

PROGRAMS BOOK



Department of Georgia
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

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Comrades,

Thank you so much for trusting me and electing me as your Department Commander. It's an endeavor that I never dreamed of but feel so blessed to be living.

My theme this year is "Cruising to Care for Veterans". I chose this theme for two reasons, the first being that cruising is usually lots of fun and caring for veterans is my passion. Thus, meaning we're going to care for the veterans in the state of Georgia, but I plan for us to have fun doing it.

My special project this year is Gensis House which is a program for Homeless Women Veterans. I know together we can do what it takes to make a difference in Georgia and decrease the number of homeless women veterans in our state.

As the state commander I promise to treat you all as the valuable assets that you are to the department. My team and I are a mere phone call away to assist you all in having a successful year.

Again, thank you trusting me to lead the department this year. I look forward to working with you for a successful year.

*Patsey Schreiber
Department of Georgia
State Commander*

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA



Comrade Commanders,

Congratulations on your election as District/Post Commanders!

The motto of Commander Schreiber "Cruising to Care for Veterans" is an excellent motto that successfully describes what has always been our mission in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Commanders, to you, I pledge my support and assistance to have the very best year possible.

I firmly believe that, for the VFW to be successful and continue to grow, it is imperative we be highly visible in the community. In fact, we need to be the patriotic heart of the community. When we are out there, teaching our communities and our youth, the true meaning of Americanism and Patriotism, that's when the VFW shines above all others.

Your goal this year for VFW is twofold. Recruitment and Visibility within your communities. The more the VFW is seen taking a leadership role in the community, the easier it will be to recruit new members. The more active you are in the community, the more our members will want to get involved and the more they'll come back seeing themselves as a part of your success.

Comrade Commanders, I will do everything in my power to assist you in achieving your goal of 102%. As a team we can and will exceed that percentage and show we are truly Georgia strong. This Department, District and Post family will be and continue to be "Serving those who Served."

Joseph Couch

State Sr. Vice Commander

VFW Dept. of Georgia

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA



Comrade Commanders,

I want to congratulate all the elected and appointed Officers at your Post or District positions. I am very excited and look forward to working with your team. Together we will lean forward in the foxhole and full steam ahead to support our Department Commander Patsey Schreiber and "Cruise to Care for Veterans".

Be it your team's new or seasoned leaders in this organization, the success of this Department depends greatly on your team. Grassroots is the backbone of this organization. I am excited to tackle this year's upcoming challenges with you. I hope your team is motivated and excited as we move forward and tackle these challenges together.

I highly encourage you to set goals and be engaged in your community. Have a plan and a calendar so your team can properly plan and execute the mission of the VFW. We have several great programs, and we need you to utilize these opportunities to create relationships in your communities and recognize youth, teachers, first responders etc., who are excelling in your community. Posts that are highly engaged in the community see high levels of success

Be the leader, set the example and engage your team to assist you in achieving your set goals. I challenge you to go to other Posts and Districts and create relationships and share knowledge. Seize every opportunity to train and interact with your team. This book and our By-laws will guide you. Take full advantage of our VFW National and State websites, which contain numerous tools to assist your team in achieving your goals. Take the time to learn from these important resources.

Membership is very important but do not overlook retention. Look at how your District and Posts can modernize, streamline and encourage members to engage. Utilize your Auxiliary and if you don't have one currently, look to creating one in the near future.

As your Jr. Vice Commander I am here for Commander Schreiber, the Department of Georgia and your team to assist you and help us "Cruise to Care for Veterans." I know you have a lot of hard work ahead. Together our team will excel and along with working hard we will play hard too. I am here for you and will assist anyway I can for our Department to have an OUTSTANDING year. Once again Congratulations to all your team and God Bless.

David W. Miles
State Jr. Vice Commander

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA



Comrade Commanders,

Congratulations on your election to fill the office of Commander of your Post or District. This may be your first time in a VFW leadership position, or you may have a few years "under your belt." Regardless, our success this year will depend a great deal on you.

As the commander you will set the tone for your Post or District. If you approach the year with energy and enthusiasm it will transfer to your members.

One of the areas we all need to improve on is community engagement. Each Post commander is the CEO of a local non-profit organization. Take that energy into your Post and your Post activities. Let's get active in our community. I guarantee that the more you are positively engaged in your community, the more successful your Post and your year will be.


A couple of things to think about:

1. Approach the job with the energy and excitement of a first year commander.
1. Set goals for your Post and District for activities in your community, for membership, and, importantly, for camaraderie. Have a plan to build relationships within and outside of the Post.
2. Engage your membership. Most people want to do something, get them involved and engaged.
3. Train your team. Commander Schreiber is big on training, and we want to expand that to the Post level. We are working to improve training at the Department level but make sure you are teaching people to take on the jobs at your Post.
4. Take time to review this book. This is your "continuity book" and "guide" all in one. It has been prepared to help make you and your Post successful. Use it. Mark it up. Wreck it if you must but use it. I want to see it dog-eared, scribbled on, and weathered.
5. Ask questions. You have State and District officers ready to help you. Take time at District and State meetings to talk to other Posts and members and learn from them. Ask.
6. This is a people organization. It is built on strong relationships. Be respectful and professional. And remember, a simple, heartfelt "thank-you" goes a long way.

We are bringing training to you this year and we hope it is successful in helping you grow and strengthen your team. Take advantage of it.

I offer you, Commander Schreiber, and the Department of Georgia my complete support to help us cruise to care for veterans.

Still Serving,



JEFF CARROLL
State Quartermaster

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

*VFW Auxiliary
Department of Georgia*

Dear Commander Patsey Schreiber,

Congratulations on your election to the prestigious office of the State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the Department of Georgia. I am proud of you because I know how hard you work for our Veterans. I am honored to serve as your Department President. I pledge my full support and the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary members to assist your team in achieving your goals for 2023-2024.

As we embrace this new year, I am confident you and your team will accomplish your goals and objectives under your leadership.

Your selection of the motto “**Cruising to Care for Veterans**” speaks well of the continued commitment by the Veterans of Foreign Wars to support America’s Veterans. You and I, together with the excellent Department of Georgia’s VFW and Auxiliary members, will work to continue “**Steady Support**” for our veterans and their families.

Yours in Service,

Pat Dobbins

VFW Department of Georgia
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Department Officers

Commander	Patsey Schreiber Saint Marys GA 31558	912-674-5556 patsey.schreiber@georgiavfw.org
Sr Vice Commander	Joe Couch Jonesboro GA 30236	770-380-3301 joe.couch@georgiavfw.org
Jr Vice Commander	Bill Miles Clarksville GA 30523	706-968-0854 bill.miles@georgiavfw.org
Quartermaster	Jeff Carroll Newnan GA 30263	678-571-5333 qm@georgiavfw.org
Adjutant	Tony Dobbins Stockbridge GA 30281	678-613-6519 adj@georgiavfw.org
Judge Advocate	Arnold Gonzales Harlem GA 30814	706-373-1270 arnold.gonzales@georgiavfw.org
Chaplain	James W Gray Decatur GA 30034	404-579-0118 (C) james.gray@georgiavfw.org
Immediate Past	Dean Rakoskie Pembroke GA 31321	703-298-0144 dean.rakoskie@georgiavfw.org
Chief of Staff	Cindi Otto Screven GA 31560	912-579-6957 cindi.otto@georgiavfw.org
Inspector	Kevin Daniel Cedartown GA 30125	404-205-1999 kevin.daniel@georgiavfw.org
Service Officer	Belinda Boldoe Decatur GA 30034	404-983-3270 belinda.boldoe@georgiavfw.org
Surgeon	Michel Johansen Hamilton GA 31811	706-587-1353 mikki.johansen@georgiavfw.org

District Commanders

District 1	Dwayne Kilbourne Kennesaw GA 30152	678-758-7466 district1@georgiavfw.org
District 2	Jason Nichols Carnesville GA	706-572-6864 district2@georgiavfw.org
District 3	Theodore Beal Jonesboro GA 30236	404-435-8051 district3@georgiavfw.org
District 4	Terrence Alexander Hephzibah GA 30815	210-730-6423 district4@georgiavfw.org
District 5	Jonathan Goolsby Zebulon GA 30295	678-591-0749 district5@georgiavfw.org
District 6	Curtis Talley Sardis GA 30456	912-682-2884 district6@georgiavfw.org
District 7	James Jensen Hinesville GA 31313	912-432-0934 district7@georgiavfw.org
District 8	Marty Faulkner Nashville GA 31639	229-881-5089 district8@georgiavfw.org
District 9	Dee Adams Cochran GA 31014	478-298-9046 district9@georgiavfw.org
District 10	Leonard Ott Jonesboro GA 30236	770-471-2589 district10@georgiavfw.org

Department Commander Appointments, Chairmen and Committees

Buddy Poppy

Bill Miles Clarksville GA 30523	706-968-0854 bill.miles@georgiavfw.org
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Budget & Finance Committee

Chairman	Terrence Alexander Hephzibah GA 30815	706-810-0357 terrence.alexander@georgiavfw.org
	John Skinner Newnan GA 30265	770-301-4074 jskinn13132@gmail.com
	William Stradtner Cumming, GA 30040	770-331-8190 admin@vfwpost9143.org
	Fausto Tenen Richmond Hill, GA 31324	912-663-1994 faustotenen@yahoo.com
	Dean Rakoskie Pembroke GA 31321	703-298-0144 dean.rakoskie@georgiavfw.org

Citizenship Education Teacher Award

Fausto Tenen Richmond Hill, GA 31324	912-663-1994 faustotenen@yahoo.com
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Community Service

Bill Miles Clarksville GA 30523	706-968-0854 bill.miles@georgiavfw.org
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Convention/Meeting Committee

Chairman	Jeff Carroll Newnan GA 302663	678-571-5333 qm@georgiavfw.org
	Charles A (Tony) Dobbins Stockbridge GA 30281	678-613-6519 adj@georgiavfw.org
	Patsey Schreiber Saint Marys GA 31558	912-674-5556 patsey.schreiber@georgiavfw.org
	Joe Couch Jonesboro GA 30236	770-380-3301 joe.couch@georgiavfw.org
	Bill Miles Clarksville GA 30523	706-968-0854 bill.miles@georgiavfw.org

Disaster Relief

Roger Rillo	912-882-7133
Saint Marys GA 31558	r.rillo@live.com

Employment

Drew Keenan	770-298-7426
Marietta GA 30056	drewkeenan51@comcast.net

Fraternal Review (Investigating) Committee:

All Past Commanders
Plus, team members assigned as needed

Grant Assistance Officer

Drew Keenan	770-298-7426
Marietta GA 30056	drewkeenan51@comcast.net

Historian

David Worthen	912-227-7819
Kingsland GA 31548	webmaster@georgiavfw.org

Homeless Veterans

Chairman	Justin Howe	931-220-0787
	Hinesville GA 31313	justinhowe_71292@hotmail.com
	Kevin Daniel	404-205-1999
	Cedartown GA 30125	kevin.daniel@georgiavfw.org
	Mikki Johansen	706-587-1353
	Hamilton GA 31811	mikki.johansen@georgiavfw.org
	Patsey Schreiber	912-674-5556
	Saint Marys GA 31558	patsey.schreiber@georgiavfw.org

