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June 7, 2026

My Fellow Comrades of the Veterans of Foreign Wars,

First and foremost, my sincere gratitude for your support, mentoring, and comradeship, and for the trust you have placed in me by allowing me to be your State Commander. We, as a team, can and will do great things. It is with great honor that I lead this great organization at the Department level, and the success of our Department, Districts, and Posts will depend on us. I look to you for your guidance and leadership as we work together for a very productive year and make our VFW even better.

I want to acknowledge “All Past” Commanders who have gone before me for their service and leadership to our country, to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and to the comrades at all levels who are the “boots on the ground,” doing the inner workings of what we do—from community service to advocacy on all the battlefronts where “NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.”

This leadership manual has been a continuing work in progress to assist you with the tools to make your Post and District successful, and to serve as a guide to All-State and All-American.

My Mission – The 5 Pillars:

1. Be a voice for our organization; advocate for all veterans and their families, their rights and benefits, and what they have earned. I ask you at all levels to do the same.
2. Motto this year: “NO ONE LEFT BEHIND.” Remember and honor the sacrifices of our comrades and their families who must not be forgotten. Welcome them home and stay ever vigilant, working with the DPAA, and bring all “POW/MIAs” home.
3. Network with our partners to promote patriotism, honor service, and make the VFW and Auxiliary a household name. Take care of veterans and their families.
4. Lifeblood: recruit, retain, and show why being a member is valid and important, and what we do. Comrades, we should strive to bring in new blood to ensure we hear their voices and secure our future existence.
5. Veteran and Family Care: VA—from care to support. VA facilities, national or state, working with our representatives and directors in all areas to provide the quickest and best care for our brothers, sisters, and families who have borne the effects of our service.

Call to Action:

I encourage you to work as a team—network, communicate, and continue to serve your local communities at the Post, District, and State levels—and ensure you report your efforts.

Key Focus Areas for Incoming Commanders and Leadership:

- **Integrity:** Upholding high ethical standards is highlighted as the top priority for leadership.
- **Modernization:** Modernizing messages to better reach new veterans.
- **Membership:** Achieving 101% or more in membership and strengthening local Posts.
- **Collaboration:** Actively working with the VFW Auxiliary and our sponsors to strengthen our entire organization.

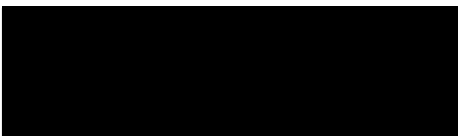
Our challenge does not come from unawareness of the various needs of our fellow veterans and the consequences that affect them in their daily efforts to seek solutions. We must stay vigilant to the task and true to our goals. For every veteran that comes to our doorstep, a solution must be at hand in keeping with the traditions and valor of the VFW. We are veterans helping veterans, and we must be their best source for help, assistance, and leadership.

I now call on all members to make this year—and the years to follow—the best and most progressive of our generation, so we can proudly send it downrange to our future comrades with pride and exemplary VFW traditions.

Please take the time to consider future Post offices and committee nominations that will become available so we can benefit from the diversity of skills within our membership. There can be no better time than now to recommit ourselves to why we are the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where there is **NO ONE LEFT BEHIND**.

In Comradeship,



State Commander
Department of Nebraska
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Department of Nebraska

Rex Gallino
Commander

2431 N. 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 684504



Nebraska VFW Headquarters Directory

Main Number [REDACTED]

Fax Number [REDACTED]

Jeffrey Baker State Adjutant/Quartermaster [REDACTED]

Trudie Hammers Programs/Event Coordinator [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Nebraska VFW Auxiliary State Headquarters

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kim Hild Department Secretary [REDACTED]

Sandee Bellows Department Treasurer [REDACTED]

National VFW Contact Information

Kansas City Office (833) 839-8387

Washington D.C. Office (202) 543-2239

Emblem & Supply Store (833) VFW-VETS

Member Service Center (833) VFW-VETS

Insurance Program (800) 626-0027

Post Insurance (800) 829-8390

VFW Member Services (833) VFW-VETS

NEBRASKA VFW STATE HEADQUARTERS

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

ELECTED STATE LEADERS

Rex Gallino	State Commander		
Tony Anton	State Sr. Vice Commander		
Jim Lutz	State Jr. Vice Commander		
Jeffrey M. Baker	State Quartermaster/Adjutant		
Charles Roberts	State Judge Advocate		
John Baum	State Surgeon		
Jim Otte	State Chaplain		
Ron Sibal	Immediate Past Commander		

APPOINTED STATE POSITIONS

John Liebsack	Veterans Home Board		
Jeffrey M. Baker	Veterans Home Board		
Ken Yount	Chief of Staff		
Jason Burkholder	State Inspector		
Tim Witte	Sergeant at Arms		
Erin Colson	Department Service Officer		

PROGRAMS

Kim Deyo	Community Service Chair		
Ernie Garcia	Employment/Homeless Veterans		
Larry Gerlt	Membership Chairman		
Mary Link	Strategic Outreach Chair		
Patrick Stanosheck	Public Relations/Outreach		
Richard Bock	State Buddy Poppy Chair		
Doug Whitaker	Youth/VOD/PP Chair		

ADMINISTRATIVE

Roger Broeker	Budget and Finance Chair		
John Baum	Hospital Chairman		
Jim Lutz	Legislative Chairman (State)		
Martin Walter	POW/MIA Chairman		
Laurel Mitchell	Scholarship Chairman		
Joshua Lively	Scouts Chairman		
Jared Woody	Sports/NE Riders		
Sarah Lively	Women Veterans		
Megan Macy	Women Veterans		

NEBRASKA VFW DISTRICT COMMANDERS

District 1 Commander	Amy Buckley		
District 3 Commander	Terry James		
District 4 Commander	Rebecca McClain		
District 6 Commander	Scott Bates		
District 7 Commander	Paul Schuler		
District 9 Commander	Michael Kunce		
District 10 Commander	Darrell McMilan		
District 11 Commander	Denise Behrendt		
District 13 Commander	Richard Bock		
District 15 Commander	Michael Benesch		

NEBRASKA VFW DISTRICT QUARTERMASTERS

District 1 Quartermaster	Thomas Arends		
District 3 Quartermaster	Thomas Nelson		
District 4 Quartermaster	Timmy Hudson		
District 6 Quartermaster	Steve Calkin		
District 7 Quartermaster	Justin McClintic		
District 9 Quartermaster	Jim Averill		
District 10 Quartermaster	Lanny Hupka		
District 11 Quartermaster	Kelvin Kreitman		
District 13 Quartermaster	Jason Baker		
District 15 Quartermaster	David Inman		

NDVA State Service Officers

Main Number (402) 420-4021

Fax Number (402) 471-7070

NEBRASKA
Game & Parks

Take advantage of
Veterans and Military Permits
Offered through Nebraska Game & Parks

Hunt/Fish/Fur Permits
\$5 Resident Veteran Permit (64 & Older)
\$5 Resident Deployed Military Permit
FREE Resident Disabled Veteran Permit

State Park Permits
\$6 Annual Active-Duty Military Permit
FREE Resident Disabled Veteran Permit
*Must be 50% service-connected disabled or higher

PLUS
Free Veterans Day Hunt
and Bonus Waterfowl Weekend
for Veterans!

Learn more online at
OutdoorNebraska.gov/VeteransAndMilitaryPermits

QR Code

DATES TO REMEMBER

2026-2027

2026

June 13th:	Officer Training Seminar - VFW Post 759 - Kearney
June 20th:	Officer Training Seminar - VFW Post 2503 - Omaha
June 27th:	Officer Training Seminar - Seward Civic Center - Seward
July 11th:	Officer Training Seminar - NACO West Training Center - Ogallala
July 25th-29th:	National Convention - Reno, NV
Sept 18th-20th:	Nebraska Women Veterans Symposium - Kearney
Sept. 29th:	VFW Birthday
Oct. 10th:	State Commander's Homecoming - Valentine, NE
Oct. 11th:	Fall Council of Administration Meeting - Valentine, NE
Oct. 15th-18th:	Big 10 Conference - Kalamazoo, MI
Oct. 31st:	Post Inspection Reports due to Department
Nov. 11th:	Veterans Day

2027

Feb 4th:	VFW CVSO Symposium - Lincoln, NE
Feb 5th-6th:	Mid-Winter Conference - Lincoln, NE
Feb 27-Mar 4th:	Legislative Conference - Washington, DC
May 24th:	Nebraska VFW Birthday
June 4th-6th:	State Convention - Norfolk, NE
July 31st - Aug 4th:	National Convention - Milwaukee, WI

2026-2027 Deadline Dates

Date

July

31 Deadline (T-1) Trustee Quarterly report to **Department** (April 1-June 30)

September

30 Bonds due to **Department**

30 Delegate Registration due to **Department**

30 IRS 990 Form due to **Department**

30 Quarterly Community Service Report (Q-1) due to **Department**

October

31 Deadline (T-2) Trustee Quarterly report to **Department** (July 1 - Sept 30)

31 Patriot's Pen, VOD and Teacher to **POST** level

31 Inspections - 100% District

November

15 Patriot's Pen, VOD and Teacher to **DISTRICT** level

December

15 Patriot's Pen, VOD and Teacher to **DEPARTMENT** level

31 21 Questions to **Department**

31 Quarterly Community Service Report (Q-2) due to **Department**

January

1 **Cut off Date - Battle of Midway Award (Post/District)**

1 Public Servant Award (EMT/Fire/Law) to **Department**

8 Calendar Raffle drawing

15 Patriot's Pen, VOD and Teacher summaries to **Department**

31 Deadline (T-3) Trustee Quarterly report to **Department** (Oct. 1 - Dec. 31)

March

1 Scout of the Year Entry to **Post**

31 Scholarship Student Applications due to **Department**

31 Quarterly Community Service Report (Q-3) due to **Department**

April

1 Scout of the Year Entry to **Department**

30 Deadline (T-4) Trustee Quarterly report to **Department** (Jan 1 - March 31)

30 District VOD/Patriots Pen Contributions due to **Department**

31 Post/Auxiliary Strategic Review Deadline

May

1 **Cut off Date - Post All-State Commander & Quartermaster Competition**

1 **Cut off Date - Cliff Polk Membership Memorial Award**

1 Deadline for **Post/District** Election Reports

1 Chaplain Memorial Record to Department Chaplain

1 Community Service Record Book to Department

1 Post Color Guard Report to Department

June

30 12 month Program Reporting due to **Department**

30 **Cut off Date - All-State District Commander Competition**

30 **Cut off Date - John R. Liebsack Life Membership Award**

30 **Cut off Date - "Black Jack" Pershing Membership Distinction Award**

30 Quarterly Community Service Report (Q-4) due to **Department**

POST MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

As required by Department or National Bylaws:

2026-2027

- ☐ **AUDITS:** All four (4) Trustees' Reports of Audit must have been received at Department. Each audit must be received within 30 days following the end of the observed quarter and must be completed in full and signed by all three Trustees and Commander. *A grace period of up to fifteen (15) days will be extended to allow for Posts that meet later in the month.*
- ☐ **QUARTERMASTER BONDING:** Post Quartermaster must be bonded through Department or provide proof of local bonding which must be submitted to Department by September 30th, 2026.
- ☐ **IRS 990 FORM:** Must submit copy of **2025** IRS Form 990 to Department Headquarters no later than September 30th, 2026.
- ☐ **INSURANCE: For Posts owning property.** A Post must submit a copy of their current Certificate of General Liability Insurance and Liquor Liability Insurance Policy if the Post has a Canteen Policy showing Department and National VFW as additional insured to Department Headquarters by September 30th, 2026.
- ☐ **POST ELECTION REPORT:** Submit Post Report of Election of Post Officers for 2027-2028 by May 1st, 2027.
- ☐ **DISTRICT MEETING PARTICIPATION:** Post Commander or designee must attend and represent the Post at all properly called District meetings, training sessions and conventions.
- ☐ **STATE DELEGATE CREDENTIALS PAYMENT:** All State Delegate Credentials and new member admission fees must be paid to cast Post delegate votes in ballots at the Annual State Convention. Delegate Dues are to be paid at the time of the Post Inspection based on the June 30th, 2026 membership total.

District Commanders have been directed to complete all Post Inspections for VFW Posts by October 31st, 2026

DEPARTMENT PROGRAM AWARDS

Certificates of Recognition and other prizes will be awarded at State Convention, unless otherwise specified

2026-2027

- ☐ **COMMUNITY SERVICE SCRAPBOOK:** Department will recognize and award \$200.00 to the Post that places first in the Community Service Scrapbook competition. Posts who submit a scrapbook will be judged for their community service, volunteerism, and overall community impact of their unique service projects.
- ☐ **SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT (VIRTUAL SCRAPBOOK):** Department will recognize and award \$200.00 to the Post that places first in the Social Media Account competition. Posts who maintain an active social media account will be judged for their community service, volunteerism, and overall community impact of their unique service projects. In addition, accounts will be reviewed for relevant posting of local, state and national events and programs.
- ☐ **NEBRASKA SCOUT OF THE YEAR:** Department will recognize it's first place winner and award \$500.00 to the Scout whose nomination packet is chosen and forwarded on to National VFW for the National Scout of the Year award.
- ☐ **NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR:** Department will recognize it's first place winners in National's predesignated categories and award \$200.00 to the Teacher whose nomination packet is chosen and forwarded on to National VFW for the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.
- ☐ **COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:** Department will annually recognize the outstanding work of one Nebraska County Veteran Service Officer who goes above and beyond to assist veterans at the local, state and national levels. Award will be presented in conjunction with the CVSOAN Spring Meeting.
- ☐ **PUBLIC SERVANTS AWARD (EMT/FIRE/LAW):** Department will recognize outstanding public servants who demonstrate leadership and selfless service to their community and it's citizens.
- ☐ **POST COLOR GUARD:** Department will recognize Post Color Guards who report activities with a Certificate of Recognition and additional monetary awards of \$100.00 and \$75.00 for those Posts who best demonstrate outstanding community activities and other color guard involvement.
- ☐ **RICHARD "DICK" MORRISON AWARD FOR LEGISLATIVE DISTINCTION:** Department will recognize an outstanding individual who distinguishes themselves through their advocacy and commitment to Nebraska's veterans, through their government service at the local, state or national level. Award to be presented at Mid-Winter Conference.

