

## Membership

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF MONTANA, VERMONT, ALASKA, KENTUCKY, MARYLAND AND NEVADA FOR ACHIEVING 100% IN MEMBERSHIP!**

**123RD VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION, KANSAS CITY, MO, JULY 16-21, 2022**

### **COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE FOR JUNE**

As we near the end of the 2021-22 membership year, it's time for all of us to make that push for membership growth! For our year-end membership push, we are issuing a challenge to all of our Departments to show leadership and bring your Posts above 100%. Each winning group will receive a \$2,500 cash award to be deposited into the Department account.

<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>	<b>Group C</b>	<b>Group D</b>
California	Arkansas	Alabama	Alaska
Florida	Colorado	Arizona	Delaware
Illinois	Connecticut	Idaho	Europe
Indiana	Georgia	Kentucky	Hawaii
Massachusetts	Iowa	Louisiana	Montana
Michigan	Kansas	Maine	Nevada
Minnesota	Missouri	Maryland	New Mexico
New Jersey	Nebraska	Mississippi	Pacific Areas
New York	North Carolina	New Hampshire	Rhode Island
Ohio	Oklahoma	North Dakota	South Dakota
Pennsylvania	Virginia	Oregon	Utah
Texas	Washington	South Carolina	Vermont
Wisconsin	West Virginia	Tennessee	Wyoming

This contest will compare the number of Posts below 100% in each Department as of close of business May 31 to the number of Posts at 100% or above in each Department as of close of business on June 30. Members processed through the Online Membership System before close of business will be processed that day; membership applications sent in via fax or mail will be processed when received.

### **ALL-AMERICAN CAP ORDER INFORMATION**

All District and Post Commanders who achieve 100% in membership will receive an email from National Headquarters requesting their VFW hat size and preference type of cap (female/male).

A District and Post will not be considered All-American until they achieve greater than 100% in membership and have met all program requirements.

Only the top ten District Commanders in each division and only the top 25 Post Commanders in each division who achieve All-American status will receive an All-American cap from National Headquarters.

Once the email from National Headquarters has been received, click on the link and provide the data requested for hat sizes. Having the data will make it easier to place the All-American cap orders to ensure they arrive on time as our National Convention is earlier this year.

- Your All-American packets may be picked up at the Membership booth.

**NEW/REINSTATED MEMBERSHIP GRANT INITIATIVE FOR VFW POSTS**

As of Jan. 1, 2022, every VFW Post that signs up and submits full membership dues\* for each member will receive a grant based on the type of membership submitted while funds are available.

Member Type	Rebate Amount
New to the VFW Life member and/or any **Reinstated annual to Life with full Life member payment	\$30.00
New to the VFW Life member and/or any **Reinstated annual to Life Installment Payment	\$20.00
New to the VFW Annual member	\$20.00
**Reinstated Annual member	\$10.00

- Full membership dues include the per capita for National, Department and the Post.
- Reinstated definition - Anyone that has been a member before, and their dues have been expired for two years and one day or more is classified as a reinstated member.
- Members submitted prior to Jan. 1 are not eligible for this program.
- Current annual members defined as any member whose dues have not been expired more than two years are not eligible for the grant.
- Members-at-Large are not part of this program.

**POST DEVELOPMENT**

For those that may be close to getting your charter, make the most of this month! For tips on how to institute a new Post, check out our New Post Development & Revitalization Manual, which can be viewed/downloaded from [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), under Membership Retention & Training. To understand more, give me a call, Corey Hunt, 816.968.2788 to discuss ways you can energize your membership. We have many resources for you including training videos and presentations on topics which are designed to help you grow membership and retain those members.

**NEW POST DEVELOPMENT & POST REVITALIZATION DEPARTMENT AWARD**

For each new Post, the Department will receive two entries into a drawing, and one entry for increasing the membership of a Post of 50 members or less to over 50 members by July 1, 2022, the Department selected will receive:

- **\$1,000 paid directly to Department.**

For details on this and all other All-American membership incentives, view the Commander-in-Chief's National Membership Program at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under *Membership Recruiting & Retention*.

For any questions or further information, please contact the Membership Department via email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

### **UPCOMING TRAINING**

The next Membership Monday training webinar will be on June 6, 2022, at 2 PM, CDT, Topic: **TBD**.