Honor Guard

Captain	Alex Williams	404-313-9570 (C)
	Stone Mountain GA 30088	alex174898@aol.com

Hospital

Mikki Johansen	706-587-1353
Hamilton GA 31811	mikki.johansen@georgiavfw.org

Information/Technology Advisor

Jeff Carroll	678-571-5333
Newnan GA 30263	qm@georgiavfw.org

JROTC	George Fields Fayetteville GA 30214	770-703-6476 fields.george@ymail.com
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Legislative, National

Chairman	Sherrod Conyers Marietta GA 30066	310-977-65154 sherrod.conyers@georgiavfw.org
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Co-Chair	Charles A (Tony) Dobbins Stockbridge GA 30281	678-613-6519 adj@georgiavfw.org
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Legislative, State

Chairman	George Fields Fayetteville GA 30214	770-703-6476 fields.george@ymail.com
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	Mack Key Mount Airy GA 30563	706-491-0494 key.mack@yahoo.com
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Membership

	Joe Couch Jonesboro GA 30236	770-380-3301 joe.couch@georgiavfw.org
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Membership, Recruiter/District Development Team Training

Chairman	Bill Miles Clarkesville GA 30523	706-968-0854 bill.miles@georgiavfw.org
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Membership, Life & Legacy Life

Chairman	Curtis Talley Sardis GA 30456	912-682-2884 curtis.talley@georgiavfw.org
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Motorcycle Groups & Issues Coordinator

	Charles Fillyaw Pooler GA 31322	912-704-7359 fillyawc@hotmail.com
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National Home

	Bill Miles Clarkesville GA 30523	706-968-0854 bill.miles@georgiavfw.org
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New Post Institution

	Cindi Otto Screven GA 31560	912-579-6957 cindi.otto@georgiavfw.org
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Outreach

Chairman	Charles A (Tony) Dobbins Stockbridge GA 30281	678-613-6519 adj@georgiavfw.org
Assistant	Jeff Carroll Newnan GA 30263	678-571-5333 qm@georgiavfw.org

Patriot's Pen

Kelli Kelley Sharpsburg GA 30277	575-415-0924 patriotspen@georgiavfw.org
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Photographer

David Worthen Kingsland GA 31548	912-419-2166 webmaster@georgiavfw.org
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POW/MIA

Chairman	Jeff Bouchard Newnan GA 30265	678-877-5975 jmbref@bellsouth.net
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Public Relations

Charles A (Tony) Dobbins Stockbridge GA 30281	678-613-6519 adj@georgiavfw.org
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Re-Districting

Chairman	Joe Couch Jonesboro GA 30236	770-380-3301 joe.couch@georgiavfw.org
1 st District	Kevin Daniel Cedartown GA 30125	404-205-1999 kevin.daniel@georgiavfw.org
2 nd District	Bill Miles Clarksville GA 30523	706-968-0854 bill.miles@georgiavfw.org
3 rd District	Theodore Beal Jonesboro GA 30236	404-435-8051 theodore.beal@georgiavfw.org
4 TH District	Matthew Andrews Evans GA 30809	706-979-0529 mattandrews789@gmail.com
5 th District	Mikki Johansen Hamilton GA 31811	706-587-1353 mikki.johansen@georgiavfw.org
6 th District	Curtis Talley Sardis GA 30456	912-682-2884 curtis.talley@georgiavfw.org

7 th District	Patsey Schreiber Saint Marys GA 31558	912-674-5556 patsey.schreiber@georgiavfw.org
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8 th District	Donald Fowler Cordele GA 31015	229-699-1282 donaldfowler12@gmail.com
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9 th District	Dee Adams Cochran GA 31074	478-298-9046 dee.adams@georgiavfw.org
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10 th District	Jeff Carroll Newnan GA 30263	678-571-5333 qm@georgiavfw.org
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Scouting

Tom Drumm St. Marys GA 61558	215-919-6001 tomdrumm429@gmail.com
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Special Advisor to All Committees

R D (Bulldog) Smith Jr Toccoa GA 30577	706-886-0779 bulldogsmithpastcic@windstream.net
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Al Lipphardt Stone Mountain GA 30087	404-680-2891 al.lipphardt@georgiavfw.org
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Special Advisor to the Department Commander

All Active Past State Commanders

Student Veterans of America (SVA)

Anand Rao Savannah GA 31404	904-302-0390 vfwpost4392@outlook.com
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Advisor	Dwayne Kilbourne Kennesaw GA 30144	678-758-7466 district1@georgiavfw.org
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Time and Place Committee

Jeff Carroll Newnan GA 30263	678-571-5333 qm@georgiavfw.org
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Charles A (Tony) Dobbins Stockbridge GA 30281	678-613-6519 adj@georgiavfw.org
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All Department Line Officers

VAVS Representatives, Deputies and Associates**Atlanta VA Medical Center**

Rep.	Belinda Boldoe Decatur GA 30034	404-929-5345(W) belinda.boldoe@georgiavfw.org
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Augusta VA Medical Center

Rep.	Barbara Johnson Hephzibah GA 30815	706-409-2438 barbara.johnson2049@gmail.com
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Dublin Carl Vinson VA Medical Center

Rep	Dee Adams Cochran GA 31014	478-298-9046 dee.adams@georgiavfw.org
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Lake City VA Medical Center

Associate	Maury Jackson Moultrie GA 31768	229-456-1499 (C) mjackson3@windstream.net
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CAVHCS East Campus (Formerly Tuskegee VAMC)

Associate	Mikki Johansen Hamilton GA 31811	706-587-1353 mikki.johansen@georgiavfw.org
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Alvin C York Medical Center

Associate	John Bartlett Chickamauga GA	706-375-4066 bartlettthowie@aol.com
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Georgia Department of Veterans Service

Associate	Belinda Boldoe Decatur GA 30034	404-929-5345(W) belinda.boldoe@georgiavfw.org
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Milledgeville Georgia War Veterans Home

Dick Dickens Eatonton GA 31024	406-485-5322 dick.dickens@georgiavfw.org
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Augusta Georgia War Veterans Home

Matthew (Tex) Funsch Augusta GA 30906	706-631-1062 matthew.funsch@georgiavfw.org
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Veterans and Military Support

Chairman	Curtis Talley Sardis GA 30456	912-682-2884 curtis.talley@georgiavfw.org
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Veterans Service Committee

Chairman	Joel L. Willis Jr Lawrenceville GA 30044	470-504-5701 joel.willis@georgiavfw.org
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Belinda Boldoe Decatur GA 30034	404-929-5345(W) belinda.boldoe@georgiavfw.org
Charles A (Tony) Dobbins Stockbridge GA 30281	678-613-6519 adj@georgiavfw.org
Jeff Carroll Newnan GA 30263	678-571-5333 qm@georgiavfw.org
Bill Miles Clarksville GA 30523	706-968-0854 bill.miles@georgiavfw.org

Voice of Democracy

James W Gray Decatur GA 30034	404-579-0118 (C) james.gray@georgiavfw.org
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Ways and Means

Joe Couch Jonesboro GA 30236	770-380-3301 joe.couch@georgiavfw.org
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"We Care Fund" Committee

Chairman	James R (Randy) Coggins Morrow GA 30260	770-827-1111 randycoggins@att.net
	Jeff Carroll Newnan GA 30263	678-571-5333 qm@georgiavfw.org
	Charles A (Tony) Dobbins Stockbridge GA 30281	678-613-6519 adj@georgiavfw.org

Webmaster

David Worthen Kingsland GA 31548	912-419-2166 webmaster@georgiavfw.org
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Women Veterans Committee

Chairman	Cindi Otto Screven GA 31560	912-579-6957 cindi.otto@georgiavfw.org
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Youth Activities

Kelli Kelley Sharpsburg GA 30277	575-415-0924 patriotspen@georgiavfw.org
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VFW Auxiliary Department President

Pat Dobbins Stockbridge GA 30281	678-983-0924 pat@cadobbins.com
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National Council Member, Georgia

Jeff Carroll
Newnan GA 30263

678-571-5333
qm@georgiavfw.org

VFW Auxiliary National Council Member, District 8 (Georgia/Alabama)

Susan Simmons
Jesup GA 31545

912-223-4429
srsimmons97@gmail.com

VFW National Headquarters

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
406 West 34th St
Kansas City MO 64111

816-756-3390 (Main)
816-968-1149 (Fax)
816-968-1196 (Supply Fax)

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

Auxiliary VFW
406 West 34th St, 10th Flr
Kansas City MO 64111

816-561-8655 (Main)
816-931-4753 (F)

VFW Washington Office

VFW
200 Maryland Ave NE
Washington DC 20002

202-543-2239 (Main)

VFW National Home for Children

VFW National Home
3673 S Waverly Rd
Eaton Rapids MI 48827

800-424-8360
mail@vfwnationalhome.org

VFW Department of Georgia

478-474-3737

VFW Department of Georgia Email Addresses

Adjutant:
Quartermaster:
Executive Secretary:

adj@georgiavfw.org
qm@georgiavfw.org
admin@georgiavfw.org

VFW Department of Georgia Website

www.georgiavfw.org

VFW National Headquarters Website

www.vfw.org

State Meetings/Convention

GLT

August 5, 2023 Post 658 – Macon
August 12, 2023 Post 5978 – Nashville
August 13, 2023 Post 4583 – Jesup
August 19, 2023 Post 5408 – Acworth
September 9, 2023 Post 2872 – Athens

Service Officer Training	September 23, 2023 Post 6605 – Warner
Robins	
Fall Meeting	October 20 – 22, 2023
Mid-Winter Meeting	February 9 - 11, 2024
81 st State Convention	June 6 - 9, 2024

Patsey Schreiber
State Commander

Official:

Charles A. Dobbins
State Adjutant

PAST STATE COMMANDERS

Julian Poole	Deceased	1944 - 45
Mayo Buckley	Deceased	1945 - 47
C. Flannery Pope	Deceased	1947 - 49
James L. Carmichael	Deceased	1949 - 50
Emmett E. Culbreth	Deceased	1950 - 51
James H. Floyd	Deceased	1951 - 52
Asa D. Kelley, Jr.	Deceased	1952 - 53
Joe T. Wood	Deceased	1953 - 54
Roland N. Richardson	Deceased	1954 - 55
Randolph Medlock	Deceased	1955 - 57
Wiley M. Griffin, Jr.	Deceased	1957 - 58
Grady C. Pittard, Jr.	Deceased	1958 - 59
William Poole	Box 95 Butler GA 31006 912-862-5577	1959 - 60
Gene Brown	Deceased	1960 - 61
Julian M. Brisendine	Deceased	1961 - 62
R. D. Smith, Jr.	PO Box 761 Toccoa GA 30577 706-886-0779	1962 - 63
H. E. Isaacs	Deceased	1963 - 64
Paul F. Clements	Deceased	1964 - 65
George H. Pugh	Deceased	1965 - 66
Hulette Goodman	Deceased	1966 - 67
Ed B. Hitt	Deceased	1967 - 68
Johnnie Shiver	Non-Member	1968 - 69
William S. Shields	Deceased	1969 - 70
Ogie V. Hayes	Deceased	1970 - 71
W. Ray Giles	Deceased	1971 - 72

