

Membership

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE FOR JULY

This will be the only challenge announced as a “Membership Challenge.” The reason being that in July the 2023-24 Commander-in-Chief has not taken office yet and the 2022-23 Commander-in-Chief’s membership year ended in June.

Starting Strong – this challenge will be for Posts! The Post in each membership division that increases their membership the most during the month of July will be issued a \$500 gift certificate to the VFW Store.

This will count all new, renewed, and reinstated annual members since Life members will not count until September. This will emphasize the need to start with good momentum at the beginning of the membership year. Historically, the stronger we start a year, the longer that momentum carries through the year. We have not done a July Challenge in prior years so this should be a good start to the year.

For any questions or further information, please contact the Membership Department via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

TOP RECRUITERS

Congratulations to all this year’s Century Recruiters! As of this writing, 38 members have recruited more than 100 new/reinstated members.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CONVENTION BOOTH

If you are attending the 124th National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, come by and see us at Booth #621 for the Membership Experience! Look for the Membership sky banner which hangs directly over the Membership Booth near the center of the convention hall. All-American packets, Henry Rifle drawing, membership upgrades, and much more!

NEW POST DEVELOPMENT & POST REVITALIZATION

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.

UPCOMING TRAINING

The next Membership Monday training webinar will be in Aug. 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!

Top Three Recruiters (as of 6.27.23):

Timothy M. Borland – 603
VFW Post 9972, Dept. of AZ

Steven L. Woodward – 501
VFW Post 2224, Dept. of WA

Joseph M. Young – 294
VFW Post 7108, Dept. of TX

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to 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 offers 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:

<i>Levels</i>		<i>Posts</i>	<i>Departments</i>	<i>National</i>
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 is proud to announce that \$419,500 has been raised in sponsorships for the 2023 VFW National Convention to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, July 22-27. Special recognition for this incredible effort should go to Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations Brooke Brown and VFW Foundation Assistant Director Ben Vargas.

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse, rfreiburghouse@vfw.org.

Development

Here is some helpful information about why the support of every VFW member is vitally important. 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.*

Independence Day is Coming Up – Keep an eye out for the VFW’s special online celebration of freedom and hope with our annual observance of Independence Day. Please visit vfw.org to find ways you can honor our nation’s veterans and service members by spreading a message of patriotism and remembrance to your friends and family.

VFW 2023 Special Edition Calendar – The 2024 VFW Calendars will be arriving early in July. Your VFW Calendars include reminders of days to display the United States flag and other important dates in history to remember the sacrifices of America’s veterans. If you do not have a flag to display, you may visit heroes.vfw.org/Flag and print a free flag poster to display in your home or office. You will also find useful information on VFW programs available to all veterans, service members and their families throughout the calendars. Additionally, at the back of the calendars you will see the section showing VFW membership eligibility information. We certainly hope you find the information included in the calendars to be helpful. And remember, your VFW Department is counting on you to show your support of the vital programs available to the veterans, service members and their families *in your Department*.

Matching Gift Opportunity to Support the VFW’s Programs – The VFW has been presented with an incredible opportunity by a generous friend and supporter to triple your donation if you respond within 30 days of receiving this offer! When you receive this offer in the mail, please consider responding with whatever gift you can to ensure that we meet the matching offer of \$50,000 and help even more veterans.

Many veterans and returning service members are turning to the VFW for assistance in filing for their hard-earned VA benefits for injuries received in combat or during deployments, as well as financial assistance grants for rent, food, medicine ... and so much more. Thanks to dedicated members like you, we have been able to provide the life-changing assistance our veterans need. Your generosity also helps the VFW fight — and win — vital legislative battles on Capitol Hill. The VFW is on the front line in the fight for education, jobs, health care and an overall better quality of life FOR VETERANS! This is a great opportunity to help support veterans of all ages, *right in your Department*.

