

DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



2024-2025

**STATE COMMANDER
DEBBIE MCELHANNON**

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Awards presented at Mid Winter Conference and State Convention

DON REBER- 9822-4
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I. NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MISSION:

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

II. DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOALS:

1. Build a strong organization through recruiting new members while retaining our current membership that creates a solid baseline for the future.
2. Work together to achieve VFW goals. The VFW National Headquarters is available to assist in coordinating programs, developing membership initiatives and building awareness among our membership and the entire veteran community.
3. We must improve communication with our members. Keep members informed of upcoming events, post information, and meetings using technology available, newsletters, and emails etc.
4. Use technology to communicate with the community about events to build a strong relationship with the community and help recruit future members.
5. Do buddy checks and get to know your members. We need to know who they are and what are their needs. We need to take care of our members and veterans as whole.
6. Mentoring is vital to the continuation and growth of our organization.

III. MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING:

- Posts and Districts should hold at least two (2) Membership Recruiting events for the 2024-2025 VFW year.
- Membership awards will be posted monthly and quarterly.
- Awards will be presented to the Post that shows the largest increase in Membership totals.

IV. MEMBERSHIP INDIVIDUAL CONTESTS AND AWARDS:

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AWARDS:

1. **100% POST MEMBERSHIP:** Posts who reach 100% by December 31, 2024, will be entered in a drawing for the annual Dept of LA Timeshare. If the post wins, the post members decide who gets the trip.
2. **100% DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP:** District Commanders who have 1/2 of their Post at 100% by December 31, 2024, will be entered in a drawing to receive the annual Dept of LA Timeshare.
3. **85% POST:** Those Post who are at 85% by December 31, 2024, will be entered into a drawing for a \$50.00 Life Membership to the National Home.
4. **RECRUITER AWARDS:** Every recruiter will receive awards below for the number of new members recruited:
 - 5 – Coin
 - 25 – Recruiters will receive an entry into drawing per 25 members
 - July 1 to Dec 31– drawing for the annual Timeshare to be drawn at Mid-Winter Conference
 - Jan 1 to June 27– drawing for \$200 to be drawn at State Convention
 - Top recruiters will receive an EOY outing, date and time TBD.

STATE CONVENTION AWARDS:

1. **DRAWING FOR \$50.00:** Any member who has signed up at least TEN (10) New Members between July 1 and May 31 of the current VFW Year will be entered in a drawing for \$50.00. The drawing will be held at the STATE CONVENTION.
2. **TOP RECRUITER IN EACH DISTRICT:** The Top recruiter in each district will receive a plaque. (NOTE: the recruiter must have recruited a minimum of 25 to receive the plaque).

V. POST CONTESTS AND AWARDS:

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AWARDS:

1. **HALL OF FAME AWARD:** Each Post reaching 100% in MEMBERSHIP transmissions and received by National Headquarters by DECEMBER 31 of current year, will receive a Special Department HALL OF FAME AWARD citation at Mid-Winter Conference and special seating and introduction at the Mid-Winter Conference.
2. **GOLD CHEVRON AWARD:** To qualify for this award a Post MUST EXCEED its PRIOR year's membership total for TWO or MORE CONSECUTIVE years. Membership is based on the membership as of June 30, current year ending total. This award is presented at the Mid-Winter Conference and is for the past two or more consecutive years. Numerical gain for years 1-5 will receive a citation with their total number of consecutive numerical gain. Once the Post reaches six (6) years of consecutive numerical gain, they will receive a Plaque.
3. **100 PERCENT LIFE MEMBERSHIP POST:** All 100% Life Membership Posts will be put into a drawing to win \$50.00 for the post and two (2) Banquet Tickets at Mid-Winter Conference.

STATE CONVENTION AWARDS:

1. **NEW MEMBERSHIP AWARD:** Posts that sign up 25 to 50 New Members will be entered in a drawing for one winner to receive \$75.00. A Post that signs up 51 or more members will be included in a drawing for one winner to receive \$100.00.
2. **POST LIFE MEMBERSHIP NUMERICAL GAIN:** One post in each of Three Divisions will receive an award for the Largest Numerical Gain in Life Membership and Legacy Membership.

