

Department of Connecticut
Veterans of Foreign Wars
2023 – 2024 Membership Program



Fidelity | Fraternity | Philanthropy

(Faithfulness or Loyalty)

to the (VFW)

for

(Love of Mankind)

Introduction

To be a leader within the VFW means connecting with those around you; inspiring them with a shared sense of mission; and through education and engagement, mobilizing them in order to accomplish a common goal.

As Gen Stanley McChrystal put it,

“I was most reinforced by the understanding that where we were, the status quo was failing, and because it was failing I knew we had to change. But instead of trying to provide an exact path ahead, what I did was I tried to inform and engage the command by saying we have to move in this general direction- help me figure it out. As people did that, we refined the direction we were going, constantly shifting, and it made more people the agents of change.”

How Far are you willing to go!!!

Mission

VFW’s mission statement is “to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts and to serve our veterans, the military, and our communities and advocate on behalf of all veterans.” This mission statement reflects what the association does to protect the rights of the veterans and their families who gave invaluable service to America’s history by their love for country and dedication to the service by protecting her from all her enemies.

To recruit, retain, and mentor a stable membership base that includes all generations of veterans. To cultivate a membership that is well versed in institutional knowledge and is actively involved at all levels of the organization and in the local community. To foster the growth of our strong tradition of service, leadership, and community outreach.

Goals

- Build a strong organization for the future
- Work together to achieve the VFW’s goals
- Support our communities’ veterans and their families
- Support our State

Objectives

- Recruit new and reengage lapsed members
- Retain and mentor existing members
- Involve members directly in VFW functions at all levels
- Ensure Posts are financially stable legal entities
- Engage the community in a meaningful way
- Foster stronger relationships between Posts and their Auxiliaries

Department of Connecticut Membership Recruiting Awards***

Every VFW member is eligible for the following awards.
Every new or reinstated member in the VFW counts

Challenge	Award
Recruit 5 New members	Enter into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member.
Recruit 10 New or Reinstated members	State Commander's VFW Coin and Enter 10 Chances into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member or be elevated to legacy.
Recruit 30 New or Reinstated members	Chance to win a \$100 gift certificate for the VFW Store** Enter 30 Chances into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member or be elevated to legacy.
Recruit 50 New or Reinstated members	Chance to win a \$200 gift certificate for the VFW Store** Enter 50 Chances into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member or be elevated to legacy.
All Posts reaching 100% membership by May 15, 2024, Or June 30 th 2024 will receive a 100% laser Etched Acrylic Crystal award	
<p style="text-align: center;">If by February 1st any District Commander that has attained 102% in membership will be eligible for up to a 6 nights hotel room and stipend to attend the Washington Conference, and be placed in a drawing to be part of the 4 person team, presenting the Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington, National Cemetery.</p>	

All-State Team of Post Commanders

The top two post Commanders leading there divisions by May 15th 2024 will be selected as all state post commanders. If any of the top two slots in each division are not selected by May 15th 2024 the contest shall continue on till June 30th 2024

Awards

Post Commanders – an official VFW All-State Team white cap

Qualifications

Membership – Post must have attained 102% of the prior year’s membership as determined by the VFW National Mem Stats Report by May 15th, 2024 if not attained it will be extended to June 30th 2024 there will be two per division
Programs – Post must submit at least one VOD, one PP, and one Teacher of the Year to their District <div style="text-align: center;">Or pay \$25 per program to district and department</div>
*Post shall donate to the commander’s project (VMS) Veterans and Military Support Program!!!!!!

ITEM	Points
Inspection Report by April 1st 2024	15 points
Audit reports completed on time (by the last day of the following month)	15points
Each new or reinstated member recruited by the Post Commander	12 points
Each membership recruitment event conducted by your Post	12 points
Partner with a VFW Auxiliary for Teacher, Voice of Democracy, and/or Patriot’s Pen programs	10points each
Each submitted VFW Public Servant Award nomination to Department	5 points
Each membership recruitment event conducted by your Post	10 points
Submit a Scout of the Year nomination to Department	10 points
Post completing the program listed in the department activity report	10 points
Each submitted VFW Public Servant Award nomination to Department	5 points
Each Department Council of Administration meeting attended by the Commander or his/her representative	2 points

All-State Team of Post Quartermasters

The top two post Quartermasters leading their divisions by May 15th 2024 will be selected as All State Post Quartermasters. If any of the top two slots in each division are not selected by May 15th 2024 the contest shall continue on till June 30th 2024

Post Quartermasters – Will receive an official VFW All- State White Hat

Qualifications

Membership – Post must have attained 102% of the prior year’s membership as determined by the VFW National Mem Stats Report by May 15th, 2024 if not attained it will be extended to June 30th 2024 there will be two per division

Item	Points
Participation in a membership recruitment event conducted by your Post	10 points
Quartermaster holds a Trustee School of Instruction	10 Points
Each Quarterly Audit Report completed correctly and submitted by the end of the following month	5 points
Each new or reinstated member recruited by the Post Quartermaster	2 points

When the above qualifications have been met he or she is eligible, based on the following point schedule above the top ten Quartermasters will be awarded a \$50 gift card from the VFW store

All - State District Commander Contest

Top Two - District Commanders leading in the membership program can attain the status of All - State District commanders by achieving at least 100% in membership

Awards

Team Members – an official VFW All-State Team white cap

Qualifications

<p>Membership – Membership – District must have attained 100% of the prior year’s membership as determined by the VFW National Mem Stats Report by May 15th, 2024 if not attained it will be extended to June 30th 2024 there be a total of two district all state district commanders chosen</p>
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Item
District Training conducted
All Posts within the District have submitted a Buddy Poppy order

If by February 1st any District Commander that has attained 102% in membership will be eligible for up to a 6 nights hotel room and stipend to attend the Washington Conference, and be placed in a drawing to be part of the 4 person team presenting the Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington, National Cemetery.

The awards for Hospital and Nursing Home visits and the George French Quartermasters Awards will be given out, with the awards for Community Service, Americanism, Safety and Poppies at the State Convention. The deadline for submitting reports is May 15th.

100% Post awards will be presented at the District Meetings.

The criteria for the “Honor Commander Awards” decided in January will be sent out in November.

Other National and State VFW awards will be offered during the course of the year.