



# Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Annual Awards Dinner

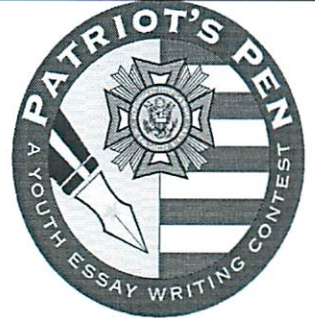


Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Connecticut and its  
Auxiliary

*SUNDAY January 8, 2023, Starts Promptly At 12:45pm*

*\$20.00 per-person*

**IN THE GRAND BALLROOM OF THE ROCKY HILL SHERATON HOTEL  
CAPITAL BLVD - ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT**



Our special guest for this important event will be the Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Duane Sarmentio

## TABLES MAY BE RESERVED IN GROUPS OF 10

The winners of the 53rd Annual State Voice of Democracy and Youth Essay Programs will be Honored at this Dinner. We need your cooperation to make this a Huge Success. Please order your tickets soon if you haven't done so already.

### Buffett Menu

*Plated (pre-set) Caesar Salad - Roast Sirloin of Beef with Homemade Brown Gravy  
Mashed Potatoes - Chef's Choice of Vegetable - Rolls - Butter - Coffee - Tea  
Desert - Tiramisu*

**Deadline for tickets is Wednesday , 2023**

Please make checks payable to:

**THE DEPT. OF CT VFW or just VFW** and mail with the reservation form below

**Mail To: RICH DIFEDERICO, CHAIRMAN - P.O. BOX 429 - ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT - 06067**

**Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Roast Beef tickets to the VOD & \_\_\_\_\_ PP Awards Dinner**

**I/we need \_\_\_\_\_ Meals that are Vegetarian or \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten Free Meals.**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_**

**ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK/MONEY ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED.**



DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT VFW  
AND ITS AUXILIARY



TO: ALL POSTS AND AUXILIARIES

FROM: MARIO RICHARDS, STATE COMMANDER  
DEBROAH BREault, STATE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members; As we once again approach this blessed and joyous holiday season we would like you to help in remembering those Veterans who are in the Rocky Hill Veterans Home and the Newington and West Haven Veterans Hospitals.

We can make their holiday a bit brighter, with your help, by providing a gift to each one of them.as we have in past years.

Your Posts and Auxiliaries can send donations to support this effort. Please make your checks payable to the Department of Connecticut VFW and please mail to: Ron Rusko, QM - P.O. BOX 429 Rocky Hill, Ct. 06067

NAME AND NUMBER OF YOUR POST OR AUXILIARY

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**Thank you!**  
**MARIO & DEBORAH**

OVER



## **VFW and Auxiliary Christmas Hospital Gifts**

**Christmas is fast approaching and it's time for us to make plans for our Holiday gifts to our hospitalized Veterans in the West Haven, Newington and Rocky Hill Hospitals. Unfortunately all three hospitals do not want a large group of people walking around inside with covid still relevant.**

**State VFW Surgeon Rickey Samuel and State Auxiliary Hospital Chairman Judith Barnes, ask that as many of the VFW and Auxiliary members as possible, join in bringing cheer to our hospitalized Veterans during the holiday season, by sending a donation to department, to defray the costs of the monetary gifts to the three hospitals.**

**Please remember that we have an obligation to our hospitalized Veterans to bring them a bit of cheer, especially at this time of year.**

**We hope your post and auxiliary unit can participate with a donation with the enclosed flyer.**

**Thank You Mario Richards State Commander and Deborah Breault State Auxiliary President**

# VFW

Department of Connecticut 2022 - 2023

## Membership Program

"Supporting Veterans and Families"

Commander

Mario Richards

Director of Membership

Robert (Bob) Bailey

Director of Membership Recruit

Stan Borusiewicz

Director of Life & Legacy Life Membership

Philip Gerard



# Department of Connecticut VFW Membership Program

## Commander Mario Richards

P. O. Box 429 | Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067-0429 860.616.2360  
| <http://www.vfwct.org>

**Director of Membership:** Robert Bailey

**Director of Recruitment:** JR Vice Commander: Stan Borusiewicz

**Director of life and Legacy Life Membership:** Philip Gerard

## WELCOME TO OUR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR YOU

This membership program has been designed to recognize and award you for promoting membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

**Note:** To receive credit, please remember to put your name and VFW ID Card Number on Membership Application Forms for the new members you recruit. Within this guide, awards are listed in chronological order by the due date deadline.

