

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



Fidelity | Fraternity | Philanthropy

Introduction

There are three words that I want to guide us through this year: Fidelity, Fraternity, and Philanthropy. The first, fidelity, is inspired by the Marine Corps Motto “Semper Fidelis” and reminds me of how we open every meeting with the words “let us uphold always the obligations of unselfish comradeship and loyalty to our organization and to the government of the United States of America.”

Likewise, the first purpose of our organization, as stated in our Congressional Charter, is fraternal. Specifically, to “preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members, to assist worthy comrades, to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans.”

Philanthropy, on the other hand, is the principle that ties everything together. Through our elections we form boards, whereby each Post runs as a philanthropic organization. Our members consistently promote the welfare of others through the generous donation of their time. We also seek and rely upon the philanthropic nature of our supporters through donations and grants.

I believe we will have an excellent year together by keeping these words in your mind as we work our programs to engage with the community, grow our relief funds to assist our comrades in need, and promote our legislative goals to advocate for all veterans and their families. I look forward to working with each and every member to prove that “no one does more for veterans” than the VFW.

Mission

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

Goals

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


Objectives

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

Department of Colorado Membership Recruiting Awards***

Every VFW member and Auxiliary member is eligible for the following rewards

Every new or reinstated member in the VFW or the Auxiliary counts†

Challenge	Award
Recruit 1 New or Reinstated member	Certificate of Appreciation, recruiter's name published in the Colorado Veteran, and an entry in the year-end drawing*
Recruit 5 New or Reinstated members	VFW T-shirt and a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate from the VFW Store** Invitation to a COA; subject to the reimbursement policy for District Commanders
Recruit 10 New or Reinstated members 	State Commander's VFW Coin and a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate for the VFW Store** Invitation to the 2024 State Convention; subject to the reimbursement policy for District Commanders
Recruit 25 New or Reinstated members	VFW Recruiter Jacket to be presented at first COA following the 2024 State Convention
District Recruiters	The top recruiter, that is not a Post Quartermaster, from each District shall receive an engraved pocket knife
Recruit a Life Member	Chance to win Life Membership fee reimbursement for the recruit and the recruiter at the 2024 State Convention
All Posts reaching 100% membership by June 30, 2024, will receive a 100% membership plaque	
All Post unable to reach 102% but with a retention rate of 92% or greater on June 30, 2024, will receive an engraved Buck knife	

* A year-end drawing for a \$500 Visa gift card will be held at the 2024 State Convention

** VFW Store gift certificate drawings will be held during Department COAs

*** Additional recruiting awards may be offered if the Department earns extra funds from National

† In instances when a VFW member recruits for the Auxiliary and vice versa (cross-recruiting)

All-State Team of Post Commanders

The Department of Colorado will select All-State Post Commanders to make up the Department of Colorado 2023–2024 All-State Team of Post Commanders. The team will be presented at the first Council of Administration following the 2024 State Convention. However, any Post ineligible to vote at the State Convention shall be ineligible for All-State honors.

Awards

Post Commanders – an official VFW All-State Team white cap, a \$75 check, and an All-State Commander Certificate.

Qualifications

Membership – Post must have attained 102% of the prior year’s membership as determined by the VFW National MemStats Report on June 30, 2024
Service Office – Post must donate to the Department of Colorado Service Office*
Programs – Post must submit at least one VOD, one PP, and one Teacher of the Year to their District

When the above qualifications have been met the Post Commander is eligible for entry into the All-State Team of Post Commanders contest. Based on the following point schedule the **top 10 Post Commanders** will be awarded All-State honors and be offered a stipend to attend the first COA following the 2024 State Convention. All other qualifying Post Commanders will receive an All-State Commander Certificate and will be eligible to purchase an official VFW All-State Team white cap.

*Service Office donations should be commensurate to the size and financial abilities of the Post. No minimum amount is required. Additional points can be earned by donating at least \$100.