2026-2027 BUDDY POPPY PROGRAM

As we enter the **104th** year of the Buddy Poppy Program, we reflect on how it benefits the disabled and needy veterans, also the widows and orphans of deceased veterans. Since 1922 the Buddy Poppy is the VFW's official memorial flower representing blood shed by American service members. It reiterates that the VFW will not forget their sacrifices.

Poppy assembly is great therapy and provides extra money paid to the patients in Veterans Hospitals and homes that assemble these VFW Buddy Poppies. It helps in counseling service for disabled veterans, entertainment of hospital patients, and assistance to servicemen.

The proceeds from the Buddy Poppy donations go into your Post Relief Fund (National By-Laws Section 219 and Manual of Procedure Section 704 and 711). From the relief fund you can help the needy veterans and their families in your local community. Buddy Poppy funds can be expended to purchase educational materials (examples: VOD, Patriot Pen, Citizen Education and Community Service): Note Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure.

I urge all Posts in the Department of Nebraska to participate in this program. Order your poppies and supplies early. The Poppy year runs July 1, 2026 to June 30th, 2027. Good distribution dates are Memorial Day in May and Veterans Day in November. Volunteer your time to distribute poppies. The minimum order is **500** poppies and thereafter in multiples of 500 poppies.

Distribution of Buddy Poppies should be included in every Post, District or Department activity or anything in *which* you participate, membership drives, Patriotic events, even Bingo should include distribution of our favorite flower.

Ideas for poppies: Sell coat hanger wreaths made from poppies; A wall of Remembrance using poppy cards filled with poppies; Poppy center pieces; Speak on poppies at civic organizations and take poppies to collect donations. Take poppies to school and talk about what they mean.

All participants will receive a certificate and the following cash awards in membership division for the greatest numerical increase over a 3-year average:

Division I: Post Membership 1 - 100	Prize: 1st Place - \$75
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DIVISION II: Post Membership 101 - 300	Prize: 1st Place - \$75
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DIVISION III: Post Membership 301 and Over	Prize: 1st Place - \$75
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Entries for the Buddy Poppy Display Contest will be judged at State Convention and the program is detailed on following page.

If I can be of any assistance throughout the 2026-2027 program year, please contact me.

Honor the dead by helping the living.

Richard Bock



The Buddy Poppy Display Contest

The 2026-2027 Buddy Poppy Program has the following display contests which each Post and Auxiliary can enter for cash prizes.

Buddy Poppy Display Contest: Rules and Judging in conformance with the National Contest;
(*Judging is to be at Department Convention*)

Category 1: Public Promotion of Buddy 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)** Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color with label attached.

Prizes: 1st Place - \$75 2nd Place - \$50

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Display (Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes).

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.

- a.) At least one **(1)** Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

Prizes: 1st Place - \$75 2nd Place - \$50

Category 3: Artistic or Decorative Use of the Buddy Poppy (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)

Any display not meeting the qualifications of Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.

At least one **(1)** Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

Prizes: 1st Place - \$75 2nd Place - \$50

Poppy Display JUDGING

Judging of displays will be on the basis of 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) are entered, full credit shall be given for the total number of poppies used.

DISPLAYS may be entered and set up at any time after 3:00 pm on Friday and no later than 3pm on Saturday, judging to begin by 4:00pm on Saturday. Displays shall be set up in the space provided by the Convention location.

The individual responsible for the display must complete an entry form which will show the category, number of poppies used, the purpose of the display, the Post and or Ladies Auxiliary number and location and the name of the person who will remove the display at close of convention. Entry should be placed in an envelope on the underside of the display, with the envelope **CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE CATEGORY NUMBER and NUMBER OF POPPIES USED on the outside of the envelope.**

A POST OR AUXILIARY NUMBER OR NAME SHOWING WILL DISQUALIFY THE ENTRY.

DISPLAYS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A WHITE CARD, NOT TO EXCEED 6" X 12" IN SIZE, ON WHICH IS LETTERED IN BLACK INK, AN EXPLANATION OF THE THEME OF THE DISPLAY OR OTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO THE VIEWER OR THE JUDGES.

ANY DISPLAYS USED IN PREVIOUS YEARS WILL *BE* DISQUALIFIED.

The Department Buddy Poppy Committee shall have no responsibility in setting up, taking down or returning displays. (Note: This rule applies at the National Convention.)

Posts that will represent the Department at National Convention in each category must notify the Department Adjutant by **June 15, 2027**. National contest rules must be followed.

DATE _____	CONTACT PHONE # _____
POST/AUXILIARY NO. _____	THEME DISCRIPTION ATTACHED? _____
DO YOU HAVE A DISPLAY FOR: Category I _____ Category II _____ Category III _____	
NUMBER OF POPPIES ORDERED IN 2024-2025 _____ 2025-2026 _____	
NUMBER OF POPPIES ORDERED IN CURRENT YEAR BY MAY 31st, 2027 _____	
POST COMMANDER _____	
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT _____	
PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR DISPLAY PICK UP _____	

Post Forms



DETAIL OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

POST NO. 14001

For Period of April 1 to April 30 20 XX Meeting of May 2, 20 XX

RECEIPT NO.	RECEIPTS (DETAIL EACH)		VOUCHER NO.	DISBURSEMENTS (DETAIL EACH)	
R 221	Adam Furst - Cont. Member	43 00	63	City Power & Light	94 53
R 222	R.J. Thomas - Cont. Member	43 00	64	First National Bank - Mort.	200 00
R 223	Ben Kames - New Member	43 00	65	National Headquarters	265 00
R 224	Jack C. Burton - Cont. Transfer	43 00	66	National Headquarters	93 00
R 225	Edward B. Hurn - Reinstate	43 00	67	Water Company	63 75
R 226	Kenneth Price - Life Member	265 00	68	National Headquarters	155 00
R 227	Curtis Hoyle - New Member	43 00			
R 228	Receipts from dinner	215 50			
R 229	Donation from Auxiliary	50 00			
R 230	Chris Smith - New Member	43 00			
R 231	John Boyd - Reinstate	43 00			
				TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	871 28

**This is to certify
that this report
has been audited
and found
correct.**

Trustees

	TOTAL RECEIPTS		874	50								
STATEMENT OF FUNDS DISTRIBUTION OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS & CASH BALANCES					CASH BALANCE LAST REPORT		RECEIPTS FOR THE PERIOD		DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD		CASH BALANCE THIS PERIOD	
National and Department Dues					-----	---	248	00	248	00	-----	-----
Admission Fees					-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	-----
Post General Fund					1,341	32	313	50	358	28	1,296	54
Post Relief Fund (See Sec. 219, Manual of Procedure)					134	89	-----	---	43	00	134	89
Post Home or Building Fund (Including Savings)					710	00	-----	---	-----	---	710	00
Post Canteen or Club Fund					-----	---	265	00	265	00	-----	-----
Life Membership Fund												
Other												
TOTALS					2,186	21	826	50	871	28	2,141	43

The above Statement of Funds must be completed by the Quartermaster and read at each meeting.

NO. 4208

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON
REVERSE SIDE OF ADJUTANT'S COPY



TRUSTEES' REPORT OF AUDIT of

The Books and Records of the Quartermaster and Adjutant of 14001
(District/County Council/Post No.)
Department of XX for the Fiscal Quarter ending June 30, 20 XX

FISCAL QUARTERS: Jan 1 to March 31 April 1 to June 30 July 1 to Sept. 30 Oct. 1 to Dec. 31

FUNDS:	Net Cash Balances at Beginning of 9. Quarter		Receipts During Quarter 10.		Expenditures During Quarter 11.		Net Cash Balances at End of Quarter 12.	
1. National and Department Dues (Per Capita Tax)	\$	00	\$	558 00	\$	558 00	\$	00
2. Admission or Application Fees (Department)		00		00		00		00
3. Post General Fund		1341 32		3828 16		2416 42		2753 06
4. Post Relief Fund (Poppy Profits, Donations, etc.)		134 89		2424 54		546 00		2013 43
5. Post Home or Building Fund (Including Savings but Not Real Estate)		710 00		555 00		125 46		1139 54
6. Post Canteen or Club Fund		4900 00		2863 41		1314 89		6448 52
7. Other								
Life Membership		00		265 00		265 00		00
8. Bonds and Investments Not Credited to Funds		20000 00		16 88		00		20016 88
13. TOTALS:	\$	27086 21	\$	10510 99	\$	5225 77	14. \$	32371 43

15. OPERATIONS	
Have required payroll deductions been made?	Yes
Have payments been made to the proper State and Federal agencies this quarter?	Yes
Have sales taxes been collected and paid?	Yes
Are club employees bonded?	Yes
Amount of outstanding bills	\$ 0
Value of Real Estate	\$ 250,000
Amount of liability insurance	\$ 1,000,000
Owed on Mortgages and Loans	\$ 0
Value of Personal Property	\$ 50,000
Amount of Property Insurance	\$ 300,000

16. RECONCILIATION OF CASH & INVESTMENTS	
General Fund Checking Account	
Ending Balance Per Bank Statement	\$ 12782.21
Less: Outstanding Checks	427.66
Plus: Deposits in Transit	0
Account Balance	12354.55
Other Checking Accounts (if applicable)	
Ending Balance Per Bank Statement	\$ 0
Less: Outstanding Checks	0
Plus: Deposits in Transit	0
Account Balance	0
Savings Account Balance	0
Cash on Hand	0
Total Cash	0
Bonds and Other Investments	20,016.88
Total Cash and Investments	\$ 32371.43

17. TRUSTEES' AND COMMANDER'S CERTIFICATE OF AUDIT

Date July 15, 20 XX

This is to certify that we (or qualified accountants) have audited the books and records of the Adjutant and Quartermaster of 14001
(District/County Council/Post No.)
for the Fiscal Quarter ending June 30 in accordance of the National Bylaws and that this Report is a true and correct statement thereof to the best of our knowledge and belief. All Vouchers and Checks have been examined and found to be properly approved and checks properly countersigned:

Post Quartermaster Joe Honest
(Name)

Signed Dottie Best Trustee

Signed Sammy Ducan Trustee

Gordtown, USA
(Address)

Signed Adam Furst Trustee

This is to certify that the Office of the Quartermaster is bonded with ABC BONDING CO. in the amount of \$ 50,000 until September 30, 20 XX, and that this Audit is correctly made out to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed Ken Price Commander

NOTE: Forward Original (Blue) Copy to your Department Quartermaster - See instructions on reverse side of both Yellow and Blue Copies.



TRUSTEES' REPORT OF AUDIT of

The Books and Records of the Quartermaster and Adjutant of _____
(District/County Council/Post No.)

Department of _____ for the Fiscal Quarter ending _____, 20____

FISCAL QUARTERS: Jan 1 to March 31 April 1 to June 30 July 1 to Sept. 30 Oct. 1 to Dec. 31

FUNDS:	Net Cash Balances at Beginning of 10. Quarter	Receipts During Quarter 11.	Expenditures During Quarter 12.	Net Cash Balances at End of Quarter 13.
1. National and Department Dues (Per Capita Tax)	\$	\$	\$	\$
2. Admission or Application Fees (Department)				
3. Post General Fund				
4. Post Relief Fund (Poppy Profits , Donations, etc.)				
5. Post Dues Reserve Fund (See Sec. 717, Manual of Procedure)				
6. Post Home or Building Fund (Including Savings but Not Real Estate)				
7. Post Canteen or Club Fund				
8. Other				
9. Bonds and Investments Not Credited to Funds				
14. TOTALS:	\$	\$	\$	15. \$

16. OPERATIONS	
Have required payroll deductions been made?	_____
Have payments been made to the proper State and Federal agencies this quarter?	_____
Have sales taxes been collected and paid?	_____
Are club employees bonded?	_____
Amount of outstanding bills	\$ _____
Value of Real Estate	\$ _____
Amount of liability insurance	\$ _____
Owed on Mortgages and Loans	\$ _____
Value of Personal Property	\$ _____
Amount of Property Insurance	\$ _____

17. RECONCILIATION OF CASH & INVESTMENTS	
General Fund Checking Account	
Ending Balance Per Bank Statement	\$ _____
Less: Outstanding Checks	_____
Plus: Deposits in Transit	_____
Account Balance	_____
Other Checking Accounts (if applicable)	
Ending Balance Per Bank Statement	\$ _____
Less: Outstanding Checks	_____
Plus: Deposits in Transit	_____
Account Balance	_____
Savings Account Balance	_____
Cash on Hand	_____
Total Cash	_____
Bonds and Other Investments	_____
Total Cash and Investments	\$ _____
(This figure must match Box 15)	

18. TRUSTEES' AND COMMANDER'S CERTIFICATE OF AUDIT

Date _____, 20____

This is to certify that we (or qualified accountants) have audited the books and records of the Adjutant and Quartermaster of _____
(District/County Council/Post No.)
for the Fiscal Quarter ending _____ in accordance of the National By-Laws and that this Report is a true and correct statement thereof to the best of our knowledge and belief. All Vouchers and Checks have been examined and found to be properly approved and checks properly countersigned:

Post Quartermaster _____ (Name) _____ Signed _____ Trustee

(Address) _____ Signed _____ Trustee

Signed _____ Trustee

This is to certify that the Office of the Quartermaster is bonded with _____ in
the amount of \$ _____ until _____, 20____, and that this Audit is correctly made out to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed: _____ Commander

NOTE: Forward Original to your Department Quartermaster and copy to the Adjutant for the Post record.

