

STATE OF KANSAS

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

2026-2027
PROGRAMS, REPORT FORMS
and AWARDS



Kansas

“STRENGTH IN UNITY”

Jay Boyle
State Commander



August 21, 2026

Comrades,

As we embark on a new VFW year in Kansas, I am deeply honored to serve as your Department Commander. Across our Posts, Districts, and Communities, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has always stood as a pillar of service, loyalty, and purpose. This year, we rally behind a theme that captures the essence of who we are and what we must continue to embody: ***“Strength in Unity”***. These words reflect not only our shared history, but also our collective future—one built on the unbreakable bond among Kansas veterans.

Strength in Unity reminds us that our power as an organization does not come from any single Post, District, or Leader. It comes from all of us—working together, supporting one another, and advancing the mission side-by-side. When Kansas veterans unite, we elevate every program, every initiative, and every voice. Our unity strengthens our advocacy, deepens our community impact, and ensures we are always prepared to serve the veterans and families who rely on us.

This year, we will focus on strengthening the ties that bind our Department together. We will champion communication, cooperation, and collaboration at every level. We will uplift our Posts, empower our members, and welcome new veterans into a network where they know they belong. When we harness our individual talents and align our efforts, we become a Department capable of accomplishing extraordinary things. In Strength in Unity, we will find renewed purpose, greater resilience, and the ability to achieve goals that no one person—or single Post—could accomplish alone.

The primary goal this year is to drive our organization to 100% in membership by not only recruiting new veterans into our ranks but also placing a deliberate focus on retention. Growth means nothing if we do not sustain the members who have already committed to our mission. By engaging our current comrades, strengthening communication, and ensuring every veteran feels valued and connected, we build lasting stability. Reaching 100% is not just a number—it’s a direct reflection of our commitment to unity, continuity, and the future strength of the VFW. There are tools available to you at VFW.org that can help with your recruiting efforts.

Leadership is important for the Post, District and Department to operate effectively. Everything must be handled at the lowest level possible. The District and Department are here to help the Posts when they have problems and offer advice and help formulate solutions. I call on all of our District Commanders to get in and visit their Posts and mentor our next generation of VFW leaders. Make sure our Comrades have all of the tools they need to be successful.

The VFW should work as a team with the Auxiliary to make our Posts the best they can be. The better we all work together the better we serve our communities. This is Team Kansas VFW and Auxiliary and there is ***“Strength in Unity”***. Be proud of your Post and what they do for your community. Make sure the newspaper, radio station, TV station and social media are included in posting and advertising about your functions. We need to let everyone know who we are, what we do and the importance of this organization to our Veterans, their families and our communities.

Good luck for the 2026 – 2027 VFW year. Shoot for 110% in everything you do!

Thank you for all you do every day to honor the dead by helping the living. It is my honor to serve as your Department of Kansas Commander. Together we are TEAM KANSAS!

Jay Boyle
State Commander

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CHAIRMAN GUIDELINES & DUTIES

Congratulations! Your Commander has determined that you are the Comrade to represent the Department of Kansas in the Program to which you have been appointed Chairman. You should feel honored that you were selected from among the over 17,000 VFW members in the State of Kansas.

There have been volumes printed on how to be a Commander, Senior or Junior Vice Commander, Surgeon, Judge or Quartermaster or such other elected officers in the VFW, however, there is little information available on the duties and responsibilities of a Committee Chairman. The duties of a Chairman are fairly consistent whether it be on the Post, District, Department or National level.

The key "Chairmanships" that your Commander relies upon to get the job done in the VFW are listed below. Some of these are the Programs for which we present Awards for outstanding performance at our Annual Convention.

If you Chair one of these Committees, then this Article is for you!

Buddy Poppy	Homeless Veterans	National Home	SVA
Community Service	Hospital	Scout	Legislative
Patriot Pen	Employment	Law Enforcement	POW/MIA
EMT	Teacher	Firefighter	Membership
Voice of Democracy	Military Support Programs		

The first thing you need to do is get familiar with your Program and find out everything you can about it. If you don't receive any information, call Department Headquarters and ask how you can get the information you need. There is nothing worse for a Commander than to call upon one of his Committee Chairman and the Chairman reports: "I have nothing to report, no one sent me any information about the Program."

If you are the Chairman, then you are responsible for the success (or failure) of the Program regardless of what those around you do. Take the initiative to find out all you can. Make a determined effort to call or write to your District or Post Chairman for your Program. Ask them if they have received the information they need to carry out your program. Keep yourself available to them and let them know you are there to help if they need help. Make sure they have your mailing address and phone number.

After you have accepted the appointment and have obtained all the information you need on what the Programs requires, write up a plan to implement it.

When writing your Program, ensure it covers the following items, as appropriate, for your Program:

1. Goals of the Program
2. Brief description of the Program
3. Reports required
4. Frequency of reports
5. Address to send reports and your phone number
6. Deadline date for end of competition
7. Criteria for awards
8. Number and specific description of awards
9. Itemized expenditures
10. Total budget amount requested

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

When determining the number of awards you want to give, keep in mind that these are for State-wide competition and not for competition within a District. For example, giving an award to the Post submitting the most reports for the First District would be inappropriate. It is more appropriate to award the District rather than the Post.

If you divide your Program into divisions, no more than two awards (plaques or trophies for 1st & 2nd place) should be awarded to each Division, plus perhaps one over-all award for the most outstanding program in the State. Feel free to award as many citations or certificates, as you deem appropriate and have the budgeted money for.

On the other hand, don't feel obligated to give out any awards if you don't feel anyone deserves recognition for carrying out, or not carrying out, your program.

A word of caution: When you initiate correspondence that will be circulated "outside" of the VFW community, or if you take a position that is contrary to either Department or National policy, make sure that you don't appear to be speaking for the entire Department of Kansas membership. The State Commander is our spokesperson in all matters, so make sure the Commander knows what you are doing. Check with the Commander or Department Headquarters before you release anything to the press or to outside agents. If you have something you want to bring to the attention of the Commander-in-Chief or National Headquarters, you should submit it through the chain-of-command to the Department Commander first.

Again, congratulations on your appointment as a Committee Chairman. The Commander has confidence in your abilities and is counting on you to do the very best job you can. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the Department Commander or Department Headquarters for assistance.

BUDDY POPPY PROGRAM

2026-2027

Buddy Poppy Display Contest - To meet the National Criteria

1. Public Promotion
2. Memorial or Inspirational
3. Artistic or Decorative

Buddy Poppy purchases above last years total: Cut off is April 1, 2027.

Buddy Poppy purchases will be based on the Department of Kansas reports; Cut off date is April 1, 2027.

MAIL REPORTS TO: Casey Fitzgerald, Buddy Poppy Chairman
VFW Department of Kansas
1706 Avenue A
Dodge City, Kansas 67801
(620) 682-3833
Vfwvet4vets@gmail.com

GOALS FOR 2026-2027: DISTRICTS WILL BE 100%, EVERY POST WILL PURCHASE THREE BUDDY POPPIES PER MEMBER **WITH A CAP OF 500**.

- Hold campaigns in Community at Post and District meetings
- All the Districts; have a Contest Display. You must meet the National Criteria
- Enter your top winners at Department; 4 winners at Department can go on to National
- Send all your reports to above address by April 30, 2027

AWARDS

Possible 7 Certificates for 100% or above by each District

1 framed certificate for largest percentage increase by Districts

BUDGET FOR 2026-2027

\$150.00

BUDDY POPPY YEAR-END REPORT 2026-2027
(Submit NLT April 30, 2027)

Post # _____ City/Town _____ District # _____

1. Number of Campaigns held _____

Youth and other groups recruited to help, if any (please list)

2. Did you enter the District Display Contest? _____

3. How were Poppies used throughout the year?

4. Total # of Poppies used this year _____

5. Please include any other information on back or on additional sheets

Post Commander

Post Chairman

Send Report to: Casey Fitzgerald, Buddy Poppy Chairman
VFW Department of Kansas
1706 Avenue A
Dodge City, Kansas 67801
(620) 682-3833
Vfwco1714 @gmail.com

LEGACY & TIN BUDDY POPPY FORM

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORM

Date of this Order _____

Post or Auxiliary No. _____

City _____

MAIL TO & PAYABLE TO:

Department of Kansas VFW
PO Box 1008
Topeka, KS 66601-1008

Date of Poppy Sale _____

DUE TO HIGH POSTAGE COSTS THE MINIMUM

order for **Legacy POPPIES** for a Post is **100**, and only in increments of 100, but, if you order in increments of 500 the cost will be much less. (SEE REVERSE FOR PRICE TABLE PER HUNDRED)

ALL ORDERS MUST GO THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE POST!!!!
AUXILIARIES MUST PLACE ORDERS THROUGH THEIR POST IF ORDERING 500 & OVER!!!!

Total amount of order \$ _____

of poppies ordered _____

Amount included with order (ck # _____) \$ _____

Legacy _____

Balance Due\$ _____

Tin _____ INCREMENTS OF 500 ONLY

--- Allow at least 4 weeks for delivery ---

IF NOT PREPAID: Orders RECEIVED with NO DATE OF SALE are DUE UPON RECEIPT OF SHIPMENT.
Orders RECEIVED WITH a SALE DATE are DUE 10 DAYS AFTER SALE!

PLEASE PRINT: COMPLETE SHIPPING OR MAILING ADDRESS (NO PO BOXES)

SHIP TO _____ POST/AUX # _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

NOTE: Orders 500 or MORE, UPS will NOT DELIVER to P.O. BOXES

ORDERED BY _____ VFW POST # _____ YOUR VFW.MEMBERSHIP # _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ DAYTIME PHONE # (____) _____

ALL POPPY SUPPLIES ARE ORDERED FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EMBLEM & SUPPLY CATALOG

FOR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY

Date Dept Shipped _____ # Shipped _____ Date on Computer _____

Date Ordered Natl _____ # Ordered _____ Inventory _____

Revised 9/2023

Buddy Poppy Price Table
(Shipping included in the prices below
based on National's Shipping Charges per \$ amount)

# of Poppies	Price
100	\$ 35.00
200	\$ 70.00
300	\$105.00
400	\$140.00
500	\$150.00
600	\$185.00
700	\$220.00
800	\$255.00
900	\$280.00
1000	\$290.00
1100	\$325.00
1200	\$360.00
1300	\$395.00
1400	\$430.00
1500	\$420.00
1600	\$455.00
1700	\$490.00
1800	\$525.00
1900	\$560.00
2000	\$550.00
2100	\$585.00
2200	\$620.00
2300	\$655.00
2400	\$690.00
2500	\$710.00
3000	\$825.00
4000	\$1085.00
5000	\$1335.00
6000	\$1585.00

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT
“BUDDY”[®] POPPY PROGRAM**

NATIONAL CONVENTION BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST

These guidelines have been designed to place emphasis on the purpose and effectiveness of the displays. It is recommended that Department (State) contests rule be established in a like form.

RULES

(1) Displays will be presented and judged in three categories:

CATEGORY 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign (Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)

- (a) Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW “Buddy”[®] Poppy.
- (b) At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

CATEGORY 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays (Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes)

- (a) Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
- (b) At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

CATEGORY 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies (Post Home displays, table center- pieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)

- (a) Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
- (b) At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

(2) Buddy Poppy display entries must be constructed using Buddy Poppies purchased through the VFW Store. Authorized styles include the legacy and tin tab poppies.