To be eligible for the awards, your work must either:

Be received by Department headquarters on or before the Department deadline date (clearly indicated in this guide).

- Appear on National's website on or before the Department closing date.

Remember, only 10% of those eligible to join the VFW in Connecticut are members.

**Note:**

- Post must have at least 36 members to win any membership award.
- An individual may win 2 tickets per event, in any single VFW year. Unless otherwise stated, awards will be presented at the annual state convention awards breakfast.

Respectfully,

Mario Richards

VFW State Commander  
Department of Connecticut

Ken Tracy

VFW State Senior Vice Commander  
Department of Connecticut

Stan Borusiewicz

VFW State Junior Vice Commander  
Department of Connecticut

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## Membership Vision

To show continued growth and thrive through the dedication and involvement of members at all levels of our organization.

## Membership Mission

Recruit, retain, and mentor a stable membership base, including all generations of veterans, which are or will become well-versed in the institutional knowledge and actively involved at all levels of our organization.

## Introduction

For the past several years, we have concentrated on the recruitment of new members. We have many ways to ensure retention of our new members and work to recover past members including:

- Connecting with all members via E-Mail
- Visiting in person to ensure members are doing well and aware of all the services available to them
- Utilizing social media to reach new potential members and retain current members

Taking care of our members and the Veteran Community, as a whole, is our first priority.

## Membership Goals

1. Continue building our organization to ensure a strong future of support and connection to all Veterans of Foreign Wars.
2. Work together to achieve all our goals. The Department Headquarters Staff and Officers are here to assist you in developing new membership initiatives and provide suggestions on how to best reach out within your community.

## Membership Benchmarks

Recruit. Recover. Retain. Increase

- Recruit new members
- Recover unpaid members
- Retain existing members
- Increase life and legacy life membership



## **DIVISION COMMANDER OF THE MONTH DRAWING**

**Division Commanders of the Month** will be indicated each month on the Monthly Membership Standings Report beginning with **30 September 2022** and continuing until **15 May 2023**. Standings are based on the percentage of last year's membership indicated in **Membership Bulletin #1**.

Each month the **Division Commander of the Month** will have their name entered into a drawing from which the winner will be drawn **15 May 2023** and be awarded two tickets to the annual Awards Breakfast with a \$75 gift card to VFW store

## **STATE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL Award**

**DEADLINE: 15 November 2022 ( )**

All District Commanders attaining **at least 90%** in membership by **15 November 2022** will be awarded a \$100 check at the January Council of Administration meeting.

## **HONOR POST COMMANDER AND HONOR DISTRICT COMMANDER**

**DEADLINE: 31 January 2023**

The award classes are as follows: **Class A** - Posts with 301-550 Members, **Class B** - Posts with 151-300 Members, **Class C** - Posts with 31-150 members.

If the Commanders attain **at least 95%** of last year's membership, as listed in **Membership Bulletin #1**, a beautiful laser etched Acrylic Crystal award will be presented to the Commander of the Post in each of the 11 divisions (**Honor Post Commanders**) reporting the greatest percentage of their last year's membership.

The District Commander leading all Districts in the membership race on January 31, 2023, shall be designated the **Honor District Commander** and will also receive a laser etched Acrylic Crystal Award. The District Commander of the year leading all other District Commanders in the membership race, will be chosen on May 15th 2023, provided that his/her District has attained a membership percentage over 100%. And will receive 2 tickets to the Convention Banquet and one night's stay at the convention hotel. The District Commander that is over 100% and in second place shall receive 2 tickets to the Convention Banquet and 2 tickets to the Awards Breakfast. The District Commander that is over 100% and in third place shall receive a \$50.00 gift card to the VFW Store



## **PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WALKER AWARD (For Largest Gain of New Members)**

**DEADLINE: 31 March 2023**

The award classes are as follows: **Class A** - Posts with 301-550 Members, **Class B** - Posts with 151-300 Members, **Class C** - Posts with 31-150 members.