No. 4214



Questionnaire for VFW Accountable Officers Crime Coverage

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA



Dear Comrade Commander:

August 1, 2026

One of the most important communications you will receive during the year concerns appropriate bonding of your Post Positions. Section 703 of the National By-Laws requires that each Accountable Officer shall be bonded with an Indemnity Company as surety. The By-Laws place the responsibility for adequate bonding upon the Commander of the post. Section 218 of the National Manual requires **THE BOOKS AND RECORDS OF THE ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER BE AUDITED AT LEAST QUARTERLY BY THE TRUSTEES.**

The Department Headquarters carries a Crime Policy for the bonding of Department and Post Accountable Officers. Any unit may decide whether it prefers to take out a policy with another surety company or have its funds protected by the Department Headquarters Crime Policy. However, prompt attention is required because if your Accountable Officers had previously been covered through the Department Program, a new premium payment is required by September 1, 2026 or it will be considered delinquent.

COVERAGES OF THE POLICY REQUIRE:

1. You agree to make/or cause to be made, at least annually, an audit of your books and accounts, including complete verification of all securities and bank balances pertaining to each "employee and/ or volunteer".
If the above is not complied with, the Insurance Company may refuse to honor claim of missing funds which cannot be proven by records. Monthly audits and reconciliation of bank statements may avoid this denial of claim.
2. The Insurance Company may not pay for loss resulting from any unauthorized advances made by an "employee" to any member for delinquent dues and assessments.
3. "Employee" means any duly elected position, or any appointed officer as listed in the policy schedule.
4. **IF THE POLICY IS NOT RENEWED, TERMINATED, OR CANCELLED AT EXPIRATION DATE OF 9-1-2026, THE POST HAS ONLY 90 DAYS TO SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FOR PRIOR TERM. AFTER 90 DAYS PRIOR COVERAGE CEASES.**
5. **POST MUST SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FORM WITHIN 120 DAYS FROM THE FIRST DATE OF DISCOVERY OF THE LOSS.**

THIS POLICY IS ONLY FOR THE YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 TO AUGUST 31, 2027

The funds of your Post are protected only for that year. Premium for the following year will be due September 1, 2027

RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE COMPLETED IN FULL WITH YOUR PREMIUM CHECK PAYABLE TO YOUR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

STATE POST#

I hereby apply for A1. Employee/ Volunteer Theft coverage for the year from September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027 in the

COVERAGE AMOUNT of \$ for the POSITION of

Post Annual Income: \$

Has the post had any Crime Coverage losses (theft of money) over the past 3 years by an Accountable Officer? YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please contact your Department for a Loss Questionnaire. No Coverage can be extended until approved by insurance carrier

Number of Persons Bonded: 1

Number of Locations: 1

QM or Commander or Adjutant or Sr Vice Signature

Date

Phone Number

Street Address, City and Zip

NOTE : Questionnaire is not valid unless all questions are answered. Coverage may be postponed if not completed in **FULL**.
Deadline for coverage is September 1, 2026 -
After this date you will be delinquent and not in compliance with the VFW By- Laws.

Form 2 - Revised 2026

Current Rates VFW Quartermaster Bond 2026-2027

\$5.50 per thousand	\$4.50 per thousand	\$4.00 per thousand	\$3.75 per thousand
\$3000.00=\$16.50	\$26000.00=\$117.00	\$251000=\$1004.00	\$501000=\$1875.75
\$4000.00=\$22.00	\$27000.00=\$121.50	\$252000=\$1008.00	\$502000=\$1882.50
\$5000.00=\$27.50	\$28000.00=\$126.00	\$253000=\$1012.00	\$503000=\$1886.25
\$6000.00=\$33.00	\$29000.00=\$130.50	\$254000=\$1016.00	\$504000=\$1890.00
\$7000.00=\$38.50	\$30000.00=\$135.00	\$255000=\$1020.00	\$505000=\$1893.75
\$8000.00=\$44.00	\$35000.00=\$157.50	\$256000=\$1024.00	\$506000=\$1897.50
\$9000.00=\$49.50	\$40000.00=\$180.00	\$257000=\$1028.00	\$507000=\$1901.25
\$10000.00=\$55.00	\$50000.00=\$225.00	\$258000=\$1032.00	\$508000=\$1905.00
\$11000.00=\$60.50	\$60000.00=\$270.00	\$259000=\$1036.00	\$509000=\$1908.75
\$12000.00=\$66.00	\$70000.00=\$315.00	\$260000=\$1040.00	\$510000=\$1912.50
\$13000.00=\$71.50	\$80000.00=\$360.00	\$270000=\$1080.00	\$520000=\$1950.00
\$14000.00=\$77.00	\$90000.00=\$405.00	\$280000=\$1120.00	\$530000=\$1987.50
\$15000.00=\$82.50	\$100000.00=\$450.00	\$290000=\$1160.00	\$540000=\$2025.00
\$16000.00=\$88.00	\$110000.00=\$495.00	\$300000=\$1200.00	\$550000=\$2062.50
\$17000.00=\$93.50	\$120000.00=\$540.00	\$310000=\$1240.00	\$560000=\$2100.00
\$18000.00=\$99.00	\$130000.00=\$585.00	\$320000=\$1280.00	\$570000=\$2137.50
\$19000.00=\$104.50	\$140000.00=\$630.00	\$330000=\$1320.00	\$580000=\$2175.00
\$20000.00=\$110.00	\$150000.00=\$675.00	\$340000=\$1360.00	\$590000=\$2212.50
\$21000.00=\$115.50	\$160000.00=\$720.00	\$350000=\$1400.00	\$600000=\$2250.00
\$22000.00=\$121.00	\$170000.00=\$765.00	\$360000=\$1440.00	
\$23000.00=\$126.50	\$180000.00=\$810.00	\$370000=\$1480.00	(\$501,000 and up
\$24000.00=\$132.00	\$190000.00=\$855.00	\$380000=\$1520.00	is \$3.75 per thousand)
\$25000.00=\$137.50	\$200000.00=\$900.00	\$390000=\$1560.00	
	\$210000.00=\$945.00	\$400000=\$1600.00	
(\$3,000-\$25,000	\$220000.00=\$990.00	\$410000=\$1640.00	
\$5.50 per thousand)	\$230000.00=\$1035.00	\$420000=\$1680.00	
	\$240000.00=\$1080.00	\$430000=\$1720.00	
	\$250000.00=\$1125.00	\$440000=\$1760.00	
Send to: VFW NE		\$450000=\$1800.00	
PO Box 4552	(\$26,000-\$250,000	\$460000=\$1840.00	
Lincoln, NE 68504	\$4.50 per thousand)	\$470000=\$1880.00	
		\$480000=\$1920.00	



Questionnaire for Club Employees & Bingo Persons

A.1 Employee/Volunteer Theft (Crime Coverage)
TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA
Coverage Term: October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027



1. Name of Post

Post #

Post Address

Street

City

State

Zip

2. Name of Person Covered:

3. Position to be Covered:

4. Coverage Amount Requested: \$

5. Post Annual Income: \$

6. Has the post had any crime losses (Theft of Money by Employee/ Volunteer) over the past 3 years? YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please contact your Department for a Loss Questionnaire. No coverage can be extended until approved by insurance carrier.

7. Has the employee/volunteer ever been convicted of a dishonest or fraud employment related act? YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, explain:

8. If this is a replacement for a current

position, please advise who you are replacing :

Number of Persons Covered: 1 Number of Locations: 1

Printed Name of Covered Person

Signature of Covered Person

Date

Contact Phone #

NOTE : Questionnaire is not valid unless all questions are answered. Coverage may be postponed if not completed in **FULL**.
IF COVERAGE IS NOT RENEWED, TERMINATED, OR CANCELLED AT EXPIRATION DATE OF 10-1-2026, THE POST
HAS ONLY 90 DAYS TO SUBMIT A PROOF OF LOSS FOR PRIOR TERM, AFTER 90 DAYS, PRIOR COVERAGE CEASES.
Form 4B - Revised 2026

VFW Canteen Managers and Canteen Employees, Bingo Managers, Gaming Managers and Gaming Workers Rate

\$6.00 PER THOUSAND

\$ 1,000.-----\$ 6.00
\$ 2,000.-----\$ 12.00
\$ 3,000.-----\$ 18.00
\$ 4,000.-----\$ 24.00
\$ 5,000.-----\$ 30.00
\$ 6,000.-----\$ 36.00
\$ 7,000.-----\$ 42.00
\$ 8,000.-----\$ 48.00
\$ 9,000.-----\$ 54.00
\$10,000.-----\$ 60.00
\$11,000.-----\$ 66.00
\$12,000.-----\$ 72.00
\$13,000.-----\$ 78.00
\$14,000.-----\$ 84.00
\$15,000.-----\$ 90.00
\$16,000.-----\$ 96.00
\$17,000.-----\$102.00
\$18,000.-----\$108.00
\$19,000.-----\$114.00
\$20,000.-----\$120.00
\$21,000.-----\$126.00
\$22,000.-----\$132.00
\$23,000.-----\$138.00
\$24,000.-----\$144.00
\$25,000.-----\$150.00

\$4.00 PER THOUSAND

\$26,000.-----\$104.00
\$27,000.-----\$108.00
\$28,000.-----\$112.00
\$29,000.-----\$116.00
\$30,000.-----\$120.00
\$31,000.-----\$124.00
\$32,000.-----\$128.00
\$33,000.-----\$132.00
\$34,000.-----\$136.00
\$35,000.-----\$140.00
\$36,000.-----\$144.00
\$37,000.-----\$148.00
\$38,000.-----\$152.00
\$39,000.-----\$156.00
\$40,000.-----\$160.00
\$41,000.-----\$164.00
\$42,000.-----\$168.00
\$43,000.-----\$172.00
\$44,000.-----\$176.00
\$45,000.-----\$180.00
\$46,000.-----\$184.00
\$47,000.-----\$188.00
\$48,000.-----\$192.00
\$49,000.-----\$196.00
\$50,000.-----\$200.00

\$3.00 PER THOUSAND

\$ 51,000.-----\$153.00
\$ 52,000.-----\$156.00
\$ 53,000.-----\$159.00
\$ 54,000.-----\$162.00
\$ 55,000.-----\$165.00
\$ 56,000.-----\$168.00
\$ 57,000.-----\$171.00
\$ 58,000.-----\$174.00
\$ 59,000.-----\$177.00
\$ 60,000.-----\$180.00
\$ 61,000.-----\$183.00
\$ 62,000.-----\$186.00
\$ 63,000.-----\$189.00
\$ 64,000.-----\$192.00
\$ 65,000.-----\$195.00
\$ 66,000.-----\$198.00
\$ 67,000.-----\$201.00
\$ 68,000.-----\$204.00
\$ 69,000.-----\$207.00
\$ 70,000.-----\$210.00
\$ 71,000.-----\$213.00
\$ 72,000.-----\$216.00
\$ 73,000.-----\$219.00
\$ 74,000.-----\$222.00
\$ 75,000.-----\$225.00
\$ 80,000.-----\$240.00
\$ 85,000.-----\$255.00
\$ 90,000.-----\$270.00
\$ 95,000.-----\$285.00
\$100,000.-----\$300.00

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

BUDDY POPPY ORDER BLANK

POST # _____

DATE OF ORDER _____

DATE OF POPPY DISTRIBUTION _____

Buddy Poppies @ \$300.00 per thousand # ordered _____ at \$ _____

minimum order is 500 for \$150.00

NOTE: Price of poppy includes shipping and handling.

The Poppy Coin Canisters item and other items are available from VFW National catalog.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ORDER \$ _____

Ordered by: _____

QM Member Number: _____

Mail Poppies to: _____

Mail to: Department of Nebraska V.F.W.

PLEASE ALLOW 30 DAYS FOR DELIVERY.

PO Box 4552

Lincoln, NE 68504

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD
EMT/FIRE/LAW ENFORCEMENT
Department of Nebraska - VFW

Emergency Service Award is presented to any individual who actively gives emergency medical treatment, 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.

Firefighters Award is presented to any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

Law Enforcement Award is presented to any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individuals employed by private companies.

Candidate must have demonstrated: 1.) recognition by their colleagues or those they serve. 2.) Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties. 3.) Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skill within their profession.

Entered by: _____ Service: EMT/FIRE/LAW (Circle One)

Name of Nominee: _____

Title of Nominee: _____

Address of Nominee: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Sponsored by VFW Post: _____

(1.) Resume of Nominee's Overall Background: (Attach required documentation)

The resume of these activities should be contained on one page; therefore, it will be necessary to be concise.

(2.) Resume of Nominee's Background in Emergency Services Work:

(Attach required documentation) The resume of these activities should be contained on one page; therefore, it will be necessary to be concise and highlight major events.

(3.) Nominee's Accomplishments in the Emergency Services Field:

(Attach required documentation) The resume of these activities should be contained on two pages; therefore, it will be necessary to be concise.