- (3) Departments are authorized one per category. The only displays that will be judged will be the displays provided on a list by Department to National Headquarters Programs office by 1 July 2026 with their completed entry form. Any displays brought to convention that are not on the list will not be judged.
- (4) The National Programs Staff will have no responsibility in setting up, taking down or returning displays. Power will only be provided for displays that have provided prior notice for need by 1 July 2026.

- (5) Displays shall be set up in space provided in the convention facility. Prior to setting up the display, the responsible person must check in with the Buddy Poppy desk and verify contact information on their entry form. **(Please be advised, all displays must be removed by noon on Tuesday, July 28th, or it will be disposed of by convention center personnel.)**
- (6) Displays may or may not be accompanied by a white card, not to exceed 4 inches by 6 inches in size, on which an explanation of the theme for the display or other information of interest to the viewers or the judges, should be written in black ink.
- (7) Post name, number, city or state (including the shape of your state) may **not** be visible on the displays. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
- (8) NOTE: Any use of non-VFW trademarks or copyrighted material on your display must have prior approval from the trademark or copyright holder. These include, but are not limited to, names, logos, audio/visual graphics, images and/or props. The VFW and Buddy Poppy logo and name is authorized but use of any outside organization trademark or copyrighted material and/or logos must have prior approval through their respective organization.

JUDGING

Judging of displays will be based on effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty and number of poppies used. Where a sample of a large number of identical items (such as corsages or wreaths) is entered, full credit shall be given for the total number of poppies used. Judging will be completed Monday evening and the winning displays will have the appropriate ribbons placed on the display on Tuesday morning.

PRIZES

Awards to the first, second, and third place winners in each of the three categories will be mailed to the winning Department's Adjutant after convention.

NOTE

The Department Adjutant will notify the Programs office via email at mspencer@vfw.org, in writing, by **July 1, 2025** of the Posts/ Auxiliaries that will represent the Department in each category. This will allow us the time necessary to ensure each entry has sufficient space to set up at the National Convention.

Please be advised, the Programs Staff cannot guarantee against theft of personal items placed on displays. The exhibit hall is secured at night and monitored by security guards: however, they monitor a large area and are not assigned to one specific area. We strongly discourage using items of sentimental value, items of value or items considered to be irreplaceable on Buddy Poppy displays.

Thank you and good luck!

(Revised 5/8/26)

KANSAS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
CHAPLAINS PROGRAM 2026-2027

PURPOSE: To promote the Mission of VFW by involvement of our Chaplains in their Communities.

1. To encourage our District & Post Chaplains to be involved

- a. Giving purpose
- b. Providing Direction

2. To equip our District & Post Chaplains

- a. By conducting Chaplain's Workshops
 - i. Department School of Instruction
 - ii. Area workshops hosted by local VFW Posts (Looking for VFW Posts to host a workshop and providing a place to meet)
 - iii. Workshops to be focused on questions from attendees. Open forum to discuss relevant issues Chaplains are faced with in every day situations.
- b. By being available to advise and/or assist
 - i. To help utilize resources gained from Chaplains workshop.
 - ii. Working with our District Chaplains
 - iii. To help Post Chaplains as needed
- c. Chaplain Resources
- d. **Chaplain Peter Hook's Chaplain Resources:** https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html
 - i. **Missouri State Chaplain – Deb Halter**
<https://movfw.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=76106> , then click on the “About” tab and look for “Chaplain’s Corner
 - ii. **Chaplains Handbook** - Use the Drop Box Link provided here: [Chaplain's Handbook](#) If this doesn't work or you don't have a Drop Box account, use the Missouri State Chaplain link above under the “i” notation. If that won't work, call me and I will mail you a Chaplain's Handbook.

3. RECOGNITION: To award a “Chaplain of the Year” to a Kansas VFW Chaplain. The Chaplain of the Year will be submitted to National for consideration for National Chaplain of the Year. Kansas Chaplain of the Year prior to 2019-2020 can be nominated again.

4. To Recognize for activities of Involvement that can include:

- a. Performance of duties:
 - i. One who reaches out to the local Veterans in their homes, retirement center, nursing home, assisted care facility or Veterans home.
 - ii. Visit the sick Veteran or their family at home or in the hospital
 - iii. Send cards to Veterans and to their Families for various occasions
 - iv. Conducts, supports and/or takes part in funerals and memorials for Veterans and their families
 - v. Take part in special ceremonies of their Post and in the Community on behalf of their Post
 - vi. How their involvement in the community has promoted the VFW image
- b. Exemplary character and conduct: e.g., A person of utmost integrity, professional execution of their duties, dependability, punctuality, and timely submission of reports, etc.

- c. Exemplary performance above and beyond the normal expectations of the position and duties.
 - d. Personal attitude which is positive and professional in all contacts with others, and which represents the VFW and the Department in the best possible way.
 - e. Commitment to the ministry and duties of the Chaplain, as reflected by service to comrades and their families and responsiveness to needs.
 - f. A member of the VFW in good standing with the Post, district, and Department.
5. Nominations to be submitted by someone in the Post or District.
- a. State Chaplain's name, Post #, Address phone #, and email.
 - b. In a letter, give a summary statement of their activities. Chaplain's Monthly Reports and any Public Media are very helpful.
 - c. State how your Chaplain has fulfilled the requirements listed above, in point 4: a-g
 - d. The more information you can provide, the better
 - e. **Nomination to be sent to the Department Chaplain and a copy to your District Chaplain by March 15th.**
 - f. Last year's Chaplains of the Year may be called upon to assist the Department Chaplain in selecting the current year's Kansas Chaplain of the Year.
6. Department Chaplain of the Year will be recognized at the Department Convention
- a. Recognition Certificate
 - b. Check for \$50
7. April 1, the Department Chaplain of the Year, will be submitted for consideration for the National Chaplain of the Year.

John Linstra / State Chaplain 2025-2026

Department of Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars

Cell: 913-780-4647

jlinstra@vfw.org

*Note - Chaplain Peter Hook's web Page is an excellent source for Chaplain Resources. *

****Note – Some of the links go to the Missouri Department Web Site. The reason for that is because they have good information and print outs that we in Kansas don't have. If you have a question or can't find what you are looking for just drop me an email, text, or call. ****

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM REPORTING 2026-2027

Department Community Service Director
Department Jr. Vice Commander Richard Wahlmeier
(785)72601294
Email – jvc@vfwks.org

Community Service is the primary justification for the VFW's tax exempt status. As such, the reporting of projects under this program is critical to our organization. As a means of providing continuity to the Community Activities Program, the following suggestions are provided to supplement the printed program in the program book. Beginning this year the program at a Department level is an awards program. At the post level it is an audit program and it is highly recommended a Community Service Record book is kept in case you are audited. Over the past couple of years a few KS VFW posts have been audited.

As District Chairperson, you should study this information and apply it on the Post level to promote better programs during your term of office. **You should be prepared to fully review this information with the Posts at your District School of Instruction, and then follow up with them periodically during your term as Chairperson.** If a post does not have the ability to enter Community Service data; they will send the information to the District Chairperson and the chairperson will enter the data. At the end of your term, pass this information to your successor so he/she, too, can have a successful year.

The first thing you should do is identify the Community Activities Chairperson in each Post in your District. Although the Post Jr. Vice Commander is typically appointed as the Community Activities Chairperson, this is not a requirement.

The reporting procedure will also be changed somewhat. Please familiarize yourself with the programs by reading all materials you receive. The Post will submit a copy of their reports with verification to the District Chairperson (you) if they do not have the ability to enter the data. It is your best interest to ensure the post as a person who can enter the data online.

HOW POSTS REPORT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Plan and conduct a Community Service Project. If there will be costs incurred for the project, a vote approving these expenditures must be taken at your Post meeting.
- Determine whether the project was **Veterans Service, Legislative Action, Community Service or Youth Development** (some projects may fall into more than one area. You may decide which area to credit with all the hours, members, money or you may apportion hours, members, money, etc. to more than one area, i.e. split them into two reports. If you do split the project into two reports, remember that you must also split the hours, members, money, etc.).
- Fill out the appropriate project in the online tool (**Veterans Service, Legislative Action, Community Service or Youth Development**) and document the project entirely. Documentation is necessary to maintain the integrity of the program, and at the local level it should include copies of receipts, checks, programs, news clippings, letters or emails related to the project. Also, include photographs wherever possible. For the time being we will still accept coupons at the District level, but be prepared for that to go away in the next couple of years. For projects without documentation; they must be verified and signed by the Post Commander, but this should be the exception rather than the rule.
- Make a copy of the coupon (or take a screen print of the system) and all related documentation, which should be kept in the Post Community Service Record book. If your project also falls under additional categories, such as Americanism, Safety, Homeless Vets, and POW/MIA, mark the box or boxes that are appropriate and notify the appropriate Department Chairperson for that you have entered the information and they can pull the information from the Community Service System.

- If your report falls under one of the following categories, mail a copy to Department Chairperson:

POW/MIA/Homeless Vets Scouting Military Services Americanism

- If this project is to be considered toward 100% reporting status and All-State eligibility, ensure the project is appropriately documented. The Department Community Service Chairperson will be able to see the projects in the CS tool. (The Post should keep the original documents as part of the Post records.).

REMINDERS:

- If the Post wants the project to count toward All-State or 100% reporting status, they must fully complete and document the project. Also, keep in mind the focus should be on the quality of projects, not the number of reports.
- Contest dates and other information are included in the Department Program Book and the Commander's Manual. Additional information will also be mailed to Post Commanders. Remember that while there are no monthly quotas or reporting deadlines other than March 31st (end of the reporting year), please, do not forward large numbers of reports to be entered at the end of the year. Promptly enter the reports on a monthly basis or as soon as the project is completed.
- Advise all Post and Auxiliary Community Activities Chairmen to start collecting their record book data at an early date. The consistent top contenders keep files of all newspaper clippings, copies of pertinent letters, photographs, expenditures, and etc.
- In reporting Community Activities projects, the style of reporting is not as important as the facts about the project.
 - Remember to remind the Posts that these reports are read and evaluated. If the person reviewing the report does not have enough facts to get a clear picture of what was done, we can only disregard or return the report for more information.
 - If the Post does well in the community, the Post will benefit from these activities. Good community service plus publicity will attract new members.
 - If an individual or a Post grumbles about the paperwork, remind them that Community Activities paperwork accompanied by solid documentation is important to maintain the VFW's tax-exempt status. If no record is kept, it could jeopardize their Post's tax exempt status. Reporting is telling the story of the good work done by the VFW and its Auxiliary. We should be proud of our good work in the community.
- As the Chairperson, you should be aware of non-acceptable types of reports.
 - Examples:
 - Buddy Poppy distribution is not a Community Activities project. The use of the funds collected from Buddy Poppies to assist a needy veteran would be Veterans Service project.
 - Individual efforts, which would be done anyway, are not projects. One person mowing a neighbor's yard, recycling or donating blood is not a project. Although it is a good deed, the entire Post should work together on projects voted upon at a meeting. Donating the use of the Post for the blood drive, helping set up equipment and/or providing refreshments are projects. The Post members organizing and mowing the lawns of elderly people in town or organizing a recycling collection point are projects.
 - The two important questions to answer are: Did the Post vote to participate in the project and did the project benefit people other than the Post or its members? If you can answer those two questions with a yes, it is probably a valid Community Activities Project.

-----**COMMUNITY ACTIVITY RECORDBOOK PROMOTION**-----

Urge Posts to participate in the Community Activities Record Book Contest, start early! The Community Activities record book year covers the period from April 1 to March 31. Successful participants in the Department contests maintain files year-round. Advise all Post and Auxiliary Community Activities Chairmen to start collecting their record book data at an early date. The consistent top contenders keep files of all newspaper clippings, copies of pertinent letters, ceremony programs, photographs, expenditures, and etc... Alert Post Community Activities Chairmen will see that someone has a camera to take a few pictures of projects in progress.

