

## **2024-2025 VMS & MENTAL HEALTH & WELFARE PROGRAM**

This is a combined program that has two primary components that have significant cross over impact which is why they have been brought together under one heading.

The Membership Divisions for awards under this program will be based on the June 30, 2024 National Membership Report as follows:

Membership Divisions:

Division I 10 to 65 members  
Division II 66 to 125 members  
Division III 126 to 225 members  
Division IV 226 members and over

The reporting period for determination of the following awards is May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.

### **2024-2025 Mental Health & Welfare Program**

The Mental Health & Welfare program seeks to bring attention to the issue of veteran mental health needs to our VFW membership. By bringing awareness of the issue helps remove the stigma often associated with the seeking of assistance by veterans in chronic or acute crisis. The impact of untreated mental health issues causes stress in the workplace, in the family and we too often see the tragic results in homelessness and suicide.

Member awareness and education can greatly reduce the number of these tragic results. On this webpage are some tools that can assist you. Additional resources will be added to the webpage as they are identified.

#### **Post Program Participation:**

1. 5 points if your Post submits a nominee to the Committee prior to May 1, 2025, for Mental Health Awareness Advocate of the Year.
2. 10 points if your Post holds a Mental Health forum/discussion in your community. Program must include mental health outreach resources and at least one Mental Health Certified Counselor as an Advisor/Moderator etc. Report of event must include photos and must be submitted to the Committee within 48 hours of program completion.
3. 5 points if your Post donates your Post Home for a Mental Health Community Event and requests one of the Dept Mental Health Co-Directors to that event through proper request procedures.
4. 5 points for each member of your Post that volunteers as a panelist at a Department Mental Health Welfare Committee panel discussion on "Mental Health and Veterans". We are planning at least 2 of these events with date time TBA. Maximum 15 points.
5. 2 points for each member of your Post that attends a Suicide Prevention/Awareness Event such as VA's SAVE Program /QPR (Question Persuade Refer) or completes a mental health first aid for Veterans. Attendance by Post members must be reported to the Committee prior to May 1, 2025. Maximum 10 points.

The top three (3) Posts in each membership division above will be recognized with a citation from the State Commander at the 2025 State Convention.

Posts are requested to host fundraising events throughout the 2024-2025 year to support, or to make Post Relief donations, to the Department Mental Health & Welfare Fund, which is used to assist veterans in emergent need as determined by the Department Officers on a case evaluation basis. Post donations to this fund will be reflected on the Post donation report on the Department website for the period May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.

### **2024-2025 Veterans and Military Support Program (VMS)**

Donations to the National VMS Program supports the key elements of the National umbrella:

- Military Assistance Program (military unit support and Adopt A Unit)
- Virtual PINS to support military member telephone calls
- Unmet Needs (emergent financial assistance)
- VFW “Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” Program

Donations to the National VMS must be made through the OMS dashboard. If for any reason you cannot do that the Department will accept your earmarked donation and make that for you on the dashboard, just please communicate with us on that. Do not try and make VMS donations to National using the “DONATE” button on the National website!

Any significant VMS event or program must be submitted to the Committee for Report to National by the National VMS Committee Member, Doug Brinker, as soon as possible as they occur.

#### **Posts:**

1. 10 points if your Post hosts a VMS event Bi- Annual including a Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship Cut A Thon
2. 2 points for each Post member that attends a VMS Sponsored event and the Post provides a reports to the Committee.
3. 5 points if your Post or a Post member purchases a 2024-2025 National VMS Pin for the cost of \$20.00 each.
4. 5 points if your Post submits a VMS report Bi-Monthly. Maximum 15 points. Must submit 6 reports for maximum points.
5. 2 points if your Post participates in VFW ADOPT a UNIT program, new or continuing, and reports to the VMS Team what support is being given to that unit by the Post.
6. 1 point if your Post displays VMS program materials at your Post and provides evidence via pictures etc. Must be displayed at your post. Maximum 3 points.
7. 1 point for each quarter that your Post submits a VMS report to the Team. Maximum 4 points.
8. 1 point if your Post submits a War Dog Citation Recipient and Legacy Recipient.

The top three (3) Posts in each membership division above will be recognized with a citation from the State Commander at the 2025 State Convention.

**Districts:**

1. 1 point for each Post in the District that completes VMS requirements for All American. The donation must be the minimum of \$125 and be submitted thru the National All-American Dashboard in OMS.
2. 1 point if the District submits a VMS donation, \$125 minimum through the National All-American Dashboard in OMS.
3. 1 point if the District holds a VMS Event or displays VMS materials during a District Meeting for distribution to attending members. Maximum 5 points.

The top three (3) Districts in the Department will each be recognized by a citation from the State Commander at 2025 State Convention.

Thank you for the support of these programs and the veterans they assist.

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