

General Orders No. 4 | 2026-2027 Series (October)

1. Post Adjutants are reminded to maintain a current copy of Post, District, Department and National Bylaws. Department bylaws are listed as an item on the VFW Post inspection form (5g). District and Department inspectors are instructed to update their inspection criteria to include the current *VFW Connecticut Bylaws* (Sep. 10, 2025).
2. Post Bylaws (Update): Attention is directed to Section 202 of the National Bylaws concerning that “Posts shall...adopt Bylaws.” According to the VFWCT Dashboard, 8 Connecticut Posts (down from 26) do not have current Bylaws on file with the Department. Contact the State Adjutant (adjutant@vfwct.org) for guidance.
3. VFWCT SOP: The *VFW Connecticut Standard Operating Procedure Manual* (June 28, 2025) is available on the VFWCT.org website under Admin > Department Info > Publications.
4. Post Inspections: The Department of Connecticut Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Inspections shall be completed by December 31st, 2026. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.
5. The attention of all units is called to Section 1101 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides for the formation and jurisdiction of the Auxiliary. This section provides that each unit of the Auxiliary shall be under the jurisdiction of the corresponding unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars but shall be permitted to function in accordance with the National Ritual, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Auxiliary. In addition to provisions of Auxiliary Bylaws, solicitation of funds or donations by Auxiliary units, including contracts with fund-raising organizations for greeting cards, calendars and/or label programs shall be subject to approval and ratification by the governing body of the corresponding unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
6. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men’s organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary.
7. Sections 219 and 704 of the Manual of Procedure outline the various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be used. Several years ago, the phrase, “To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs,” was added to this section. This allows the Post to use the relief funds for the Voice of Democracy program or other Americanism programs that are educational. This does not include Post building projects, hall remodeling, color guard uniforms or any other expenditure that does not follow these guidelines.
8. All officers should obtain a 2026 copy of the podium edition of the *Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual*. Copies of the revised edition of the *Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual* are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2026 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 126th National Convention, which became effective on Aug. 28, 2026.
At the 126th National Convention, delegates adopted an amendment to the *Veterans of Foreign Wars National Bylaws*.

All Departments, Districts, Posts, and VFW employees are directed to ensure this information is disseminated to the lowest organizational level. Further, all members and employees must take the necessary steps to update all correspondence, guides, websites, forms, catalogs, directories, training materials, and any other official documents they may have control of to reflect the new title in order to remain in compliance with the *National Bylaws*. Please ensure all updates are completed in a timely manner to maintain uniformity throughout the organization. However, VFW National DOES NOT expect Posts, Districts and Departments to amend or update their Bylaws at this time to reflect this change.

BY COMMAND OF
JOHN A. KENNEDY
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

Domenic M. Guiliano

Domenic M. Guiliano

Department Adjutant/Quartermaster



WE NEED YOU

★
**VETERANS OF
CONNECTICUT**

**SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES AND
HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF
VETERAN SERVICES AND VETERAN
PROPERTY TAX POLICY**

★ **WE'RE SEEKING VETERANS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERVIEWS
ON VETERAN SERVICES AND PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS IN CONNECTICUT** ★



\$40
**COMPENSATION for
1 hour interview**



Interviews will be held
throughout

OCTOBER



**ONLINE or
IN PERSON**



This study is led by Dr. Lydia Wileden, Assistant Research Professor, **University of Connecticut School of Public Policy**, at the request of the Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs. This non-partisan evaluation has been reviewed by the UConn Institutional Review Board.



**INTERESTED IN
PARTICIPATING?**

Email
SPPVeteranStudies@uconn.edu

UConn

SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC POLICY

★
*Your voice matters
Help make a difference*

VFW Connecticut

2026 UNIFORM POLO

Pricing includes the Men's and Women's Sport-Tek Tri-blend polo with left chest embroidery of VFW Connecticut logo.



Optional right chest embroidery of name\title (up to 3 lines; 14 characters max per line) is available for an additional \$10 charge.