In order to get more participants, it's best to provide some sort of motivation at the District level to show Posts and Auxiliaries the advantage of keeping and entering a record book of their Community Activities. Your role as Community Activities Chairperson will be, in part, to motivate others to keep record books. Explain to Posts the benefits of participation in the record book contest. Some of these benefits are:

- By recording the Community Activities of your Post and Auxiliary, you establish a visual standard on which you are judged in the community.
- You are constructing a permanent record of the years' activities.
- You will have a Post record book which can be used in membership promotion and recruitment.

Further motivate Posts and Auxiliaries by providing information on the Department record book Contest. Each year Department provides awards for the top Post contest winners. (See the Department Program Book).

The Community Service record book, if properly done, could be the main proof to show the IRS in case of an audit. If it has copies and checks and expenditures and visibly shows that they were spent on viable community service projects.

-----**Department Community Activities Awards**-----

Outstanding Community Service Post – 1st place \$100.00 check, framed citation, 3 runners up will receive a citation

Requirements for above:

- Must be 100% reported
- Must complete at least 3 of the following programs:
- * Voice of Democracy * Patriots Pen
 - * Eagle Scout Award * Teacher Award
 - * Adopt-A-Unit Program * Hospital Pin Program
 - * EMT, Law Enforcement and/or Firefighter Award
 - * Community Service Volunteer Pin Program

Outstanding Community Service District – 1st Place receives a \$100.00 check and a framed citation: 3 runners up will receive citations.

Outstanding Community Service Post Project Award - 1st Place receives a \$100.00 check, and a framed citation

NATIONAL AWARD (Post and Auxiliary):

National Outstanding Community Service Award - (Plaque, Street Sign and \$599 stipend for representative to VFW National Convention)

**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
VFW COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORDBOOK CONTEST**

Show your VFW and Auxiliary Pride
Through Community Service

Community Service Record books are permanent records of one year's community service work. After the contests they may be put to practical use in promoting membership, proof of charity expenditures, and display in the community

CONTEST GUIDELINES

1. Record books should contain community service projects that are completed during the period April 1 through the following March 31.
2. FASTENERS and COVER: If books have metal posts, steel is preferable to brass or aluminum. If covers have decals, place self-adhesive clear plastic over the decals so they will not be damaged during shipping and handling. Please use superior quality page dividers and index tabbing, the extensive handling that the record books experience must be considered.
 - o A Flash Drive (aka Thumb Drive) with the data is also acceptable to save on the cost of paper
3. CLIPPINGS and PHOTOGRAPHS: Show dates and captions. Include supporting information.
4. ARRANGEMENT OF BOOK: Enter each project by category. (Chronological or month by month listing makes your entry more difficult for the judges to evaluate.)
5. ENTRY FORM: Complete and fasten inside front cover of Volume I.
6. MAIL OR SHIP RECORDBOOK ENTRY FOR THE DEPARTMENT CONTEST to Department Headquarters or the address designated.
7. NON-COMMUNITY SERVICE related items SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED in any record books. Pictures of Post officers, installation of officers, meetings, etc. will not be credited. (This material should be assembled in a separate section and kept by the Post until the record book is returned after the competition. Then it can be added to the record book for permanent reference.)

PREPARING A RECORDBOOK

Posts and Auxiliaries carry on many projects which are of public service. The best way to tell the story of your Post and Auxiliary's work in the community is through a Community Service record book that contains evidence of the many projects and programs your Post and Auxiliary perform.

The contents of your record book should be so arranged and in such detail that it tells the story of each project, clearly and completely, to those who may read and judge it.

Posts and Auxiliaries should combine their community service programs into one book or one set of books. The Post and its Auxiliary are judged as a unit; Auxiliaries may not submit a record book on just their own programs.

Creditable community service projects will usually fit into one or more of the categories that are listed in the Community Service Program Chairman's booklet.

Remember, compile your book so that the judges can easily read and evaluate the facts. Do not assume the judges are familiar with your Post or area.

Make your record book as complete as possible for it must "Tell the Story" of your community service.

Attach all entries in the book securely. Make bindings strong yet flexible so the books may be opened easily and fully. Index or summarize the activities and projects that are included in the book. The index summary should be placed in front of the record book or at the front of each category or section. Apply titles or captions to photos, and datelines to newspaper clippings.

The entry form provides vital information to the judges concerning the number of members in your Post and Auxiliary; the number of projects you have completed; the amount of money and time that has been spent and the size of your community.

Top winners in the Department are those Posts and Auxiliaries who have performed, recorded and entered evidence of their community service. JUST PREPARING A RECORDBOOK WILL NOT WIN ANYTHING UNLESS YOU ENTER THE BOOK IN THE DEPARTMENT CONTEST FOR JUDGING.

Immediately following the close of the contest year (March 31), send your Community Service record book to Department Headquarters unless otherwise designated for judging. DO NOT SEND YOUR RECORDBOOK TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, HOW and WHY are very important words in telling any story. By answering these questions you will help yourself in preparing an award winning record book.

Consistent winners start early in gathering data to place in the record book. They maintain a file of newspaper clippings, pictures, photo stats, etc.

If you live in an area where it is difficult to obtain newspaper articles of your Post or Auxiliary's community service projects, keep a camera handy. ONE PICTURE CAN REPLACE A LOT OF WORDS.

Record books are judged solely on the contents of the community service projects that are reported. It is not necessary to prepare an expensive or costly book. Record books are judged by their contents and not by their cover.

EVALUATING A RECORDBOOK

Department Headquarters uses a "check sheet" in processing and evaluating community service projects that are reported in the record books.

Listed on the "check sheets" are the principal categories which are found on the Department Programs Report Form. Each category can be further subdivided into additional subheadings.

Each record book is evaluated thoroughly. A detailed study is made of the entries therein. Each creditable activity or project is recorded and scored. Points are given for each acceptable project that is reported. Several factors determine the point value that is awarded each project. They include (1) the extent to which the project is developed; (2) the effort, time and funds that have been expended; and (3) the completeness of detail in which the project has been described. When all of the projects have been evaluated and recorded on the check sheet, the points are then totaled to establish the final rating of the record book. Sometimes entries are reexamined several times to make certain they have been properly evaluated.

Judges are briefed prior to the final judging to aid them in evaluating projects.

CATEGORIES FOR RECORDING PROJECTS

The Community Service Record book is divided into four general categories:

1. Veterans Service
2. Legislative Action
3. Community Service
4. Youth Development

When making up a record book it is advisable to group your projects and programs into one of the above categories. If a project qualifies for more than one category, select and list it under just one category. It will be given credit, regardless of whether it is listed under the proper category. DO NOT DUPLICATE YOUR EFFORTS BY PLACING THEM IN EACH OF THE CATEGORIES

Remember, when compiling your community service record book you are telling a story of your work to judges who generally are not familiar with your efforts or community. The easier it is for the judges to read the facts, the easier it is for them to evaluate your work.

DEADLINE

The contest period for the Department is April 1 through March 31 of the current year. All record books must be submitted to and REACH DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS NO LATER THAN APRIL 10 for judging.

AWARDS

Framed citations will be awarded to the top three entries. Each Post and/or auxiliary participating will receive a Citation from the Department Commander. ALL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS will be presented at the joint awards program during our Department Convention in June.

Department of Kansas, VFW
115 SW Gage Blvd, Topeka, KS 66606-2029 or P.O. Box 1008, Topeka, KS 66601-1008

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES RECORD BOOK ENTRY FORM

1. This form must be filled in and attached to the inside cover of the Community Activities Record Book that your Post enters in the Department Community Activities Record Book Contest.
2. Be sure to provide the name, address and zip code of the person to whom the Record Book should be returned following the judging. (Please use a mailing address that is not a Post Office Box. Prompt delivery is more certain when made to a street address.)
3. This form must be signed by the Post Commander.

Send your entry to your VFW Department Headquarters by April 10th.

Post No. _____ City _____

Total Projects Since 4/1/26 _____ Total Hours (Volunteered) _____ Total Funds Used/Donated _____

Total Post Members as of 1/1/27 _____ Total Auxiliary Members as of 1/1/27 _____ City Population _____

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN:

Post _____ Auxiliary _____
(Name of chairperson) (Name of chairperson)

JUDGES, NOTE THE FOLLOWING LEADING PROJECTS

Page _____, _____

Page _____, _____

Page _____, _____

Page _____, _____

RETURN RECORD BOOK TO: (mailing address)

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Signature Post Commander _____

Post Commander's Name (print) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Combat Tested Gaming Program (CTG)



2026 - 2027

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Combat Tested Gaming community is bringing together veterans, active-duty personnel, veteran supporters and the gaming world. The community fosters camaraderie, friendly competition, and emotional support, providing a space for mental well-being and the opportunity to learn more about veteran benefits.

Tired of solo missions? Find your new squad with VFW Combat Tested Gaming! The VFW, America's largest combat veteran organization, founded CTG in 2023 alongside Crew Social Club to bring service members and veterans the ultimate gaming experience.

Beyond the competition, CTG is a powerful tool for improving mental wellness, fostering social engagement and skill development in a supportive, inclusive environment. It's where shared interests build real camaraderie and purpose.

Scan the code below to find links for all our Social Media pages and join our Discord!

Eric Hurlock

Department CTG Chairman

316-305-4350

kansas@vfw-ctg.org



ELMER L. JENKINS AWARD

The Elmer L. Jenkins award will be presented to an individual Kansas VFW member who has been or is active as a Post, District or State Quartermaster and/or Post, District or State Adjutant.

Qualifications and nominating forms will be emailed the latter part of February and completed forms must be received at Department Headquarters no later than the deadline on the form.

The award will be presented at the Department Convention banquet.

The Elmer L. Jenkins award, this year's winner will be the 48th, was also started by the encouragement of his family to honor adjutants or quartermaster that had proven themselves over a significant period of time. Elmer L. Jenkins was the first Adjutant/Quartermaster from the State of Kansas with his term running from 1933 to 1943 as adjutant and from 1934 to 1944 as quartermaster. The first Elmer L. Jenkins award winner was Bob Whipple in 1979.

The work for these awards can be done at the Post, District, or Department levels or a combination of two or all three. There have been 12 double winners with Clyde Hatcher being the first and Gerald Marvin being the latest.

For your convenience, a list is provided of previous winners.

*R.R. (Bob) Whipple	Willis J. Ross	*John Berkley	James Jenkins
Merlin (Lucky) Ware	John Hollandsworth	Vernon Koehn	John Hermreck
*Jay Ritchie	Elmer Fairbank	Joe Wahrman	Dallas Love
Quentin McConnell	Carl Fellers	Harold Denholm	Marvin Ketterer
*Clyde Hatcher	Sidney George	Herb Schwartzkopf	Thomas Hutton
Richard Seib	Glen Miller	James Graham	Roy Davis
Howard R. Dobson	Larry Graham	Tom Farr	
William Owens	James Perona	David Cuba	
Harold Burenheide	*Lawrence Tholen	*Robin Ray	
Dale Murphy	Charles Mum	*Lewie Cooper	
*Barney Aldridge	Lorene Hake	*Fred Weigel, Jr.	
*Roger Sellers	Thomas Sanko	Roy Lee Taylor	
Louis Windholz	Emery Wille	Gerald McAtee	
Donald Frier	*Darrell Bencken	*Gerald Marvin	

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

2026-2027

The goal of the Emergency Medical Technician Team Award Program is to recognize those deserving individuals whose performance of their duties distinguishes them from all others. This honor is awarded to an individual, or team, that actively gives emergency medical services, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation's citizens.