(4.) Photograph of Nominee: (Attach Required Head and Shoulder Photograph)

Send Completed Form, Resumes and Photograph to:

Department of Nebraska
PO Box 4552
Lincoln, NE 68504

Nebraska VFW State Convention Registration Form

\$4.00 per 30 members as of June 30th, 2026

Round up and send to Department by September 30th, 2026

Delegates attending

Address

E-mail

Member No.

Registering of your delegates ensures that your Post is entitled to vote at the convention.

You must send in registration fees regardless of attendance.

Quartermaster _____ VFW Post _____

Membership total on June 30th, 2026 _____ Total delegates _____

Enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____ Date _____

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Nebraska

Department of Nebraska
By-Laws Article VI-Delegates
Article VI - Section 3:



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Nebraska

Each Post will be required to pay four dollars (\$4.00) for each delegate to which the Post is entitled. Post Delegate dues will be paid at the time of the Post Inspection or no later than September 30th based on the previous end of year membership and final reconciliation will be conducted prior to State Convention to determine that the appropriate delegate dues have been paid. Delegates to the State Convention shall not be recognized unless they personally register their completed delegate card with the State VFW Convention staff. Posts failing to comply with provision shall be considered delinquent and in arrears.

Mail completed form to:

**VFW Nebraska
PO BOX 4552
Lincoln, NE 68504**

21 Questions

Due to Department December 31st, 2026 to receive 10 points towards white hat.

Name: _____ Title: _____ Life: Y or N
Legacy Level? _____

Post #: _____ District #: _____ Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

1. What are the 3 cost levels of Legacy Life membership? _____
2. Does failure to send in the new election report cause a post to go under suspension? Y or N
Month to elect officers: _____ Month to install: _____ Assume office: _____
3. How many hours of college credits must have been completed to apply for a VFW scholarship? _____
4. Can Trustees serve on the house committee? Y or N
5. What is the deadline for White Hat program awards? _____
6. Where will the 2027 State Convention be held? _____
7. In a canteen of a VFW club, who is the treasurer for the house committee? _____
8. How many points does your post get for selling 20 calendars? _____
9. What happens if you sell extra calendars? _____
10. What are the program year for the Buddy Poppy program year and Community Service Reporting Year?

11. What Membership Awards are there this year?

12. When will white hats be awarded this year? _____
13. Can a post be bonded by a company other than the VFW? Y or N
What position is bonded? _____
When are bonds due? _____
14. What is the membership requirements for white hat? What are a few of the new requirements this year?

15. How much does your Post pay for Delegate Registration and when are they due?

16. There are 3 Patriot's Pen District winners invited to Midwinter, how many of the 10 District winners in the V.O.D. competition are invited to Midwinter? _____

17. What is the deadline date to have VOD/Patriot's Pen entries to the DISTRICT?

18. When is the Scout of the Year awarded? _____

19. Name 3 ways in which a Post can spend money raised with Buddy Poppy donations.

20. Reporting community service to the Department allows a post to maintain their non-profit status. How often does a post need to report these activities? _____

21. In lieu of entries for VOD, Patriot's Pen, and/or Teacher, a Post may make a donation to these programs to receive credit towards a white hat. T or F

Does a Post receive full credit? Y or N

Questions or Comments:

Please return completed questionnaire to: VFW Department of NE; PO Box 4552; Lincoln, NE 68504

I have read and understand the VFW Canteen and Club Rules and Regulations.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cap size: _____

Nebraska VFW

990 Report Form Request

Post Name: _____ Post # _____ Aux # _____

Fed I.D.# _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Gross Income: \$ _____ July 1 to June 30

Less than \$50,000 _____ (yes / no)

I request that the Department of Nebraska - Veterans of Foreign Wars E-file our Post / Auxiliary 990 information and do so annually until authorization is revoked by either party.

Signature _____ Print name _____

Title _____ Date _____

COMMUNITY SERVICE GUIDELINES

Constructive community service is a founding VFW tenet with volunteerism benefiting education, the environment, health sciences and civic projects. Projects must be conducted during the current Community Activity year. The year begins July 1st and ends June 30th the following year. ****REPORTS MUST BE SUBMITTED QUARTERLY**** Reports received prior to May 1st will be used for competition and award purposes at State Convention.

Examples

The following are a few examples of program/projects for a Post. This list of suggested activities is by no means a complete list of projects that can be accomplished. Its sole purpose is to stimulate ideas and provide guidelines in your search for projects to perform.

Veteran Service

- A. Veteran Participation Reports
- B. Buddy Poppy program
- C. Homeless veteran program
- D. Military support activities
- E. Burial & Honor Guard Details
- F. VA Hospital activities
- G. Financial/equipment support of veteran programs or entities

Community Service

- A. Sponsorship of:
 - 1. Blood drive
 - 2. Food drive
 - 3. Recycling program
 - 4. Food distribution programs
 - 5. Safety program
- B. Flag details for public events
- C. Get out the Vote program
- D. Financial/equipment support of public programs or entities

Youth Service

- A. Conduct a Voice of Democracy program
- B. Conduct a Patriot's Pen program
- C. Conduct a Patriotic Art program
- D. Sponsor and support of a Scouting or youth unit
- E. Conduct a Scout of the Year program
- F. Sponsorship of a youth sporting team
- G. Sponsor a youth event;
 - 1. Easter egg hunt
 - 2. Bike safety program
 - 3. Halloween party
 - 4. Christmas party
 - 5. Veterans in classroom
 - 6. Flag etiquette instruction
- H. Support of a Jr. ROTC unit

Americanism Guidelines

For credit in Americanism, a project must be of a patriotic nature. We're looking for things like flag presentations, parades, presentation of patriotic literature, patriotic ceremonies in schools or youth groups, and public observances of national holidays. Each project must benefit the greater community not just the Post or Auxiliary. Fundraising projects, even those whose proceeds are earmarked for Americanism programs, are not in themselves creditable Americanism projects. However, the project that receives the funds, when complete and if it meets the Americanism criteria, can qualify for an Americanism credit.

Examples of Disallowed *(things that don't count)*

1. **Any project for yourself**
2. Reciting the Pledge to the Flag at a Post monthly meeting.
3. Sending a "Get Well" card to a member of the VFW or Auxiliary
 - a. Shopping for the "Get Well" card above
 - b. Post office visit to mail the "Get Well" card above
 - c. Providing the car to deliver the "Get Well" card above
4. Any activity that is obviously within the scope of another previously reported project (example, see 3a, 3b, 3c above).
5. A flag raising ceremony at the Post, unless attended by persons outside the VFW or Auxiliary
6. Purchasing a replacement flag for the Post.
7. Running an errand for or giving a ride to a VFW or Auxiliary
8. Honor Guard posting colors at a VFW or Auxiliary meeting or ceremony.
9. Giving a certificate to a VFW or Auxiliary or member.
10. Donation to a VFW or Auxiliary member.
11. Fundraising projects, even those whose proceeds are earmarked for community service projects.

KEEP IN MIND THAT your project should be reported only once a month. If the project is allowing the Boy Scouts to use the hall for their weekly meeting, then report it as one project for the month with the total hours and monies donated for the month. If a member volunteers at the V.A. hospital four times a week, then report it as one project for the month with the total hours and monies donated for the month.

Important Note: Each Post can have their non-profit status revoked by the IRS if they "Fail to maintain adequate records to accurately report your exempt purpose and activities that supports your exemption under code section 501 (c) (19)." The first item the IRS will ask for during an audit is evidence of community service. All community service items should be recorded in the Post meeting minutes, which is the second item the IRS will ask for. Those Posts that have maintained a properly organized and complete Community Service Record Book and produced it for the IRS during an audit have never had an issue in verification of fulfilling the objectives of their charter from the National VFW. Each Post should maintain a Community Service Record Book for the purpose of verification to the IRS that the Post is fulfilling the objectives of its charter. These books can also be used very effectively in recruiting and maintaining a history of Post activities year after year as a historical record.

Community Service Activity Report Form

INSTRUCTION SHEET

The Department of Nebraska Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliaries will use the attached Activity Report Form to report all activities carried on in Nebraska. Many National and Department VFW requirements, including Internal Revenue Service (IRS) policies, rely upon the accurate description and reporting of your Post community service activities.

Please fill out these forms as completely as possible before sending them to Department Headquarters.

REPORTING YEAR: Reports to be credited must have been completed between **July 1 and June 30.**

DISTRICT#: Indicate the District your Post is located in.

POST#: We need your Post # so we can accurately document the activities for your post.

DATE COMPLETED: Indicate the month, day, and year the activity was completed.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION: Please very briefly describe each activity on the lines provided. No attachments.

YOUTH: Place a check mark here if this is considered a youth project.

AMERICANISM: Place a check mark here if this is considered an Americanism project.

HOURS: Please

indicate the total man hours of all volunteers expended on the project. Round up, no minutes.

MONEY: Please indicate the total amount of funds expended by the Post on this project. Round up to whole dollars. Do not calculate hours into a dollar amount, only list money actually spent.

MILEAGE: Please

indicate the total amount of mileage used to complete project. Do not count mileage used to get to or drive home from project.

MEETING RECORD: It is very important that you fill in all spaces at the bottom of the form. These numbers are kept at Department Headquarters and will be reported to National once a year as required by the National organization. The IRS will use your meeting minutes to verify you meet the standards of community service for non-profit organizations. To remain within the spirit and intent of the VFW Charter a Post is granted through the VFW **51% of monetary donations should be to VFW programs.** Important Note: Each Post can have their non-profit status revoked by the NDRS if they "**Fail to maintain Adequate records to accurately report your exempt purpose and activities that supports your exemption under code section 501 (c) (19).**" The first item the IRS will ask for during an audit is evidence of community service. All community service items should be recorded in the Post meeting minutes, which is the second item the IRS will ask for. Those Posts that have maintained a properly organized and complete Community Service Record Book and produced it for the IRS during an audit have never had an issue in verification of fulfilling the objectives of their charter from the National VFW. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that each Post maintain a Community Service Record Book for the purpose of verification for the IRS that the Post is fulfilling the objectives of its charter. These books can also be used very effectively in recruiting and maintaining a history of Post activities year after year as a historical record. The District Commander, or his designee, during his annual inspection of the Post will ask to see this book from the previous year.

Submit by ONLY ONE of the two following methods - please do not duplicate reports and jeopardize your IRS Non-Profit Tax Status.

Community Service Reports should be sent by Post Leadership only.

Mail to: Department of Nebraska - VFW
P.O. Box 4552
Lincoln, NE 68504

Community Service Activity Report Form

Reporting Periods: July 1st to June 30th

Online Reporting of Community Service

Community Service Reports MUST be submitted quarterly to qualify for BOTH All-State and All-American Awards

**Please note that you must be using at least
Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Apple Safari
browsers for the form to properly function.**

In accordance with I.R.S. guidelines the community service reported by me was conducted by VFW and Auxiliary members for the benefit of non-members and the community-at-large for which no reimbursement or payment of any kind was received and has been documented in the Meeting Minutes at the monthly post meeting.

Community Service Questions? Email Trudie at staff@vfwne.org We are receiving all of your reports even if you do not receive an automatic reply. No need to resubmit over and over. If you are concerned about your report please email staff@vfwne.org and ask for confirmation.

Programs Reporting Form

Reporting Period: July 1 to Sept 30 • Oct 1 to Dec 31 • Jan 1 to March 31 • April 1 to June 30 (Circle One)

Post # _____ Aux. # _____ District _____

Person completing this report: _____ Title: _____

Phone #: _____ Email address: _____

Programs:	Hours	Miles	Members	\$ Spent
Youth Activities:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Volunteer Vets:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Americanism:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Community Service:	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please consider utilizing the Online Reporting Tool at
www.vfwne.com

Department Color Guard Award Reporting Form

Reporting Period: July 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027

Post Information

Item	Information
Post Number	_____
Total Post Membership	_____
	☐ I (1-250) ☐ II (251+)
Division	☐ III (National/State Cemetery*)
	<i>*Posts that conduct over 60% at a State/Federal Cemetery.</i>

Activity Reporting

Category	Total	Category	Total
Military Funeral Honors Performed	_____	Parade Participation	_____
Memorial Day Events/Ceremonies	_____	Total Color Guard Volunteer Hours	_____
		Active Color Guard Members	_____

Optional Narrative

Certification

We certify that the information submitted on this report is accurate and reflects the activities of this Post/Unit during the reporting period.

Signature	Date
_____	_____

Category Awards Presented at State Convention:

1st Place – Certificate & \$100.00
2nd Place – Certificate & \$75.00



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

Nebraska

DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

MANAGED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The Nebraska Veterans of Foreign Wars is proud to invest in the future of our communities through the Nebraska VFW Managed Scholarship Program. Built on our mission of service, this program supports students who demonstrate leadership, character, academic commitment, and a dedication to community and country.



Through a single application, students are considered for multiple scholarships administered by the Nebraska VFW, its Posts, Auxiliaries, and donors across the state.



Applicants are evaluated based on financial need, academic achievement, leadership, and community involvement—including support for veterans and military families.



One Application. Multiple Opportunities.

By completing one application, students are automatically considered for all scholarships for which they qualify.



This program is more than financial assistance—it is an investment in the next generation of leaders who will carry forward the legacy of service.

APPLY ONLINE

Scan the QR code to access the online application.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.vfwne.com



QUESTIONS?
Email staff@vfwne.com



APPLICATION DEADLINE
Scholarship applications are due by
March 31st, 2027.



Investing in Education. Supporting Our Future.





NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Nebraska

INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS

Each scholarship has specific eligibility requirements based on location, school enrollment, or student status. Please review the details below for each opportunity.



**Department of Nebraska, VFW
State Scholarship:**
In-State School



**Darrell and Marge Thibault
VFW State Memorial Scholarship:**
Allows for in/out of State schools



**VFW Post 3704 Columbus
State Scholarship:**
VFW Post 3704, District 15, State



**Department of Nebraska,
VFW #2 Nuts & Bolts Scholarship:**
VFW Post 8334, District 10, State



**Department of Nebraska
VFW Kenny Bellows Scholarship:**
VFW Post 5289, District 6, State
(Allows for in/out of State schools)



VFW Auxiliary 1504 North Platte:
Auxiliary 1504, District 4, State



Marilyn Haines Music Scholarship:
Music Student



VFW Post 6016 Hildreth Scholarship:
Wilcox/Hildreth area,
VFW Post 6016, District 13, State



Past State Commanders:
Allows for in/out of state schools



Phillips Scholarship:
No restrictions apply



**VFW Post 2704 & Auxiliary –
Irvin Holst Scholarship:**
VFW Post/Auxiliary 2704,
District 10, State



VFW Post 2503 Scholarship:
VFW Post 2503, District 10, State



VFW Post 131 Scholarship:
VFW Post 131, District 9, State



**Connie Liebsack
Memorial Scholarship**
VFW Post 1581, District 10, State



**Bernie and Carol Brosnihan
Scholarship**
VFW Post 10727, District 10, State



Kirkpatrick Scholarship
VFW Post 1581, District 10, State



**Post 7722 Jones & Magee
Scholarship**
VFW Post 7722, District 9, State



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.vfwne.com



QUESTIONS?
Email



APPLICATION DEADLINE
Scholarship applications
are due by
March 31st, 2027.



Investing in Education. Supporting Our Future.



CHAPLAINCY

“To Honor the Dead By Serving the Living”

This is the motto of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Based on the logic that a veteran's organization has the right to existence only if its primary purpose, next to promoting the welfare of the nation, is that of service, or "taking care of its own". Listed below are a few guidelines for Post services to the living, sick and bereaved; and to so honor the blessed memory of deceased comrades.

The Post Commander, with their Chaplain and Service officer, constitutes a knowledgeable committee of leadership in fraternal service. Some guidelines to follow are (A) each Post member is ever on the alert for opportunities for fraternal service and should report these to their Commander or Chaplain; (B) fraternal services are rendered not only to the VFW but also to unaffiliated veterans when in serious need; (C) Commanders and Chaplains should maintain contact with the Auxiliary for purposes of cooperation and coordination.

In case of sickness, the Chaplain should (A) send a get well card in the name of the Commander; (B) call on the family and explore its situation; (C) if need, notify the Service Officer; (D) call on the patient, inquire about their needs; and (E) report his action and findings to the Commander.

Post Chaplains upon notice of a death of one of your members, please send directly to me; Department Chaplain, a Memorial Record Card with all the information necessary about the deceased. Please be sure that the name and address of the next-of-kin are listed correctly. I will send the relative a remembrance card in memory of the deceased comrade, signed by the Department Commander and myself.

All of the Memorial Records are due to the Department Chaplain by May 1st in order to allow time to print the Memorial Booklet.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Memorial Record

PLEASE PRINT _____ Date: _____

Post No. _____ District No. _____

Name: _____ Member No. _____

Last _____ First _____ initial _____

Date & Place of Birth: _____

Date & Place of Death: _____

Name & Address, (Next of Kin) _____



Nebraska

2026-2027 Calendar Program

Credit will be given towards the White Hat Competition for all Posts that sell 20 Department of Nebraska Raffle Calendars.

(5 pts. extra for each set of 20 calendar sold (above initial 20 calendars) - 20 pts max)

Send in this form with your calendar money and tickets to:

Department Headquarters

P.O. Box 4552; Lincoln, NE 68504

Post:

Calendars Sold

The 2027 State Calendar raffle will be held at the Nebraska Department Headquarters on Friday January 8th, 2027 at 10:00 a.m. All 365 prizes will be drawn. After each ticket is drawn it will be returned to the drawing drum. You need not be present to win. Each weeks winners will be awarded and mailed on the Friday of that week.

Unclaimed prizes (unable to locate) will be donated to the Nebraska VFW Auxiliary.

Calendars will be available to pick up at Fall District Meetings, Commanders Homecoming or from your District Commander. If you need some mailed to you, call Department Headquarters.

They will be \$20.00 each.

Raffle rules are in accordance with NE State Gaming Statutes. Nebraska License No. 423483.

Selling points

- It is a raffle.
- You have the opportunity to win up to \$500.00 in a day.
- The raffle pays out \$16000.00
- It pays every day. If you win your name still goes back in the drawing so you can win multiple times.
- There are 2 \$500.00 payouts, 8 \$100.00 payouts and 355 \$40.00 payouts.
- Any amount raised over the raffle payout goes to support veterans in need and their families, the hospitals and homes and to scholarship programs.
- They are all drawn on January 8th, 2027 at Department Headquarters.
- The complete listing of winners will be posted on the VFW website by January 15th, 2027.



Required Documents

- ☐ Post By-Laws,
if applicable
- ☐ Post incorporation
document
- ☐ Current National and
Dept. by-laws
- ☐ Current election report
- ☐ Officers proof of
eligibility
- ☐ QM ledger
- ☐ Last 12 months bank
statements
- ☐ Copy of last trustees
report filed
- ☐ List of all post assets and
their value
- ☐ QM bond
- ☐ Copy of last IRS 990 filed
- ☐ Post EIN
- ☐ Insurance papers,
if applicable
- ☐ Current activity reports



VFW Post/Auxiliary Strategic Review Form

Post #: _____ District #: _____

Date: _____

Nebraska

Please describe what topics were discussed at the Strategic Review Meeting. Who lead the discussion group and what action will be taken for the prosperity and future success of the Post and Auxiliary? Attach supporting document created out of the discussion (if any).

Number of VFW Members present?	
Number of Auxiliary members present?	

Post Commander: _____

(Post Commander Signature)

Summary & Outcome

Due by April 30th, 2027

VFW Department Headquarters • PO Box 4552 • Lincoln • Nebraska • 68504

District Forms



DISTRICT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

As required by Department or National Bylaws:

2026-2027

- ☐ **AUDITS:** Two (2) Trustees' Reports of Audit must have been received at Department. Each audit must be received within 30 days following the regularly scheduled District meeting and must be completed in full and signed by all three Trustees, Quartermaster and Commander.
- ☐ **QUARTERMASTER BONDING:** District Quartermaster must be bonded through Department or provide proof of local bonding which must be submitted to Department **no later than September 30th, 2026.**
- ☐ **IRS 990 FORM:** Must submit copy of **2025** IRS Form 990 to Department Headquarters **no later than September 30th, 2026.**
- ☐ **DISTRICT-WIDE INSPECTIONS:** District Commander or designee must complete Post Inspections **no later than October 31st, 2026.**
- ☐ **DISTRICT ELECTION REPORT:** Submit District Report of Election of Post Officers for 2027-2028 **no later than May 3rd, 2027.**

ADDITIONAL DISTRICT DOCUMENTS

See Page 18 for Trustee's Report of Audit form

See Page 20 for Quartermaster Bonding Information and forms

See Page 32 for information on IRS Form 990

See Page 43 for Calendar Reporting form

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE POST INSPECTION REPORT

Make every effort to answer each question accurately and completely. Some questions require dollar amounts or dates to be inserted.

The purpose of the Inspection Report is to provide the State Commander and the State Inspector with a factual report on the operating condition of the Post. If you don't complete the report carefully and properly, you are denying the State Commander and State Inspector information they need to do their job.

Question Specific Reminders

1. Posts that have adopted additional by-laws need to have a copy on file that indicates the Commander-in-Chief has reviewed for compliance. Verify date of service.
2. Posts that have adopted Articles of Incorporation need to have a copy on file that indicates the Commander-in-Chief has reviewed for compliance. Verify date of review, date filed with appropriate state agency, and the name of the incorporated unit. All Posts should be incorporated under the bylaws of their state to protect members' personal assets from seizure and sale.
3. Verify the following positions are properly filled: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, Surgeon, three (3) Trustees, Adjutant, Officer of the Day, and Service Officer.
4. Verify delegates to the District, County Council (if applicable), Department and National Conventions were elected at the time officers of the Post were elected. This can be done by checking the meeting minutes for the month.
5. Self-explanatory. Any "NO" answer in this section may be a by-law violation. In addition, item 5f, is verifying the information is present for each officer; you are not verifying the officer is eligible however, if it is not readily apparent that the officer is eligible this should be mentioned on the inspection report.
6. Verify, using meeting minutes, that applications for membership are being handled in accordance with Section 103 of the National By-Laws
7. The National By-Laws state every Post must hold at least one regular meeting per month.
8. Verify, using meeting minutes, that all committee reports are read and approved. This item includes any activity, canteen, clubroom, bingo, etc.
9. Activity reports assist the Post when their nonprofit status is being questioned.
10. Verify, using meeting minutes, that the Post made arrangements to properly observe Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day, and Loyalty Day.
11. Section 1101 and 1301 of the National By-Laws discusses the formation and control of Auxiliaries.
12. Distribution of the VFW Buddy Poppy helps raise monies for the Post's relief fund.
13. Self-explanatory.
14. Monthly review of Post receipts and expenditures by the Trustees is required in the National ByLaws.
15. Quarterly audits are required of all accounts. This item includes any canteen, clubroom, bingo, etc. Post Trustees must complete this audit no later than the month following the last day of each quarterly period. Failure to conduct the audits, as required, will invalidate the Post Quartermaster bond.
16. Evidence of checking and savings account balances should be verified from the latest statements, copies of CD's, notes, etc. If the bank balances do not coincide with the books, after adjustments for outstanding checks, etc., this should be reported in detail. Discrepancies should immediately be brought to the attention of the Post Commander and Trustees. The Post Quartermaster must be bonded in a sum equal to the liquid assets for which he is accountable and to which he has access.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE POST INSPECTION REPORT

(continued)

17. Verify bonding company and expiration date by viewing a copy of the certificate.
18. Reference Section 703 of the National By-Laws.
19. Verify all questions in this section by examining quartermaster records, adjutant records and by-laws. Remember, Section 709 of the National By-Laws further require that the Post Quartermaster have custody of all funds of the subordinate unit and subject to the same rules and regulation as Post funds.

The Internal Revenue Service requires all VFW Posts to file annually a Form 990 "Exemption from Corporate Income Tax" form. A Post may also have to file a Form 990T and pay certain taxes if it has non-related business income. Failure to file the forms, when required to do so, can result in severe fines and penalties. Enter the date of the last filing; even if the report for the current year has not yet been completed or is not yet due.

Each Post is mandated, by IRS rules, to have their current 990 filing available for public viewing.

20. Expenditure of funds requires a vote on the Post floor and approval by the Post Commander before a Quartermaster can proceed with the disbursement. In some instances, Post by-laws may allow for certain expenditures to be paid without a vote on the floor as these are usually reoccurring bills. If a Post Commander is not approving expenditures he is violating the trust placed in him and is not approving expenditure of Post monies.
21. Buddy Poppy distribution net receipts are to be credited to the Relief Fund only [Section 218(a)(5)(g) of the National By-Laws] and used only as stated in Section 704 of the Manual of Procedure.
22. The National By-Laws state the Post Quartermaster will disburse funds using acceptable banking practices. The Post Quartermaster may authorize other persons, but they must be bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National by-laws. However, if the Post by-laws require the Commander and Quartermaster signatures on checks, they must adhere to the Post by-laws.
23. Checks shall never be "pre-signed" by any officer.
24. Last appraised value or estimated value shall be entered. Monthly payment and amount owed are necessary; mark "NIA" if the amount is zero. Title holder may be a bank or lender. If the property is totally paid for, enter location and holder of the deed. If the Post does not own real property, please note if they rent.
25. It is desirable that the Post be covered by adequate liability insurance. If someone suffers an injury on Post property or at a Post sponsored activity a subsequent lawsuit may subject all the assets of the Post and its members to a judgment. The Post officers should be reminded of this potential problem. Any Post owning property and or operating any facility must maintain general liability insurance, including, if necessary or appropriate, liquor liability insurance. Such insurance must name, as additional insured's, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Department in which the Post is located. Verify by viewing policies).
26. Each Department will adopt a document retention policy which complies with federal and state law.
27. Every Post is required to have a Federal Employee Identification number.
28. Departments may require additional forms for inspecting licensed operations.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES POST INSPECTION FORM

POST NO.	CHARTERED LOCATION (CITY & STATE)	DISTRICT NO.	DEPARTMENT	INSPECTION DATE
----------	-----------------------------------	--------------	------------	-----------------