LINE 1: _____

LINE 2: _____

LINE 3: _____

\\VFW CONNECTICUT logo:
With Right Chest Embroidery:

SM-XL: \$22	2XL-5XL: \$28
SM-XL: \$32	2XL-5XL: \$38

ORDER SIZE & QUANTITY: SM___ MED___ LG___ XL___ 2XL___ 3XL___ 4XL___ 5XL___

POST/AUX#: _____ EMAIL (or phone): _____

NAME: _____

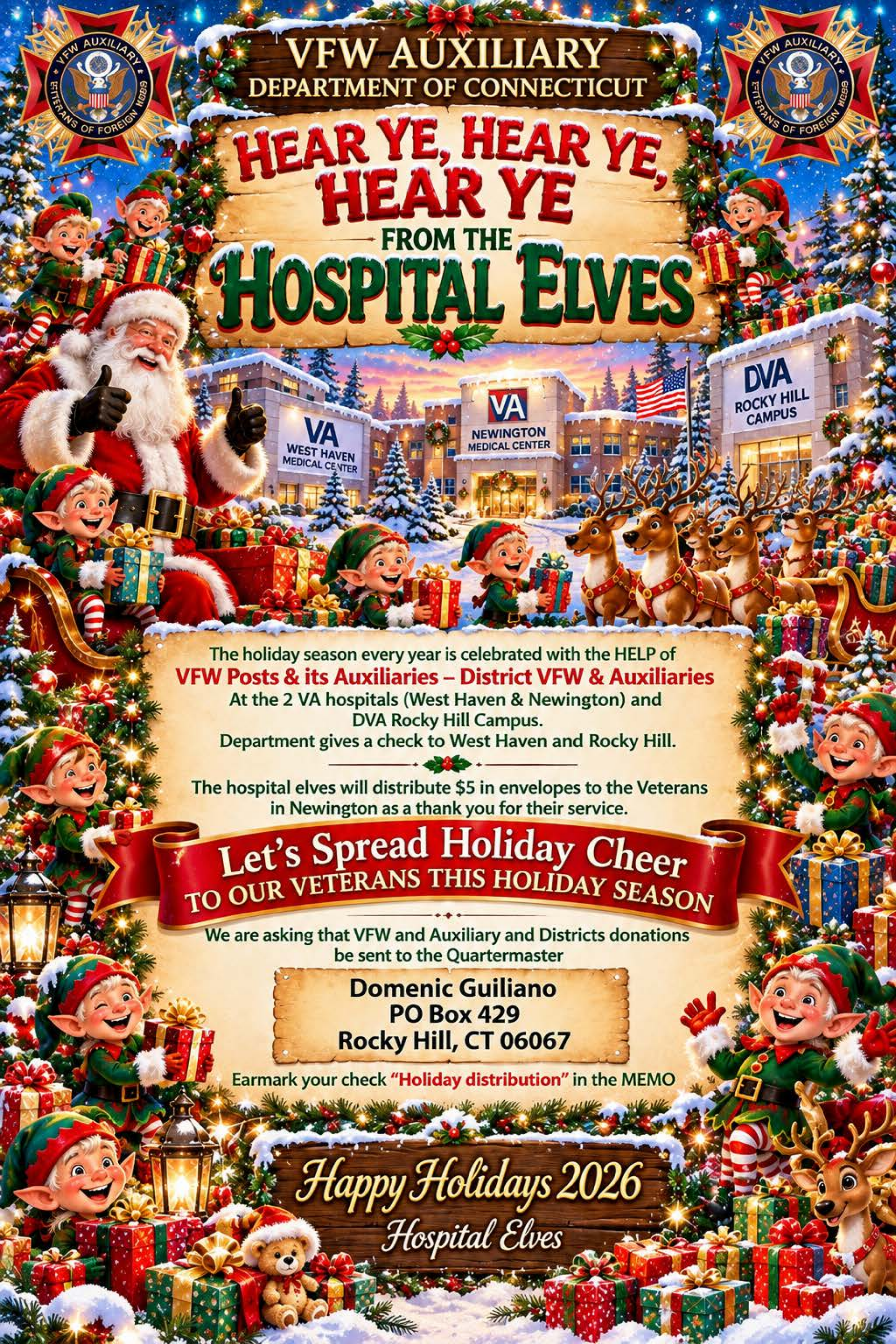
A check/money order to "VFW Connecticut" in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed/mailed by bank.

MAIL TO: VFW CONNECTICUT PO BOX 429 ROCKY HILL CT 06067-0429 | INFO: adj@vfwct.org



VFW AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE FROM THE HOSPITAL ELVES



The holiday season every year is celebrated with the HELP of
VFW Posts & its Auxiliaries – District VFW & Auxiliaries
At the 2 VA hospitals (West Haven & Newington) and
DVA Rocky Hill Campus.
Department gives a check to West Haven and Rocky Hill.