### **CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to view the latest membership news, Post Shout-Outs and important resource information throughout the year - [facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/](https://facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/).

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!**

Top Three Recruiters (as of 5.26.22):

**Joseph T. Allen – 402**  
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

**Larry M. Gerlt – 305**  
VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

**Michael J. Eason – 137**  
VFW Post 9376, Dept. of MD

### **LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to [vfw.org](http://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 offer 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:**

<b><u>Levels</u></b>		<b><u>Posts</u></b>	<b><u>Departments</u></b>	<b><u>National</u></b>
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 has been diligently working to finalize convention contracts and compiling needed deliverables such as corporate logos, ads, videos and flyers for the registration bag inserts. So far, the VFW Foundation has raised over \$430,000!

A Supporter's Reception for our corporate partners will take place at the VFW National Convention in Kansas City on Sunday, July 17 from 5:00 - 6:45 p.m. VFW Directors/Leadership (plus 1) are welcome, so please RSVP Brooke Brown, Assistant Director, Corporate Relations, [bbrown@vfw.org](mailto:bbrown@vfw.org) by July 1.

Staff members Brooke Brown and Ben Vargas attended the Engage for Good Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where they were able to learn fundraising skills (new and best practices), corporate partnerships and engagement.

Contact: Richard Freiburghouse, Interim Director, at [rfreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:rfreiburghouse@vfw.org).

## VFW National Convention

National Convention housing opened **Feb. 17** for the Kansas City Convention, July 16-21, 2022. Convention hotel reservations can be made either by calling 877.464.6840 (Mon.-Fri., 9a-6p EST) or International at 980.337.3372 (Mon.-Fri., 9a-6p EST).

You may also access convention information including housing via the VFW convention page at [vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention).

The **June 13** housing reservation deadline is **NOT** a guarantee there will be rooms available in your Department block by that date. Housing reservations are **always first-come, first-served**.

The official hotels selected for the 123rd National Convention are: Kansas City Marriott Downtown (VFW Headquarters hotel - \$179 single/double), Loews Hotel (Auxiliary Headquarters hotel - \$189 single/double), Hotel Phillips (\$169 single/double), Hotel Kansas City (\$189 single/double), Crowne Plaza (\$179 single/double). Tax rates for Kansas City are 17-22% plus \$1.76 per room, per night Kansas City Development fee. Tax rates are subject to change.

For VFW Department housing assignments, refer to the list located on the convention website at [vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention).

**Convention Registration:** Section 222 of the National Bylaws requires each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of \$25 which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a \$10 delegate fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register online by going to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

**Matching Gift Opportunity to Support the VFW's Programs** – Last month the VFW was presented with a great opportunity by a generous friend to triple your donation. And now they have extended the offer to triple your gift until July 9, 2022, up to \$50,000.

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. You still have time to participate in the Matching Gift Program.

**VFW Work Gloves** – A special VFW Work Gloves package will mail the first week of June and has been created as a special thank you for your continued support of the VFW and the life-changing programs for all veterans. Your support gives wounded veterans hope in the face of tragedy – those coping with Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury and other horrible war wounds that will haunt them forever. When you receive your VFW Work Gloves, please be as generous as possible. Your donation helps veterans of every generation. And please, remember to display the U.S. flag, especially on all patriotic holidays.

**Independence Day is Coming Up** – The VFW is preparing for a special online celebration of freedom with our annual observance of Independence Day. Please visit [vfw.org](http://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.

**Join the Prestigious VFW Heroes Circle!** – You can join an elite group of our most dedicated members and supporters in the VFW Heroes Circle! Comprised of those who wish to further our mission with a gift in their wills or other estate plans, the VFW Heroes Circle was created to honor our most loyal supporters who have made this extraordinary commitment to America's veterans, service members and their families. To learn how easy it is to make an impact on future generations of veterans, please contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org). More information is available online at [vfw.org/PlannedGiving](http://vfw.org/PlannedGiving).

**Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism?** – Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic 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 the 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 at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at [partners@vfw.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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!

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

**Meeting times at the National Convention in Kansas City:**

**VFW Programs and VMS Committee Town Hall Meeting  
(Date, time, and location to be determined.)**

We will also have on display the **Legacy Citation of Merit Award** and the **Military Working/War Dog Citation**.