Division I	10 - 100 Membership
Division II	101 - 200 Membership
Division III	201 - and up Membership

ALL AMERICAN DISTRICT

ALL-AMERICAN DISTRICT LEADERSHIP CRITERIA:

- Membership must be at least 102%
- District-Election Report must be submitted to National Headquarters.
- Meet all the following Program Participation criteria by January 31st, 2025:
 - o Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas District donate \$125 to National in lieu of entry)
 - o Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas District donate \$125 to National in lieu of entry)

ALL-AMERICAN DISTRICT AWARDS:

- All Districts that meet these requirements will receive an All-American District Commander citation, an All-American Streamer, and will be recognized in the VFW Magazine.
- The top **TEN (10)** Districts in each membership division will be allowed to walk across the stage at the National Convention and will receive in addition to the above: All-American Name Badge (commander), All-American cap (commander), All-American Lapel Pin (commander).
- Quartermasters of All-American Districts as well as Commanders who were not in the top 10 may purchase an All-American cap from the VFW Store.
- The top two District commanders in each membership division will receive five nights hotel stay at the National Convention.
- In addition, the top District Commander in each division will be designated as Team Captain, and the 2nd place commander will be designated as Co-Captain. Their All-American caps will also bear the special patch.

ALL AMERICAN POST:

ALL-AMERICAN POST LEADERSHIP CRITERIA:

- Membership must be at least 102%
- Post-Election Report must be submitted to National Headquarters
- Meet all the following Program Participation Criteria by January 31st, 2025:
 - o Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Post can donate \$125 to National in lieu of entry)
 - o Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Post can donate \$125 to National in lieu of entry)
 - o Donate to Veterans & Military Support Programs Services, minimum of \$125 (***Note that all Donations are not set at \$125 to honor the VFW's 125th Anniversary***)
- A Post must submit a community service report quarterly to their department for submission to the All-American Dashboard. The quarters are July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Jan-March, and April-June. One of these community service activities must be for the VFW Day of Service. Learn more at <https://todaysvfw.org/vfw-day-ofservice/>
- Must purchase a minimum of 500 Buddy Poppies

ALL-AMERICAN POST AWARDS:

- All Posts that meet these requirements will be designated as All-American Posts and will receive an All-American Banner, a Post Streamer, and will be recognized in the VFW Magazine.
- The top **FIFTEEN (15)** Posts in each membership division will be allowed to walk across the stage at the National Convention and will receive in addition to the above: All-American Post Citation, All-American Commander's Citation, All-American Name Badge (commander), All-American Cap (commander), All-American lapel pin (commander).
- Commanders of Posts that do not finish in the top 15, as well as Quartermasters, Adjutants, and Post Members of an All-American Post will be allowed to purchase All-American caps from the VFW Store.
- The top **five** Post Commanders in each membership division will also receive five nights hotel stay at the National Convention.
- We are also bringing back the All-American Captains and Co-Captains! The commander of the top Post in each membership division will be designated as the Team Captain, with the 2nd through 5th place commanders designated as Co-Captains. The All-American caps for these Captains and Co-Captains will bear a special patch.

ALL STATE DISTRICT

ALL STATE DISTRICT CRITERIA:

Commanders of districts selected All-State will receive an All-State citation and option of a cap or \$80.00 to the VFW Store. The Department Commander will select the Captain of the All-State Team.

District Commanders seeking All-State status must complete listed requirements and submit an entry form (supplied) to be received by the Department Headquarters by **May 5, 2025**. Qualifying membership activity and program items must be completed on or before that date. All-State selections will be made in sufficient time to allow members to plan for attendance at the state convention in June. NOTE: Districts that meet all final applied criteria after, May 5, 2025, but before, July 1, 2025, will also receive recognition as All-State, but not necessarily receive caps and citations at the state convention; for those districts, recognition will be provided at the August, Council of Administration.

ALL STATE DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS:

- Membership greater than 101%
- Americanism – minimum of two entries (one from any two categories) advanced to Department judging.
- Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging
- Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging.
- Citizenship Education Teachers Award – one entry of any grade level advanced to Department judging.
- Must have 1/2 of Posts in District purchase Buddy Poppies according to Post requirements.
- Properly Bonded.
- All quarterly trustee reports sent to the Department.
- Election report for the following program year sent to Department.
- All posts in District inspected.
- Minimum of 500 points from secondary requirements
- NOTE - A Cook-off Team to represent the District at the State VFW Cook-off Competition during the Mid-Winter Conference is ***NOT*** REQUIRED but highly encouraged and will count as points towards All-State.