Wynder Giles	Deceased	1972 - 73
Harold L. Barrett	Deceased	1973 - 74
Olin C. Wright	Deceased	1974 - 75
James E. Warren	Deceased	1975 - 76
Marcus T. Smith	Deceased	1976 - 77
H. A. Rainwater	Deceased	1977 - 78
Sammy L. Cates	Deceased	1978 - 79
Leo H. Melanson	Deceased	1979 - 80
Robert H. Lancaster	Deceased	1980 - 81
J. B. Smith	Deceased	1981 - 82
Rance J. Taylor	Deceased	1982 - 83
J. W. Bohanan	Deceased	1983 - 84
T. D. Culpepper	Deceased	1984 - 85
Norman T. Brown	Deceased	1985 - 86
Dallas Reeves	Deceased	1986 - 87
Jimmy J. Fulbright	Deceased	1987 - 88
John F. Gwizdak	Deceased	1988 - 89
Charlie B. Stephenson	Deceased	1989 - 90
Ray E. Brooks	Deceased	1990 - 91
General M. Crumley	Deceased	1991 - 92
Desso F. Faulkner	Deceased	1992 - 93
Glenn E. Mitchell	802 Highway 87 S Cochran GA 31014 478-934-6642	1993 - 94
Edward N. Williams	Deceased	1994 - 95
James T. Wood	Non-Member/Deceased	1995 - 96
Donald F. Ziegler	Deceased	1996 - 97
William S. Satchell	Deceased	1997 - 98
William J. Wilson	Deceased	1998 - 99
William R. Johnson	Deceased	1999 - 00

Frederick Engelhardt III	Deceased	2000 - 01
Billy W. Smith	177 River Oaks Dr Bainbridge GA 39817 229-246-6292	2001 - 02
Dick D. Dickens	106 Angeline Cir SE Eatonton GA 31024-7655 706-485-5322	2002 - 03
Edward P. Grealish, Jr.	Deceased	2003 - 04
James R. Coggins	6182 Graceland Cir Morrow GA 30260 770-961-1497	2004 - 05
Manis V. Long	2028 4th St SE Moultrie GA 31768 229-985-7325	2005 - 06
Ralph E. Thomas	Deceased	2006 - 07
Dean E. Smith	5461 Dry Fork Creek Ter Stone Mountain GA 30087 770-469-1714	2007 - 08
H. Dwayne Epps	1746 Bethany Rd Canon GA 30520 706-376-9630	2008 - 09
David G. Pipes	Non-Member/Deceased	2009 - 10
Leonard D. Ott	739 Huntingdon Dr Jonesboro GA 30326 770-471-2589	2010 - 11
Pledge M. Cannon	118 Scarborough Rd Centerville GA 31028 478-923-7743	2011 - 12
James R. "Rusty" Rogers	148 Valhalla Rd Cordele GA 31015 229-869-2799	2012 - 13
Ronald E. Keller	Deceased	2013 - 14
Al Lipphardt	6009 Millstone Run Stone Mountain GA 30087 404-680-2891	2014 - 15
Michael J. O'Steen	1265 Briston Rd Willacoochee GA 31650 912-389-2701	2015 - 16
William C. Sandberg	Deceased	2016 - 17
Richard Attaway	598 Corinth Rd Hogansville GA 30230 706-637-6299	2017 - 18

Charles "Tony" Dobbins	107 Meadow Ridge Way Stockbridge GA 30281 678-613-6519	2018-19
Jeff Carroll	660 Happy Valley Cir Newnan GA 30263 678-571-5333	2019-20
Joel L. Willis Jr.	705 River Oak Loop Lawrenceville GA 30044 470-504-5701	2020-21
Kevin Hammond	Non-Member	2021-22
Dean Rakoksie	105 Black Oak Ln Pembroke GA 31321 703-298-0144	2022-23

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 2023

1st Quarter Audit for April, May, June due (NLT 31st)

4 HQ Closed for Independence Day

22-27 National Convention (Phoenix AZ)

AUGUST 2023

31 Must have QM bonded

SEPTEMBER 2023

4 HQ Closed for Labor Day

11 Patriot Day

17 POW/MIA Recognition Day

23 Service Officer Training (Post 6605 Warner Robins)

29 VFW Day

OCTOBER 2023

2nd Quarter Audit for July, August, September due (NLT 31st)

9 HQ Closed for Columbus Day

20-22 Fall Conference/Commander & President's Homecoming (Macon)

31 Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, Teacher entries due to Post

NOVEMBER 2023

2 Southern Conference(Oklahoma City OK)

11 Veterans Day

15 Teacher, Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy due to District

22-24 HQ Closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2023

7 Pearl Harbor Day

15 Teacher, Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy due to State (from Districts)

Dec 22-Jan 2 HQ Closed for Christmas

31 Public Servant Nominations due to State (Law Enforcement/Firefighter/EMS)

JANUARY 2024

3rd Quarter Audit for October, November, December due (NLT 31st)

15 HQ Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr Day

FEBRUARY 2024

9 - 11 Mid-Winter Conference & Awards Banquet (Macon)

19 Washington's Birthday / Presidents Day

29 Scout of the Year nominations due to Post

MARCH 2024

Mar 3-7 National Legislative Conference (Washington DC)

31 Easter Sunday/Scout of the Year nominations due to State Chairman

APRIL 2024

4th Quarter Audit for January, February, March due (NLT 30th)

1 Delegate Dues and Admission Fees billed

30 Mr/Ms VFW nomination due to Dept HQ

30 Richard Branson Outstanding Service Officer nomination due to Dept HQ

30 Close out for "All State" Programs

MAY 2024

1 Start of new Programs Year

1 Loyalty Day

12 Mother's Day

15 Delegate Dues and Admission Fees due to HQ

18 Armed Forces Day

27 HQ Closed for Memorial Day

JUNE 2024

6-9 State Convention

14 Flag Day



GEORGIA MEMBERSHIP/PROGRAMS

2023 – 2024

Department of Georgia
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

MEMBERSHIP BASICS

MEMBERSHIP MISSION AND VISION:

- Recruit, Retain, and Reinstate a stable and growing membership base.

MEMBERSHIP GOALS AND BENCHMARKS FOR 2023-2024:

- Special Bravo Zulu recognition for Posts reaching 107%
- Recruit new and recover unpaid members: 105%
- Retain existing membership: 75%
- Increase Life Membership: 5%
- Increase Legacy Life Membership: 1%

The best way to grow a stable membership is for your Post and Auxiliary members to be active as a group in your community.

We must improve the way we communicate with our Post members. Take the lead.

We must

- Take care of our members and their families
- Stay current on veterans' issues and advocate on the local, state, and federal level
- Be involved in our local community by leading and partnering with other veterans and local organizations
- Be the organization that our community thinks of when they think of veterans

SUCCESSFUL POST CRITERIA

Mandatory Requirements

- Attain 105% in membership for the 2023-2024 year ending June 30. *This increase will be determined using the starting membership numbers for the 2023-2024 year.*
- 75% membership retention (see Department Memstats report)
- Participate in the Department Membership Round-up
- Submit an entry for District judging in **two of the three** core programs. (All three are required for All-American)
 - Voice of Democracy
 - Patriot's Pen
 - Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award one teacher (1)
- Make donations to all three (3) of the programs:
 - Veterans and Military Support (VMS),
 - National Home for Children (Georgia House), and
 - Commander's Project

Minimum donations are based on Georgia Divisions, established exclusively for Georgia and **not to be compared** with National Divisions. Divisions are based on the starting membership number for the 2023-2024 membership year.

Division 1	(286 and over)	\$200 minimum
Division 2	(130 - 285)	\$175 minimum
Division 3	(89 - 129)	\$150 minimum
Division 4	(70 - 88)	\$125 minimum
Division 5	(up to 69)	\$100 minimum

- Post Commander (or in their absence, the Post Sr Vice or Post Jr Vice) attends **all District meetings**. Attendance must be verified by signature on sign-in sheet. There must be no more than one Zoom attendance/Excused absence.
- Post Commander (or in their absence, the Post Sr Vice or Post Jr Vice) must attend **all sessions of Georgia Leadership Training (GLT)**.

- Post Quartermaster and anyone on the accounts must be **sufficiently bonded** in accordance with Section 703 of the National By-Laws for the current membership year.
- Post Service Officer must **attend** the VFW sponsored **Service Officer Training Class**.
- Submit all four (4) Trustee Reports of Audit to the State Headquarters by these dates:

Apr - June	by August 31
Jul - Sep	by November 30
Oct - Dec	by February 29
Jan - Mar	by May 31 (must be in by April 30 for initial All State consideration)
- Purchase three (3) Buddy Poppies per member before April 30. (Minimum order 500)
- Consistently submit Community Service reports in the Programs Dashboard throughout the year.
- Pay all Department and District obligations.
- Submit at least eight (8) Chaplain Monthly Reports to admin@georgiavfw.org
- Have an active Social Media account. Your Post cannot be listed as a "bar." Send the link to tech@georgiavfw.org
- Correct any issues identified on your Post inspection.



ALL-STATE TEAM OF POST COMMANDERS CRITERIA/AWARDS

Criteria

- All "Successful Post Criteria" from the previous page.
- Posts must attain at least 105% membership in 2023-2024 year.
- At least 1% of Post membership is New and/or Reinstated, plus 75% retention of membership.
- In determining the All-State team, Department of Georgia posts membership growth will be based on the starting 2023-2024 membership year numbers.

Award

Each member of the All-State Team of Post Commanders will receive

- "All-State" Post Commanders' cap, pin and citation
 - Posts that meet criteria by April 30 and are selected by the Awards Committee will receive these awards at the 2024 Department of Georgia State Convention
 - Posts that meet the criteria between May 1 and June 30 and are selected by the Commander will receive their awards at the Georgia Leadership Training (GLT).
 - Only Posts that qualify by April 30 will be considered for the All-State Captain honor.
- Post Commanders that meet criteria by April 30 will receive a travel/trip award of \$150 to help defray expenses to the Department of Georgia State Convention (Must attend the State Convention to receive the award). *Department Council of Administration (COA) members and Past State Commanders are not eligible for the travel/trip award. Cannot receive multiple Department travel awards/stipends.*

In determining the All-State team, Department of Georgia posts will be divided into the following divisions. These divisions are established exclusively for Georgia not to be compared with National Divisions. Divisions are based on the starting 2023-2024 membership year.

<u>Division 1</u>	<u>2 may be awarded</u>
<u>Division 2</u>	<u>2 may be awarded</u>
<u>Division 3</u>	<u>2 may be awarded</u>
<u>Division 4</u>	<u>2 may be awarded</u>
<u>Division 5</u>	<u>2 may be awarded</u>

Notes

Additional winners may be selected from each division at the discretion of the Awards Committee and Commander.

The Captain of the All-State team will be selected from the All-State Team of Post Commanders by the Awards Committee. All divisions will be considered in the selection process. Only those Posts qualifying by April 30 will be considered for this honor.

POST SCORECARD

Points are not awarded for All State Requirements - you have to do those before points are even counted.