Required Documents:

- Nomination letter of no more than 350 words to include the nominee's name, title, address, telephone number and the title of the award for which the individual or team should be considered.
- The nomination letter should include the individual or teams overall background, field experience and individual or team accomplishments and awards.

Every community certainly has at least one Outstanding Emergency Medical Technician or an Outstanding Emergency Medical Team deserving recognition. Post Commanders are urged to direct their appointed Safety Chairman, or Special Chairman, to canvass their local EMS to find nominees to submit as "Outstanding Emergency Medical Technician." The Post Chairman is responsible for coordinating the program and selecting the Post's most worthy candidate or team. This nominee will then be submitted to the District Chairman for district selection and submission to department. **The District will submit only ONE winner to the Department Chairman for final selection with the report form completed for all participating posts.**

The nominee selected as the department's "Outstanding Emergency Medical Technician" will receive a plaque to be presented at their place of business or work or where they desire to have the award presented to them. A team that is selected as our "Outstanding Emergency Medical Technician" will receive a plaque to be presented at their place of business or work or where they desire to have the award presented to them. The Department Chair, one of the State Officers, or the District Commander will present the awards. This program can help post and district leadership qualify for All-State honors. Don't forget to have the cover sheets filled out with all information on sheet.

Program deadlines:

- Delivered to the Post – December 2, 2026
- Delivered to the District – December 16, 2026
- Delivered to the Department (me) by January 5, 2027

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN MAIL TO:

Danielle Springall, State Emergency Services Chairman
11 Wiedmer Ct.
Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027
(231) 360-8751
dionzy@yahoo.com

NOTE: Nominee packets must be received by January 5, 2027

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN AWARD

NAME AND TITLE OF NOMINEE (Individual) _____
HOME ADDRESS WITH PHONE #, CITY, STATE. ZIP _____

OR _____

NAMES OF TEAM MEMBERS _____

DEPT. NAME (EMS, Fire Dept, etc) _____

FULL ADDRESS WITH PHONE # _____

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

NOMINATION LETTER:

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN: SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:

Danielle Springall, State Emergency Services Chairman
11 Wiedmer Ct.
Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027
(231) 360-8751
dionzy@yahoo.com

SUBMITTING POST # and DISTRICT # _____

SIGNATURE OF DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON
OR DISTRICT COMMANDER _____

NOTE: Nominee packets must be received by January 5, 2027

ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION

Comrades and Auxiliary members, thank you for your generous donations this past year to the Endowment Association. **YOU ALL ANSWERED THE CALL.** Comrades, we improved on donations this past year. We will continue to improve this year!. Comrades you raised and donated \$15,255.00 to the Endowment. A big thanks goes to you.

Auxiliary, the Endowment Committee deeply appreciates all of your hard work in supporting and earning monies for the Endowment Association. Your participation on the committee is a great value also. The Auxiliary of the State of Kansas VFW raised and donated \$5,230.00 to the Endowment. A big thanks goes to you.

Together, we raised \$20,485.00. **THANK YOU TO ALL** and keep up the good work.

THE HEAT IS ON

We are also challenging each Post of the Department of Kansas to donate \$30.00 this year. Department President David Huddleston asks that each Auxiliary make a contribution to the VFW Endowment Fund. It is for the kids of Veterans of the State of Kansas. Please send your donations either to me or the Department Headquarters and earmark the check VFW Endowment donations. This last fiscal year, \$40,000.00 in scholarships were awarded.

Thanks again Comrades and Auxiliary members.

Chris Stergos, President
Endowment Association

Department of Kansas Endowment Association Contribution

Dist # _____ Post # _____ Post

Name _____ Location _____

Amount of Donation \$ _____

VFW Department Headquarters
P.O. Box 1008
Topeka, KS 66601-1008

AUXILIARIES: Please send your contribution to:

Jeanette Cox, Dept. Treasurer
PO Box 414
McPherson, KS 67460

Date Received _____ No. _____

KANSAS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____ Sponsored by VFW Post/Auxiliary _____ District _____

This application form is for one scholarship for one year, given from contributions to this fund by VFW Posts and VFW Auxiliaries VFW from the State of Kansas.

NOTICE TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS: This complete form along with a student transcript of grades and other requested material should be returned to the sponsoring VFW Post/Auxiliary Officers as noted on the instruction sheet attached hereto, in sufficient time to allow it to be reviewed and forwarded to the Endowment Association Headquarters in Topeka, KS no later than February 1.

The only restriction on this scholarship is that the applicant must be the child of, the grandchild of or a member of the **Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars or its VFW Auxiliary**. **Great Grandchildren** are not eligible.

1. Student Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Phone No. _____

E-mail: _____

IS STUDENT IS EMANCIPATED (according to FAFSA) – IF SO, SKIP TO QUESTION 7
YES _____ // NO _____

2. Father or Male Guardian: Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Place of Employment _____

Type of Work _____ Years _____

3. Mother or Female Guardian Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Place of Employment _____

Type of Work _____ Years _____

4. List here the names of all other dependent children in applicant's family:

Full Name Sex Age Grade Living at Home

5. List the property your parents/family own (Home, Farm, other real estate, cars, trucks, etc.) and estimate investment in this property.

6. List your parents/family total gross income for the previous year: \$ _____

7. List Student's total gross income for the previous year: \$ _____

8. List student's Property Owned (Home, Farm, other real estate, cars, trucks, etc.) and estimate investment in this property.

Note: Student/Family Members have the option to exclude financial information, however this will result in the judging committee rendering a score of 0 (zero) points for this section.

9. Please explain any special family circumstances that the Endowment Committee should consider. (Divorce, illness, disabilities, etc.)

10. List amount of financial support you expect to receive during your first year of school:

- a. From parents \$ _____
- b. From student's earnings \$ _____
- c. From friends or relatives \$ _____
- d. From other scholarships (Name them) \$ _____
- e. From other sources \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

11. List amount of anticipated expenses during your first year in school:

- a. Tuition fees \$ _____
- b. Books and supplies \$ _____
- c. Room and board \$ _____
- d. Other (explain) \$ _____

=====

TOTAL \$ _____

12. What classes or activities are/were of special interest or importance to you in high school or college?
(List in order of preference.)

13. What are your plans for a career? _____

14. What school do you plan to attend and for how long? (If currently enrolled in college, please indicate how many hours you have already taken and your proposed date of graduation.) If enrolling in a vocational technical school or 2 year training program, please make that clear.

15. Attach a standard, formal resume/personal datasheet that lists your achievements, accomplishments, awards, references, work experience, etc. to this application.

16. Attach an explanation please to indicate why you want to further your education.

17. Attach a statement from your school guidance counselor or principal relative to your capabilities, attitude and participation in the regular school curriculum as well as extracurricular activities. If you have no guidance counselor, then attach a statement from your college advisor or employer.

18. I hereby certify that all information herein is correct and understand that any false information will disqualify this application or revoke a scholarship should one be awarded.

Signature of Parent, Guardian or Grandparent _____
(Please circle relationship to student. **Not required if student is emancipated**)

Signature of Student _____

A REMINDER: Be certain that all information requested on the application is completed. This includes a grade transcript with ACT or SAT scores (ACT or SAT may be waived if already enrolled in college or vocational coursework); a statement from a school counselor or principal or employer; a personal datasheet. Otherwise the application will not be considered.

NOTE: This application form may be reproduced if additional forms are not readily available. The information in this application will be used only for the purpose of judging scholarships and will remain confidential. It is also available from <http://www.ksvfw.org> under programs.

Checklist for Student

Yes No

___ Are you a graduating or graduated High School senior?

___ Will you be enrolling in college/vocational classes for the fall semester?

___ Are you currently enrolled in college/vocational classes?

___ Are all questions completed on form?

___ Have you enclosed an official high school transcript or official college transcript

___ Have you enclosed your ACT or SAT scores as requested? (if required)

___ Have you attached a resume/personal data sheet that applies to question 15?

___ Have you attached your personal explanation as requested in question 16?

___ Have you attached the letter of recommendation as requested in question 17?

___ Did your Parent, Guardian or Grandparent sign the form? (if required)

___ Did you sign the form?

If all questions above are answered, please sign and submit to the sponsoring VFW Post/Auxiliary. If any questions are not answered, then form is not complete and will not be considered. Please complete, sign, then submit.

The Kansas VFW/Auxiliary eligibility for this scholarship is through:

Kansas Member Name: _____ Membership #: _____

Kansas VFW Post/Auxiliary No: _____ Relationship: _____

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that this applicant meets eligibility requirements set forth in the above application form.

Signature of **VFW** Post Commander or Quartermaster (Verifying Post Members Only)

(TITLE) (Post #) (District #)

Address: _____

For questions concerning Post eligibility contact Department of Kansas VFW Headquarters, PO Box 1008, Topeka, KS 66601-1008, (785) 272-6463.

Signature of **VFW** Auxiliary President or Treasurer (Verifying VFW Auxiliary Members Only)

(TITLE) (Auxiliary #) (District #)

Address: _____

For questions concerning VFW Auxiliary eligibility contact Jeanette Cox, Dept. Treasurer, P.O. Box 414, McPherson, KS 67460 (620) 241-7475.

Checklist for **VFW** Post/Auxiliary Chairmen:

Yes No

_____ Is the scholarship application complete with all required attachments?

_____ Did the Post Commander or Quartermaster sign to verify membership for a Post member?

_____ Did the Auxiliary President or Treasurer sign to verify membership for a VFW Auxiliary member?

FIREFIGHTER AWARD PROGRAM

2026-2027

The goal of the Firefighter Award Program is to recognize those deserving individuals whose performance of their duties deserves special recognition. This honor is awarded to an individual, or team, that actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer fire department organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

Required Documents:

- Nomination letter of no more than 350 words to include the nominee's name, title, address, telephone number and the title of award for which the individual or team should be considered.
- The nomination letter should include the individual or teams overall background, field experience and individual or team accomplishments and awards.

Every community certainly has at least one outstanding firefighter or an outstanding fire department deserving recognition. Each Post Commander is urged to direct his appointed Safety Chairman to find a nominee or name a Special Chairman to submit an "outstanding firefighter nominee." The Post Chairman is responsible for coordinating this program and selecting the Post's most worthy candidate or team. This individual would then be submitted to the District Chairman for judging. **The District then submits ONE winner to the State Chairman for final selection with the report form completed for all participating posts.**

The nominee selected as the department's "Outstanding Firefighter" will receive a plaque to be presented at their place of business or work or where they desire to have the award presented to them. A team that is selected as our "Outstanding Firefighter" will receive a plaque to be presented at their place of business or work or where they desire to have the award presented to them. The Department Chair, one of the State Officers, or the District Commander will present the awards. This program can help post and district leadership qualify for All-State honors. Don't forget to have the cover sheets filled out with all information on sheet and photograph to be sent with cover sheet.