The hospital elves will distribute \$5 in envelopes to the Veterans
in Newington as a thank you for their service.

**Let's Spread Holiday Cheer
TO OUR VETERANS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

We are asking that VFW and Auxiliary and Districts donations
be sent to the Quartermaster

**Domenic Guiliano
PO Box 429
Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

Earmark your check **"Holiday distribution"** in the MEMO

*Happy Holidays 2026
Hospital Elves*



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT



STATE TESTIMONIAL DINNER

★
Honoring

JOHN A.
KENNEDY
STATE
COMMANDER
2026-2027

&

LYNN
PEET
STATE
PRESIDENT
2026-2027



JOIN US AS WE RECOGNIZE THEIR DEDICATION, LEADERSHIP,
AND COMMITMENT TO VETERANS AND OUR COMMUNITIES.



SUNDAY
OCTOBER 11, 2026



STARTS AT
2:00 PM



CASH BAR
2:00 PM



TICKETS
\$70
FAMILY STYLE



MARRIOTT
TRUMBULL/SHELTON
180 HAWLEY LANE
TRUMBULL, CT 06611



LET'S CELEBRATE THEIR SERVICE AND SUPPORT
THE FUTURE OF OUR VETERANS!



RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



VFW
CONNECTICUT

3RD VFW CONNECTICUT GOLF TOURNAMENT



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**REGISTRATION UNDERWAY
FOR OCTOBER 14TH!**

Lyman Orchards in Middlefield, Ct will again host the VFW Ct October 14th golf tournament on their highly desirable 18 hole Jones course. Lyman offers an excellent tournament package including lunch, dinner, hole-in-one prizes, participant gift, and apple pies to go. VFW will award prizes for skill events, and winning teams as well as the opportunity to interact and mingle with friends, colleagues and fellow veterans.



Tournament Package Includes:
*Lunch, Dinner, Hole-in-One Prizes,
Participant Gift, and Apple Pies to Go*



Prizes Awarded For:
Skill Events
Winning Teams



Network & Connect:
Interact and mingle with friends,
colleagues and fellow veterans.



Hosted By:


LYMAN
-ORCHARDS-
Middlefield, CT



DATE:
**TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 14TH**



LOCATION:
LYMAN ORCHARDS
Middlefield, CT



FORMAT:
**FOUR-PERSON TEAM
SCRAMBLE**
SHOTGUN START AT 12:00 NOON
REGISTRATION STARTING AT 11:00 AM



COST:
\$175.00 PER GOLFER
TO COVER ALL FEES AND MEALS



SUPPORT OUR VETERANS • ENJOY A GREAT DAY OF GOLF!
REGISTER TODAY AND JOIN US ON THE COURSE!



SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

Platinum Sponsor	\$1,500
Hole Sponsor (Tee Box)	\$300
Closest to the pin	\$100

Donate raffle prizes, golf awards, welcome gifts, cash and more to help meet the tournament goals.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Department of Connecticut is an IRS Section 501(c)(19) (EIN: 06-0575598) veteran service organization and is eligible to receive tax deductible contributions.

All sponsors will have a sign displayed at the course on the day of the tournament. After the event the sign can be displayed at your local post in recognition of your support.

VFW Connecticut
Fall Classic Golf Tournament
Chair, Richard P. Mason, 724-554-9439
dickmasonus@yahoo.com



VFW Mission

To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts.

To serve our veterans, the military and our communities.

To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Consider joining the largest and oldest war veterans service organization in America.

VFWCT.org

VFW Connecticut

No One Does More for Veterans



Veterans of Foreign Wars



Fall Classic

Golf Tournament

Rain or Shine

Wednesday, October 14, 2026
Lyman Orchards Golf Club

Jones Course
Middlefield, CT



2026 VFW STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT



Become a Golf Sponsor!

2026 SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Platinum	\$1,500
Gold	\$1,300
Silver	\$1,000
Bronze	\$800
Hole Sponsor	\$300 (Tee Box)
Closest to the pin	\$100

Advertising sponsorships are primarily responsible for funding the VFW Connecticut Foundation.

All sponsors will have their promotional signs displayed at the locations of the items sponsored.

Your donation will help us meet our goal to assist CT Vets-in-need. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United State Department of Connecticut is an IRS Section 501© (19) (EIN: 060575598) veteran organization and is eligible to receive tax deductible contributions.