Two Commanders Attend	40	_____
Three Commanders Attend	60 (can't get both)	_____
Chaplain Attends	20	_____
Trustees Attend	20 points each	_____

Core Programs

Entries in all 3 programs * <i>sent to District (VOD, Patriot's Pen, Teacher)</i>	50	_____
Two Teachers <i>(Elementary, Middle, High)</i>	50	_____
Three Teachers <i>(Elementary, Middle, High)</i>	75	_____
State Contest Winner <i>(VOD, Patriots Pen, Teacher)</i>	75 each	_____
State 2 nd Place Winner <i>(VOD, Patriots Pen, Teacher)</i>	50 each	_____
State 3 rd Place Winner <i>(VOD, Patriots Pen, Teacher)</i>	25 each	_____

Community Activity/Recognition

Submit Safety Recognition entry *		
Law Enforcement	50	_____
Firefighter	50	_____
EMT	50	_____
911 Dispatcher	50	_____
Submit a Scout of the Year entry *	25	_____
State Contest Winner <i>(Scout, Public Safety)</i>	75 each	_____
State 2 nd Place Winner <i>(Scout, Public Safety)</i>	50 each	_____
State 3 rd Place Winner <i>(Scout, Public Safety)</i>	25 each	_____
Adopt-a-Unit Program (Conduct/Report an Event)	50	_____

Nominate a VFW Service Officer of the Year 20
(does not have to be from your Post. See criteria on website.)

Nominate someone for Mr/Ms VFW 20
(does not have to be from your Post. See criteria on website. The same nomination cannot be used for multiple Posts.)

Nominate someone for Chaplain of the Year 20
(does not have to be from your Post. See criteria on website.)

NEW

Nominate a local business as Veteran Employer of the Year 20
(does not have to be from your Post. See criteria on website.)

NEW

Nominate someone for VFW Member of the Year 20
(does not have to be from your Post. See criteria on website.)

NEW

Nominate one JROTC Cadet of the Year 20
(does not have to be from your Post. See criteria on website.)

NEW

Nominate someone for John F Gwizdak Heroic Youth 20

Relief Account Donations

Commander's Special Project (Extra Donation)

Double your minimum donation 50

Triple your minimum donation 75

National Home (must be to the Georgia House)

Double your minimum donation 25

Triple your minimum donation 25

Veterans & Military Support

Double your minimum donation 25

Triple your minimum donation 25

We Care Fund

Minimum donation 25

Double your minimum donation 25

Triple your minimum donation 25

Other Donations

Commander Lipphardt's CIC Homecoming Fund

Double your minimum donation 100

Membership

New/Reinstated Life Members 5 each

New Legacy Life Members 5 each
(Total movement based on 1 pt bronze, 2 pt silver, 3 pt gold)

New/Reinstated Continuous Members 1 each



TOTAL POINTS

**** All submitted entries must be judgeable. Incomplete entries that are submitted will not count.***

ALL-STATE TEAM OF POST QUARTERMASTERS CRITERIA/AWARDS

NOTE: Posts All-State recognition does not guarantee Quartermaster recognition. Quartermasters must complete the criteria below to be considered.

Criteria

- Post must complete All "All State Criteria" from the previous page.
- Quartermaster attends all GLT sessions
- Quartermaster attends all District meetings (In order to be excused, the absence must be approved by the district commander **prior** to the meeting)
-  • Quartermaster must have no more than one excused absence or Zoom attendance.
- Membership requirements are the same as Post Commander
- Post records are kept up to date
- Post must have an EIN registered with the IRS and must file tax reports with the State and Federal government on time (including Form 990, 990N, 990T, Sales Tax returns, and annual bingo report as reported on the Post Inspection form).
-  • All issues identified on the Post Inspection must be corrected.

Award

Each member of the All-State Team of Post Quartermasters will receive

- "All-State" Post Quartermasters' cap, pin and citation
 - Posts that meet criteria by April 30 will receive these awards at the 2024 Department of Georgia State Convention
 - Posts that meet the criteria between May 1 and June 30 will receive their awards at the Georgia Leadership Training (GLT).
- Post Quartermasters that meet criteria by April 30 will receive a travel/trip award of \$150 to help defray expenses to the Department of Georgia State Convention (Must attend the State Convention to receive the award). *Department Council of Administration (COA) members and Past State Commanders are not eligible for the travel/trip award. Members cannot receive multiple Department travel awards/stipend.*

In determining the All-State team, Department of Georgia posts based on the ending 2023-2024 membership year.

Notes

Same as Post Commanders above

SUCCESSFUL DISTRICT CRITERIA

Mandatory Requirements

- District reaches at least 105% in membership.
- Submit entries to the Department Chairman for all three (3) core programs. Entry must be submitted in time for Department judging and must be of quality to be judged.
 - Voice of Democracy (1 entry)
 - Patriot's Pen (1 entry)
 - Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award (1 for each level = 3 entries)
- Make at least a \$150 donation to the Veterans and Military Support program.
- Make at least a \$150 donation to the Commander's Special Project –
- Make at least a \$150 donation to the Al Lipphardt CIC Homecoming Fund.
- Inspect all Posts in the District by December 31, 2023 and have those inspections submitted to the Department HQ.
- Submit a Trustee Report of Audit to Department Headquarters after each District Meeting/Convention.
- Conduct at least four (3) District-wide recruiting events and report the results to Department Headquarters by April 30. Send recruiting event report to admin@georgiavfw.org
- Participate in the Department Membership Round-up
- Sufficiently bond the District Quartermaster for the current year in accordance with Section 703 of the National By-Laws.
- Appoint a Student Veterans chairman coordinator, by name, to Department Headquarters by August 30.
- Submit at least one (1) correct SVA report per semester (Fall and Spring) to admin@georgiavfw.org. Fall NLT December 31. Spring NLT April 30.
- Appoint a District Service Officer, by name, to Department Headquarters by August 30, 2023
- District Service Officer must attend the VFW-sponsored Service Officer training.

NEW

ALL-STATE TEAM OF DISTRICT COMMANDER AWARDS

Criteria

- All "Successful District Criteria" from the previous page.

Awards for District Commanders/Districts

District Commanders who meet the listed criteria and have helped their Posts engage in their local communities may be selected to the team of All-State District Commanders. The Awards Committee will look at your complete body of work.

Each member of the All-State Team of District Commanders will receive:

- "All-State" District Commander cap, pin and citation
 - Districts that meet the criteria by April 30 will receive these awards at the Georgia State Convention.
 - Districts that meet the criteria after April 30 will receive receive these awards at the next year's Georgia Leadership Training (GLT).

State Recognition Awards

Individual Awards

Joe L Smith Memorial Award

Plaque presented to Mr/Ms VFW of the Year. Deadline for nomination is April 30.

Richard Branson Outstanding Service Officer Award

Plaque presented to the Outstanding Service Officer of the Year. Deadline for nomination is April 30.

John F Gwizdak Heroic Youth Award

Award to recognize a youth who took heroic and/or patriotic action in their local community. Deadline for nomination is April 30.



VFW Employer of the Year

Award to confer recognition on one employer for outstanding records in hiring and retention of veterans. Deadline for nomination is April 30.



JROTC Cadet of the Year

Award for special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership for Junior ROTC cadets. This award seeks to recognize a remarkable cadet who will become a leader in their community and serve their country.



VFW Member of the Year

This award is to recognize a member of the VFW who has exemplified in their actions and accomplishments, the true spirit of our Organization in serving the needs of their Post, and Community, and who has dedicated themselves in a professional manner to addressing the pillars of our organization.

State Recognition Awards

Post Awards



Americanism Awards

Award presented to the top Americanism Post for the year based on submitted Community Service reports. Participation dates are May 1 to April 30.

Community Service Awards

Award presented to the top Community Service Posts for the year. Participation dates are May 1 to April 30.



Youth Activity Awards

Award presented to the top Youth Activities Posts for the year. Participation dates are May 1 to April 30.

Bravo Zulu Post 107% Achievement Award

All Posts that achieve at least 107% in membership will receive a distinctive banner along with special recognition at the Department Convention in June.



Post 107% Achievement Incentive

All Posts who achieve at least 107% in membership by March 31 will receive a cash award for the Post.

- By December 31 - Posts will be entered into a drawing where up to 20 Posts will receive \$1,000. *(All other Posts qualified by this date will receive the February 9th incentive.)*
- By Mid-Winter Conference - Feb 9 - Posts will receive \$500.
- By Tax Day - April 15 - Posts will receive \$300.
- By Convention - June 6 - Posts will receive \$200.

VFW National Membership Program

MEET THE CHALLENGE



2023-2024

Duane T. Sarmiento
Commander-in-Chief

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Membership Mission

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

Introduction

Today, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is 124 years old. During those years, we have had WWI, WWII, Korean, Vietnam, and other veterans joining en masse. Today, however, we have lost many of these honorable men and women. As history has proven, the Post-9/11 veterans will join our organization like others have when they are ready, however usually not until their kids grow or their retirements are in place.

We must not stereotype any of our future members regardless of sex, color, or personal beliefs. If a member qualifies, bring them in. The only way to make this success permanent is to retain those members, recover past members, and continue to recruit new veterans into our ranks. There are still many veterans eligible to join and at all ages. However, our focus needs to be on our Post-9/11 veterans, for they will be our future.

You might ask, how do we build our organization? It's simple, leadership by example. If you are a Commander of a Post, District, Department, or the National Commander, then get out there and recruit members yourself and show your team that if you can do it, so can they. A good way to do this is to improve the way we communicate with our members at all levels of the organization. Posts, Districts, Departments, and our National Officers need to use all methods available to convey information for news and training to our membership through newsletters, emails, social media, recruiting booths and outreach teams.

We need to know who our members are and how we can address their needs and concerns. It's time to step it up and recruit Post-9/11 veterans. Each of us needs to do our part and recruit at least one new member. Think about it. If we all recruit one each, we would show substantial growth in membership in just one year.

Membership Goals

1. Build a strong organization through recruiting new members while retaining our current membership, creating a solid baseline for the future.
2. Work together to achieve VFW's goals. The VFW National Headquarters staff is available to assist in coordinating programs, developing membership initiatives, and building awareness among our membership and the entire veteran community.

Membership Objectives

- Achieve 102% in Membership
- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member.
- Increase membership drives and/or events.
- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts.
- Increase Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership

Membership Resources

In order to assist our Posts, Districts, and Departments in meeting the goals set out by the Commander-in-Chief in this membership program, the National Headquarters has a wealth of resources at your disposal. Many of those are available free of charge to our members.

- Membership materials ranging from applications, recruiting brochures, posters, and benefits brochures can be ordered directly from the Membership Department using the Membership Order Form (located under Membership Quick Links once you log into [vfw.org](https://www.vfw.org))
- Resources for Post Development, Membership Campaigns, and Mentorship such as training guides, videos, and webinars are available in the Training & Support section on [vfw.org](https://www.vfw.org)
- Promotional tools such as radio spots, sample advertisements, public service announcements, and media kits are all available through the Media Room on [vfw.org](https://www.vfw.org)

See the trend? Just about anything you will need is at [vfw.org](https://www.vfw.org), check it out.

The VFW National Headquarters staff is ready and trained to answer any questions you may have concerning membership, VFW programs, or other issues. You can contact our **Member Service Center directly at 1.833.VFW.VETS**, or the **Membership Department at 1.888.JOIN.VFW**.