ALL STATE DISTRICT SECONDARY REQUIREMENT:

- Minimum of 500 points from secondary requirements
- ⇒ Every percent Membership over 101% 10
- ⇒ Each Membership recruiting event. 100 EA
- ⇒ Each additional category for Teacher of the Year sent to District. 100 EA
- ⇒ The District conducted a hospital or Veteran Home visit. 100 EA
- ⇒ District Commander attended COA, Mid-Winter, State Conference 100 EA
- ⇒ District Quartermaster attended COA, Mid-Winter, State Conference 100 EA
- ⇒ Jr Vice or Sr Vice attended CoA, Mid-Winter, State Conference 50 EA
- ⇒ District event on Veterans Holidays/Remembrance Days (i.e. Pearl Harbor) 100 EA
- ⇒ Every dollar donated above \$125 to VMS 1 PT PER \$1
- ⇒ Every dollar donated to CDRs Special Program 1 PT PER \$1
- ⇒ Every dollar donated to VFW National Home 1 PT PER \$1
- ⇒ Cook Off Team 250

ALL STATE POST

ALL STATE POST CRITERIA:

Within a department, the most effective measure of whether a post fully meets its requirements is selection by the Department Commander as an All-State post. The designation means the post fully meets all national and department guidelines in membership and the implementation of VFW programs. Commanders and Quartermasters of posts selected All-State will receive an All-State pin, citation, and cap or \$80.00 to the VFW Store. Each All-State Entry form will be judged based off a Point-System criteria. The Captain of the All-State Team will be awarded to the Post with the most points, Commanders seeking All-State status must complete listed requirements and submit an entry form (supplied) to the Department Headquarters by **May 5, 2024. All posts that meet the requirements will receive All-State however, only the top 10 Posts will walk the Red-Carpet at the State Convention.** Qualifying membership activity and program items must be completed on or before that date. All-State selections will be made in sufficient time to allow post members to plan for attendance at the state convention in late June. NOTE: If total number of All State is NOT 10 Posts, then, Posts that meet all final applied criteria after May 5th of current year but before June 30 current year will also be considered to receive recognition as All- State, but not necessarily receive caps, citations, and pins at the state convention; for those posts, recognition will be provided at the August Council of Administration.

To clearly recognize the most deserving posts and decide All-State Captain for 2024-2025 program year, primary requirements and secondary criteria will be considered. All posts completing primary requirements and 500 points from secondary requirements will receive All-State status. If the resulting number of All State posts is more than 10, secondary criteria will be applied to determine what posts walk the Red-Carpet at the State Conference.

PRIMARY REQUIREMENTS:

The primary requirements are divided into Membership Requirements and VFW Program Requirements. ***Both must be fulfilled in order for a Post to be on the All-State Team!***

● **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:**

- Greater than 40 members on May 30 of current year
- Membership greater than 101%

● **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:**

- Americanism – minimum of two entries (one from any two categories) advanced to District judging
- Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to District Judging
- Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging
- Citizenship Education Teachers Award – one entry of any grade level advanced to District judging
- Buddy Poppy- must purchase Buddy Poppies (5 per member on roster as 30 JUN prior year. Post with less than 100 Members ***MUST*** order at least 500 Buddy Poppies)
- Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to National Veterans & Military Support Services, minimum of \$125.00

ALL STATE POST

• **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED:**

- Donate a minimum of \$100.00 to the State Commander’s Special Program – Brothers and Sisters in Arms Service Dogs (BASASD)
- National Veterans Service – Appoint a Post Service Officer
- Post submitted Community Service Record Book for State judging (electronic or book)
- Post is appropriately bonded
- Post submitted four Trustee Reports for the 2024-2025 year
- Post inspection completed and all discrepancies corrected
- Post submitted election report for 2025-2026 year
- Minimum of 500 points from any of the secondary requirements

• **ALL STATE POST JUDGING:**

Points will be given for the following:

- ⇒ Every percent Membership over 101% 10
- ⇒ Every new annual member added after 6/30/24 10
- ⇒ Every paid up for Life Member added after 6/30/24 25
- ⇒ Every paid up Legacy Member added after 6/30/24 50
- ⇒ Each Membership recruiting event. 100 EA
- ⇒ Safety – entry sent for Department judging. 100 EA
- ⇒ Each additional category for Teacher of the Year sent to District. 100 EA
- ⇒ Post conducted a hospital or Veteran Home visit. 100 EA
- ⇒ Post participated in a POW/MIA event or ceremony. 100
- ⇒ Post Commander attended COA, Mid-Winter, State Conference 100 EA
- ⇒ Post Quartermaster attended COA, Mid-Winter, State Conference 100 EA
- ⇒ Jr Vice or Sr Vice attended CofA, Mid-Winter, State Conference 50 EA
- ⇒ Ceremony on Veterans Holidays/Remembrance Days (i.e. Pearl Harbor) 100 EA
- ⇒ Every dollar donated above \$125 to VMS 1 PT PER \$1
- ⇒ Every dollar donated \$100 to CDRs Special Program 1 PT PER \$1
- ⇒ Every dollar donated to VFW National Home 1 PT PER \$1
- ⇒ CDR or QM attended District MTGs 100 EA MTG

All State District Entry Form

District No: _____

Date: _____

District Commander: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cap Size: _____

Check One: ___ Life Member ___ Gold Legacy Life Member (Membership #: _____)

1. MEMBERSHIP CALCULATIONS:

a. PRIOR YEAR MEMBERSHIP: _____

b. CURRENT YEAR MEMBERSHIP: _____

c. PERCENTAGE (B DIVIDED BY A): _____

2. PRIMARY REQUIREMENTS:

a. MEMBERSHIP ABOVE 101%: _____

b. AMERICANISM (TWO ENTRIES): _____

c. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY: _____

d. PATRIOT'S PEN: _____

e. OUTSTANDING TEACHER: _____

f. DONATION TO NATIONAL VETERAN & MILITARY SUPPORT: _____

g. PROPERLY BONDED: _____

h. 1/2 OF POSTS ORDERED BUDDY POPPIES: _____

i. DISTRICT SUBMITTED FOUR TRUSTEE REPORTS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR: _____

j. DISTRICT SUBMITTED ELECTION REPORT FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR: _____

k. ALL POSTS INSPECTED: _____

l. 500 POINTS FROM BELOW: _____

Every percent Membership over 101%	10	_____
Each Membership recruiting event.	100 EA	_____
Each <u>additional</u> category for Teacher of the Year sent to Dist	100 EA	_____
The District conducted a hospital or Veteran Home visit.	100 EA	_____
District Commander attended COA, Mid-Winter, State Conv	100 EA	_____
District Quartermaster attended COA, Mid-Winter, State Conv	100 EA	_____
Jr Vice or Sr Vice attended CofA, Mid-Winter, State Conference	50 EA	_____
District event on Veterans Holidays/Remembrance Days	100 EA	_____
Every dollar donated <u>above</u> \$125 to VMS	1 PT PER \$1	_____
Every dollar donated to CDRs Special Program	1 PT PER \$1	_____
Every dollar donated to VFW National Home	1 PT PER \$1	_____
Cook Off Team	250	_____

Will District Commander attend Banquet? Yes _____ No _____

Guest/Spouse: _____

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:

Date Received: _____

Qualified for All State Team Judging:

Yes

No

All State Post Entry Form

Post No: _____ **Date:** _____
Post Commander: _____ **Phone:** _____
Email: _____ **Cap Size:** _____
Check One: ___ Life Member ___ Gold Legacy Life Member (Membership #: _____)

Post Quartermaster: _____ **Phone:** _____
Email: _____ **Cap Size:** _____
Check One: ___ Life Member ___ Gold Legacy Life Member (Membership #: _____)

1. MEMBERSHIP CALCULATIONS:

- a. PRIOR YEAR MEMBERSHIP: _____
- b. CURRENT YEAR MEMBERSHIP: _____
- c. PERCENTAGE (B DIVIDED BY A): _____

Will the Post Commander attend the Saturday Banquet? Yes _____ No _____
Guest: _____

2. PRIMARY REQUIREMENTS:

- a. MEMBERSHIP ABOVE 100%: _____
- b. MEMBERSHIP GREATER THAN 40: _____
- c. AMERICANISM (TWO ENTRIES): _____
- d. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY: _____
- d. PATRIOT'S PEN: _____
- e. OUTSTANDING TEACHER: _____
- f. BUDDY POPPIES PURCHASED: _____
- g. APPOINT A SERVICE OFFICER: _____
- h. DONATION TO NATIONAL VETERAN & MILITARY SUPPORT: _____
- i. DONATION TO STATE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT: _____
- j. SUBMIT A COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD BOOK/POWER POINT FOR JUDGING: _____
- k. POST SUBMITTED FOUR TRUSTEE REPORTS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR: _____
- l. POST SUBMITTED ELECTION REPORT FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR: _____
- m. POST IS APPROPRIATELY BONDED: _____
- n. POST INSPECTION IS COMPLETED: _____
- o. 500 POINTS FROM BELOW: _____