Please detach and return your sponsorship form to VFW Department of CT, PO Box 429, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0429. Checks to be made payable to VFW of Connecticut or register online at vfwct.org For further information contact: Richard Mason, VFW CT STATE GOLF CHAIRMAN, 724-554-9439

Yes, I want to be a sponsor!

Level_____ Check amount_____

Sponsor Name_____

Sponsor Address_____

Email_____

Phone and contact_____





VFW CONNECTICUT

BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORM



- ★ VFW Connecticut Buddy Poppy Forms can be emailed (adj@vfwct.org); mailed (VFW Connecticut, PO BOX 429, Rocky Hill, CT 06067; or called in (860-616-2363) to department headquarters.
 - ★ Volunteer buttons and coin containers must be ordered from the VFW Store.
 - ★ Poppies and supplies are typically shipped via UPS; however, some small orders are shipped via parcel post. It is imperative that a street address to the person on this form that can receive deliveries during the day, be given for delivery (no PO BOX)
 - ★ Department will send the post quartermaster a statement with the total cost of supplies, shipping and handling. Wait for the bill before sending the check. May be paid from the Relief Fund.
- ★ Tin-Tab Buddy Poppies: \$75/500; \$150/1000 + \$15.99 Shipping [eg. $\$75 + \$15.99 = \$90.99$ total for 500]
- ★ Traditional & Anniversary (Gold, Silver, Diamond) Poppies: \$143/500; \$285/1000 + \$29.99 Shipping

ORDERING

Date: _____ Post#: _____ District: _____ Post City: _____

Post/AUX Name: _____

Name of person ordering & Post#: _____

Membership Card Number: _____ Date of Poppy Drive: _____

**If ordering for Auxiliary, include Post Quartermaster Membership Number: _____

SHIPPING (NO PO BOX)

Name to be shipped to: _____

Address to be shipped to: _____

City/State/ZIP to be shipped to: _____

Phone of person to be shipped to: _____

ITEMS

TYPE (check one): ☒ Red ☐ Tin-Tab Anniversary: ☐ Silver ☐ Gold ☐ Diamond

QUANTITY: _____ ESTIMATED COST: _____

2026-2027 Theme “What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

Student Entry Deadline: Oct. 31, 2026
Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 26,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. National winners will be notified of their scholarship & placement. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is,

“What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

The Rules

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

You must be the sole author of your essay. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. To ensure fairness and impartiality in judging, essays **must be anonymous**. **Please do not include your name, address, school name, or any other personal identifiers in the body of your essay.** Additionally, avoid references to your race, sex, religion, national origin, or other specific personal characteristics that could reveal your identity. General references to nationality or patriotic identity (such as being an American or referencing American values) are permitted if they are relevant to the essay theme. However, personal identifiers tied to your individual background or experience should be avoided.

You may enter only one competition at one Post (if otherwise eligible) per year. At any time during the contest, additional participant personal information could be requested by the VFW, including but not limited to a photograph, SSN, or biographical information.

Advancement

Decisions of Judges at all levels are final. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. Contact the post where you entered at to check on your advancement

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2026. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location - ensuring it is a participating Post.

How do I enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 second max.) audio in MP3 format (no videos) on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, a typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging.

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, Submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to a Post. Your local post will give instructions on how to turn in your entry to them. Audio may be submitted physically on a Flash Drive, emailed to the Post (with permission) or submitted through our online platform using Scholars App. **To submit through Scholars App you must first receive a QR code or link from your local post.** Entries sent to VFW National Headquarters directly will not be considered.

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: Visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.vfw.org/FindaPost) to “Find A VFW Post.” If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at [VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org).

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 35 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

Content is worth 30 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

2026-2027 Official Entry Form

Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age

Jacket Size

School Name, City, State

Teacher's Name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian Email

Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Founding Forward Spirit of America Leadership trip to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have not inappropriately used any AI tools or Chat GPT. I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of students participating

No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first place Department winner on

For assistance contact:
816.968.2787
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact:

Phone:

Best Time To Call:

Alternate Contact:

Phone:

Best Time To Call:



2026-2027 Theme "What A Veteran Taught Me About America"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2026
Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 60,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. Decisions of Judges at all levels are final. Contact the post where you entered to check on your advancement. Decisions of Judges at all levels are final. Contact the post where you entered to check on your advancement.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students are ineligible.)