Triple Crown Award

Any commander who achieves All-American at the Post, District and Department level will receive a Triple Crown pin and recognition at the National Convention.

Recruiting Awards

- **1,5, 10, 15** Corresponding numbered member pin
- **25** CIC coin and Citation
- **50** National Aide-De-Camp cap and Citation
- **75** CIC Medallion Set
- **100** Century cap or \$50 VFW Store credit & Citation
- **150** CIC Custom Desk Name Plate

Department “102 Percent” Incentive

Any Department that attains 102% in membership by close of business on June 30th, 2024, will be entered into a random drawing. The commander and quartermaster that is selected will each receive:

- **\$2500 voucher through Veterans Travel Services (VTS) applied towards airfare, accommodations, and transportation for a trip of their choice.**

Early Bird Award—VFW Legislative Conference

The top three Post commanders and quartermasters in each division on Jan. 1, 2024, will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW Legislative Conference, Washington D.C.**

Post Commander and Quartermaster – New & Reinstated Member Award

The top 10 Post commanders and quartermasters in each division who report more than 50 new and/or reinstated members by Jan. 1, 2024, will each be awarded:

- **A travel charger with the official VFW Commander-in-Chief logo.**

Meeting the Challenge Award

The top two Post commanders and the top two District commanders in each division who achieve 102% membership by April 1, 2024, will each be awarded:

- **Five-night hotel accommodation at the National Convention.**

102% Post, District & Department

A distinctive streamer will be awarded to every Post, District and State/Department that achieves 102% or greater in membership before July 1, 2024.

102% Commander Drawing

Each Post and District commander that exceeds 102% in membership by June 1, 2024, will receive an entry in this drawing. Twenty Post commanders and Twelve District commanders will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**

Post Commander and Quartermaster Division Challenge

For every 10 new/reinstated members recruited between July 1, 2023, and April 1, 2024, Posts will earn one entry for both Post commander and quartermaster entered into a drawing. One Post per division will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend each for commander and quartermaster to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**

Legacy Life Membership Acquisition

Each Post that achieves the designated benchmarks of 25, 50 and 75 Legacy Life Members will be awarded:

- **A Legacy Society Post Proclamation.**

Each Post that achieves the distinctive benchmark of 100 Legacy Life members by July 1, 2024, commander or Post representative will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**
- **Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.**
- **Legacy Society Post Proclamation.**

Top Department Recruiter

The top Recruiter in every Department on July 1, 2024, will receive:

- **Engraved Navy Cutlass**

Note: Minimum of 25 new/reinstated members required to win this award.

Elite Recruiter

Any VFW member who signs up 250 or more new and/or reinstated members by July 1, 2024, will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**
- **Distinctive cap, citation, and name badge.**

Recruiter of the Year

The VFW member who signs up the greatest number of new and/or reinstated members greater than 250 by July 1, 2024, will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**
- **Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.**
- **Distinctive cap, citation, and name badge.**
- **Commander-in-Chief's Crystal Eagle.**

New Post Development and Post Revitalization Department Award

- For each new Post chartered, and/or revitalized, the Department Quartermaster will receive:
 - **A \$250 credit from the VFW Store to be used towards necessary materials for the new Post.**

All-American Criteria

The All-American program exists to recognize exceptional leadership and teamwork, authentic accomplishment in membership growth and VFW core programs.

All-American Post Criteria

- Membership must be at least 102%
- Must conduct two Membership recruiting events, submit reports through All-American Dashboard
- Post-Election Report must be submitted to National Headquarters
- Meet all the following Program Participation Criteria:
 - Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Post can donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)
 - Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Post can donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)
 - Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to Veterans & Military Support Programs Services, minimum of \$100.
 - National Citizenship Education Teachers Award –Post must advance a teacher to District; if no District judging applies then advance to Department for judging (Overseas Post donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)
 - A Post must submit a community service report quarterly to their department for submission to the All-American Dashboard. The quarters are July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Jan-March, and April-June.
 - Buddy Poppy- Purchase Three per member in the Post

All-American Post Award

- All Posts that meet the Qualifying Percentage and the program participation criteria will receive an All-American Post Citation, Post Streamer and be recognized in the VFW magazine.

- The Top **25** Posts in each Division will receive:

- Acknowledgment in VFW Magazine
- Acknowledgement during the All-American Awards Ceremony at the National Convention
- All-American Post citation
- All-American Post streamer
- All-American citation - commander
- All-American name badge - commander

- All-American cap (commander only, quartermaster and Post members may purchase “Post Member” cap)
- All-American lapel pin (commander only, quartermaster may purchase pin)
- All-American Team Post Member lapel pin (25 pack)
- The top **five** commanders in each division will also receive:
 - **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**
 - **Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.**

All-American District Criteria

- Membership must be at least 102%
- Conduct two Membership recruiting events, submit report through the dashboard.
- District-Election Report must be submitted to National Headquarters.
- Meet all the following Program Participation criteria:
 - Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)
 - Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry*see last page)
 - National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)

All-American District Award

- All Districts that meet the Qualifying Percentage and the program participation criteria will receive an All-American District Commander Citation, All-American Streamer and be recognized in the VFW magazine.

- The Top **15** Districts in each Division will receive:

- All-American District streamer
- All-American District citation - commander
- All-American name badge - commander
- All-American cap (commander only, quartermaster may purchase cap)
- All-American lapel pin (commander only, quartermaster may purchase pin)
- The top **two** District commanders in each division will also receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**
- **Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.**

All-American Department Criteria

- Membership must be at least 102%.
- Must conduct two Membership recruiting events, report of these events must be submitted through the All-American dashboard.
- Conduct a Department Commander's "Official Visit or Round Up" prior to Jan 1, 2024, with a report submitted through the All-American dashboard.

National Legislative Service

- Monthly National Legislative Service committee member reports submitted to National Legislative Service in Washington, D.C.

National Veterans Services

- Must have a State/Department service officer and submit his or her name and contact information to National Veterans Services in Washington, D.C. by July 31, 2023.
- Department Service Officer successfully completes NVS training requirements with a passing grade.
- Department Service Officer or appropriate designee reports hosting Post Service Officer training to NVS. Reports due by 30 June 2024.

Programs

- Voice of Democracy - An entry advanced to National judging
- Patriot's Pen - An entry advanced to National judging
- Veterans & Military Support Programs – Must complete State/Department fundraiser and proceeds donated to Veterans & Military Support Programs, Kansas City, Mo. (see last page)
- Must have at least One teacher submitted for the Teacher of the Year competition. (One entry from one of the three categories).
- Must enter one Employer of the Year Nomination (see last page)
- Must enter one JROTC Cadet of the Year Nomination (see last page)
- Must enter one VFW Member of the Year Nomination (see last Page)

All-American Department Award

- All-American Department streamer
- All-American Department citation - commander
- All-American name badge - commander
- All-American cap - commander - *quartermaster may purchase cap.*
- All-American lapel pin - commander - *quartermaster may purchase pin.*
- \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention
- Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention Joint Opening Session

Conference Membership Award

The Conference with the highest membership percentage of the four Conferences will receive a \$1500 award and have their name and year engraved on a traveling trophy presented by the Commander-in-Chief to the Conference Chairman at the National Convention. The 2023-2024 Conference Chairman will return the trophy to the membership booth at National Convention in Louisville, KY no later than COB on Saturday to ensure placement of the new nameplate. This trophy will be presented to the 2023-2024 Conference Chairman on stage during the Joint Opening Session**.

Post Membership Divisions and Minimum Qualifying Percentages

Division	Total Membership		Qualifying Percentage
1	951+		102%
2	750	950	102%
3	356	749	102%
4	246	355	102%
5	185	245	102%
6	143	184	102%
7	112	142	102%
8	88	111	102%
9	68	87	102%
10	51	67	102%
11	10	50	102%

District Membership Divisions and Minimum Qualifying Percentages

Division	Total Membership		Qualifying Percentage
1	5,000	14,000	102%
2	3,282	4,999	102%
3	2,172	3,281	102%
4	1,447	2,171	102%
5	906	1,446	102%
6	1	905	102%

Important Notes

- Awards are transferable inside the Post, Districts or Department.
- **Post/District/Department:** Membership must be at least 102 percent.
- **Post member cap,** any member in a Post that achieves All-American status can purchase a “Post Member” cap. Those members must be in the Post during the membership year.
- The *Department Commander’s “Official Visit or Round Up”* is for Department commanders to visit Posts in their Department to get face-to-face time with their Post and District leadership and assist with membership and Programs.
- Donations made to replace Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen (By eligible overseas Post). **Do not donate through your Department or by any other means.** Use the dashboard for your donation.
- Veterans & Military Support Programs Services Donations for Post/District/Department as listed above will only be accepted only through the following link: Use the dashboard for online donation.
- ****For the Conference Membership Award traveling trophy, the Conference Chairman will be responsible for the return of the trophy to the Membership Department booth at the National Convention each year.**

Department “102 Percent” Incentive, NOTE: Reimbursement for travel expenses paid by the VFW will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service on Form 1099 if the total of payments made to you during any calendar year equals \$600.00 or more. Travel expenses paid for a guest or spouse for the award will also be reported to the IRS. The reimbursement you receive from the VFW will be deemed by the IRS to be taxable income. Since the circumstances of each individual are different, it is recommended that you consult your tax advisor to determine the effect these payments may have on your personal tax situation. It is your responsibility to keep receipts and other records as you and your accountant and/or tax advisor deem necessary in order to document your expenditures.

Recruiter Awards

CIC Membership Awards



Aide de Camp Cap and Century Recruiter Cap



1 , 5, 10, and 15 member Recruiting
Pins Commander- in- Chief's Pin and
Coin



Engraved Navy Cutlass



CIC logo power bar



Recruiter Of the Year- Crystal Eagle trophy



CIC Desk Name Plate (Award winners name with
CIC logo and slogan)



CIC Medallion Set with SVC and JVC Coins



All American Awards

LEAVE YOUR MARK FOR THE FUTURE



Legacy Life Membership

The VFW's Legacy Life Membership provides an opportunity for Life Members to leave their mark on the nation's largest combat veterans' organization.

Available only to current Life Members, the Legacy Life Membership not only offers expanded and exclusive benefits, but also helps ensure that the VFW's good work will continue for generations to come.

Legacy Life Members can select from three membership categories: Gold, Silver or Bronze. Each offers a selection of exclusive benefits.

Once activated, your membership will endow additional income - made in your name - that will provide a stable financial foundation for both your Post and the VFW.

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

- An annual endowment will be made in your name to the VFW, your Department, and to your Post in perpetuity
- Your personally engraved Legacy Life Membership card
- An official Legacy Life Membership certificate
- A Legacy Life Membership lapel pin
- Recognition at the Memorial Building kiosk in Washington D.C.
- Recognition at the VFW National Headquarters Museum
- Discounts for personal and gift purchases through National Emblem and Supply
- Specially designed membership products (shirts, caps, lapel pins) specifically for Legacy Life Members
- Tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed.

It's easy to get started:

- Choose from Gold, Silver or Bronze, each with its own prestigious benefits.