The Walker Award plaque will be presented to the post Commander, in each class, with the largest numerical gain in members (must be a minimum gain of 10). The winner of each class will receive a \$25 gift card to the VFW store

## **PAST ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL BURNHAM AWARD (for largest gain of Post Members)**

**DEADLINE: 31 March 2023**

The award classes are as follows: **Class A** - Posts with over 301 Members, **Class B** - Posts with 201 - 300 Members, **Class C** - Posts with 101 - 200 Members, and **Class D** - Posts with 100 or less Members.

A plaque will be presented to the Post Commander, in each Class, that reports the largest numerical gain of members (must be more than 15). The winner of each class will receive a \$50 gift card to the VFW store

## **STATE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL AWARD TO POST COMMANDERS**

**DEADLINE: 31 March 2023**

Any Post Commanders who **exceed 100+%** in membership by **31 March 2023** will receive a beautiful Acrylic Crystal trophy (with your name and accomplishment laser etched). The State Commander will present the trophy at the April Council of Administration Meeting.

## **NEW LIFE MEMBER AWARD**

**DEADLINE: 15 May 2023**

The Post signing up the most New Life Members (**must be over 10**) will receive two free tickets to the **Annual State Dinner** in the following membership categories: **401** members and above, **201 - 400** members, and **31-200** members.



## **ALL-STATE CONTESTS**

**DEADLINES:** 15 May 2023 to be awarded at the State Convention  
30 Jun 2023 to be awarded at 1st Council Meeting

### **ALL-STATE POST COMMANDERS CONTEST**

**DEADLINE: 15 May 2023**

Posts completing the programs listed in the Department's Monthly Activity Report (Poppies, Americanism, VOD, Patriot's Pen, Community Activities, Hospital, and Commander's Special Project); and that have 100% membership as indicated in **Membership Bulletin #1**, Two Post Commanders in each of the 11 Divisions (or more if there are ties) will be eligible for **All-State Post Commander and have their name entered into a drawing pool from which three winners will be drawn and awarded \$100 VFW STORE gift card.**

To be fully credited in the VOD Program, PP Youth Essay Program the Post must have run a:

- VOD Program with a contestant Flash/USB Drive submitted to its District and
- Patriot's Pen Program with an essay submitted to its District,

or make a cash contribution to its District and to Department Headquarters in the amount of at least \$25.00 for each of the VOD, PP programs for a total of \$50.00, and

Each All-State Post Commander will receive a specially designed cap and a distinctive lapel emblem. Any delinquency not cleared by 15 May 2023 or 30 June 2023 will disqualify the Commander of that Post from the All-State Post Commander competition. Once the qualifications have been met, the membership standing of the Post on 15 May 2023. The All State Post Commanders program will continue until June 30th provided that there are open slots in the membership divisions. The Allstate Post Commanders and Quartermasters caps will be awarded at the first council meeting in July. You can only receive this award once.

One of the All-State Post Commanders will be selected as the Captain of the All-State Team of Post Commanders. His/her selection will be based on a full evaluation of all the VFW Programs and the Post's participation in each, including District Meeting's by 15 May 2023.

## **ALL-STATE DISTRICT COMMANDER CONTEST**

**DEADLINES:** 15 May 2023 to be awarded at the State Convention

30 Jun 2023 to be awarded at first Council Meeting

The "All-State District commander" will be judged on the same basis as the "All-State Post Commanders" to be 100% in membership, two District Commanders will win this award. "The All-State District Commander" will be presented with a distinctive cap bearing that designation.

**Important Note:** The Honor District Commander is also eligible for selection as "All-State District Commander". See also, District Commander's Special Incentive Awards.