1) Has the Post adopted Bylaws in accordance with Section 202 of the National Bylaws?.....	YES NO
a) Date reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief: _____	
2) Is the Post incorporated in accordance with Section 708 of the National Bylaws?.....	YES NO
a) Date reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief: _____	
b) Date filed with appropriate state officials: _____	
c) Name of incorporated unit: _____	
d) Registered Agent of Record: _____ Last updated: _____	
3) Are all officer positions filled as prescribed in Section 216 of the National Bylaws?.....	YES NO
4) Are Post delegates elected in accordance with Section 222 of the National Bylaws?.....	YES NO
5) Does the Post Adjutant... ..	
a) Maintain books and records in a legible and uniform format?.....	YES NO
b) Maintain a file containing a copy of the original application of every member admitted into the Post?.....	YES NO
c) Maintain a file of meeting minutes after correction and approval?.....	YES NO
d) Maintain a file of current orders or circulars issued from higher authority?.....	YES NO
e) Maintain a correspondence file?.....	YES NO
f) Maintain a file containing proof of eligibility submitted by officers?.....	YES NO
g) Maintain a current copy of Post, District (if applicable), Department and National Bylaws?.....	YES NO
6) Are applicants for membership reviewed, read and voted on at a Post meeting for approval?.....	YES NO
7) Does the Post hold at least one meeting per month with a quorum present?.....	YES NO
8) Are all committees reporting to the membership at Post meetings?.....	YES NO
9) Are Community Service/Program (Activity) reports submitted in accordance with Department Bylaws and guidelines?.....	YES NO
a) Date of last submission: _____	
10) Does the Post observe commemorative dates as mandated in Section 223 of the National Bylaws?.....	YES NO
11) Does the Post have an Auxiliary?.....	YES NO
a) Is there proper cooperation between the Post and its Auxiliary unit?.....	YES NO
12) Does the Post distribute Buddy Poppies?.....	YES NO
a) Date of last distribution: _____	
13) Does the Post have a membership committee?.....	YES NO
a) Does the Post have a viable recruiting and retention plan?.....	YES NO
14) Do the elected Trustees review the monthly report of receipts and expenditures?.....	YES NO
15) Do the elected Trustees audit quarterly all books and records of the Post Quartermaster, Post Adjutant and any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of the Post?.....	YES NO
a) Date of last quarterly audit: _____	
16) Post funds:	
a) Balance of all checking accounts \$ _____	
b) Balance of all savings accounts \$ _____	
c) Balance of all CD and bond accounts \$ _____	
d) All other account types \$ _____	
e) Total of all accounts \$ _____	
f) Amount of Quartermaster Bond \$ _____	
g) Do all account ledger balances match the balance of reconciled bank statements?.....	YES NO
h) Is the Quartermaster Bond (f) greater than the total of all accounts (e)?.....	YES NO
17) Name of bonding company: _____ Expiration date of bond: _____	
18) Are additional officers accountable for funds bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National Bylaws?.....	YES NO
19) Does the Post Quartermaster... ..	
a) Maintain books and records in a legible and uniform format?.....	YES NO
b) Receive and properly transmit membership dues as required?.....	YES NO
c) Maintain a relief fund in accordance with Section 219 of the National Bylaws?.....	YES NO
d) Have care and custody of all committee funds?.....	YES NO
e) Report on transactions concerning receipts and expenditures at Post meetings?.....	YES NO
f) File appropriate forms as required by federal, state and local statutes?.....	YES NO
g) Date of last 990 filing: _____ k) Is the 990 filing available for public inspection?.....	YES NO
20) Post Federal Employee Identification Number (EIN): _____	
21) Are all expenditures voted on by the Post membership and approved by the Post Commander?.....	YES NO
22) Are expenditures from the relief fund in accordance with Section 219 of the National Bylaws?.....	YES NO
23) Are signature(s) authorizing the disbursement of funds done in accordance with Post Bylaws?.....	YES NO
24) Are checks pre-signed by any authorized officer?.....	YES NO
25) Does the Post own real property?.....	YES NO
a) Appraised Value: \$ _____ Monthly Payment: \$ _____ Amount Owed: \$ _____	
b) Title Holder: _____	
26) Does the Post carry all proper types of insurance?.....	YES NO
a) Are both the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and Department named as additional insureds?.....	YES NO
27) Does the Post retain documents in accordance with the Department's Document Retention Policy?.....	YES NO
28) Does the Post operate a clubroom/canteen or other state licensed entity?(Department Inspection Form May Be Required).....	YES NO

INSPECTOR COMMENTS: _____

POST COMMANDER: _____

PRINT AND SIGN

INSPECTOR: _____

PRINT AND SIGN

The Inspector shall provide a copy of each inspection to the Post Commander, District Inspector, and Department Inspector and set forth therein any constructive criticism and recommendations.
MAINTAIN IN POST FILE AS A PERMANENT RECORD

COPY 1 - DEPARTMENT

COPY 2 - DISTRICT

COPY 3 - POST

REV.20180408

Patriots Pen

DISTRICT REPORTING GUIDELINES

USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO COMPLETE THE DISTRICT PARTICIPATION SUMMARY REPORT FORM:

The guidelines listed below are intended to help clarify the Patriot's Pen Award reporting process and to ensure that all participation and expenses incurred by Post/Auxiliaries are completely and accurately reported for proper credit.

DISTRICT PARTICIPATION SUMMARY REPORT FORM

POST NUMBER: List each Post by their Post number that participated and submitted a Post winner to District for judging in this box.

POST AUXILIARY: Does the Post have an Auxiliary? Indicate with yes or no in this box.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS: Indicate how many students participated in the Post PP program.

NUMBER OF POST WINNER ADVANCED: There is one winner for every 15 entries. I.e. 7 entries = 1 winner. 16 entries = 2 winners; 147 entries = 10 winners. Divide number of entries by 15 and round up to get this number.

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: List total of scholarships given to Post winners.

ADDITIONAL MONEY SPENT: Total amount spent to promote program and recognize winners.

GRAND TOTALS SECTION

NUMBER OF POSTS & AUXILIARIES: List total number of Posts and Auxiliaries that participated in their respective box.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS: Add up all the entries submitted to all listed Posts.

TOTAL NUMBER OF WINNERS ADVANCED: Add up all the Post winners advanced to District judging from each Post. A Post may submit one winner for every 15 entries.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ADDITIONAL MONEY SPENT: Total dollar values of awards presented to PP award participants at Post level. All additional money spent in conducting their program (banquet, gifts, medals, citations).

MONETARY VALUE OF DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIPS: Amount that the District gave in scholarship to the District winner.

DISTRICT ADDITIONAL EXPENSES: All additional money spent in conducting the program at the District level (banquet, gifts, medals, citations, etc.).

SIGNATURES

SIGNATURES OF THE DISTRICT CHAIR, AUXILIARY PRESIDENT AND DISTRICT COMMANDER ARE
NEEDED TO VERIFY AND CERTIFY REPORT IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE.

District Chairman: The District winner's materials that need to be forwarded to the State Chairmen are:
(Immediately after the district judging is complete)

The completed and signed Post Summary Report Form of every Post in the District that legitimately participated in the PP Program.

District winner's original entry form with all signatures.

District winner's essay.

Good quality head and shoulders 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 color photograph. Emphasis photograph

(Color copies or low grade computer printouts will not be accepted).

The completed and signed District Summary Report Form.

Each District may submit only one winner!

2026-2027 DISTRICT PATRIOT'S PEN PARTICIPATION SUMMARY REPORT

DISTRICT NO.

GRAND TOTALS FOR POST COMPETITION:

# of Posts	# of Auxiliaries	Total # of Students	Total # of Winners	amount of Scholarships	amount of Expense
				\$	\$

MONETARY VALUE OF DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS

District Scholarships	District Additional expense
\$	\$

The VFW Posts and Auxiliaries identified in this report participated in the VFW annual Patriot's Pen Program.

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
District VOD Committee Chair

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
District Auxiliary President

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
District Commander

CHECKLIST

Items to send with this report to Department HQ.

- ☐ Post Summary Report form from every Post listed.
 - ☐ District winner's original entry form with all signatures.
 - ☐ District winner's of essay.
 - ☐ Color photograph 5 x 7 or 8 x 10, No computer printouts
 - ☐ This page completed with all signatures.

All items on this list must be submitted with this report to Department HQ by deadline of **December 15, 2026**. Failure to send all materials will result in disqualification of entry and no credit on Department status sheet for the Post and/or the District.

Send entire package to your Department Headquarters.

Nebraska VFW • PO Box 4552 • Lincoln, NE • 68504

Must be received by deadline of 5:00 PM December 15, 2026.

[illegible]

FRAUD ALERT: Most people are not aware how the accuracy of correct reporting is important for providing official reports to **VFW National Administration, the IRS, and to our donors and supporters.** It is imperative that we maintain accurate and consistent information on the correct report forms. Do not allow Posts to share entries with other Posts that did not work the program as this is a violation of the National By-Laws and IRS regulations

DISTRICT REPORTING GUIDELINES

USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO COMPLETE THE DISTRICT PARTICIPATION SUMMARY REPORT FORM:

The guidelines listed below are intended to help clarify the Voice of Democracy Award reporting process and to ensure that all participation and expenses incurred by Post/Auxiliaries are completely and accurately reported for proper credit.

DISTRICT PARTICIPATION SUMMARY REPORT FORM

POST NUMBER: List each Post by their Post number that participated and submitted a Post winner to District for judging in this box.

POST AUXILIARY: Does the Post have an Auxiliary? Indicate with yes or no in this box.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS: Indicate how many students participated in the Post VOD program.

NUMBER OF POST WINNER ADVANCED: There is one winner for every 15 entries. I.e. 7 entries = 1 winner. 16 entries = 2 winners; 147 entries = 10 winners. Divide number of entries by 15 and round up to get this number.

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: List total of scholarships given to Post winners.

ADDITIONAL MONEY SPENT: Total amount spent to promote program and recognize winners.

GRAND TOTALS SECTION

NUMBER OF POSTS & AUXILIARIES: List total number of Posts and Auxiliaries that participated in their respective box.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS: Add up all the entries submitted to all listed Posts.

TOTAL NUMBER OF WINNERS ADVANCED: Add up all the Post winners advanced to District judging from each Post. A Post may submit one winner for every 15 entries.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ADDITIONAL MONEY SPENT: Total dollar values of awards presented to VOD award participants at Post level. All additional money spent in conducting their program (banquet, gifts, medals, citations).

MONETARY VALUE OF DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIPS: Amount that the District gave in scholarship to the District winner.

DISTRICT ADDITIONAL EXPENSES: All additional money spent in conducting the program at the District level (banquet, gifts, medals, citations, etc.).

SIGNATURES

SIGNATURES OF THE DISTRICT CHAIR, AUXILIARY PRESIDENT AND DISTRICT COMMANDER ARE NEEDED TO VERIFY AND CERTIFY REPORT IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE.

District Chairman: The District winner's materials that need to be forwarded to the State Chairmen are: (Immediately after the district judging is complete)

- The completed and signed Post Summary Report Form of every Post in the District that legitimately participated in the VOD Program.
- District winner's original entry form with all signatures.
- District winner's audio (USB Only) recording of their 3-5 minute essay.
- Good quality head and shoulders 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 color photograph. Emphasis photograph (Color copies or low grade computer printouts will not be accepted).
- The completed and signed District Summary Report Form.
- Additionally – VOD Student Travel Form and Student's Social Security Number will need to be provided to Department Headquarters by January 12, 2027 if your District winner is selected as one of the top ten in state competition. Social Security Number is used as an identifier for scholarship payments.

Each District may submit only one winner!

2026-2027 DISTRICT VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PARTICIPATION SUMMARY REPORT

DISTRICT NO.

GRAND TOTALS FOR POST COMPETITION:					
# of Posts	# of Auxiliaries	Total # of Students	Total # of Winners	amount of Scholarships	amount of Expense
				\$	\$

MONETARY VALUE OF DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS	
District Scholarships	District Additional expense
\$	\$

The VFW Posts and Auxiliaries identified in this report participated in the VFW annual Voice of Democracy Program.

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
District VOD Committee Chair

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
District Auxiliary President

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
District Commander

CHECKLIST

Items to send with this report to Department HQ.

- ☐ _____ Items to send with this report to Department HQ.

☐ _____ Completed and Signed Post Summary Report from all Posts that Participated.

☐ _____ District winner's original entry form with all signatures.

☐ _____ District winner's audio (tape or CD) recording of essay.

☐ _____ Color photograph 5 x 7 or 8 x 10, No computer printouts

☐ _____ This page completed with all signatures.

All items on this list must be submitted with this report to Department HQ by deadline of December 15, 2026. Failure to send all materials will result in disqualification of entry and no credit on Department status sheet for the Post and/or the District.

Send entire package to your Department Headquarters.

Nebraska VFW • PO Box 4552 • Lincoln, NE • 68504

Must be received by deadline of 5:00 PM December 15, 2026

[illegible]

FRAUD ALERT: Most people are not aware how the accuracy of correct reporting is important for providing official reports to VFW National Administration, the IRS, and to our donors and supporters. It is imperative that we maintain accurate and consistent information on the correct report forms. Do not allow Posts to share entries with other Posts that did not work the program as this is a violation of the National By-Laws and IRS regulations

National Programs

Forms



2026-2027 Theme "What A Veteran Taught Me About America"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2026
Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 60,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. Decisions of Judges at all levels are final. Contact the post where you entered to check on your advancement. Decisions of Judges at all levels are final. Contact the post where you entered to check on your advancement.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students are ineligible.)

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.
- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Oct. 31.

- Your local Post will give instructions on how to turn in your entry to them. It may be delivered in person, emailed to the Post (with permission) or submitted through our online platform using Scholars App. **To submit through Scholars App you must first receive a QR code or link from your local post.**

Entries sent to VFW National Headquarters directly will not be considered.

How Am I Judged?

- **Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:**
You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.
- **Theme development is worth 35 points:**
Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.
- **Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:**
Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

What Is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2026-2027 theme is:

"What A Veteran Taught Me About America"

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight Oct. 31.

Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find a VFW Post."

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance.

You can visit vfw.org/contactus to look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

**For assistance contact
the VFW National Headquarters at 816.968.2787
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org**

2026-2027 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

What Are the Rules?

* You must write your own essay.