Program deadlines:

- Delivered to the Post – December 2, 2026
- Delivered to the District – December 16, 2026
- Delivered to the Department by January 5, 2027

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN MAIL TO:

Danielle Springall, State Emergency Services Chairman
11 Wiedmer Ct.
Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027
(231) 360-8751
dionzy@yahoo.com

NOTE: Nominee packets must be received by January 5, 2027

**NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET
FIREFIGHTER GOLD MEDAL AWARD**

NAME AND TITLE OF NOMINEE (Individual) _____
HOME ADDRESS WITH PHONE #, CITY, STATE. ZIP _____

OR

NAMES OF TEAM MEMBERS _____

DEPT. NAME (EMS, Fire Dept, etc) _____

FULL ADDRESS WITH PHONE # _____

FIRE DEPARTMENT _____

TOWN, CITY, or COUNTY NAME _____

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

NOMINATION LETTER:

SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN MAIL TO:

Danielle Springall, State Emergency Services Chairman
11 Wiedmer Ct.
Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027
(231) 360-8751
dionzy@yahoo.com

SUBMITTING POST # and DISTRICT # _____

SIGNATURE OF DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON

OR DISTRICT COMMANDER _____

NOTE: Nominee packets must be received by January 5, 2027

INSPECTOR'S PROGRAM 2026-2027

Properly and timely Audits along with a comprehensive Inspection program are the key tools in evaluating the condition and trends of a specific Post which can assist Leaders in solving current or potential problems.

Listed below are guidelines that need to be followed to successfully complete and submit Audits and Inspections. Following these will simplify the process in achieving proper credit and a timely credit for items submitted.

- Audits (Post & District) are to be sent **DIRECTLY TO** and **ONLY TO** Department Headquarters at the email or P.O. address below! Department Headquarters will log the receipt and provide a copy to the Department Inspector for review.

Email= bkeeper@ksvfw.org

Department of KS, VFW
P.O. Box 1008
Topeka, KS 66601-1008

POST- Trustee's Report of Audit

- All 4 Quarterly Audits are due to Department Headquarters by the end of the month following the close of each quarter (due to Department July 31st, Oct 31st, Jan 31st and April 30th).

DISTRICT- Trustee's Report of Audit

- National By-Laws/Manual of Procedure does not require quarterly audits at the District. Audits are due to Department Headquarters by the end of the month following the District's meeting.

POST- Inspections

- (Yellow copy= stays with Post, Pink copy= stays with District, **White copy= send to Department**)
- The District Commander will be accountable to ensure they receive the completed inspection form for each Post in their district from their District Inspector/Inspectors.
- District Commanders will review each inspection form so they know which Posts under their command are doing well, needing help.
- The District Commander (Not Inspectors) will then send the completed inspection forms (White copy) to Department Headquarters. Department should be receiving inspection forms from "only" the 7 District Commanders. This is to speed up the process.
- Deadline to Department Headquarters for all Post inspections is Dec. 1st.

Reminder: ALL AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS TO BE SENT TO **DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS**

Brandon Kultgen, State Inspector
1316 Hoover St
Great Bend, KS 67530
(803) 351-7896 ----Email= bkultgen80@gmail.com

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM 2026-2027

The goal of the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Program is to recognize those deserving individuals whose performance of their duties distinguishes them from all others. This honor is intended to be awarded to an individual or team who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individuals employed by private companies.

Required Documents:

- Nomination letter of no more than 350 words to include the nominee's name, title, address, telephone number and the title of the award for which the individual or team should be considered.
- The nomination letter should include the individual or teams overall background, field experience and individual or team accomplishments and awards.

Every community certainly has at least one outstanding law enforcement officer or an outstanding law enforcement organization deserving recognition. Each Post Commander is urged to direct his appointed Safety Chairman to find a nominee or name a Special Chairman to submit an "outstanding law enforcement officer nominee." The Post Chairman is responsible for coordinating this program and selecting the Post's most worthy candidate or team. This individual would then be submitted to the District Chairman for judging. **The District then submits ONE winner to the State Chairman for final selection with the report form completed for all participating posts.**

The nominee selected as the department's "Outstanding Law Officer" will receive a plaque to be presented at their place of business or work or where they desire to have the award presented to them. A team that is selected as our "Outstanding Law Officer" will receive a plaque to be presented at their place of business or work or where they desire to have the award presented to them. The Department Chair, one of the State Officers, or the District Commander will present the awards. This program can help post and district leadership qualify for All-State honors. Don't forget to have the cover sheets filled out with all information on sheet.

Program deadlines:

- Delivered to the Post – December 2, 2026
- Delivered to the District – December 16, 2026
- Delivered to the Department by January 5, 2027

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN MAIL TO:

Danielle Springall, State Emergency Services Chairman
11 Wiedmer Ct.
Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027
(231) 360-8751
dionzy@yahoo.com

NOTE: Nominee packets must be received by January 5, 2027

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET
J. EDGAR HOOVER GOLD MEDAL AWARD
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

NAME AND TITLE OF NOMINEE (Individual) _____
HOME ADDRESS WITH PHONE #, CITY, STATE. ZIP _____

OR
NAMES OF TEAM MEMBERS _____

DEPT. NAME (EMS, Fire Dept, etc) _____

FULL ADDRESS WITH PHONE # _____

DEPT. NAME (Police, Sheriff, etc) _____

TOWN, CITY, or COUNTY NAME _____

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

NOMINATION LETTER;

SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN MAIL TO:

Danielle Springall, State Emergency Services Chairman
11 Wiedmer Ct.
Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027
(231) 360-8751
dionzy@yahoo.com

SUBMITTING POST # and DISTRICT # _____

SIGNATURE OF DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON
OR DISTRICT COMMANDER _____

NOTE: Nominee packets must be received by January 5, 2027

Legislative Program

2026-2027

- SUPPORT AN ONGOING VFW WASHINGTON WEEKLY REGISTRATION DRIVE
- SIGN UP FOR GOVTRACK.US
- NLS CHAIRMAN QUARTERLY REPORT
- NUMBER OF NEW WASHINGTON WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTIONS
- MONTHLY NLS COMMITTEE MEMBER/CHAIRMAN REPORT SUBMITTED TO NLS IN WASHINGTON D.C.

The location of our Washington, D.C. office allows us to monitor all legislation affecting veterans, alert VFW membership to key legislation under consideration and to actively lobby Congress and the administration on veterans' issues.

Everything we do on Capitol Hill is with the VFW's priority goals and veterans' well-being in Mind. With the strength of the nearly 2 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliaries, **our voice on "the Hill" cannot be ignored!**

WHAT WE DO:

The VFW's National Legislative Service advocates on veteran's behalfes. By testifying at congressional committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW has played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed since the beginning of the 20th Century.

The VFW's most successful and important legislative push was to make college education affordable for military service members with the signing of the 1944 GI Bill of Rights, the Montgomery GI Bill in 1984, and the new Post-9/11 GI Bill in 2008.

National Legislative Chairman is Aaron Grunden – 316-737-3477 – aaron.m.grunden@gmail.com

The National Legislative Chairman works with our VFW National Office and our Congress people and Senators in Washington DC. Ensures that the Kansas VFW membership is kept apprised of bills and legislation that the VFW deems priority as is a representative at the DC Legislative Conference in March. Also submits a monthly report to Our National VFW Legislative team. Supports the Washington Weekly subscription drive.

State Legislative Co-Chairman is Herb Schwartzkopf - 785-272-6463
Jim Karleskint – 785-550-4298

The State Legislative Chairman works with our Kansas State VFW HQ, and our Kansas State Congress people and Senators in Topeka, KS. Ensures that the Kansas VFW membership is kept apprised of bills and legislation that the VFW deems priority. Works in conjunction with our National Legislative Chairperson to ensure we are not supporting conflicting legislation. A spokesperson for the VFW at Capitol functions and ceremonies.

Anytime you vote or contact your representative in any way may be counted towards Legislative projects. Hosting a local or National Political forum at your post, hosting a voting booth or GET OUT THE VOTE DRIVES all count as projects.

Membership Program
2026–2027

ALL STATE TEAM

MEMBERSHIP MISSION and VISION

As we move forward in our mission to serve veterans, support our communities, and uphold the proud traditions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, one truth remains clear: **our strength begins with our members**. Recruiting new comrades into our organization is vital, but the foundation of every successful Post rests on our ability to **retain the members we already have**.

Recruit. Retain. Grow.

Retention is not just a statistic—it is the heartbeat of a healthy, active, and united Post. Every member who renews is a veteran choosing to remain engaged, connected, and committed to our shared purpose. When we retain our members:

• **We preserve hard-earned experience and leadership**

Seasoned members carry decades of knowledge—organizational, historical, and cultural. Their mentorship builds the next generation of Post leaders.

• **We strengthen our community impact**

A stable membership base allows for consistent programs, stronger volunteer turnout, and more effective outreach to veterans in need.

• **We build unity and continuity**

Retention fosters relationships. Members who stay year after year become family, and that sense of belonging is what keeps our Posts strong.

• **We safeguard the future of the VFW**

Every renewed membership supports our legislative efforts, veterans' benefits, community programs, and national influence. Without retention, the mission weakens.

Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters

I challenge each Post this year to treat retention as a top priority. Call your annual members. Check on your life members. Reach out to comrades you haven't seen in a while. Make every veteran feel valued, welcomed, and needed—because they are.

Let us lead by example. Let us show Kansas, and the entire nation, that **Strength in Unity** is not just a theme—it is a promise. Together, through strong retention and dedicated comradeship, we will continue to honor the past, support today's veterans, and shape the future of our organization. Thank you for your commitment to the VFW, to your Posts, and to every veteran we serve.

Every Post Commander and Quartermaster who meets or exceeds the minimum standards by **Department Convention** will be considered for the title of All State Commander and Quartermaster. The Top 10% of all Posts could be eligible (Department Commander will determine if additional posts are eligible). Each member of the All-State Post Commander and Quartermaster team will receive an official "All-State Post Commanders and Quartermaster's Cap" with Lapel Pin at the Department Convention if available.

Minimum Requirements for Judging:

Up to ten, (10), Posts could be selected for All-State.

If ten Posts have not met all of the requirements on April 1, 2027, the remaining spots could be filled by Posts only delinquent in the 100% membership requirement. A Post could achieve All State if they achieved 100% in membership between April 1, 2027, and June 30, 2027, if there were any of the ten slots left and if they had met all other requirements by April 1, 2027.

100% or above in membership **is mandatory.**

Voice of Democracy: Post must advance one entry to District competition, is one of 3 of 10.

Patriot's Pen: Post must advance one entry to District competition, is one of 3 of 10.

Teacher Award: Post must have one entry from any category advanced to District competition, is one of 3 of 10.

Veterans and Military Support VMS/NVS Program: Minimum donation of \$125.00 due by April 1, 2027, for All-State competition. **This is mandatory.**

National Home: A Post shall make a \$100 donation to the National home benefitting the Kansas House. **This is mandatory.**

Community Service: Posts must report 6 approved projects through the Community Service reporting tool in each of the four categories, (Veterans Service, Legislative Action, Community Activities, Youth Activities). **This is Category II. This is mandatory.**

District Meetings: The Post commander or his representative shall attend all District meetings. **This is mandatory.**

Buddy Poppies: The Post shall purchase 3 buddy poppies per member rounded to the next 100, Must be ordered by April 1, 2027 to be eligible for All-State competition. This is based off of prior year's membership. **This is Mandatory.**

Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer, EMT: each one is one of 3 of 10.

Scouting Program: Donation of \$25.00 or a scouting entry and \$10.00 donation. Donations must be made by the Scouting deadline and is one of 3 of 10.

Three Programs of ten must be completed by April 1, 2027. Those programs are: (1) Voice of Democracy; (2) Patriot's Pen; (3) Teacher of the Year; (4) Firefighter award; (5) EMT award; (6) Law Enforcement Officer award; (7) Scouting Award; (8) Adopt-a-unit; (9) Hospital Volunteer Pin. (10) Community Service Pin. **This is Category I.**

Post Quartermaster must be properly bonded. **This is mandatory.**

The Post's September 2026, December 2026, and March 2027, audits must be on time. Five extra points for having the March 2027 audit in or postmarked by April 10, 2027.