*Gold - \$1,200

*Silver - \$800

*Bronze - \$400

- Installment plans with quarterly payments available.
- Choose "continue the annual endowment" upon demise.

State/Post Recognition Awards

Joe L Smith Memorial Award

Plaque presented to Mr./Ms. VFW of the Year. Deadline for nomination is April 30, 2024.

Richard Branson Outstanding Service Officer Award

Plaque and award presented to the Outstanding Service Officer of the Year. Deadline for nomination is April 30, 2024.

Community Service Award

Award presented to the Post having the most outstanding Community Service program for the year. Participation dates are May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024.

Americanism Award

Award presented to the Post having the most outstanding Americanism program for the year. Participation dates are May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024.

Youth Activity Award

Award presented to the Post having the most youth activities. Youth program for the year. Participation dates are May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024.

John F Gwizdak Heroic Youth Award

Award to recognize a youth who took heroic and/or patriotic action in their local community. Deadline for nomination is April 30.

VFW Employer of the Year

Award to confer recognition on one employer for outstanding records in hiring and retention of veterans. Deadline for nomination is April 30.

JROTC Cadet of the Year

Award for special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership for Junior ROTC cadets. This award seeks to recognize a remarkable cadet who will become a leader in their community and serve their country.

VFW Member of the Year

This award is to recognize a member of the VFW who has exemplified in their actions and accomplishments, the true spirit of our Organization in serving the needs of their Post, and Community, and who has dedicated themselves in a professional manner to addressing the pillars of our organization.

SHOW YOU STAND



FOR VETERANS

Veterans and Military Support

Veterans & Military Support is the umbrella incorporating the VFW troop support programs. All four of the Veterans & Military Support programs are funded solely by donations.

By donating to Veterans & Military Support, you are giving Operation Uplink, MAP, Unmet Needs and the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program the chance to continue our mission of providing assistance and support to our military service members and veterans in their time of need. During the year, the needs of our military change. Your donation to Veterans & Military Support will help our programs respond to those changes and assist our service members when and where they need it the most.

Post/District # _____

Date: _____

Amount _____

Post Relief funds can be used for this donation.

Keep a copy of this form to track your donation. Email a copy to HQ.

Multiple donations are allowed.

Credit Card Payments Only

Go to VFW.org and click on "Program Donations"

Forward a copy of the receipt to admin@georgiavfw.org

Questions? adj@georgiavfw.org

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION****MEMBER INFORMATION**

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss	Name:	
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Date of birth:	Email:	Phone:
Membership Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (<i>not a member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member (<i>must be a member in good standing of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary or a unit of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. Complete affiliation information below. If no Post or Auxiliary number is provided, an Associate Membership will be issued.</i>)		

VFW & VFW AUXILIARY INFORMATION
(Required if a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member)

<input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of VFW Post _____ in the Department of _____ VFW
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of VFW Auxiliary _____ in the Department of _____ VFW Auxiliary

RECRUITER

If invited to become a member, who recruited you?

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please allow 3-4 weeks for your membership certificate, card and other information to be sent. You can also apply online at: www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership	One time membership fee	\$35 *	
	Life Member pin (<i>optional</i>)	\$ 5	
	Total		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed and made payable to VFW National Home for Children <input type="checkbox"/> Charge my <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express			
Name on card:		Card number:	
Signature:		Expiration date:	

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A LIFE MEMBER

BEING A LIFE MEMBER or an Associate Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children is one way you can create a bond between yourself and the mission of the National Home. Your support and encouragement honors our veterans and today's military by helping their children and families in times of need. Life Members in good standing with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary may vote for trustees representing their National Home District and proposed Bylaw or Articles of Incorporation changes.

***Please note that effective January 1, 2019 the cost to purchase a membership is increasing to \$50 and will include a Life Member pin.**

VFW National Home For Children



Mission Provide children and families of active-duty military, war veterans, and descendants of the **VFW** and its **Auxiliary**, opportunities for growth and development in a nurturing community, and to serve as a living memorial to all veterans.

History It was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war - mothers and children, brothers and sisters - could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their serviceman didn't come home.

Today's families face different challenges - reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment, and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, among others - and the National Home has evolved over their decades-long history to meet these changing needs.

More Info Go to www.VFWNationalHome.org

Donation

Post/District # _____

Date: _____

Check # _____

Amount _____

Post Relief funds can be used for this donation.

Send **check to National Home** and this form to State HQ.

Keep a copy of this form to track your donation.

Multiple donations are allowed.

Make Check Payable to **VFW National Home for Children**
Put "Georgia House" in check memo

Mail Donation to **VFW National Home**
3573 S Waverly Rd
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Questions? Bill Miles
706-968-0854
jvice@georgiavfw.org

Encourage all members to become Life Members of the National Home

This form may be copied for additional National Home donations



VFW Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Entry Form

NOTE: VFW Point of Contact should fill out their section below prior to distributing this form.
This will provide individuals from outside of the VFW with the needed information to submit their packets successfully.

To be filled out by VFW representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #: Sponsoring District #:
Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available)

VFW Post POC

Full Name:
Phone: Email:
Address: (where to mail entry)
City: State: Zip:

Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name:
Phone: Email:

Nominee Information

Choose appropriate teacher citation:(Elementary, Middle, High)
Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
Phone : Email:
Occupation Title: (if any) (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
School Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
Address of School:

City: State: Zip:
School Phone: School Email: (if available)

Please complete this form and submit to your local VFW Post using the information provided above by the Oct. 31 deadline. Ensure to include all required documentation that is outlined on the instructions sheet provided with this form. All winning Post entries must be received by their **VFW Department Headquarters no later than Jan. 1**. If you have any questions, please contact your Department Headquarters.



Commander's Special Project

Homeless Women Veterans

Your donation is used for Veterans and their Families.

Post/District # _____

Date: _____

Check # _____

Amount _____

Post Relief funds can be used for this donation.

Keep a copy of this form to track your donation.

Multiple donations are allowed.

Make Check Payable to VFW Department of Georgia

Put "Commander's Special Project" in check memo

Mail Donation to VFW Department of Georgia

PO Box 3025
Macon GA 31205-3025

Questions? adj@georgiavfw.org

Georgia Citizenship Education Teacher Awards Program

**Smart/Maher
VFW National
Citizenship
Education
Teacher Award
Grades K-12**

STATE CHAIRMAN	Fausto Tenen	DISTRICT CHAIRMAN	_____
	912-663-1994	PHONE	_____
	teacher@georgiavfw.org	EMAIL	_____
	88 Lewis Dr		
	Richmond Hill, GA 31324		

State Awards

Grades 9 - 12	\$200 and Citation
Grades 6 - 8	\$200 and Citation
Grades K - 5	\$200 and Citation

The top State winner will be honored at the Awards Banquet at the Mid-Winter meeting in Macon on Saturday, February 10, 2024.

Eligibility	Elementary, Junior High, and High School teachers who teach citizenship education topics, regularly teaching (at least half of the school day in a classroom environment), and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively.	
Where to Start?	Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, supervisors, other interested individuals and the individual. Posts will recognize as least one outstanding teacher in grades K-12 but are encouraged to submit an entry in all three categories.	
Deadlines	Teacher entry to Post	October 31, 2023
	Post judging completed	November 15, 2023
	Post reports to All-American Dashboard	November 15, 2023
	District judging completed	December 1, 2023
	District approves Post reporting to All-American Dashboard	December 1, 2023
	State judging completed	December 31, 2023
	State winners to National	January 15, 2024



VFW Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Entry Form

NOTE: VFW Point of Contact should fill out their section below prior to distributing this form.
This will provide individuals from outside of the VFW with the needed information to submit their packets successfully.

To be filled out by VFW representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #: Sponsoring District #:
Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available)

VFW Post POC

Full Name:
Phone: Email:
Address: (where to mail entry)
City: State: Zip:

Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name:
Phone: Email:

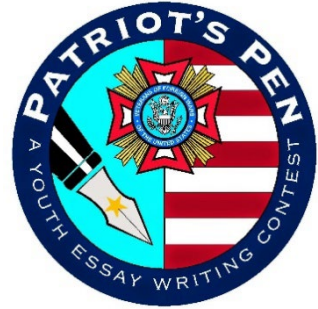
Nominee Information

Choose appropriate teacher citation:(Elementary, Middle, High)
Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
Phone : Email:
Occupation Title: (if any) (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
School Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
Address of School:

City: State: Zip:
School Phone: School Email: (if available)

Please complete this form and submit to your local VFW Post using the information provided above by the Oct. 31 deadline. Ensure to include all required documentation that is outlined on the instructions sheet provided with this form. All winning Post entries must be received by their **VFW Department Headquarters no later than Jan. 1**. If you have any questions, please contact your Department Headquarters.

Georgia Patriot's Pen Awards Program



STATE CHAIRMAN	Kelli Kelley	DISTRICT CHAIRMAN	_____
	575-415-0924	PHONE	_____
	patriotspen@georgiavfw.org	EMAIL	_____
	40 Elmtree Dr. Sharpsburg GA		

State Awards

1 st Place Winner	\$500 and Plaque
2 nd Place Winner	\$200 and Plaque
3 rd Place Winner	\$100 and Plaque

The State winner will be honored at the Awards Banquet at the Mid-Winter meeting in Macon on Saturday, February 10, 2024.

2023-2024 Theme	"How are you inspired by America?"	
Eligibility	6 th , 7 th , and 8 th grade students properly enrolled in public, private, parochial or home schools in the United States, its territories and possessions, and in overseas schools for dependents of military and civilian personnel. Foreign Exchange students and former winners that placed in the National finals are excluded.	
National Award	First place - \$5,000 and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC.	
Where to Start?	All information can be found at www.VFW.org/PatriotsPen	
Deadlines	Student entry to Post	October 31, 2023
	Post judging completed	November 15, 2023
	Post reports to All-American Dashboard	November 15, 2023
	District judging completed	December 1, 2023
	District approves Post reporting to All-American Dashboard	December 1, 2023
	State judging completed	December 31, 2023
	State winners to National	January 15, 2024

District Chairmen: Send District participation report, district winner's typed essay, head and shoulders photo, and entry form to State Chairman.

2023-2024 Theme

“How are you inspired by America?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023

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 73,000 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 the 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.

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 intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest 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 October 31, 2023. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

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 2023-2024 theme is:

“How are you inspired by America?”

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2023.

Note:

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

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.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](https://www.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 816.968.1155
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org**

2023-2024 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.
- In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) 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. 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: _____



Georgia Voice of Democracy Awards Program



STATE CHAIRMAN	James Gray	DISTRICT CHAIRMAN	<hr/>
	404-579-0118 (c)	PHONE	<hr/>
	vod@georgiavfw.org	EMAIL	<hr/>
	3599 Calumet Rd. Decatur GA		

State Awards

1 st Place Winner	\$1,000 and Plaque
2 nd Place Winner	\$750 and Plaque
3 rd Place Winner	\$500 and Plaque

The State winner will be honored at the Awards Banquet at the Mid-Winter meeting in Macon on Saturday, February 10, 2024.