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.
- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Oct. 31.

- Your local Post will give instructions on how to turn in your entry to them. It may be delivered in person, emailed to the Post (with permission) or submitted through our online platform using Scholars App. **To submit through Scholars App you must first receive a QR code or link from your local post.**

Entries sent to VFW National Headquarters directly will not be considered.

How Am I Judged?

- **Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:**
You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.
- **Theme development is worth 35 points:**
Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.
- **Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:**
Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

What Is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2026-2027 theme is:

"What A Veteran Taught Me About America"

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight Oct. 31.

Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.vfw.org/FindaPost) to "Find a VFW Post."

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance.

You can visit [vfw.org/contactus](https://www.vfw.org/contactus) to look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

**For assistance contact
the VFW National Headquarters at 816.968.2787
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org**

2026-2027 Official Entry Form

Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

() Phone Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) Grade in School Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

() Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

What Are the Rules?

- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- To ensure fairness and impartiality in judging, essays must be anonymous. Please do not include your name, address, school name, or any other personal identifiers in the body of your essay. Additionally, avoid references to your race, sex, religion, national origin, or other specific personal characteristics that could reveal your identity. General references to nationality or patriotic identity (such as being an American or referencing American values) are permitted if they are relevant to the essay theme. However, personal identifiers tied to your individual background or experience should be avoided.
- Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).
- The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.
- At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants No. of winners

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

() Phone Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

() Daytime Phone Email

The winner ☒ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____



SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program



WHAT IS THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM?

Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recognizes individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

- Be the recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.
- Be a registered, active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship at the time the above reward was received.
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting and community.

Prior National Scout of the Year winners are ineligible. There is no minimum age requirement for applicants as long as all other eligibility criteria has been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old. If an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year, they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline. A Scout may enter through only one VFW Post. A local Post can be identified by zip code at vfw.org/FindaPost.

WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

- Deadline for entry to VFW Post is **March 1**.
- One candidate with full entry criteria must be submitted by a VFW Post to the next level of judging by **April 1**. The VFW Department Scouting Chairman can provide this information.
- The Department winner must be selected and submitted by their Department Scouting chairman to the VFW National Headquarters by **May 1**.

Questions should be directed to 816.756.3390, ext. 6787 during normal business hours Monday through Friday or emailed to scouting@vfw.org.

Official Entry Form

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH CONTESTANT
and submitted directly to a VFW post in your community.

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Home Phone

Email

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Scout Troop Number

SCOUT/VENTURE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing information is accurate and if I am the winner, I will make myself available to receive the award at a presentation ceremony as designated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Scout/Venture Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

UNIT LEADER'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above-named Scout/Venture is an active member of our unit or was when the award was received and the information supplied by the candidate is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Unit Leader's Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

PARENT'S CONSENT

I hereby certify that all information on this application is correct. I willingly submit this name for consideration as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States' Scout of the Year. If this individual is selected as the winner, I will ensure that he/she is allowed to attend a presentation ceremony as designed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Father, Mother or Guardian Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

PHONE: _____

SPONSORING VFW POST

POST NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE: _____

DISTRICT CERTIFICATION IF APPLICABLE, CHECK WITH THE VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT #: _____

DISTRICT CDR.: _____

DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY DEPARTMENT VFW SCOUTING CHAIRMAN OR DEPT. COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED?

The following documentation should be submitted:

- **Photograph of the Scout** — must be attached to this form. The Scout must appear in correct, complete uniform for their current rank. Recommended size 3" x 5".
- **School Participation Record** — a single page, one-sided resume of the candidate's school activities indicating academic achievements, offices held, honors received and significant participation in other activities.
- **Scouting Record** — maximum of three pages, one side only, listing of all Scouting participation beginning with Cub Scouts or Brownies - years of participation, unit numbers and sponsors. Also include when Eagle, Gold, Summit or Quartermaster Award was received and Palms. Identify leadership positions held at all levels, participation in Scouting activities (jamborees, Order of the Arrow conferences, etc.) and the candidate's Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster Project.
- **Community Service Record** — a single page, one-sided resume listing participation in community and religious service organizations (excluding Scouting and school), noting leadership positions held and any recognition received.
- **Letters of Recommendation** — Submit three letters, no more than two pages in length from:
 - A scout leader.
 - A community member.
 - A teacher/faculty member (if homeschooled, a parent letter is allowed).
 - In addition, you may include one or two additional letters, no more than two pages in length from local community members who have special knowledge of the candidate's abilities/accomplishments.
- **Completed Entry Form** — submitted to a local VFW Post. Local Posts can be identified by zip code at vfw.org/FindaPost.

