minimum of one entry advanced to District. Post may substitute a \$250 payment to the Department, in lieu thereof.
- Patriots Pen - Provide a minimum of one entry advanced to District, or a payment of \$250, in lieu thereof.

- Teacher of the Year – Provide a minimum of one entry, in any category (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) advanced to District, or a payment of \$250 to the Department, in lieu thereof
- One Police, Fire, Dispatcher, or EMS of the year - advanced to District
- Participation (team, sponsorship, raffle or auction item donations, volunteer support) in the annual Billy Ray Cameron / Otis Brown Scholarship Golf Tournament.
- Post Commander or their representative (Senior or Junior Vice Commander must attend all District Meetings
- Post Quartermaster and/or Adjutant must attend all District Meetings, unless excused by the Department Commander.
- All Bond Applications, Insurances, IRS filings, business licenses and ABC licenses must be current, and a copy forwarded to Department Quartermaster.
- All Trustee audits must be completed and submitted to the District Quartermaster and Department Quartermaster, not later than 30 days after the end of each quarter.
- Sell the allotted one hundred Department Raffle Tickets and provide all required documentation as prescribed by the program rules, and return the raffle ticket stubs and \$1000.00 to the Department Quartermaster, not later than January 15, 2025.
- Have a CURRENT State Registered Agent (usually the Post Adjutant) and Office Address on file, and matches the current election report, and forward a copy of same to the Department Adjutants.
- Ensure that all Post Bylaws / SOP's / Code of Conduct, or other documents utilized for governance and policy over the post, are current with all practices, and posted for members to review at will. A Copy of each such document will be forwarded to the Department Quartermaster for the post file, to be counted as complete. In the event that new Bylaws are pending Commander in Chief certification, a copy of the new documents and the transmittal letter will suffice.

- Have a New Member Orientation package and a verifiable plan to educate new/existing members. Submit a copy to Department headquarters Adjutant.
- Participate in the Annual “Day of Service” and have proper registration submitted to National VFW. Post may substitute a \$250 payment to the Department, in lieu thereof.
- Have NO lapsed membership of elected or appointed Post Officers. Be reminded that any officer whose membership lapses, during their term in office, is immediately to be removed from that office, and may not serve in any other elected or appointed capacity, for the duration of the term.
- Ensure timely payment of all Department Delegate dues, National Convention Registration, and have a minimum of one delegate or commander to vote (commander and/or delegate(s))at the Department Convention in 2025.
- Provide a minimum of \$125 donation to the VMS (in accordance with the by-laws, via on-line payment or through the Department Quartermaster, prior to April 1, 2025.
- The Quartermaster must submit electronically, or in writing to the District and Department Quartermasters, a completed Election Report in accordance with established deadlines. All positions must be filled, in accordance with the Posts’ Bylaws, Annual Dues amounts updated, meeting dates and times accurate, location, facilities provided, hours of operation, and cap sizes for Commander and QM must also be completed. All members listed on the election report must have a valid telephone number, email address and mailing address, capable of receiving District and/or Department communications.
- All Post, Canteen, and/or Bingo Inspections must be complete and passing. If an inspection is failed initially but brought up to standards for passing, it is a pass.
- Post must have its non-profit status current per IRS reporting.

- A copy of posts filed 990 report for the current year, must be forwarded to Department QM for the post file.

ALL STATE POST AWARDS

- All State Post Citation
- All State Cap (Commander and QM only)
- Acknowledgement in the VFW Leader Magazine
- All State Streamer
- Announcement placed in your local newspaper to announce your achievements.
- Department Representative will attend any scheduled post celebration of the achievement.
- Post Commander will receive one All-State Department Polo (additional polos will be available or purchase to other post members)

ALL STATE DISTRICT CRITERIA

- Achieve membership not less than 102%, before June 15, 2025.
- Advance one entry from each Program (VOD, PP, TOY, Safety, and Comrade of the year) to Program Chairperson by the prescribed deadlines.
- Attend the Department School of Instruction / Fast Start Training and conduct at least one District school of instruction prior to August 30th, 2024.
- Complete all Post Inspections, Canteen Inspections and Bingo Inspections within the prescribed timelines, and submit them to the Department Quartermaster and Adjutant electronically.
- Submit a written report of Post and District functions, activities, and achievements, since the previous C of A or Convention, to the Department Adjutant, at least 10 days prior to each C of A and Convention. A fillable report PDF will be available at VFWNC.com / Resources / Forms / Post & District Activity Reports.

- Provide proof of email access/proficiency for each post (forward a copy of an email received from the post Commander, QM and Adj, not later than September 1st, 2024.
- District Commander, Sr Vice Commander or Jr Vice Commander, Quartermaster and/or Adjutant must attend each District Meeting, C of A and Department Convention, unless properly excused by the Department Commander.
- All Post and District Bond applications, trustee reports and IRS filings must be submitted not later than the established deadlines.
- A minimum of one Buddy Poppy King and Queen entry, must advance to the Department.

ALL STATE DISTRICT AWARDS

- All State District Citation
- All State Cap (Commander and QM only)
- All State Department Polo
- Acknowledgement in the VFW Leader Magazine

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

IF THE DEPARTMENT REACHES OVER 102% OF MEMBERSHIP BY MAY 31ST 2025, THE DEPARTMENT HOSPITALITY ROOM WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE FOR JUNE CONVENTION FOR ALL COMRADES WITH VALID VFW ID CARD, AND....

THERE WILL BE A RAFFLE HELD FOR THE HONOR OF SHAVING THE COMMANDERS HEAD ON SATURDAY EVENING OF THE CONVENTION, AFTER THE BANQUET. ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO A CHARITY OF THE MEMBERS' CHOOSING, THROUGH NOMINATIONS AND UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARE YOU ALL IN?

I acknowledge receipt of the 2024 – 2025 Department of North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars Membership Program.

Printed Name

Signature

Post and Dist. #

Title

Date Received

THIS PAGE MUST BE COMPLETED AND TURNED INTO THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT PRIOR TO JULY

**31, 2024. ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION IS
ACCEPTABLE, BUT IT IS UP TO YOU TO ENSURE
THAT IT WAS RECEIVED BY THE ADJUTANT to:**

adj@vfwnc.com