2022-2023 Theme	“What are the greatest attributes of our democracy?”	
Eligibility	9 th , 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grade students properly enrolled in public, private, parochial or home schools in the United States, its territories and possessions, and in overseas schools for dependents of military and civilian personnel. Foreign Exchange students are excluded.	
National Award	National College Scholarship - \$30,000 first prize	
Where to Start?	All information can be found at www.VFW.org/VOD	
Deadlines	Student entry to Post	October 31, 2023
	Post judging completed	November 15, 2023
	Post reports to All-American Dashboard	November 15, 2023
	District judging completed	December 1, 2023
	District approves Post reporting to All-American Dashboard	December 1, 2023
	State judging completed	December 31, 2023
	State winners to National	January 15, 2024

District Chairmen: Send District participation report, district winner's recording, typed essay, head and shoulders photo, and entry form to State Chairman.

2023-2024 Theme

“What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023

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 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, “**What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?**”

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

The Rules

Who can enter?

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 intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or – 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. 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. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

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. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: First, visit this website 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

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, 2023**. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points:

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

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

2023-2024 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 Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. 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 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:
816.968.1155
Email: youthships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:
Contact:
Phone: Best Time To Call:
Alternate Contact:
Phone: Best Time To Call:





Georgia Safety Recognition Awards Program



STATE CHAIRMAN

Matthew Andrews
706-979-0529
safety@georgiavfw.org

Post entries are submitted to State Chairman

State Awards

1st Place Winner in Each Category \$200 and Plaque

The State winners will be honored at the Awards banquet at the Mid-Winter Conference in Macon on Saturday, February 10 2023.

Emergency Services Award

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 perform those duties and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

Law Enforcement Award

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state, or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individuals employed by private companies or security services.

Firefighter Award

Any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to perform those duties and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

Criteria for All Awards

Candidates must have:

- Been recognized by their colleagues or those they serve.
- Demonstrated consistent excellence in the performance of their duties.
- Displayed consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years
- Shown continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

Documentation Required

- Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone number, and identifying award for which the individual should be considered.
- One page resume of the candidate's overall background.
- One page resume of the candidate's background in their field.
- One page resume of the candidate's accomplishment and awards in their field.
- Photograph (preferably a headshot) of the candidate.

Deadlines

Post winners to State Chairman
State winners to National

January 1, 2023
February 1, 2023



Georgia Scout of the Year Awards Program



STATE CHAIRMAN

Tom Drumm
102 Tidal Marsh Way
St. Marys GA 61558
215-919-6001
scouting@georgiavfw.org

Post entries are submitted to State Chairman

State Awards

1 st Place	\$1,000 and Citation
2 nd Place	\$750 and Citation
3 rd Place	\$500 and Citation

The State winner will be honored at the banquet at the VFW State Convention in Macon on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

Eligibility

Scouts who are registered, active members of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship who have received the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award, or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.

Scouts must be 15 years of age and have demonstrated practical citizenship in school, scouting, and the community.

Scouts must be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

All applicants still in high school who reach their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified.

National Award

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

Where to Start?

All information can be found at www.VFW.org/Scout

Deadlines

Scout entry to Post	March 1, 2024
Post Entry to State	April 1, 2024
State Entry to National	May 1, 2024



Georgia's "We Care" Fund

Your donation is used to for military veterans' assistance and relief throughout Georgia.

Post/District # _____

Date: _____

Check # _____

Amount _____

Post Relief funds can be used for this donation.

Keep a copy of this form to track your donation.

Multiple donations are allowed.

Make Check Payable to VFW Department of Georgia

Put "We Care Fund" in check memo

Mail Donation to VFW Department of Georgia
PO Box 3025
Macon GA 31205-3025

Questions? randycoggins@att.net



Disaster Relief

Your donation is used for military veterans' assistance resulting from a natural disaster.

Post/District # _____

Date: _____

Check # _____

Amount _____

Post Relief funds can be used for this donation.

Keep a copy of this form to track your donation.

Multiple donations are allowed.

Make Check Payable to VFW Department of Georgia

Put "Disaster Relief" in check memo

Mail Donation to VFW Department of Georgia
PO Box 3025
Macon GA 31205-3025

Questions? adj@georgiavfw.org



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



CHAPLAIN'S MONTHLY REPORT

Post Number

District Number

Post Name, Number, City & State

Reporting Period

To

Number of Cards sent to Bereaved, Birthday, or Encouragement

Number of Phone Conversations (counseling, encouragement, etc.)

Number of Private Counseling Situations

Number of Hosp. Visits this Month

Mileage:

Hours Spent:

Number of VA Hosp. Visits this Month

Mileage:

Hours Spent:

Number of Home Visits this Month

Mileage:

Hours Spent:

Number of Viewings this Month

Mileage:

Hours Spent:

Number of Funerals this Month

Mileage:

Hours Spent:

Number of Memorial Services

Mileage:

Hours Spent:

Number of Special Events this Month

Mileage:

Hours Spent:

Number of Other Chaplaincy Services

Mileage:

Hours Spent:

Totals:

Mileage:

Hours Spent:

Chaplain's Name:

Send a copy of the report to the Post Commander and to admin@georgiavfw.org at Department Headquarters.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

It is important to open communications with comrades, Auxiliary members, and the community. Getting your Post on the web is a big part of that. It will open opportunities for donations, recruiting, and better community visibility.

Department Resources

Website	georgiavfw.org
Facebook	fb.com/VFWGeorgia
Twitter	@VFWGeorgia
Instagram	@VFWGeorgia

National Resources

Website	VFW.org
Facebook	fb.com/VFWFans
Twitter	@VFWHQ

District Resources

District 1	Request access via District Commander
District 2	fb.com/GAVFWDistrict2
District 5	fb.com/GAVFWDistrict5
District 6	fb.com/GAVFWDistrict6
District 8	fb.com/GAVFWDistrict8

Posts

Lots of Posts have websites and Facebook pages in various formats.

Facebook ads for use by your Post & YouTube video training is available by logging into your vfw.org account.

Use of the VFW Post/District Name & Number

If you create an email account, webpage, Facebook page or other Social Media account using the VFW Posts name or number, that account is the property of the Post/District. You must have the Post/District's permission before doing so. The Adjutant must have access to the account, and you must turn over control of the page when so ordered by proper authority.

Always have at least two (2) people as administrators of the account so that there is always a back-up.

VFW Website Solution Program

The VFW Website Solution program is geared to assist Posts and Departments in establishing a viable, easy-to-manage website. Working in conjunction with its developers, DrivePath's template-based platform offers Posts and Departments an affordable opportunity to stake their claim of the web, making pertinent information easily accessible to members, as well as the public. Further, the website templates being offered adopt a consistent look and feel, working to reinforce the official VFW brand and messaging.

Perhaps the most exciting part of this new program is, through Operation Uplink, the VFW is offering your Posts and Departments grants to cover the first year of service! However, this grant is limited to the first 52 Departments and 4,000 Posts to apply. The grant will cover the cost of domain management, development, integration and hosting for the first year. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the Posts and Departments to fund the annual domain management and hosting fee of \$360. That's less than \$1 per day!

These websites boast many manager-friendly functions and feature an "integration" component which allows the national website, and Department and Post websites to share information, both manually and automatically. This includes a system which allows the Posts to efficiently submit reports directly to the Department. In addition, DrivePath offers each Post and Department ongoing support with each website.

Georgia is currently using this.

How do you take advantage of this great new program?

Student Veterans Program

STATE CHAIRMAN	Anand Rao	DISTRICT CHAIRMAN	_____
	904-302-0390	PHONE	_____
	vfwpost4392@outlook.com	EMAIL	_____

Interacting with student veterans in your area is an excellent way to engage new veterans who are potential members.

Contact them

- Invite them to your local events
- Offer to bring your Service Officer to the school or their meetings
- Offer to help/support their events.

Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship - provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. It's just another way for us to say "thank you" to those who fought for our freedoms.

1 Student Veteran - No one knows education benefits better than the VFW. After all, we played a major role in the passage of the 1944 GI Bill of Rights, the Montgomery GI Bill Act of 1984 and the recent Post-9/11 GI Bill. To help ensure student veterans receive their benefits in a timely manner and have a place to turn to if they need help, the VFW, in conjunction with the Student Veterans of America (SVA), have developed the 1 Student Veteran program.

Veterans who send a message to 1studentveteran@vfw.org will receive a timely reply from a VFW staff member who specializes in student veteran issues.

If the student veterans have already confirmed their benefit eligibility through the VA's GI Bill Hotline, 888-GI BILL 1 (888-442-4551), and double-checked your enrollment verification with your school, take the next step and contact 1 Student Veteran today.

VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship - We have been advocating on behalf of veterans, service members and their families for more than a century, and we want to share our experience with a new generation of veteran leaders. The VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship grants 10 exemplary student veterans (fellows) the chance to join the VFW legislative team on Capitol Hill during the VFW Legislative Conference in early spring each year. The fellows will walk the halls of Congress, educating their legislators on the issues facing today's student veterans and have the opportunity to meet with policy-makers from federal agencies responsible for implementing veterans' policy.



VFW Liaison Name:		Department:	
Member Number:		Post Number:	
College or University:			
City, State & Zip:			
Student Veteran POC:			
Date & Time of Event:			
Please list details to include event type, Post members present, student veterans present, new members recruited and any additional outcomes.			

Please complete this form and email or fax it to your Department Headquarters

STATE CHAIRMAN

Anand Rao
 904-302-0390

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

Phone _____

vfwpost4392@outlook.com Email _____



Unmet Needs Eligibility Criteria

The applicant is the service member, veteran, or eligible dependent listed under the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

The financial hardship must be due to one of the following:

- ☐ Currently on active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of a current deployment, military pay error, or from being discharged for medical reasons.
- ☐ Discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of your military service connected injuries and/or illnesses.
- ☐ Discharged prior to September 11, 2001, are on a fixed income that must include VA compensation, and facing an unexpected financial hardship.

The financial hardship cannot be caused by:

- ☐ Civil, legal or domestic issues, misconduct, or any issues that are a result of spousal separation or divorce.
- ☐ Financial mismanagement by self or others, or due to bankruptcy.

All grants are paid directly to the creditor and not to the applicant. The applicant must provide the most current bills due. We will render payment for eligible current bills only.

Expenses Eligible for payment:

- ☐ Household expenses – mortgage, rent, repairs, insurance.
- ☐ Vehicle expenses – payments, insurance, repairs (major repairs for vehicles over ten years old will not be considered).
- ☐ Utilities.
- ☐ Food and clothing.
- ☐ Children's clothing, diapers, formula, school or childcare expenses.
- ☐ Medical bills, prescriptions & eyeglasses – the patient's portion for necessary or emergency medical care only.

Ineligible Expenses:

- ☐ Credit cards, military charge cards or retail store cards.
- ☐ Cable, Internet, or secondary phones.
- ☐ Cosmetic or investigational medical procedures & expenses.
- ☐ Taxes - property or otherwise.
- ☐ Furniture, electronic equipment or vehicle rentals.
- ☐ Any other expenses not determined to be a basic life need.

The eligible and ineligible expense lists are not all inclusive. Each case will be carefully reviewed for its own merits. Upon approval, payments will be made for you directly to the creditor. All applications are individually reviewed and the VFW reserves the right to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. For more information, contact Unmet Needs at 1-866-789-6333.