## **ALL-STATE POST QUARTERMASTER**

**DEADLINES:** 15 May 2023 to be awarded at the State Convention

30 Jun 2023 to be awarded at first Council Meeting

The Post Quartermaster of the Post of each "All-State Post Commander" shall be designated as "All-State Post Quartermaster" and will be presented a specially designed lapel emblem and a distinctive cap bearing that designation.

## **GEORGE S. FRENCH AWARD**

**DEADLINE:** 15 May 2023

In considering Quartermasters for the George S. French Award, all phases of the Quartermasters' duties will be considered, as follows: neatness and completion of all financial reports, audits, and submission of same within the due date. The George S. French Award is an impressive plaque (up to 4 plaques awarded state-wide).

## **DISTRICT COMMANDER SPECIAL INCENTIVE AWARDS**

**DEADLINE:** 15 May 2023

Any District Commander exceeding 100% of last year's membership will win a \$200.00 National VFW Catalog gift certificate.

## **STATE COMMANDER'S NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

**DEADLINE:** 15 May 2023

You have a chance to earn a Life Membership. If already a Life Member you will earn an upgrade to a Bronze Legacy. If already a Bronze Legacy member you will earn an upgrade to Silver and if currently a Silver member you will be upgraded to a Gold Life Legacy member.

If you are already a Gold Legacy Life member you will have the option of awarding the life membership to a member of your choice within the State of CT. You will receive one chance for every New Member you sign up between 1 July 2022 and 15 May 2023. Five unique winners will be drawn (you may only win this award once per year, however you are still eligible to win the other awards outlined in this guide).

## **STATE COMMANDER'S NEW or REINSTATED MEMBERSHIP AWARD**

**DEADLINE: 15 April 2023 (THIS AWARD WILL BE FUNDED BY THE STATE COMMANDER)**

You have a chance to earn a Life Membership. If already a Life Member you will earn an upgrade to a Bronze Legacy. If already a Bronze Legacy member you will earn an upgrade to Silver and if currently a Silver member you will be upgraded to a Gold Life Legacy member.

If you are already a Gold Legacy Life member you will have the option of awarding the life membership to a member of your choice within the State of CT VFW. You will receive one chance for every Five New or Reinstated Members you sign up between 1 July 2022 and 15 April 2023. One unique winner will be drawn. You may only win one Membership upgrade award per year.

## **PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BANAS AWARD**

**DEADLINE: 15 May 2023**

Every member who signs up 25 new members between 1 July 2022 and 31 May 2023 will receive a high-quality walnut plaque, in addition to the State Commander's award for 25 Members Recruited.

## **100% Post Membership Awards**

Each Post reporting in 2023 membership greater than the 2022 membership (as listed in the Membership Bulletin #1) between 1 July 2022 and 15 May 2023 will receive a 100+% Award. The Post Commander, Post Quartermaster, and the Post Adjutant will each receive a distinctive 100% Pin.

## STATE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

"DEDICATED TO SUPPORT ALL VETERANS" DEADLINE:

30 June 2023

### 5 Members Recruited

Earn this year's State Commander's Challenge Coin to add to, or start your collection today.

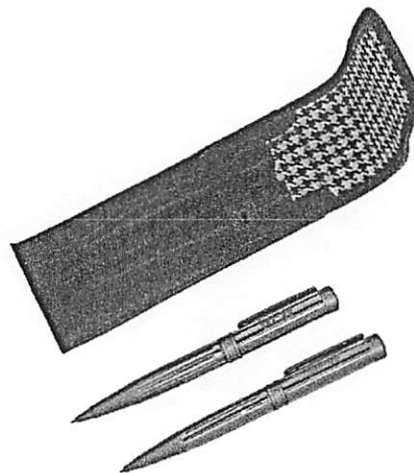


10 Members Recruited You will receive a New Graphite Computer Bag



### 15 Members Recruited

You will receive a Cutter & Buck Pen Set. In addition, if you have recruited 15 members at least two weeks prior to 15 May 2023, you will also receive a \$25 gift card.



### **25 Members Recruited**

You will receive a **\$40.00** gift card to the VFW Supply Store

### **35 Members Recruited**

You will receive a **\$60.00** gift card to the VFW Supply Store.