Helping the VFW for Generations to Come – One of the easiest ways to continue providing support for your brothers and sisters-in-arms, as well as their families, is to name the VFW in your will or trust. It only takes a few words, and you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime. Just a small percentage of your assets could go a long way in helping the VFW continue its mission into the future.

Free estate planning information is always available by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119, emailing plannedgiving@vfw.org or visiting vfw.org/PlannedGiving.

Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism? – Commander-in-Chief Timothy M. Borland 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 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 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 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, 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!

VFW Communications

With the national convention only weeks away, are you ready? Whether you’re heading to Phoenix or not, you can stay in-the-know by watching as we begin livestreaming at vfw.org/Convention starting July 23.

For those planning to attend, the new VFW Events App is available for download at both the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#) by searching “VFW Events,” and users who don’t have a smart phone or tablet can also access the app [here](#).

Be sure to share your convention experience and join in the social conversation using **#VFWConvention**.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

Meeting dates, times and location are currently to be determined at the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona for both the VFW Programs and VMS Committee Town Hall Meetings.

Download the VFW Events mobile app and when it is updated you will be able to find the above information.

Be sure to stop by the Veterans & Military Support booth to support the service challenge and get your “**newly designed**” Veterans & Military Support lapel pin for the 2023-24 Program Year!

VMS All-American Requirement

Encourage your Posts to donate directly to the VMS Programs by going to the VFW Dashboard. Click on the “**VMS Donation**” link at the upper right-hand corner of the screen and follow the online donation form. Once the donation is made, you will receive a confirmation email. If you have any questions, please contact us at 816.968.1102. **Thank you for your continued support! Departments can also use this link to pay for their VMS Lapel Pins after July 1, 2023.**

You can also use the link located on the **Veterans & Military Support Program Chairman Tools webpage**. Link to this is provided below.

Stay tuned for a new VMS and Programs donation portal for instant credit to the Dashboard.

VMS Donation Reports

Donation reports are received on most Fridays and are uploaded to the Dashboard on the same day. The period of these reports is from the previous Friday to the current Thursday.

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.

VMS Program Chair Tools webpage has been updated for May 2023. This is our one-stop-shop for all your chairperson information, resources, and forms, and is now our monthly newsletter. **Add the below link to your shortcuts on your internet browser.**

[Access the Veterans & Military Support Program Chairperson Tools webpage now](#)

Thank you for what you do every day! See you in Phoenix, Arizona!!

VFW Programs

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.

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 is available on the VFW website soon. You can locate this form by logging in to 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-expense-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 is up on the VFW website. The dates are Oct. 31, for entries to the Post, Nov. 15, for completion of Post judging, Dec. 15, completion of District judging, Jan. 1, for entries to Department, Feb. 1, completion of Department judging and their winner, in each category, are due to National Headquarters.

Simply visit 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 or call 816.968.1155.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES. The 2023–24 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento. The Voice of Democracy theme will be “**What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?**” and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be “**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 for Voice of Democracy and 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.

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.

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 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.

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

The inflation rate is causing the cost of most everything to rise, including insurance. Try these tips to save on your auto and home insurance.

1. **Shop around** — Look for a better deal from other carriers every couple of years.
2. **Raise your deductible** — If you can pay above the minimum deductible of your policy, consider raising it to save yourself money on premium costs.
3. **Find discounts** — Some carriers offer discounts for bundling, accident forgiveness, being a safe driver or installing a security system in your home.
4. **Consider USAA** — USAA serves military members and their eligible family members by offering more benefits than any other major financial service provider, including savings when you bundle your home and auto coverage.¹

[Become a USAA member today](#) to learn more about how you can save on your home and auto coverage.

¹ Savings are off total premium. Not available in all states or in all situations. To qualify, auto policy must be active prior to property issue. Subject to change. Restrictions apply.

"Buddy"® Poppy

NATIONAL "BUDDY"® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST. The time frame for registering and setting up the Department winning Buddy Poppy displays for the national judging at convention will be the same as usual. Department winning entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 22, until noon, Monday, July 24, 2023. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced later on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday. Any displays left after this time will be removed for disposal by convention center personnel during the disassembly of the hall.