WHO MAKES UP THE VFW SCOUTING TEAM?

The backbone of Scouting in the VFW is the VFW Scouting Team. These VFW members are deeply involved in Scouting, most with decades of experience.

Appointed by their Department Commander, they are responsible for promoting scouting in their state. They are available to encourage Posts to sponsor units, support units and individual Scout projects. They should be the Department's "expert" on all phases of scouting. Many Departments have multiple members of the VFW Scouting Team, but every Department should have at least one individual to promote the values of scouting to youth and to the VFW itself. For more information on the VFW Scouting Team call 816.756.3390, ext 6787, or email scouting@vfw.org



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Sunday, September 27, 2026

City	Post	Dist	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Need 100%	Need For All American
Division 1			501 and above Members		All American 103%		
WTBY-NAUG	201	2	512	549	93.26%	37	566 54
Division 2			351 to 500 Members		All American 104%		
OAKVILLE	7330	5	359	453	79.24%	94	472 113
Division 3			246 to 350 Members		All American 105%		
STRATFORD	9460	1	266	336	79.16%	70	353 87
JEWETT CITY	10004	4	190	250	76.00%	60	263 73
NEW BRITAIN	511	3	200	296	67.56%	96	311 112
Division 4			190 to 245 Members		All American 106%		
DANBURY	149	1	172	244	70.49%	72	259 87
EAST HAMPTON	5095	6	143	227	62.99%	84	241 98
Division 5			150 to 189 Members		All American 107%		
BROOKFIELD	10201	1	187	186	100.53%	+1	200 13
NEW MILFORD	1672	5	160	188	85.10%	28	202 42
MANCHESTER	2046	3	127	152	83.55%	25	163 36
DEVON	7788	2	144	178	80.89%	34	191 47
PRESTON	9452	4	134	167	80.23%	33	179 45
WILLIMANTIC	1724	4	129	164	78.65%	35	176 47
NORWICH	594	4	121	154	78.57%	33	165 44
PLAINFIELD	5446	4	114	150	76.00%	37	161 48
WESTPORT	399	1	129	179	72.06%	50	192 63
WALLINGFORD	591	2	130	189	68.78%	59	203 73
PAWCATUCK	1265	4	123	179	68.71%	56	192 69
CANAAN	6851	5	124	181	68.50%	57	194 70
PUTNAM	1523	4	105	171	61.40%	66	183 78
Division 6			125 to 149 Members		All American 108%		
MONTVILLE	10060	4	110	136	80.88%	26	147 37
WINDSOR LOCKS	6123	3	108	137	78.83%	29	148 40
MYSTIC	3263	4	111	142	78.16%	31	154 43
OLD SAYBROOK	10153	6	64	126	50.79%	62	137 73
Division 7			105 to 124 Members		All American 109%		
NEW LONDON	189	4	120	123	97.56%	3	135 15
NIANTIC	5849	4	118	121	97.52%	3	132 14
WOLCOTT	1979	2	106	120	88.33%	14	131 25
TRUMBULL	10059	1	88	105	83.80%	17	115 27
PLAINVILLE	574	3	88	112	78.57%	24	123 35
NEWTOWN	308	1	83	112	74.10%	29	123 40
ROCKY HILL	2138	3	88	124	70.96%	36	136 48
YALESVILLE	9965	2	72	107	67.28%	35	117 45
Division 8			90 to 104 Members		All American 110%		
SUFFIELD	9544	3	88	94	93.61%	6	104 18
AVON	3272	3	78	95	82.10%	17	105 27
WINSTED	296	5	73	91	80.21%	18	101 28
NEW HAVEN	12150	2	65	96	67.70%	31	106 41
WATERTOWN	5157	5	64	100	64.00%	36	110 46

State	District	Total	Goal	Percent	Need	100% Plus 1
District Totals	2	1381	1722	80.19%	341	1723
District Totals	1	1163	1462	79.54%	299	1463
District Totals	4	1770	2269	78.00%	499	2270
District Totals	5	820	1063	77.14%	243	1064
District Totals	3	1191	1550	76.83%	359	1551
District Totals	6	411	640	64.21%	229	641
District Totals	99	1010	1242	81.32%	232	1243
State Total		7746	9948	77.86%	2202	9949

State Totals Today	7746	77.86%
State Totals Last Week	7699	77.39%
Difference	47	0.47%

For weekly updates go the Adjutant's corner on vfwct.org website.