ALL STATE DISTRICT

Minimum Requirements to Qualify for Judging:

1. District must be at least 100% in membership to qualify.
2. Must advance one each Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher to Department for Judging.
3. District must have all Audits submitted (post marked or email time stamp) to Department Quartermaster no later than the end of the month following the month that the District Meetings are held.
4. District Quartermaster must be adequately bonded throughout all 4 audit periods (Bond amount on record with Department Headquarters must be equal to or greater than the Total Cash value as reported on each of the 4 Audit reports). Districts that are "under bonded" will have 30 days from date of notification (letter or email time stamp) to become adequately bonded.
5. District Commander must have Inspection forms for all Posts submitted to Department Headquarters by December 1, 2026
6. State Fair - District must have their own planned day and participate that day.
7. District Commander must turn in their National Home Fundraiser tickets and money to Department Headquarters by May 31st (Not all tickets must be sold, but do your best!)

DEADLINE FOR JUDGING: May 31st

RECRUITING AWARDS

100% Posts will receive a citation, 100% Commander and Quartermaster pins until May 31st (if available)

15 Minimum Members – \$50 check for top 3 - State DEADLINE MAY 1ST (MUST BE RECRUITED FOR KANSAS MEMBERS ONLY)

All recruiters qualify for VFW Kansas Membership Team Pin - State

ALL-STATE POST ENTRY FORM

Posts wishing to compete in the All-State Competition MUST answer the following questions and return this form to Department Headquarters, by April 10, 2027. Department will allocate up to 10% of posts for All-State Awards (i.e., 100 posts in Department – up to 10 All-State Awards). **Department Commander will take in to consideration if more awards are justified.** The more points you get the better your chances for All State. **Please answer YES or NO to the following participation programs for the 2026-2027 year** **Y N**

- | | | |
|--|-------|---------|
| A. 100% Membership by June 30, 2027 * | () | () |
| B. 100% Membership by 12/31/2026 (10 points) | () | () |
| 101% Membership by 3/31/2027 (5 points) | () | () |
| C. Audits for 9/30/26 & 12/31/26 submitted to State Quartermaster within 30 days of the end of each quarter * | () | () |
| D. Audit for 3/31/2027 submitted to State Qm by April 10, 2027 (5 points) | () | () |
| E. Quartermaster adequately bonded for period 9/1/26 to 8/31/27 * | () | () |
| F. Post Commander or representative must attend all District meetings * | () | () |
| G. Community Service. 6 verified projects submitted in each area of Category II and Participation in 3 Category 1 projects * | () | () |
| H. Recruiting 1 member more than 100% of last year's membership (5 points) | () | () |
| I. Community Service 10 verified projects in each Category II area (10 points) | () | () |
| J. Post purchased 3 Buddy Poppies per member based on 100% of last year's membership * Rounded to the next 100. | () | () |
| K. Voice of Democracy recording submitted to District (5 points) | () | () |
| L. Patriot's Pen essay submitted to District (5 points) | () | () |
| M. Conduct a project benefiting their adopted unit (5 points) | () | () |
| N. Made a \$125 donation to VMS/NVS Program through Nat'l Dashboard * | () | () |
| O. Entered a Law Enforcement Officer in District Competition (5 points) | () | () |
| P. Entered a Firefighter in District Competition (5 points) | () | () |
| Q. Entered an Emergency Medical Technician in District Competition (5 points) | () | () |
| R. Entered a Teacher of the Year in District Competition (5 points) | () | () |
| S. Entered a Scout in State Competition & \$10 or make \$25 donation to Scout Program (5 points) | () | () |
| T. Host a fundraising event benefitting the National Home's Kansas House (5 points) | ... | () () |
| U. Made a \$100 donation to the National Home's Kansas House * | () | () |
| V. Hold a post signup drive for the Washington Weekly (National Legislative Service) (5 points) | () | () |
| W. Entered Community Service Record Book for Department judging (5 points) | () | () |
| X. Hospital Volunteer Pin (5 points) | () | () |
| Y. Community Service Volunteer Pin (5 points) | () | () |
| Z. For each 5 members recruited over 100% of last year's membership (3 points) | _____ | points |

POSTS MUST PARTICIPATE IN ANY THREE OF THE FOLLOWING: VOD, PP, EMT, LEO, FIREFIGHTER, TEACHER, ADOPT A UNIT, SCOUTING, Hospital Volunteer or Community Service Volunteer Pin -- * = MANDATORY.

I confirm that the above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Location _____ Post # _____

Post Commander/Quartermaster _____

NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM 2026–2027

The VFW National Home continues to serve as a vital support community for military and veteran families. This year, the Department's National Home Program is centered on direct financial support for the Kansas House, ensuring it remains a strong, stable resource for those who depend on it.

As part of the All-State Post requirements, each Post must contribute a minimum of \$100 to the Kansas House at the National Home. Posts may earn additional All-State points by hosting a fundraising event whose proceeds directly benefit the Kansas House. These contributions strengthen the Home and reinforce Kansas' longstanding commitment to the VFW National Home

To further support the Kansas House, the Department is conducting a Life Membership Upgrade Raffle, with all proceeds benefiting the Kansas House. District Commanders and the Department Commander have raffle tickets available for purchase.

The VFW Department Commander and Department Auxiliary President's Special Project for 2026–2027 is dedicated to raising money for the Kansas House at the VFW National Home.

Dallas Love
State National Home Chairman
1300 E. Meadowlark Apt 28 102
Derby, KS 67037
(316) 518-7170
Dallaslove90000@gmail.com

PATRIOT'S PEN 2026-2027 VFW DEPT OF KANSAS

CONTEST THEME

“What A Veteran Taught Me About America”

The Patriot's Pen contest is for students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades in public, parochial, private or home schools. Students write an essay of 300-400 words and submit it, typewritten, to the local VFW Post chairman by 31 October 2026. Complete entry forms and judging information is available at:

Online link for Scholar's App for Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy

<https://scholarsapp.com/>

If a chairman needs an account, they need to contact us and we can create it for them as well as create their Post if they don't have one yet.

Post Chairman: A clearly filled out; completed/signed entry form should accompany each entry.

District Chairman: Please sign the entry form and include the District Report Form plus the District Participation Report when you forward the District winner to the Department chairman.

Deadlines:

October 31 - Essay should be received by Post.

November 15 - Local winners are due to District Chairman.

December 10 - District winners are due to Department Chairman.

January 15 - Department winners are due to National Chairman.

Department Scholarship Awards:

1st Place - \$250 check.

2nd Place - \$150 check.

3rd Place - \$75 check.

Top 3 place winners are also invited to the Mid-Winter awards banquet.

(Local Post or District is responsible for winner's banquet ticket and lodging if necessary.)

Program cost to KS Dept:

Awards - \$475

(Auxiliary donates \$100 towards the program awards.)

Jason Parkes

KS Dept. Patriot's Pen Chairman

1400 W. Virginia Ln

Olathe, KS 66061

(334) 614-6693

j.parkes@comcast.net

2026-2027 POW/MIA PROGRAM

Program Purpose:

The VFW POW/MIA program exists to ensure that the sacrifices of American service members who are captured, imprisoned, missing or who remain unaccounted for are never forgotten.

The program should do more than display a POW/MIA flag. It should create an ongoing commitment by the Posts, District's and Auxiliarys to educate and host events to:

- * Remember former POWs
- * Honor those still missing and unaccounted for.
- * Educate veterans and the community about POW/MIA history.
- * Support families of missing service members.
- * Preserve the stories of local veterans.
- * Teach younger generations why "You are not forgotten" remains an important national commitment.
- * Research local POW/MIAs
- * Obtain a proclamation from your city.

POW/MIA updates from dpaa can be tracked for your post /district. For event guidance see the tool kit on the site, also you can order posters to spread awareness.

<https://www.dpaa.mil>

Dates to observe:

National POW/MIA Day 3rd Friday in September 18th 2026

Kansas POW/MIA week 3rd week in September 13th-19th 2026

National Former POW recognition day is April 9th 2027

Award for the best event/program will be awarded at the Department Convention 2027, I need these submitted by the end of March 2027

Reporting: send me your digital email you received from submitting your Community Service on the Department dashboard along with any supporting documents or photos.

VFW Department of Kansas
POW/MIA Chairman
Big Mike Petersen
huskerfan43@duck.com

**Kansas Scouting Program
2026-2027
Gerald Humbert Scouting Scholarship**

The first-place selectee will be declared the “Kansas Scout of the Year” and receive a \$300.00 scholarship. He or she will also be awarded a Plaque and a “Letter of Congratulations” signed by the Department Commander. The **second-place runner-up** in the Kansas competition will receive a \$ 200.00 scholarship, a “Letter of Congratulations” for this achievement.

- The sponsoring VFW Post has the “Option” to reward their winning entry a cash award and a “Letter of Congratulations” from the Post Commander.
- All scouts submitting an entry for the Kansas “Scout of the Year” competition will receive a Certificate from Department Commander.

All scouts as defined in the VFW National Scout of the Year Official Entry Form are eligible compete for the Kansas Scout of the Year awards. All competing scouts must reside in the State of Kansas and comply with the deadlines. Entry forms are available on-line at <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scout-of-the-year> or call: 816-756-3390 ext. 6155 and request the official entry form and a copy of the “Scout of the Year Judge’s Score Sheet”.

- Any Scout who obtains his/her organization’s highest rank can compete for the Kansas Scout of the Year. They must be between 15 – 18 years old and still in high school.
- **There is no limit as to how many scouts a VFW post can sponsor** for Scout of the Year if they meet the requirements of eligibility listed on the VFW entry form.
- Please note, the Post **will forward ALL entries for Scout of the Year to the State Scouting Chairperson in order that all entries are judged using the same standards by members of the Selection Committee. (The Post is relieved of judging the entry.)**
- Note: Once the scout completes all the necessary VFW requirements as listed on the entry form, he or she delivers the entry information to the sponsoring VFW Post’s Scouting representative by the dates outlined on the entry form.
- The Post’s scouting representative should review each candidate’s resume package to insure it meets **all the necessary requirements**. Each resume package should include the scout’s GPA, rank in class, specific achievements and honors achieved and letters of recommendation and a Picture in Uniform recommend size 3"x5". This data will assist the **Department’s Selection Committee in the grading process.**

March 1st, 2027 - Deadline for entry to a local VFW Post.

April 1st, 2027– All judged entries with winners to Department Chairman.

The Department of Kansas **will issue a reminder to every VFW Post for a donation** to assist in funding the costs of the Scouting program. This donation is due **March 1st of each calendar year**. Any Post not donating or submitting a Scout of the Year Packet will not be eligible for that part of the All-State program.

- Kansas VFW “All State” Award. For a Post to qualify for “All State” status **they may** sponsor a minimum of one candidate for “Scout of the Year” plus a \$10.00 donation to Kansas Scouting Fund or without a packet donate \$25.00 to the Kansas scouting fund.

Community Service Reporting

Reporting your involvement with local Scout Units is important to ensure National’s continuing support of the scouting program. You can report the activity on the Community Service Report on the Website. Report all contact and activities your Post participates with local Scout Units. Use of Post facilities; VFW members that are Scout Leaders; or helpers in sponsoring a scout unit; donations to Department Scouting Programs; Any Scouts that help in with your projects; or donating to Scout projects need to be reported. Remember all Scouting activities count so report it.