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!

**See you in Kansas City!**

For Posts and Departments to qualify for All-American, a **minimum of \$100** must be donated to **Veterans & Military Support** by **June 30, 2022**. Please go to the **All-American Dashboard** and use the **VMS Donation link** at the **upper right-hand corner** of the screen.

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

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

**Do not use the red donate link in the upper righthand corner.** This is the general donation link.

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

**2022-23 VMS Lapel Pins** closed May 15, 2022. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Mark Herron via email at [mherron@vfw.org](mailto:mherron@vfw.org) or call 816.968.1102.



**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](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag).

**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 Chairmen's Manual or contact Tammy at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

**FLAG DAY, JUNE 14.** All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Tuesday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award (Product No. 4385) for those who have daily displayed our national flag.

**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](http://vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic).

**ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD.** Military Assistance Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance that has been received from National HQs 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.

Please encourage Posts to read the 2021-22 Membership program. Many Posts do not understand they need to sign up five new Action Corps subscribers, create a Facebook page, two separate partnering events along with a 10% increase in Community Service Impact from last year. They must submit reports through the dashboard to gain credit.

**"NEW" 2022-23 SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM.** This year, 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.

Teacher Award Chairman must submit one candidate, in each category (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12), for these awards to their Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. The Department must select a single candidate, in each category, for the awards and submit the winners to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the “VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form” which will be available on the VFW website soon. You can locate this form by logging in to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and searching under “My VFW” in the Training & Support section.

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: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available. These items will be forwarded on to the District, if applicable, then to the Department with the completed entry forms.

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-expenses-paid trip to attend a VFW National Convention.

**Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2022-23 program year. The teacher entry form will be up on the VFW website soon.** 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, completion of Department judging and Feb. 1, the Department winners are due to National Headquarters.

Simply visit [vfw.org/#login](http://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, and on the same page are all other program materials.

**IT’S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!** It is the perfect time to be contacting 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](mailto:nlopez@vfw.org) or call 816.968.1155.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES.** The 2022–23 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Timothy M. Borland. The Voice of Democracy theme will be “Why is the Veteran Important?” and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be “My Pledge to our Veterans.”

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN ENTRY FORMS.** The new 2022-23 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](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy) for Voice of Democracy and [vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen) for Patriot’s Pen.

**NOTE:** “NEW” Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen posters are now available!



**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 Chairmen’s Manual 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 new law, 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](http://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

Colonials and coupes, SUVs and split-levels, ranches and RVs. Whatever your home and auto style, get protection from USAA.

USAA is dedicated to serving military members and their eligible family members by offering more benefits than any other major financial service provider.

Because USAA understands the unique needs of our military members and their families, they offer valuable financial resources and benefits, like savings when you bundle your home and auto coverage.<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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”<sup>®</sup> Poppy

**“BUDDY”<sup>®</sup> 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](http://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 chairmen 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](mailto:BuddyPoppy@vfw.org) or 816.756.3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

**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 a.m., Saturday, July 16, until noon, Monday, July 18, 2022. 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 afternoon. Any displays left after this time will be removed for disposal by convention center personnel during the disassembly of the hall.

**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. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don't 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 Legislative Service/Action Corps

### New Action Alert

Contact your senators and tell them to vote **YES** when the *Honoring our PACT Act* is brought to the Senate floor. Toxic-exposed veterans cannot afford to wait any longer for health care and benefits. [We must act now!](#)

## House Passes 19 Veteran Bills

The House passed 19 veteran bills, including nine supported by the VFW. [H.R. 2724](#), [H.R. 5738](#), [H.R. 5754](#), [H.R. 6052](#), [H.R. 6064](#), and [H.R. 6604](#) now head to the Senate. One of the advanced bills — H.R. 5754, *Patient Advocate Tracker Act* — stemmed from a proposal by 2021 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow Cameron Zbikowski. Previously passed by the Senate, [S. 2102](#), [S. 2533](#), and [S. 2687](#) now head to the president’s desk for signature. [Read more](#).