### **45 Members Recruited**

**Recruiter will receive highest**

**monetary award of the three  
Categories on 30 June 2023**

You will receive a **\$90.00** gift card to the VFW Supply Store **AIDE-DE-CAMP AWARD – 50 NEW MEMBERS DEADLINE: 15 May 2023** Any member signing up 50 new members between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 will be awarded a distinctive Aide-de-Camp cap, and two tickets to the **Annual Awards Breakfast**. The cap will be presented at the first 2023-2024 Council of Administration Meeting.

**150% AWARD DEADLINE: 15 May 2023** In addition to the other awards outlined in this guide each Post Commander reporting a **2022-2023** membership of **120%** or more between **1 July 2022** and **15 May 2023** will receive a check for **\$100.00**. In addition to 150% award you can receive a check for **\$200.00** if you exceed 150%.

**“Our goal is and always will be, helping ALL Veterans and Families past, present, and future.”**



Join the VFW Family

**VFW**  
**Department of Connecticut**

**2022 – 2023**

**Membership Program**

# **Veterans Encouraged to Attend CTMOM Free Dental Care!**

**November 12-13, 2022**

**Connecticut  
Mission of Mercy  
Free Dental Clinic**



Making CT Smiles Healthier

**UConn**

School of Dental Medicine  
300 UConn Health Blvd.  
Farmington, CT 06032

**No Appointments Needed  
First come, First Served**

## Services Include:

- Cleanings
- Exams
- Extractions
- Fillings
- Oral Health Education
- Fluoride Treatments
- Interim Partial Dentures (Limited)
- Root Canals (Limited)
- X-rays

**DOORS OPEN AT  
8:00 AM**

**For more information, visit  
[www.ctmom.org](http://www.ctmom.org)**



A Project of the Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach



**PATRIOT'S PEN REPORT FORM**

POST.#	AUXILIARY	NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS (need minimum of one)	NUMBER OF POST WINNERS ADVANCED (need min. of one)	MONETARY AWARDS	ADDL. MONEY EXPENDED

You must enter your VOD and Patriot Pen report on the VFW Dashboard at: [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and fill out this form and send it to your District Commander for credit in the state VFW. (Addresses on reverse side)

**Post Commanders: It is your responsibility to complete this form and return it to your district Commander after you have completed your post VOD and P/P judging. Failing to return this to your district will not give you credit for the programs. If you made a monetary donation and didn't have any students, please put that on the form. Thank you.**

**First District Commander**

John Kennedy (Post 10201) 203-948-5693  
63 Elbow Hill Rd.  
Brookfield, CT 06804-1932  
kennedy1073@gmail.com

**Second District Commander**

Charles Pickett (Post 12150) 617-733-7971  
550 Central Ave. FL 3  
New Haven, CT 06515-2025  
veterans@vfwnewhaven.org

**Third District Commander**

Lee M. Wilson (Post 1926) 860-798-3562  
64 Mountain View Ave  
Avon, CT 06001-3814  
cmd@vfwctdist3.org

**Fourth District Commander**

David D. Nelson (Post 4608) 203-738-9236  
25 Hyde Park Dr.  
Gales Ferry, CT 06335-1941  
david.d.nelson7@gmail.com

**Fifth District Commander**

Daniel W. Matthews (Post 296) 860-485-8571  
197 Oak St.  
Winsted, CT 06098-1231  
commandervfw296@gmail.com

**Sixth District Commander**

Sheldon J. Potesak (Post 9918) 475-261-0231  
12 Lockwood Dr.  
Clinton, CT 06413-1412  
sheldon.j.potesak@usps.gov

## VOICE OF DEMOCRACY REPORT FORM

POST.#	AUXILIARY	NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS <small>(need minimum of one)</small>	NUMBER OF POST WINNERS ADVANCED <small>(need min. of one)</small>	MONETARY AWARDS	ADDL. MONEY EXPENDED

You must enter your VOD and Patriot Pen report on the VFW Dashboard at: [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and fill out this form and send it to your District Commander for credit in the state VFW. (Addresses on reverse side)

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