* All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.

* To ensure fairness and impartiality in judging, essays must be anonymous. Please do not include your name, address, school name, or any other personal identifiers in the body of your essay. Additionally, avoid references to your race, sex, religion, national origin, or other specific personal characteristics that could reveal your identity. General references to nationality or patriotic identity (such as being an American or referencing American values) are permitted if they are relevant to the essay theme. However, personal identifiers tied to your individual background or experience should be avoided.

* Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).

* The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

* At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants

No. of winners

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner ☒ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____



Revised 02/2026



Program Year

100

Theme Knowledge: Shows knowledge of the theme and use of research.

Theme Development: Answers relevant facts - who, what, where, when, and why. Relates to the writer's own experiences.

Clarity of Ideas: Provides a clear explanation of the writer's interpretation of the theme.

[illegible]

Contestant Code Number:

Theme Knowledge (0 to 30 points):

Theme Development (0 to 35 points):

Clarity of Ideas (0 to 35 points):

Total (0 to 100 points):

[illegible]

Contestant Code Number:

Theme Knowledge (0 to 30 points):

Theme Development (0 to 35 points):

Clarity of Ideas (0 to 35 points):

Total (0 to 100 points):

[illegible]

Contestant Code Number:

Theme Knowledge (0 to 30 points):

Theme Development (0 to 35 points):

Clarity of Ideas (0 to 35 points):

Total (0 to 100 points):

Judge's Signature

Date and location of judging

2026-2027 POST PATRIOT'S PEN PARTICIPATION SUMMARY REPORT

CHECKLIST

Items to send with this report to District VOD Committee.

- ☐ Post winner's original entry form with
- ☐ Post winner's typed essay.
- ☐ This page completed with signatures.

All items on this list must be submitted with this report to your District VOD Committee by deadline of November 15, 2026. Failure to send all materials will result in disqualification of try and no credit on Department status sheet for the Post.

Send entire package to your District Patriot's Pen Committee

Must be received by deadline November 15, 2026.

POST NO. _____ DISTRICT NO. _____

DOES POST HAVE AN AUXILIARY?

YES OR NO

(Circle one)

The VFW Post and Auxiliary identified in this report participated in the VFW annual Patriot's Pen Program.

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
Post Patriot's Pen Committee Chair

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
Post Auxiliary President (if none leave blank)

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
Post Commander

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School Name	# of Participating Students	# of Post Winners Advanced	Award Amount	Additional money spent
Johnson High School	12	1	\$100	\$14.95
GRAND TOTALS FOR POST COMPETITION:				
Total Number of Schools	Total # of Students	Total # of Winners	Total amount of Awards	Total amount of Expense
GRAND TOTAL OF POST MONEY			\$	
Total of Post Scholarship and Additional Expense				

2026-2027 Theme "What a Veteran Taught Me About America"

Student Entry Deadline: Oct. 31, 2026
Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 26,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. National winners will be notified of their scholarship & placement. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is,

"What a Veteran Taught Me About America"

The Rules

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions: or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

You must be the sole author of your essay. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. To ensure fairness and impartiality in judging, essays **must be anonymous**. **Please do not include your name, address, school name, or any other personal identifiers in the body of your essay.** Additionally, avoid references to your race, sex, religion, national origin, or other specific personal characteristics that could reveal your identity. General references to nationality or patriotic identity (such as being an American or referencing American values) are permitted if they are relevant to the essay theme. However, personal identifiers tied to your individual background or experience should be avoided.

You may enter only one competition at one Post (if otherwise eligible) per year. At any time during the contest, additional participant personal information could be requested by the VFW, including but not limited to a photograph, SSN, or biographical information.

Advancement

Decisions of Judges at all levels are final. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. Contact the post where you entered at to check on your advancement

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2026. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location - ensuring it is a participating Post.

How do I enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 second max.) audio in MP3 format (no videos) on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, a typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging.

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, Submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to a Post. Your local post will give instructions on how to turn in your entry to them. Audio may be submitted physically on a Flash Drive, emailed to the Post (with permission) or submitted through our online platform using Scholars App. **To submit through Scholars App you must first receive a QR code or link from your local post.** Entries sent to VFW National Headquarters directly will not be considered.

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: Visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.vfw.org/FindaPost) to "Find A VFW Post." If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at [VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org).

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 35 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

Content is worth 30 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

2026-2027 Official Entry Form

Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age

Jacket Size

School Name, City, State

Teacher's Name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian Email

Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Founding Forward Spirit of America Leadership trip to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have not inappropriately used any AI tools or Chat GPT. I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of students participating

No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner ☒ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first place Department winner on

For assistance contact:
816.968.2787
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact:

Phone: Best Time To Call:

Alternate Contact:

Phone: Best Time To Call:



Revised 0/2026



Program Year

1000000

Delivery: Speaking voice is clear and credible.

[illegible]

Total (0 to 100 points):

[illegible]

Total (0 to 100 points):

[illegible]

Total (0 to 100 points):

Date and location of judging

CHECKLIST

☐ Post winner's original entry form with all signatures.

Post winner's typed essay.

This page completed with signatures.

All items on this list must be submitted with this report to your District VOD Committee by deadline of November 15, 2026. Failure to send all materials will result in disqualification of try and no credit on Department status sheet for the Post.

Send entire package to your District Patriot's Pen Committee

Must be received by deadline November 15, 2026.

POST NO. DISTRICT NO.

DISTRICT NO.

DOES POST HAVE AN AUXILIARY?

YES OR NO

(Circle one)

The VFW Post and Auxiliary identified in this report participated in the VFW annual Patriot's Pen Program.

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
Post Patriot's Pen Committee Chair

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
Post Auxiliary President (if none leave blank)

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
Post Commander

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[illegible]

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program



WHAT IS THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM?

Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States awards three individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank. Awards are as follows:

- \$5,000 1st place National scholarship
- \$3,000 2nd place National scholarship
- \$1,000 3rd place National scholarship

AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

- Be the recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.
- Be a registered, active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship at the time the above reward was received.
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting and community.

Prior National Scout of the Year winners are ineligible. There is no minimum age requirement for applicants as long as all other eligibility criteria has been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old. If an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year, they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline. A Scout may enter through only **one** VFW Post. A local Post can be identified by zip code at vfw.org/FindaPost.

WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

- Deadline for entry to VFW Post is **March 1**.
- One candidate with full entry criteria must be submitted by a VFW Post to the next level of judging by **April 1**. The VFW Department Scouting chairman can provide this information.
- The Department winner must be selected and submitted by their Department Scouting chairman to the VFW National Headquarters by **May 1**.

Questions should be directed to 816.756.3390, ext 6155.
during normal business hours Monday through Friday or
emailed to scouting@vfw.org.

Official Entry Form

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

**MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH CONTESTANT
and submitted directly to a VFW post in your community.**

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Home Phone

Email

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Scout Troop Number

SCOUT/VENTURE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing information is accurate and if I am the winner, I will make myself available to receive the award at a presentation ceremony as designated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Scout/Venture Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

UNIT LEADER'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above-named Scout/Venture is an active member of our unit or was when the award was received and the information supplied by the candidate is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Unit Leader's Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

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 winner, I will ensure that he/she is allowed to attend a presentation ceremony as designated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Father, Mother or Guardian Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

PHONE: _____

SPONSORING VFW POST

POST NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE: _____

DISTRICT CERTIFICATION IF APPLICABLE, CHECK WITH THE VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT #: _____

DISTRICT CDR.: _____

DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY DEPARTMENT VFW SCOUTING CHAIRMAN OR DEPT. COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED?

The following documentation should be submitted:

- **Photograph of the Scout** — must be attached to this form. The Scout must appear in correct, complete uniform for their current rank. Recommended size 3" x 5".
- **School Participation Record** — a single page, one-sided resume of the candidate's school activities indicating academic achievements, offices held, honors received and significant participation in other activities.
- **Scouting Record** — maximum of three pages, one side only, listing of all Scouting participation beginning with Cub Scouts or Brownies - years of participation, unit numbers and sponsors. Also include when Eagle, Gold, Summit or Quartermaster Award was received and Palms. Identify leadership positions held at all levels, participation in Scouting activities (jamborees, Order of the Arrow conferences, etc.) and the candidate's Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster Project.
- **Community Service Record** — a single page, one-sided resume listing participation in community and religious service organizations (excluding Scouting and school), noting leadership positions held and any recognition received.
- **Letters of Recommendation** — Submit three letters, no more than two pages in length from:
 - A scout leader.
 - A community member.
 - A teacher/faculty member (if homeschooled, a parent letter is allowed).
 - In addition, you may include one or two additional letters, no more than two pages in length from local community members who have special knowledge of the candidate's abilities/accomplishments.
- **Completed Entry Form** — submitted to a local VFW Post. Local Posts can be identified by zip code at vfw.org/FindaPost.

WHO MAKES UP THE VFW SCOUTING TEAM?

The backbone of Scouting in the VFW is the VFW Scouting Team. These VFW members are deeply involved in Scouting, most with decades of experience.

Appointed by their Department Commander, they are responsible for promoting scouting in their state. They are available to encourage Posts to sponsor units, support units and individual Scout projects. They should be the Department's "expert" on all phases of scouting. Many Departments have multiple members of the VFW Scouting Team, but every Department should have at least one individual to promote the values of scouting to youth and to the VFW itself. For more information on the VFW Scouting Team call 816.756.3390, ext 6155, or email scouting@vfw.org



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

2026-2027 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2026

What is the Teacher Award Program?

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America's youth. VFW and its Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America's educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They're concerned about the perpetuation of America's noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn't you like to see them get the honor they deserve? Now you can.

Why Should I Enter?

VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. The national awards include \$1,000 Smart/Maher award for each of the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses, \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school, commemorative plaques and all-expense-paid trip to the VFW National Convention.

Who is Eligible?

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national VFW winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the official entry form contained on the next page, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed entry form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit vfw.org/FindaPost for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2025. It is the responsibility of the nominator to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Citizenship (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

Innovation (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

Resources (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

Passion (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

*If you have any questions, please call
Mary Spencer, 816.756.3390, ext 6287 or
mspencer@vfw.org*

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: Name, Title

Phone

Best time to call

Alternative Contact: Name, Title

Phone

Best time to call

2026-2027 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2026

2026-2027 Official Entry Form Teacher Award Competition

Please tell us who you are nominating—below in box.

Name: First, M.I., Last	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
() Phone	Email
Grade Level (K-5, 6-8, or 9-12)	
School Name	
School Address	
() School Phone	School Email

Person Nominating Teacher

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this teacher has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Teacher Award Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairperson's Signature _____ Post # _____

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairperson's Signature
(If Applicable) _____

Post Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

VFW Post Email _____

No. of teachers participating _____

No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post /Aux. scholarship awards \$ _____

Amt. of Post /Aux. additional expenses \$ _____
(banquet, pins, etc.)

To Be Completed by the VFW District (If Applicable)

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Teacher Award District Competition and is our entry into the Department judging.

District Chairperson's Signature _____ Dist # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

() _____

Phone _____ Email _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Teacher Award Department Competition, is our entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson's Signature _____

() _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

The winner ☒ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries will begin at the local VFW Post level. Individual nominees may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One Post winner **can be submitted for each level, and to District by Nov. 15. If your Department does not have a District judging, then submit to your Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. Otherwise, one District winner, at each level, may advance to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to find your local VFW Post. Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/ContactUs and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at [VFW National Headquarters at mspencer@vfw.org](mailto:mspencer@vfw.org).**

TEACHER'S AWARD JUDGING SCORE SHEET

TEACHER'S NAME	CITIZENSHIP (1-25 Points)	INNOVATION (1-25 Points)	RESOURCES (1-25 Points)	PASSION (1-25 Points)	TOTAL (Possible 100 Points)
					0
					0
					0
					0
					0
					0
					0

Judging Criteria

Citizenship: (1-25 points) On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

Innovation: (1-25 points) On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

Resources: (1-25 points) On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

Passion: (1-25 points) On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

DATE _____ POST# _____ GRADE LEVEL ☐ K-5 ☐ 6-8 ☐ 9-12

JUDGE'S NAME (Please Print) _____

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE _____

NOTE: Judges should be carefully selected, preferably from individuals who have classroom experience and understand the challenges of teaching. They should never have any affiliation with the nominees or the schools where the nominees teach. While it may be necessary to use VFW and its Auxiliary members, it is preferred that judges come from outside our ranks to avoid the appearance of impropriety. During the judging, the chairperson should facilitate and observe but refrain from offering his or her observations on the candidates. The judges are encouraged to discuss the candidates but must arrive at their own numerical evaluation using the grid above. Make sure all judges are kept aware of the progress of the teachers they have judged and are invited to any awards presentations.



