

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 _____