## 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; Communications & Public Affairs; Post Service Officers; and Veterans & Military Support. To utilize these valuable training guides, videos, forms and templates, please login at [vfw.org/#login](http://vfw.org/#login), 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 2022-23 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

Order your patriotic items now for your **4th of July** celebration! VFW Store has table runners, patriotic apparel, flags, jewelry and much more! Go to [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/4thofjuly?page=1&size=100](http://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/4thofjuly?page=1&size=100).

Don’t forget your **Officer Cap, pins and accessories!** Orders can be placed at [vfwstore.org](http://vfwstore.org) or by calling 833.VFW.VETS. We also have a variety of business essentials, from business cards to padfolios, ink stamps to award certificates. To see all the options, go to [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/officergiftsandawards?page=1&size=100](http://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/officergiftsandawards?page=1&size=100).



## Roll Call of Departed Comrades

KENT, ALLEN F. "GUNNER," Past Commander-in-Chief, 1994-1995, Adjutant General, 2005-2013, All American Commander, Department of Arizona, 1987-1988 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of James R. "Bob" Currieo Post 9972, Sierra Vista, Arizona, May 17, 2022.

HARVEY, JR., FREDERICK W. "FRED," All American Commander, Department of New Hampshire, 1979-1980 and a Life Member of Dumont-Lessard Post 4485, Somersworth, New Hampshire, May 31, 2022.

**1. Posts that have not sent in a Post Election Report Form listing the Post Officers for 2022-2023 should do so immediately for matter of record and so mailings can be made to the proper officers within the Post. Not doing so will subject the Post to actions within our National Bylaws.**

2. Departments need to submit their official roster to National Headquarters immediately following their Department Convention so correspondence may be directed to the proper officers in each Department.

3. Attention is directed to the provision of Section 222 (d) of the National Bylaws, "Each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee." Post Quartermasters are encouraged to register their delegate on-line through the Online Membership System (OMS). Posts failing to comply with this provision will be considered delinquent and in arrears.

4. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:

Post Nos. 8071 and 8660 consolidated as Post No. 8071, Virginia City, Nevada  
Post Nos. 1018 and 12158 consolidated as Post No. 1018, Boston, Massachusetts  
Post Nos. 2486 and 11020 consolidated as Post No. 2486, Wauconda, Illinois  
Post Nos. 8307 and 8868 consolidated as Post No. 8307, Layton, Utah  
Post Nos. 2149 and 5167 consolidated as Post No. 2149, Wood Dale, Illinois  
Post Nos. 3538 and 8841 consolidated as Post No. 3538, Struthers, Ohio  
Post Nos. 1148 and 6170 consolidated as Post No. 1148, Bowling Green, Ohio

BY COMMAND OF  
FRITZ MIHELICIC  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:



Kevin C. Jones  
Adjutant General

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

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## PLANNING CALENDAR

### SCHEDULE OF VFW MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rev. June 2022

#### 2022

- July 16 - 21 National Convention  
Kansas City, MO
- August 19 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting  
Kansas City, MO
- August 20 - 21 National Council of Administration Meeting  
Kansas City, MO
- August 25 - 28 Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming  
Chandler, AZ
- September 12 - 15 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting  
Washington, DC
- September 18 - 23 Accredited Service Officer Basic and Skill Level Training  
Annapolis, MD*
- October 14 - 16 Big Ten Conference  
Milwaukee, WI
- October 27 - 30 Southern Conference  
Asheville, NC
- November 3 - 6 Western Conference  
Portland, OR
- November 4 - 6 Eastern Conference  
Manchester, NH

#### 2023

- March 3 - 8 Voice of Democracy  
Washington, DC*
- March 5 - 9 Legislative Conference  
Washington, DC*
- May 18 - 21 Kansas City Spree  
Kansas City, MO
- July 22 - 27 National Convention  
Phoenix, AZ

#### **NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

#### **WASHINGTON OFFICE**



August 25 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

August 26 - 27 National Council of Administration Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

September 11 - 14 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting  
Washington, DC

November 1 - 4 Southern Conference  
Tulsa, OK

**2024**

July 27 - August 1 National Convention  
Louisville, KY

September 6 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

September 7 - 8 National Council of Administration Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

September 9 - 12 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting  
Washington, DC

**2025**

August 9 - 14 National Convention  
Columbus, OH

**2026**

August 15 - 20 National Convention  
Salt Lake City, UT