Thank you for your support and involvement in Scouting.

Paul Saliger
Scouting Chair

1803 Ash St

Harper, KS 67058 Cell 620-968-0771

hpiceman@yahoo.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
SCOUT OF THE YEAR

Application Instructions

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY SCOUT OF THE YEAR CANDIDATE:

Section A -- HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATION RECORD

Please submit a resume of your School Activities (7th-12th) to include a listing of offices held, honors received and significance of your participation in these activities. *The resume of these activities should be contained on one 8 1/2 X 11-inch page. The screening committee at all levels will only consider the information contained on this one page (one side only).*

Section B – ENTIRE SCOUTING RECORD

List your complete scouting record from Cub Scouts/Brownie (this includes Girls Scouts) on up, to include years of participation, Unit Numbers and Sponsors. Include information on when your Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster and Palms was received. Make sure you include any leadership positions held at all levels; list other Scouting activities you have participated in such as Jamborees, Order of the Arrow Conferences, etc....and succinctly describe your Eagle, Venture, or Quartermaster Project. *The resume of these activities should be contained on three 8 1/2 X 11-inch pages. The screening committee at all levels will only consider information on these three pages (front side of each sheet only).*

Section C – COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD

Use one page to list community service and religious organizations you have participated in (excluding high school and scouting) and the activities that you were involved with as a part of these organizations. Note any leadership positions held and any accolades received. *The resume of these activities should be contained on one 8 1/2 X 11-inch page. The screening committee at all levels will only consider the information contained on this one page (one side only).*

Section D – LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

The screening committee will carefully review the letters submitted. Only five (5) letters will be allowed. One letter each from your school, community, and scout leader must be submitted. Two additional letters are allowed from other individuals within your community who may have a special knowledge of your abilities and/or accomplishments. *The screening committee will only consider five (5) letters at most. (Note: Letters should not exceed 2 pages.)*

- ▶ *Please be sure to use only this form when applying. Any other form or format will not be accepted into the competition.*
- ▶ *Please follow the procedures and requirements as written, to ensure that your application is reviewed and processed as quickly and accurately as possible. (Note: All typewritten entries must be legible and easily read.)*
- ▶ *Do not send completed application directly to VFW National Headquarters; all applications must be submitted to a VFW Post for initial consideration. The VFW Post will then submit to the Department for consideration as the Department winner.*

AUTHORIZATION

SCOUTMASTER OR VENTURE CREW ADVISOR CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the above-named Scout is an active member of our unit and the information supplied by the candidate is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

SCOUTMASTER OR ADVISOR SIGNATURE _____ Date: _____

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 national winner, I will ensure that he/she can attend a presentation ceremony as designed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

FATHER, MOTHER OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ Date: _____

(SPECIAL HAND- OUT TO ASSIST ALL SCOUTS COMPETING FOR SCOUT OF THE YEAR)

INFORMATION EVERY SCOUT SHOULD INCLUDE WHEN COMPILING A RESUME FOR THE VFW KANSAS SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD!

General:

- a) Read and UNDERSTAND the information required as listed in the VFW Scout of the Year Brochure completely as published by the National VFW Headquarters.
- b) Be sure you meet all the eligibility requirements completely (especially the age requirements (**no older than 18 yrs. old**))
- c) Be aware of specific deadlines.
- d) **If not from Kansas, must be affiliated with a Kansas VFW member and entry form must come from a Kansas VFW Post.**

Preparing Your Official Entry Information:

(This is the most important part of information that will be judged and graded using a specific point system by a Scout of the Year Selection Committee.)

- 1) Obtain a copy of the VFW Scout of the Year Judges Score Sheet. Call 816-756-3390 ext. 6155 and request a copy be E-mailed to you. This is the exact sheet used to grade all entries. It provides a breakdown of the four Classifications (that the judges use to award a maximum of 210 points) based on the information you submitted.
- 2) Package your data as if applying for college or a job. Make it stand out as professionally as possible in the order as listed on the VFW entry brochure.
- 3) School Achievements (40 pts.) Scouts should obtain a copy of their School Transcript (**if applicable**) which provides your GPA, Rank in Class, as a source of information.
- 4) Scouting (60 pts.) record is important. Explain the who-what-where- and why of your project. When describing your accomplishments- use specifics- tell why and how you accomplished your objective. Describe your Eagle, Gold, Summit and Sea Scout Project in detail. Use pictures or published articles.
- 5) Address why you should be the Kansas Scout of the Year.
- 6) Community Service (40 pts.)- Same as item (4).
- 7) Letters of Recommendations (70 pts.) These letters receive the most scrutiny of the committee and thus carry the most importance in grading points. The writer should not rely on generalities, but emphasize specifics, factual data that makes you stand out above your peers.

Below is the link for the Scout entry form/brochure

<https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Scout-of-the-Year/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf?v=1&d=20210708T183715Z&la=en>

SURGEON'S PROGRAM 2026-2027

The Surgeon's Program will run from April 1st, 2026 through March 31st, 2027

Post surgeons shall use the Post Surgeon report form to report to their respective District Surgeons

Post Surgeon report forms are available from the State Surgeon or may be downloaded from the Department Headquarters Web site (www.vfwks.org) under forms.

District Surgeons shall use the District Surgeon report form supplied by the State Surgeon. If a Post submits a blank report for credit, the District Surgeon will place "N/R" for that Post on their report submitted to the Department Surgeon. If a Post submits nothing at all, the District Surgeon will not indicate anything for that Post on their report to the Department Surgeon.

Post surgeons should send their reports to their respective District Surgeons by the 10th day of each month. District Surgeons should send their reports to the Department Surgeon by the 20th day of each month.

The Department Surgeon will send reports to Department Headquarters, District Commanders, and District Surgeons by the end of each month.

AWARDS

The 100% reporting Posts in each District will receive a certificate and monetary award**. The highest scoring District Surgeon in terms of reporting will be awarded the "Golden Stethoscope Award Plaque". The second highest scoring District Surgeon in terms of reporting will be awarded the "Silver Stethoscope Award Plaque". In the event of a tie, each District will be awarded the "Golden Stethoscope Award Plaque".

**** If a Post submits a blank report, they will be ineligible for a monetary award**

---No District can win Gold or Silver Stethoscope awards 2 years in a row---

Surgeons Program

"How To Submit Post Surgeon's Report"

Hospital Reports: Post Surgeons should submit their Surgeon reports to their respective District Surgeons by the 10th day of each month. District Surgeons should send their reports to the Department Surgeon by the 20th day of each month. If a District report is late, that District will score lower on the evaluation scale for awards. The Department Surgeon asks that all Post submit a monthly report to their District in a timely manner. If a Post has nothing to report, the Department Surgeon asks that you send a blank signed report to your District Surgeon for credit. All Posts with 100% reporting (12 monthly reports for the year) will be recognized at State Convention.

Update Dist. Surgeons (2025/2026)

District 1 Surgeon - Hans Hull - Hull340@gmail.com

District 2 Surgeon - Bob Teetsel - teetsel@gmail.com

District 3 Surgeon - Michael B. Holland - Michaelbholland47@gmail.com

District 4 Surgeon - Jon Gran - jon.gran67@gmail.com

District 5 Surgeon - Jacob Schluckebier - ksdist5surgeon@outlook.com

District 6 Surgeon - Jerry White - jpwhite@ruraltel.net

District 7 Surgeon - Herb Schwartzkopf - qmadj@ksvfw.org

Allen Owens, State Surgeon
Department of Kansas
PO Box 113
Wakefield, KS. 67487
(785) 307-2409
allen.owens2@gmail.com



HELPING HEROES

Helping Heroes is a statewide annual campaign sponsored by the Department of Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars to assist Veterans with medical or quality of life needs.

All donations from Helping Heroes will go to Veterans in the VA hospitals in Topeka, Leavenworth and Wichita as well as the Soldiers Homes in Winfield and Ft. Dodge.

Please donate generously to those Heroes that have sacrificed so much for our country.

★ 2026-2027 GOAL ★

**COLLECT SOCKS,
UNDERWEAR AND
T-SHIRTS**



Preferred sizes:
SOCKS
9-12 and up



T-SHIRTS
Large-5X



UNDERWEAR
Large and up

★ ★ ★
**LAST DAY OF
COLLECTION IS
31 DECEMBER
2026**
★ ★ ★

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL VFW POST.

HOSPITAL EVALUATION SHEET
TO BE USED IN COMPILING ALL HOSPITAL REPORTS

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| 1. | BOOKS AND MAGAZINES | |
| | Books - pocket size (new) | purchase price |
| | Books - regular bound (new) | purchase price |
| | Books - pocket size (used) | \$.50 each |
| | Books - regular bound (used) | \$1.50 each |
| | Magazine subscriptions | purchase price |
| 2. | COMFORT ARTICLES | |
| | Cigarettes, razors, blades, shaving cream, etc | purchase price |
| 3. | FOOD - ALL HOMEMADE | |
| | Cakes | \$4.00 each |
| | Pies | \$2.50 each |
| | Cookies | \$2.25 dozen |
| | Cupcakes | \$3.00 dozen |
| | Candy | \$4.00 lb |
| | Jams & jellies | \$.20 oz. |
| | Meals serves to patients at VFW Days | \$3.50 person |
| 4. | SPECIAL GIFTS TO PATIENTS, WARDS OR HOSPITALS | |
| | Appliances, equipment, etc. | Purchase price |
| 5. | MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES | |
| | Playing cards (new) | purchase price |
| | Playing cards (used) | \$.50 deck |
| | Flowers (purchased) | purchase price |
| | Flowers (home grown) | \$2.00 bouquet |
| 6. | PRIZES OR OTHER GIFTS FOR PARTIES | purchase price |
| 7. | REFRESHMENTS FOR PARTIES | purchase price |
| 8. | ENTERTAINERS | |
| | Amateur | prevailing rate |
| | Professional | prevailing rate |
| 9. | MILEAGE TO AND FROM HOSPITAL | |
| | Mileage per person, regardless of number in car | \$.14 mile |
| 10. | DONATIONS | |
| | Blood donations to blood banks or direct to veterans of VFW sponsored donors | \$150.00 pint |
| | To Department or District | Actual cash given |
| | To VFW Hospital Day | Actual cash given |

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 11. | VISITS AND PARTIES - SPECIAL PROJECTS | \$36.14 hour |
| 12. | SEWING PROJECTS
Bed soakers, jackets, pajamas, bathrobes, scuffies, lap robes, stump socks, crutch pads, chest binders, utility bed bags, commode cover, pan covers, laundry bags, wheelchair cushions, neck pillows, etc. (price of material only - no labor charged) | |
| 13. | CLOTHES FOR REHAB WORK | |
| | Suit of clothes | \$25.00 |
| | Sport coat | \$15.00 |
| | Sport slacks | \$15.00 |
| | Shirts | \$ 2.00 |
| | Ties (new) | purchase price |
| | Ties (used) | \$.50 |
| | Socks (new) | purchase price |
| | Socks (used) | \$.25 |
| 14. | HOBBY SHOP | |
| | Discarded clean nylon hose | \$.75 lb |
| | Discarded clean cotton dresses | \$.50 lb |
| 15. | HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT | |
| | Hospital beds | \$80.00 |
| | Lift Chairs | \$80.00 |
| | Electric Carts | \$75.00 |
| | Wheelchairs | \$45.00 |
| | Commodes or Tables | \$25.00 |
| | Crutches or Walkers | \$20.00 |
| | Bed pan | \$15.00 |
| | Crowfoot Canes | \$15.00 |
| | Blood pressure Cuffs | \$ 5.00 |

NOTE: Check with local hospital equipment rental agency to obtain the dollar value rates if so desired.