"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 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 8 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 3 months after the 8-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 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 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

NVS Events at National Convention

Mike Figlioli, Director, VFW National Veterans Service (NVS), would like to invite all delegates and attendees of the upcoming VFW 124th National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, to participate in the following events. Please check the convention schedule or download the convention app for the most current location.

From Saturday, July 22 until Wednesday, July 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (dates subject to change), there will be a **Veterans Walk-in Claims Clinic** at which veterans and dependents will be assisted by a combined team of VFW Service Officers and VA benefits and health care representatives to facilitate and expedite new and existing claims, appeals and health care issues.

On Saturday, July 22 the **National Veterans Service Advisory Committee** will meet to discuss matters of importance to the VFW national service program. Please check the convention schedule or download the convention app for the most current location.

On Sunday, July 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, NVS will be presenting **Post Service Office Training**, during which we will be providing information regarding duties, responsibilities, VFW's benefits assistance program, VA Voluntary Service, as well as answer questions on how the PACT Act, Appeals Modernization Act and other programs affect the VFW and the veterans we serve.

On Tuesday, July 25, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., VFW National Veterans Service and National Legislative Service are co-hosting a session **"Update on Federal Benefits and Services for Veterans"** during which you will hear directly from leadership at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Department of Labor responsible for VA benefits & healthcare and DOL employment policies.

Also, please visit the joint National Veterans Service/National Legislative booth on the exhibit hall floor.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

Come See Us at Convention.

The VFW National Legislative Service staff will be in attendance at our 124th national convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Everyone is invited to join us on Sunday, July 23, from 11a.m.-12p.m. for the **Update on VFW Legislative Priority Goals** meeting. We will also be on hand at the Update on Federal Benefits and Services for Veterans meeting to be conducted by members of the VFW National Veterans Service staff on Tuesday, July 25, from 1p.m.-2p.m. Staff from both departments will be manning our joint NLS/NVS booth in the Phoenix Convention Center exhibition hall. Hope you stop by to see us!

Administrative Operations

In an effort to better serve the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, tools are available at "VFW Training and Support." There you will find Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates; training material relating to Membership Recruiting and Retention; Community Service & Youth Programs; Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates; Communications & Public Affairs; Post Service Officers; VFW Foundation; Veterans & Military Support; and Department Resources. To utilize these valuable training guides, videos, forms and templates, please login at vfw.org, proceed to "My VFW" and click the link "VFW Training and Support."

The online "Document Repository" is a system of managing documents utilized primarily by Department Officers and members of the National Council of Administration.

Important Reminder: The 2023-2024 Department Roster is now an Online Membership System (OMS) submitted report. The interactive report will cover reporting of all Department elected and appointed officers and committee chairmen. In addition, the District Election Report is also contained within the Online Membership System (OMS). Portions of the District report will feed into the Department report (i.e. the District Commander position).

Adjutants and Quartermasters can access the roster by logging into their OMS account under the "Election Report" drop down in the left hand navigation pane. Membership numbers of each elected/appointed officer and/or chairman is needed to complete the report. Your cooperation in completing the roster immediately following your convention is appreciated. Any additions, corrections or changes will be submitted through OMS as they occur throughout the year.

VFW Store

Convention Attendees – Stop by the VFW Store to get your convention pins, shirts and more.

Celebrating a Post or Department anniversary?

Commemorate the occasion with shirts, caps, koozies or other items! We have thousands of products available at competitive prices. VFW Store can also help you with logo design and product selection. (If you're attending the National Convention, stop by and visit with Kim Winston, Custom Consultant, at the store booth.) You can also email Kim at kwinston@vfw.org.



Roll Call of Departed Comrades

MILLER, ROLAND E., Commander, Department of New Hampshire, 2009-2010 and a Life Member of Captain John P. Monahan Post 12136, Indian Land, South Carolina, June 9, 2023.