Will the Post Quartermaster attend the Saturday Banquet? Yes _____ No _____
Guest: _____

Every percent Membership over 101%	10	_____
Every new annual member added after 6/30/24	10	_____
Every paid up for Life Member added after 6/30/24	25	_____
Every paid up for Legacy Member added after 6/30/24	50	_____
Each Membership recruiting event.	100 EA	_____
Safety – entry sent for Department judging.	100 EA	_____
Each <u>additional</u> category for Teacher of the Year sent to Dist	100 EA	_____
Post conducted a hospital or Veteran Home visit.	100 EA	_____
Post participated in a POW/MIA event or ceremony.	100	_____
Post Commander attended COA, Mid-Winter, State Conv	100 EA	_____
Post Quartermaster attended COA, Mid-Winter, State Conv	100 EA	_____
Jr Vice or Sr Vice attended CofA, Mid-Winter, State Conv	50 EA	_____
Ceremony on Veterans Holidays/Remembrance Days	100 EA	_____
Every dollar donated <u>above</u> \$125 to VMS	1 PT PER \$1	_____
Every dollar donated \$100 to CDRs Special Program	1 PT PER \$1	_____
Every dollar donated to VFW National Home	1 PT PER \$1	_____
CDR or QM attended District MTGs	100 EA	_____

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY: Date Received: _____	Qualified for All State Team Judging:	Yes	No
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LIFE MEMBERSHIP

SHAREE ARENDS-5951-12
135 Corinne Way, Tatum, TX 75691

C-210-542-4607
Email: sharee.arends@gmail.com

By becoming a VFW Life member, you make a lifetime commitment to serving your fellow service members and veterans. That's something to take great pride in!

ADVANTAGES OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

- Avoid annual dues and renewals.
- Maintain your membership in any Post you choose, worldwide!
 - Never pay an increase in dues—Guaranteed!
- Receive a 10% discount on exclusive [VFW Store](#) merchandise for the first year.

Regulations governing VFW Life Membership are set forth in Article I – Section 101-111 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

Life membership fees are as follows for the specified age groups:

Age through 30	\$425.00
31 – 40	\$410.00
41 – 50	\$375.00
51 – 60	\$335.00
61 – 70	\$290.00
71 – 80	\$225.00
81 and over	\$170.00

Life Membership can also be purchased through an Installment Plan with an initial \$45.00 payment and the Life Membership amount billed over an 11-month period.

NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP POST AWARDS:

PERPETUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP POST CHARTER: National will award a Post a PERPETUAL CHARTER when the Post has 25 or MORE LIFE MEMBERS.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

JAMES PRESTENBACK-3665-3
151 Hwy 652, Raceland, LA 70394

C-985-791-5998
Email: jprestenback302@gmail.com

The VFW's Legacy Life Membership provides an opportunity for Life Members to leave their mark on the nation's largest combat veteran's organization. Available only to current Life Members, the new Legacy Life Membership not only offers expanded and exclusive benefits, but also helps ensure that the VFW's good work will continue for generations to come.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS COSTS

(\$400 increment levels)

BRONZE—\$400.00

SILVER—\$800.00

GOLD—\$1,200.00

Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life members. Once your Legacy Life membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department and the national organization. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are not only helping today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow.

You may also purchase a Memorial Legacy in the name of a deceased VFW Annual or Life member to help future generations know and remember their sacrifice and contributions.

Here are some of the benefits of becoming a Legacy Life Member:

Member Incentives

	Bronze \$400	Silver \$800	Gold \$1200
Plated Engraved Legacy Life Card*	●	●	●
Legacy Life Lapel Pin*	●	●	●
Legacy Life Hat Pin*	●	●	●
Distinctive VFW Store items for Legacy Life Members*	●	●	●
Legacy Life Membership Certificate	●	●	●
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	●	●	●
Legacy Hat Patch*			●
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza*			●
VFW Store Discounts (personal use only)*	5%	10%	15%
Annual Endowment to Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment to Department	\$6	\$12	\$18

* does not apply to Memorial Legacies