Item	Points
Each new or reinstated member recruited by the Post Commander	10 points
Each #StillServing, UTCH, or MAP grant received	10 points
Hold a Department Service Office fundraiser and donate \$100 or more	10 points
Partner with a VFW Auxiliary for Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship, Voice of Democracy, and/or Patriot’s Pen programs	7 points each
Each submitted VFW Public Servant Award nomination to Department	5 points
Submit a Chaplain of the Year nomination to Department	5 points
Each submitted Scout and/or JROTC of the Year nomination to Department	5 points
Each Council of Administration meeting attended by the Commander	5 points
Each Council of Administration meeting attended by Post Sr Vice Commander	5 points
Host or participate in a Loyalty Day Event	2 points
Participate in a #StillServing Day of Service Event	2 points
Hold a VFW National Home for Children fundraiser and donating \$25 or more	2 points
Each membership recruitment event conducted by your Post	2 points

All Commanders who are eligible for the All-State Team of Post Commanders will be notified by the Department and provided an official entry form. COA stipends are subject to the reimbursement policy for District Commanders.

All-State Team of Post Quartermasters

The Department of Colorado will select All-State Post Quartermasters to make up the Department of Colorado 2023–2024 All-State Team of Post Quartermasters. The team will be presented at the first Council of Administration following the 2024 State Convention. However, any Post ineligible to vote at the State Convention shall be ineligible for All-State honors.

Awards

Post Quartermasters – an All-State jacket, a \$25 check, and an All-State Quartermaster Certificate.

Qualifications

Membership – Post must have attained 102% of the prior year’s membership as determined by the VFW National MemStats Report on June 30, 2024
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When the above qualifications have been met the Post Quartermaster is eligible for entry into the All-State Team of Post Quartermasters contest. Based on the following point schedule the **top 10 Post Quartermasters** will be awarded All-State honors and be offered a stipend to attend the first COA following the 2024 State Convention. All other qualifying Post Quartermasters will receive an All-State Quartermaster Certificate and will be eligible to purchase an All-State jacket.

Item	Points
Participation in a membership recruitment event conducted by your Post	10 points
Quartermaster holds a Trustee School of Instruction	10 Points
Each Audit Report completed correctly and submitted on time (25 th of the month following the close of the reporting period)	5 points
Each day of Department COA Workshops attended by the Post Quartermaster	5 points
Post Trustee attends one Department COA Workshops	5 points
Each new or reinstated member recruited by the Post Quartermaster	2 points

All Quartermasters who are eligible for the All-State Team of Post Quartermasters will be notified by the Department and provided an official entry form. COA stipends are subject to the reimbursement policy for District Commanders.

All State District Commander Contest

The Department of Colorado will select District Commanders to make up the Department of Colorado 2023–2024 All-State Team of District Commanders. The team will be presented at the first Council of Administration following the 2024 State Convention.

Awards

Team Members – an official VFW All-State Team white cap, a \$25 check, and an All-State Certificate

Team Captain – the items above and an All-State jacket

Qualifications

Membership – District must have attained 102% of the prior year’s membership as determined by the VFW National MemStats Report on June 30, 2024
Programs – District must submit at least one VOD, one PP, and one Teacher of the Year to the Department

When the above qualifications have been met, the District Commander will be awarded All-State honors.

The District Commander with the highest score will be designated as the Team Captain.

Item	Points
Inspections – for completing all Post Inspections by April 1 st 2024	10 points
Each District Training conducted	10 points
All Posts within the District have submitted a Buddy Poppy order	5 points
All Posts within the District have donated to the Department Service Office	5 points

In the event of a tie, the Commander of the District to achieve 102% first shall be the Team Captain. If Commanders are still tied, the Commander having the highest number of new and/or reinstated members will be the Team Captain.

All district Commanders who are eligible for All-State District Commander will be notified by the Department Commander and provided an official entry form. If the District Commander is no longer serving in that role a stipend to attend the first COA following the 2024 State Convention will be offered.