TEACHER AWARD 2026-2027

GENERAL: Each year an exceptional teacher is recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and Patriotism to their students. The VFW annually recognizes the nation's top classroom Teacher (grades **K-12**) who teach citizenship education topics and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively. The VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award has never been more important than it is now. Good teachers, versed in Americanism and Patriotism, deserve our support and recognition. Please consider submitting one (1) nomination of an outstanding teacher from each Post in the Department of Kansas and **may enter one in each category**.

AWARDS: The Veterans of Foreign Wars initiated the National Citizenship Education Teacher award in 1999 to recognize classroom teachers for promoting citizenship education with their students. State award budget for all 3 categories is \$150.00. Each National Award teacher and his/her school will receive **\$1,000.00 that will be presented to the school**, the Past Commander-in-Chief John Smart Award and a recognition plaque. The program brochure can be ordered from VFW Emblem and Supply.

One Teacher in each category K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 may be nominated. Presentation of the award will be coordinated with the winning teacher's principal. The total Department program budget will be \$150.

DEADLINES: Post: The deadline for teacher nominations to be submitted to the Post Teacher Award Chair is **OCTOBER 31ST**. Posts may select one (1) entry for each category for submission to District. Post judging must be completed by **NOVEMBER 15TH** utilizing the Teacher Award Judges Score Sheet.

District: The deadline for teacher nominations to be submitted to the District Teacher Award Chair is on or before **DECEMBER 2ND**. Each nomination must be submitted with the enclosed Post Teacher Entry Form and VFW Teacher Nomination Form. Districts may select one (1) entry for each category for submission to Department. District judging must be completed by **DECEMBER 15TH** utilizing the Teacher Award Judges Score Sheet.

Department: The deadline for teacher nominations to be submitted to the Department Teacher Award Chair is on or before **DECEMBER 20TH**. Each nomination must be submitted with the Post Teacher Entry Form District section completed. The Department will select one (1) entry for each category for submission to **National**. Department judging must be completed by **JANUARY 10TH** utilizing the Teacher Award Judges Score Sheet.

National: The deadline for teacher nominations to be submitted to the National Headquarters is on or before **FEBRUARY 1ST**. Each nomination will be submitted with the Post Teacher Entry Form Department section completed.

If you need help with your Post Teacher Award Program or Take a Vet to School Day, please contact:

Below is the link for the Teacher entry form/brochure

<https://vfw-org-hqagarhxahbybyd9.z01.azurefd.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/TeacheroftheYearEntryFormandBrochure.pdf?v=1&d=20250501T185715Z&la=en>

Charlie Cravens
State Teacher Chairman
4769 182nd Rd
Winfield, KS 67156
(620) 222-4846
Jurdman64@gmail.com

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAM 2026-2027

The Department of Kansas National Military Services (NMS) program is a vital link in our support of the men and women of the US Military. We support them with our time, money and influence because we've been there, we've endured similar circumstances so who better to understand the daily sacrifices they are making today to defend our country.

NMS promotes positive awareness of the VFW through community involvement, communication tools, and financial support to qualified military service members. With the variety of support offered, three separate programs were developed under the VFW National Military Services department. These programs are the **Operation Uplink**, **Military Assistance Program** and **Unmet Needs**.

OPERATION UPLINK The program is the only one of its kind, providing two designated days each month when deployed service members making phone calls from their Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) center to the U.S., and other home base location land lines, are greeted by a recording which states the call will be **free**, courtesy of **Operation Uplink**. VFW and Auxiliary members, as well as other caring citizens, generously support the program.

Virtual PINS are available for deployed active duty military personnel who are stationed outside of Afghanistan/Kuwait, who do not have access to a SPAWAR cafe, deployed Chaplains for emergencies or for hospitalized veterans (VA or military Hospitals). <http://www.vfw.org/Forms/Request-a-Phone-Card/>

UNMET NEEDS Helps to meet unanticipated financial demands on our service members' families that can't be remedied through existing means and provides our service members with the security of knowing that their families have additional support here at home. Provides grants up to \$2,500

Expenses eligible for assistance:

- Housing expenses – mortgage, rent, repairs, insurance
- Vehicle expenses – payments, insurance, repairs
- Utilities and primary phone
- Food and incidentals
- Children's clothing, diapers, formula, necessary school or childcare expenses
- Medical bills, prescriptions & eyeglasses – the patient's portion for necessary or emergency medical care only

Eligibility criteria is found here: http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY_VFW/unmetneedscriteria%202-23-11.pdf

MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP) The link between the VFW and the local military, offering our support around the world. MAP includes the Adopt-a-Unit program. Through Adopt-a-Unit, VFW and its Auxiliary adopt military units around the world. Adopt-a-Unit's goal is to develop supportive relationships with units before, during and after deployments to help deliver the resources VFW has available for the military.
http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY_VFW/AAUmerged3292010.pdf

WHY should you Adopt-A-Unit?

To support the military families from your local community.

As VFW members, you understand the challenges military families face.

To help deliver the vast network of resources the VFW has available.

Adopt-A-Unit activities are great opportunities for recruiting.

They're FUN!

<http://www.vfw.org/TroopSupport/>

NMS at the national HQ is there to help – Call them Toll Free: 1-866-789-6333 with any questions or assistance. They're great to work with and will support us at the post, district or department level.

We know your support at the Post level goes far beyond what is reported. **Please report your events to your Department NMS Chairman.**

Patrick Briggs
1018 S Grand Ave
Lyons, KS 67554
(620) 474-1896
Pmbriggs_48@hotmail.com

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
2026-2027
CONTEST THEME - “What A Veteran Taught Me About America”**

Voice of Democracy is a script-writing program designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on a patriotic theme, which is chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. All ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students enrolled in Kansas public, private, parochial schools, or home school programs are eligible to participate. Exchange students and past first place department winners are not eligible to participate. **CONTEST RULES:** Students record their original 3 to 5 minute essay on a flash drive/email submission on the above stated theme. They submit their flash drive/email submission, a copy of their written essay and the completed entry form to the local Post/Auxiliary chairman. The flash drive/email submission must be in their own voice without music, special effects or background sounds. Songs and poetry are not acceptable. Students may not identify themselves in anyway. **THE STUDENT DEADLINE TO THE POST IS OCTOBER 31, 2026** The winning Post flash drive/email submission, the written essay, along with the complete entry form, the student biographical questionnaire, recent photograph and parent release form must be in the hands of the **District Chairman** by **November 15, 2026**. Then the District winner needs to be in the hands of the **Department chairman** by **December 10, 2026**. [See link for VOD brochure](#)

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

First Place: \$1,000.00 Second Place: \$500.00 Third Place: \$300.00

[Department first place winner receives an expense paid trip to Valley Forge to compete at the VFW National level and a chance at the \\$35,000.00 first place National Scholarship. Starting in 2017 each Department winner is guaranteed at least a \\$1,000.00 scholarship at National.](#)
[ALL CHAIRMAN, POSTS, DISTRICTS, PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL FORMS ARE COMPLETE WITH A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH](#)

DISTRICT PARTICIPATION REPORTING

District Chairman: Please forward the completed District report form and summary to your Department Chairman no later than December 10, 2026.

POST NO. – List Posts that have declared students winner(s). Please list the participating Posts in numerical order.

AUXILIARY – If Post has an auxiliary, credit their participation by indicating YES or NO.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS – Number of students that actually entered the competition by writing an essay.

NUMBER OF POST WINNERS ADVANCED – Number of Post winners that were advanced up to the second level of competition (i.e. District).

SCHOLARSHIP/BONDS AND AWARDS – Total amount of dollars actually awarded to student participants.

ADDITIONAL MONEY EXPENDED – All additional monies (other than scholarships/bonds and awards) allocated and expended in conducting their program (banquets, gifts, pins, jackets, etc)

FORWARDING DISTRICT WINNER TO DEPARTMENT

District Chairman: The District winner's materials that should be forwarded to the Department Chairman (immediately after the District judging is complete) are:

- 1) District winner's completed official entry form
- 2) District winner's recording (flash drive email submission) (VOD only)
- 3) District winner's typed essay
- 4) District winner's photograph (close-up of head & shoulders)
- 5) District Summary Participation Report
- 6) District Voice of Democracy Report Form

BUDGET

AWARDS:

1st place award	\$1000.00
2nd place award	500.00
3rd place award	300.00
(\$300.00 paid by Auxiliary)	

MID-WINTER

2 banquet tickets @ \$40.00 (for 2 State VOD Chairs)	80.00
Plaque for 1 st place winner	40.00
7 VOD medals @ \$8.95	80.55
7 VOD pins @ \$4.50	40.50

TRIPS

Freedom Foundation Trip Expense
PAID BY NATIONAL

	2041.05
(Auxiliary)	-300.00

TOTAL	\$1741.05

James Langley
State VOD Chairman
PO Box 5
Rolla, KS 67954
620-544-1786
jlangley1966@gmail.com

WAYNE E. RICHARDS AWARD 2026-2027

The Wayne E. Richards Award will be presented to an individual Kansas VFW member who has been an active VFW member for several years in the Post, District or Department.

Qualifications and nominating forms will be emailed the latter part of February and completed forms must be received at Department Headquarters no later than the deadline on the form.

The award will be presented at the Department Convention banquet.

The Wayne E. Richards award, this year's winner will be the 63rd, was started by the encouragement of his family to honor past National Commander in Chief Wayne E. Richards, 1953-54, the first Commander-in-Chief from Kansas. There have been three Chiefs from Kansas. They were Wayne E. Richards, John Stang, and Norman Staab. The Wayne E. Richards family wanted an award to go to a Kansas VFW member whom had shown exemplary service over a significant period of time. The first Wayne E. Richards award winner was Louis Rosenberg in 1964. The sixth Wayne E. Richards award winner was Elmer L. Jenkins.

The work for these awards can be done at the Post, District, or Department levels or a combination of two or all three. There have been 12 double winners with Clyde Hatcher being the first and Gerald Marvin being the latest.

For your convenience, a list is provided of previous winners.

Louis Rosenberg	Harley Whisnant	Bernard Holt	Leon Bortz	*Fred Weigel
Gen Joe Nickell	Ewald Behnke	Charles E. Cook	*Lewie Cooper	Phil Irby
Merle Jordan	G. L. Belding	*Darrell Bencken	Robert Petterson	Paul Saliger
Bill Fribley	Francis Harshaw	Denny Lawson	Lester Wenndt	Michael Holland
Marion T Burton	James Chism	John Fridley	Charley Shoemaker	*Gerald Marvin
Elmer Jenkins	Louis Warsinski	Charles Cloud	Leslie Thompson	Lee Hursey
Floyd McGehe	Harry M. Watkins	Jake Long	Gerald Mangold	Clyde Lindsey
Robert Dole	*Jay W. Ritchie	Harry Nelson	Norman Gentry	
Austin Wells	Harold Rhea	*Roger Sellers	*John Berkley	
John W. Bossler	Kenneth Kirby	Robert Sander	Danny Puckett	
George T. Hansen	George Muller	Norman Bottger	J.T. Plummer	
*Clyde H. Hatcher	*Lawrence Tholen	John Shlichting	Jackie Barnes	
Ben Linenberger	*Robert R. Whipple	*Barney Aldridge	*Robin Ray	
Ronald Huebert	Vernon McVey	Orlin Wagner	Bobby Cox	