Revised 5/1/2024

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

HELP YOUR KIDS GET A HEAD START ON THEIR FUTURE



An Open Letter to Teachers and Youth Leaders:

Thank you for the time, effort and commitment you invest each year in America's young people. Because of you, our nation continues to produce scholars, dreamers and leaders who benefit the entire world. We, the more than 1.5 million members of the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary share your commitment to America's youth. Each year, we provide millions of dollars worth of awards and college scholarships to students across the U.S. and overseas. The purpose of these awards is to encourage personal growth and foster a greater understanding and appreciation for America, its history and values. This brochure is provided to acquaint you with the VFW's programs that benefit those young lives you touch each day. Again, thank you for all you do. If we can serve you in any way, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Lynn W. Rolf, III
Director, VFW Programs
lrolf@vfw.org



Patriots Pen Essay Contest

Patriot's Pen provides 6th, 7th and 8th grade students the opportunity to express their opinion on a patriotic theme and improve their writing skills while they compete for worthwhile awards and prizes. Awards can be given at the local, district and state levels. The state winners compete for \$55,000 in awards at the national level. The first place national winner receives a \$5,000 award. **The entry deadline is Oct. 31.**

Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) started the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition in 1947. The VFW became a national sponsor in the late 1950s and assumed sole responsibility for the program in 1961. Many notables have participated in Voice of Democracy including journalist Charles Kuralt, Miss America Anita Bryant and U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft. The Voice of Democracy competition provides high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors the opportunity to write and record an essay on a patriotic theme, competing for more than \$2 million in college scholarships and incentives. State winners compete for \$154,000 in scholarships - with the first place national winner receiving a \$30,000 scholarship. **Deadline is Oct. 31.**

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Program

Each year, the VFW presents an elementary, middle and high school teacher with its Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award to recognize them for their outstanding commitment to teach and promote America's history, traditions and citizenship.

VFW Posts nominate their top local candidate in each category to their (state) Department, which then selects a candidate from each category to submit to VFW National Headquarters. The national Department winners in each grade category will receive a VFW National citation for both themselves, and their school.

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. From planning field trips to city hall and organizing community volunteer projects, to inviting veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences and teachers who foster the development of democratic values and beliefs through unique projects, if you know of such a teacher nominate them today.

Nominations must be submitted to a local VFW Post by Oct. 31. For additional information about our program, please visit our website at vfw.org/TeacheroftheYear.

HELP YOUR KIDS GET A HEAD START ON THEIR FUTURE



To encourage as many students as possible to participate, the VFW provides a number of ways to enter.

Submitting Student Entries

Students can enter directly by submitting the required entry form, along with their essay (and in the case of Voice of Democracy, their recording) to a local participating VFW Post.

Your local VFW Post's contact information can be obtained at vfw.org/FindaPost or by calling the VFW National Programs office during normal business hours at 816.756.3390. Entry forms and instructions can be downloaded from the VFW website at vfw.org/YouthScholarships.

PATRIOTIC PROJECTS

Teachers and youth leaders may obtain student entry forms in the manner indicated above. You may then select from the following options:

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8)

Write a 300-400 word essay on the annual theme available online at vfw.org/PatriotsPen or by calling 816.756.3390. Use the competition as a patriotic assignment and encourage the students with the best essays to complete the entry form and forward those, along with the essay, to the local VFW Post competition.

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12)

Write an essay on the annual theme available online at vfw.org/VOD or by calling 816.756.3390. Again, use the competition as an essay contest and encourage the students with the best essays to record their essays, complete the entry form and forward them, with the recording and typed essay, to the local VFW Post competition.



Local VFW Post Information



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

VFW Programs
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
816.756.3390
youthscholarships@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

Revised 8/20

Miscellaneous Documents



**WE DON'T LONG
FOR MISSIONS.**

**WE CREATE
NEW ONES.**

**STILL
SERVING**

StillServing.org

RITUAL FOR CONDUCTING A POST MEETING

The Manual of Procedure contains ritual for every occasion, for example, opening a post meeting, swearing in a new member, presenting a flag, conducting a funeral, etc. Ritual adds both dignity and formality to a meeting. I urge each Post Commander to conduct his meetings in accordance with the ritual contained in the Manual of Procedure. For those Commanders who do not have a Manual available, the following abbreviated guide for conducting a post meeting may be used until such time as your Quartermaster has ordered a Manual from National Headquarters.

A variety of prayers are also in the Manual of Procedure. (Officer & Chairman duties SEC 218)

OPENING CEREMONIES

1. Commander: "The Officers will take their respective stations. All persons not members or authorized guests of the VFW will kindly retire and the guard will close the doors." (Commander ascertains if nonmembers have retired.)

2. Commander: "By the power and authority vested in me, I am about to open
(name)_____ Post No._____ for the transaction of any business that may
lawfully come before it. (*Two gavel raps*). Officer of the Day (O.O.D.), satisfy yourself that all present are
entitled to remain."

(As cards are inspected, members take their seats.)

0.0.D.: Comrade Commander, I find all, except those standing, in possession of
official VFW dues receipts for the current calendar year. (Commander instructs QM to determine
status of members standing. Those who have not paid their current dues will be required to pay said
dues or leave the meeting room. Q.M. will report finding to the Commander.)

Commander: "Officer of the Day, you will prepare the Post room for the salute to the Colors." (*Two gavel raps*.)

0.0.D.: "Salute the colors, one - two-." (to use appropriate commands for the Colors.)

(Chaplain proceeds to the Altar, taking his station between it and Sr. Vice.) Proceeds to face altar and
opens the Bible.

Commander: "Attention, parade rest"
After the prayer is delivered - -

Commander: "Attention, Comrades: You will join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of
America. One (pledge) Two.

Commander: "Officer of the Day" you will place the colors.

Commander: "Comrades, we are assembled again to transact business of mutual benefit.

Do not let petty jealousies or trivial personalities influence our deliberations.

Let us uphold the obligations of unselfish comradeship and loyalty to our organization and the
government of the United States of America.

I now declare (name)_____ Post No._____ duly opened for the transaction
of business.

Commander: Guard, You will admit any in waiting who may be worthy.

Commander: (Leading all members in recitation of Section 230102 of the Congressional Charter.)

"The purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars are fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies."

Order of business (Post)

3. Calling the roll of Officers.
4. Introduction of guests.
5. Reading, referring membership applications.
6. Report of investigating committee.
7. Mustering in of recruits.
8. Adjutant report, reading of the minutes. (Are there any corrections or omissions? If not, they will stand approved as read." If corrected, "They will stand approved as corrected.)
9. Reading of bills.
10. Quartermaster's report: Disbursements.
11. Quartermaster's report: Receipts -- Reading of bills.
12. Is there a comrade or family of a comrade in distress?
13. Report of all committees and reading of related correspondence (Membership, Service officer, House committee, Hospital, Boy Scouts, Relief, Ways and means, Community service, Youth activity, Sports, Employment officer, etc.).
14. Remember our National Home. (As close to 9 p.m. as possible.)
15. Unfinished business. (A list should be ready, prepared by Adjutant.)
16. New business. NOTE: Reading of communications should be read in the order of business it is associated with (Unfinished, New, Good of the Order).
17. Balloting for candidates. (See page of the ritual). Nominations, elections, and installation of officers.
18. Good of the order. (All guests should be invited to speak.)
19. There being no further business, we will have our closing ceremony. (Two raps, all rise.)

CLOSING CEREMONY

Commander: Prepare to retire the colors. (O.O.D. issues the orders) "Comrade Chaplain, you will deliver the closing prayer. Parade rest! Prayer (be sure Chaplain closes Bible).

Commander: Attention! Right hand salute. Two!

Comrades, I now declare this business session of (name) _____ Post No. _____ closed.

Our next regular meeting will be _____ (Date and hour). *RAP THE GAVEL..*

DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA VFW CANTEEN AND CLUBS RULES & REGULATIONS

1. A House Committee shall be elected or appointed by the post members to manage the affairs of the club. It shall consist of not less than three (3) members, one of which shall be elected annually for a three (3) year term. Trustees shall not serve on the House Committee. *All other elected post officers are eligible to serve on the House Committee.*
2. The House Committee shall employ such personnel, including manager, as shall be necessary. No member of the House Committee, including the Post Commander, Post Quartermaster, and Trustees, shall serve as manager.
3. The House Committee shall have the authority to suspend all club privileges of any member or nonmember, for misconduct on club premises, subject to appeal to the post membership.
4. The post membership may overrule any action of the House Committee by regular vote at any post meeting.
5. The manager or employee handling club monies shall be bonded to the post for twice the amount normally handled.
6. The manager shall be responsible to the House Committee and the Post Commander and Post membership for strict enforcement of club regulations, local ordinances and state laws applicable to the operation of clubs.
7. The club manager shall be discharged for violation or permitting violations of any of the above rules or regulations; if House Committee refuses to remove such manager upon proof of such violations, the post may discharge said manager.
8. Elected and Appointed House Committee members may be removed in accordance with Section 220 of the National By-Laws.
9. The House Committee and manager shall keep accurate records open to inspection of the post members at all reasonable times.
10. The club manager shall keep an accurate and approved set of records and accounts.
11. The Club By-Laws may provide the largest sum of which the manager or House Committee may spend without a vote of the post authorizing same. This sum shall be (to be set by each Post).
12. All incomes and profits shall be held or deposited in the name of the post and in no other name.
13. The Post Quartermaster shall act as treasurer of the House Committee.
14. At least once a month, the club manager shall furnish the Post Quartermaster a complete written profit and loss statement, to be read to the post membership and spread on the post bulletin board; all expenditures to be supported by bills and vouchers.

- 15.** All club books and records shall be audited quarterly by the post trustees or qualified accountants approved by them.
- 16.** All club regulations may be amended by the majority vote of the members present at any regular or special post meeting, subject to written notice to members at least three (3) days prior to such meeting and shall be submitted to Department and National for approval.
- 17.** House Committee members missing three (3) consecutive House Committee Meetings without valid excuse will be dismissed from his position by majority vote of the post at a regular meeting. Commander will appoint a new member for the remaining term of office.
- 18.** VFW and Auxiliary members only will be admitted to the club. Nonmembers will not be admitted unless accompanied by a member and registered in the guest book.
- 19.** Infraction of club rules by member's guest(s) shall be considered as an infraction of rules by the member.
- 20.** In accordance with Section 708 and 709 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures, all clubs incorporated separately from their respective posts shall have Department permission and National approval to do so. They shall be under the direct control of the post membership, Department Commander, Department Council of Administration and Department Convention.
- 21.** These rules and regulations shall be posted in a conspicuous place in all posts operating a club or canteen.

Approved: June 7, 2026 by Council vote.



Jeffrey M. Baker
State Adjutant/Quartermaster
Department of Nebraska, VFW

Addresses of your State Elected Senators and Representatives

Senator Deb Fischer United States Senate

454 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Office Phone #: 1-202-224-6551

Senator Pete Ricketts United States Senate

139 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Office Phone #: 1-202-224-4224

Congressman Adrian Smith United States House of Representatives

502 Cannon HOB
Washington DC 20515

Office Phone #: 1-202-225-6435

Congressman Don Bacon United States House of Representatives

2104 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington DC 20515

Office Phone #: 1-202-225-4155

Congressman Mike Flood United States House of Representatives

343 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Office Phone # 1-202-225-4806

Governor Jim Pillen State Capitol

PO Box 94863

Lincoln, NE 68509

Phone #: 402-471-1966

Nebraska Veterans Affairs Director John Hilgert

PO Box 95083 301 Centennial Mall S

Lincoln, NE 68509-5083

Phone#: 402-471-2458

VA Health Care

Grand Island VA Health Care (CBOC)

2201 N Broadwell Ave (68803)

308-382-3660

Lincoln VA Clinic (CBOC)

420 Victory Park Drive (68510)

402-489-3802

Holdrege VA Clinic

1118 Burlington St (68949)

402-370-4570

North Platte VA Clinic

600 East Francis, Suite 3 (68701)

308-532-6906

Norfolk Out Patient Clinic

710 S 13th St, Suite 1200 (68701)

402-370-4570

Omaha VA Medical Center

4101 Woolworth Ave (68105)

402-346-8800

Cheyenne VA Medical

2360 E Pershing Blvd (82001-5392)

307-778-7550

Nebraska Veterans Homes

Central NE Veterans Home

4510 E 56th St

Kearney, NE 68847 (308-865-6000)

Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home

12505 S. 40th St

Bellevue, NE 68123 (402-595-2180)

Norfolk Veterans Home

600 E Benjamin Ave

Norfolk, NE 68701-0830 (402-370-3330)

Western NE Veterans Home

1102 W 42nd St

Scottsbluff, NE 69361 (308-631-8772)

DON'T FEED

THE SHARKS

We define a **"Claim Shark"** as anyone who:

- **Charges hefty fees** to "guide, assist, advise or consult" veterans with filing or appealing their VA benefit claims — this practice is illegal!
- Asserts they are an "expert" or "guardian" but **evades the professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation** — their advice can be misleading or even fraudulent!
- **Hooks you** — once you're in, you can't get out and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating — no matter who does the work!

Some of their predatory practices include:

- Claiming they are an "insider" or have inside information to fast track or maximize your VA disability rating.
- Touting better outcomes because you are paying for services.
- Advertising faster VA claims decisions.
- Requesting login credentials to access sensitive personal information through government websites like VA.gov.
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

Here is how veterans can help protect themselves:

- Always ask **"Are you accredited with VA?"**
- Insist on signing a VA Power of Attorney before agreeing to any other terms and conditions.
- Refuse to sign legal waivers of your right to accredited representation.
- Never agree to contingent payments based on your future benefits.
- Avoid medical exams or opinions from doctors affiliated with consultation companies.
- Always attend exams ordered by VA.
- Never provide access to private and secure systems or personal information.
- Always ask **"If I have to appeal VA's decision, will you still help me?"**

Who is **NOT** a Claim Shark?

- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like VFW's Accredited Service Officers.
- Private VA accredited agents.
- VA accredited attorneys, to include pro bono law clinics.
- All those who turn up here when searched:
www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation.



Who are the Claim Sharks?

We used to list the usual Claim Sharks, but it began reading like a phone book. By this point you know the type – all charm up front, hidden fees in the back.

For free, accredited help from VFW's Accredited Service Officers visit
www.DontFeedTheSharks.org