City	Post	Dist	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Need 100%	Need For All American
Division 9			70 to 89 Members		All American 111%		
NORTON HEIGHTS	6933	1	80	87	91.95%	7	97 17
CANTERBURY	10688	4	63	75	84.00%	12	84 21
PROSPECT	8075	2	62	75	82.66%	13	84 22
BERLIN	10732	3	65	81	80.24%	16	90 25
SIMSBURY	1926	3	68	86	79.06%	18	96 28
WINDSOR	4740	3	56	72	77.77%	16	80 24
MIDDLETOWN	583	6	63	87	72.41%	24	97 34
BRANFORD	12106	2	49	83	59.03%	34	93 44
EAST KILLINGLY	4908	4	49	88	55.68%	39	98 49
Division 10			50 to 69 Members		All American 112%		
OLD LYME	1467	4	66	69	95.65%	3	77 11
LEDYARD	4608	4	58	66	87.87%	8	74 16
WATERFORD	6573	4	59	68	86.76%	9	77 18
EAST HARTFORD	2083	3	53	64	82.81%	11	72 19
ELLINGTON	10689	3	47	57	82.45%	10	64 17
EAST HADDAM	3336	6	47	58	81.03%	11	65 18
HAMDEN	10321	2	41	51	80.39%	10	58 17
MADISON	2096	2	43	55	78.18%	12	62 19
NORWALK	603	1	41	57	71.92%	16	64 23
CLINTON	9918	6	40	56	71.42%	16	63 23
GUILFORD	7666	2	48	68	70.58%	20	77 29
STAFFORD SPRINGS	9990	3	34	56	60.71%	22	63 29
THOMPSON	10088	4	32	52	61.53%	20	59 27
Division 11 (Upper)			10 to 50 Members (31 to 49)		All American 113%		
SALEM	2774	4	29	32	90.62%	3	37 8
STAMFORD	9617	1	34	38	89.47%	4	43 9
NEW CANAAN	653	1	37	47	78.72%	10	54 17
SEYMOUR	12084	2	24	31	77.41%	7	36 12
HEBRON	8776	3	32	43	74.41%	11	49 17
SOUTHBURY	1607	2	28	38	73.68%	10	43 15
WEST HAVEN	9422	2	26	37	70.27%	11	42 16
CHESHIRE	10052	2	31	45	68.88%	14	51 20
TAFTVILLE	2212	4	20	38	52.63%	18	43 23
PORTLAND	6121	6	20	39	51.28%	19	45 25
Division 11 (Lower)			10 to 50 Members (10 to 30)		All American 113%		
WEST WILLINGTON	938	3	21	24	87.50%	3	28 7
HIGGANUM	10690	6	23	27	85.18%	4	31 8
THOMASTON	572	5	21	26	80.76%	5	30 9
HARTFORD	254	3	24	30	80.00%	6	34 10
COLCHESTER	6990	4	19	24	79.16%	5	28 9
LAKEVILLE	9243	5	19	24	79.16%	5	28 9
BRIDGEPORT	10273	1	21	29	72.41%	8	33 12
FAIRFIELD	9427	1	12	20	60.00%	8	23 11
COS COB	10112	1	13	22	59.09%	9	25 12
DURHAM	10169	6	11	20	55.00%	9	23 12
COVENTRY	10589	3	14	27	51.85%	13	31 17

District Commander : Dist 1. Jack Leblanc

Division 1 Commander : Post 201, David Taft

Division 2 Commander : Post 7330, Thomas Way

Division 3 Commander : Post 9460, Steve Evangelista

Division 4 Commander : Post 149, Nelson Martins

Division 5 Commander : Post 10201, John Kennedy

Division 6 Commander : Post 10060, David Lamirande

Division 7 Commander : Post 189, Jen Zetah

Division 8 Commander : Post 9544, William Moryto

Division 9 Commander : Post 6933, Scott Vanderheyden

Division 10 Commander : Post 1467, Gregory Symonds

Division 11 Commander : Post 2774, Edward Lezon

Division 11 (L) Commander : Post 938, Edward Dagata