Adopt-A-Unit FAQ



The Adopt-a-Unit Program assists in building relationships between the VFW and our military members.

Who is Eligible to Adopt-a-Unit:

- VFW Posts
- VFW Auxiliary
- Combination of Both

Why you should Adopt-a-Unit:

- To support your local military members and their families.
- As VFW/Auxiliary members, you understand the challenges military members and their families face and the support they need.
- To help connect military members with the vast network of resources the VFW has available.
- Conducting Adopt-a-Unit activities is a great recruiting opportunity.

How to find a military unit:

- Contact your local National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty units.
- Access the "Find a Unit Flyer" which is available at <http://www.vfw.org/troopsupport/>.
- Speak with other VFW Posts and Veterans Organizations who may have knowledge of units in the area.

When to adopt a unit:

- There is no time like the present and our military members and their families need your assistance now more than ever. Your assistance is equally important whether the unit is home or deployed overseas.

What kind of activities should you plan:

- Welcome Home, Deployment, Yellow Ribbon, Family Day, Dinner/Picnics, Holiday Parties, Meetings/Briefings and Funeral/Memorial Services to name a few.
- You are only limited by your imagination when it comes to supporting our troops and their families.

Where to get assistance for Adopt-a-Unit Questions:

- Call the Military Assistance Program Office at (816) 756-3390
- Email the MAP Office at map@vfw.org

How to Apply:

- Submit an Adopt-a-Unit Application to the MAP Office, the form is located on the VFW website at <http://www.vfw.org/troopsupport/>.

When to Report:

- Submit a minimum of one AAU Activity Report annually per adopted unit.
- Your first report is due at least one year from the date the application was received. You can also submit a report after every event that you conduct with your adopted unit.



Adopt-A-Unit

Application for Sponsorship



This form must be filled out completely. If you have any questions, please contact the MAP office at (816) 756-3390. Form can be **faxed to MAP at (816) 968-2779**, emailed to MAP@vfw.org, or mailed to VFW National Headquarters, Attn: MAP, 406 W 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. Please allow a minimum of 4 weeks for your certificate packet to arrive.

Adoption by: Post Auxiliary Both

Post Number: _____ Contact Name: _____

Post Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Unit to be Sponsored:

Army

Marines

Navy

Air Force

Coast Guard

Unit Status:

Active Duty

Reserve

National Guard

Unit Name: _____

Authorizing Unit Point of Contact: _____

Unit Address / APO / FPO: _____

Unit POC Phone: _____ Unit POC Email: _____



How to Find a Unit to Adopt

The references and resources below are to help you *get started* supporting local military units and their families through **VFW's Adopt-a-Unit (AAU) program**.

Before submitting AAU paperwork to VFW National HQ or sending care packages to a unit:

- Get permission from the unit's Commanding officer or Senior NCO
- Review the information in the Adopt-a-Unit Application.

VFW HQs does not have a list of names &/or addresses of units or service members.

===== **R e s o u r c e s** =====

VFW Post/Auxiliary members are the BEST resources to make contact with a local military unit. Ask if anyone has a friend/relative currently serving in the military; or even knows of someone working/serving on a local base.

VFW & Auxiliary Department Chairmen are a critically important resource, they receive training on VFW troop support programs and receive regular communications from VFW HQs.

Your own hometown community (Churches, workplace, schools, VSOs etc.) As with your membership, ask around to see if anyone has a friend or relative currently serving in the military or working at a base or reserve center.

===== **Military/Internet Resources** =====

Active Duty Military Bases/Installations:

Military.com Assists 30 million Americans with military affinity stay connected and informed, including an online guide to military bases. <http://www.military.com/base-guide/>

The Military Zone is a website whose mission is to provide military news, information and resources of interest to active, retired, and future military personnel. Their information seems a little older, but it does have telephone numbers for many bases:

http://themilitaryzone.com/military_bases.html

My Base Guide primarily geared towards military and their families. Click on the link below to check the U.S. map and see if there is a base in your area. When you find a base, then click on the name. From the bases' webpage, look for the "Directory" and look for the "Public Affairs" office to make contact. <http://mybaseguide.com/>

National Guard & Reserves:

1. **Army & Air National Guard**: The link below is to a U.S. map, just click on your state & it takes you to your state's guard website.
<http://www.nationalguard.mil/resources/statewebsites.aspx>
2. **Marine Reserves**: The link below has the most detailed contact information to work from.
<http://www.marforres.marines.mil/ContactUs/DirectoryByState.aspx>
3. **Army Reserves**: Look on the right side of the home page of the link below for "Find A Unit" to look up your state. <http://www.usar.army.mil/Pages/default.aspx>
4. **Navy Reserves**: <<still working on what the symbols on map mean, 4/26>>
<http://www.navyreserve.com/about/locations/>
5. **Air Force Reserves**: Lists units by states. Click on the unit/state and it will take to you that AF base website. You will then need to go to the contact us to get the telephone number for the Airman and Family Assistance Center.
<http://www.afrc.af.mil/units/unitsbystate.asp>

Military Medical (Wounded Warrior) units:

1. **Army- Warrior Transition Units (WTU)**: This link also uses a U.S. map. Once, you've verified there is a unit in your area, you can use the telephone number provided to make contact with an ombudsman. http://wtc.army.mil/about_us/wtu_locations.html
2. **Marines- Wounded Warrior Regiment (WWR)** detachments are units/locations: Contact one of the 2 Battalions below to see if there are Marines from the WWR in your area.
 - o **Battalion-East Contact Center**: *(East of the Mississippi River, including Europe)* 910-451-1202, 910-451-2253, 910-449-9573
 - o **Battalion West Contact Center**: *(West of the Mississippi River, including Japan, Guam and Hawaii)* 888-738-7044
3. **Navy- Safe Harbor**: This website lists the locations (scroll down) where Navy Wounded Warrior – Safe Harbor staff are located throughout the continental United States.
<http://safeharbor.navylive.dodlive.mil/?s=locations>
4. **Air Force – Wounded Warrior**: Each Air Force base has an "Airman & Family Readiness Center"(AFRC). If the base has service members in transition, the AFRC will be the office to discuss possibly VFW support. Use the active duty base resources above to locate an Air Force base.

=====

With all the changes in the military, websites and links can change quickly. Please contact the MAP office regarding any issues with the above links or if you need further assistance. Email: map@vfw.org or call 816-756-3390, ext. 262



Military Assistance Program Grant Guidelines



Purpose:

To provide financial assistance to VFW Posts/Depts. and Auxiliaries who sponsor events with their local military community. These funds are meant to build relationships and provide information on VFW programs and services.

How to apply for a MAP Grant:

1. Only a VFW or Auxiliary member may submit a MAP Grant Application.
2. The application must be signed and dated by the Post/Dept. Commander, Quartermaster or the Auxiliary President or Treasurer.
3. The grant is limited to basic food items and Non Alcoholic beverages for currently serving military and their family members only.
It does not cover equipment/venue rentals, gifts, decorations, entertainment, etc.
4. The grant does not cover public or formal events such as: Military Dining In/Out, Military Balls, Change of Command/Responsibility Ceremonies, etc.
5. The grant application must be submitted no later than 14 days **prior** to the event. Any exceptions to this must be submitted in writing to the Director VFW Programs for approval.
6. An After Action Report along with eligible receipts must be submitted within 30 days of the event. Non submission will result in the Dept./Post/Auxiliary being billed for the grant amount.
7. If the event receipts total less that the grant amount provided, the Dept./Post/Auxiliary will be required to refund the difference within 30 days.
8. If the event is cancelled a full refund is required. If rescheduled for a later date, a written explanation must be submitted to the MAP office detailing the new dates. It will be determined by the MAP office and VFW Program Director whether a refund will be requested or the Dept./Post/Auxiliary will be allowed to keep the grant amount.
9. MAP Grants may be submitted by the following:
 - ☐ Email: map@vfw.org
 - ☐ Fax 816-968-2779
 - ☐ Mail to:
VFW National Headquarters
ATTN: MAP
406 W. 34th Street, Suite 902
Kansas City, MO 64111

Note: Prior approval of similar events does not guarantee future approval. All applications must be signed and dated.

For any further questions or concerns please contact the MAP Office by phone at (816) 756-3390



Military Assistance Program Grant Application Instructions



For any further questions or concerns please contact the MAP Office by phone at (816) 756-3390

To ensure the grant is processed in a timely manner all information needs to be complete and accurate.

Payee (Dept./Post/Auxiliary) Section

- ☐ Fill out **Post # and Department** information completely and specify if the request is being submitted by the Auxiliary.
- ☐ **Federal Tax ID and 501(c)** IRS Guidelines require the Federal Tax ID number and 501 C designations to be on the application. Contact your Dept./Post/Auxiliary Quartermaster or Treasurer to obtain this information.
- ☐ Please make sure that the Point of Contact (POC) is the individual at the post that is handling the event. Do not put the Commander or Quartermaster's name as POC if another person is handling the event. The VFW POC information must include a phone number and email address.

Grant Amount Requested / Event Total Budget Amount

- ☐ The **Grant Amount Requested** This amount should be what you are requesting MAP to cover after all other contributions are made.
- ☐ The **Total Budget Amount** This is the approximate amount that includes all money spent on any items/activities. MAP Grant funds, post contributions and any other outside contributions such as the military unit, Family Support Group, other community/veteran's organizations, etc.
- ☐ The **Event information** must include: Event name or type of event, date, attendance, location and activities.
- ☐ The **Event Attendance** must specify the **number** of military and family members expected. Do not include dignitaries or VFW members here

Military Unit Information

- ☐ **National Guard and Reserve Meal Rations** If the event takes place during a training weekend (required attendance) all service members should be provided a meal by the government. If you are unsure about this information you should contact the unit to verify.

Community Involvement (NOT VFW) Section

- ☐ List all other **organizations** that are going to be involved with the event and their contribution.

Post Contribution and Involvement

- ☐ **Post contribution** is any monetary contribution from the Post/Dept. that is separate from the MAP Grant funds that are being requested.

Authorization Section

- ☐ Ensure that you read and check both **Acknowledgement 1 and Acknowledgement 2**
- ☐ The application must be **signed by the VFW Dept. / Post Commander or Quartermaster.** If it is being submitted by the **Auxiliary it must be signed by the President or Treasurer.**



Military Assistance Program (MAP)

Grant Application



Payee (Dept./Post/Auxiliary):

Post/Aux # _____
Department: _____
Federal TAX ID# (9 digits) _____
Exempt Status, 501(c) 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 19 ☐ (check one)
Street Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
VFW POC: _____
Email: _____
Phone: (____) _____

Grant Amount Requested: _____

Event Total Budget Amount: _____

Event Name: _____
Event Date (s): _____
How many are expected to attend for each group:
Currently-serving Military: _____ Family: _____
Event Location: _____
Activities: _____

Military Unit Information:

Unit Name: _____
Branch of Service: _____
Component: Active ☐ Reserve ☐ Guard ☐ (check one)
Installation city/state: _____
MPOC Name & Rank: _____

For National Guard and Reserve units only:

Is this a drill for the unit? _____
If it is a drill, is the unit contributing their meal
Rations (GOV funds) for the Military meals? ☐
If not, why not? _____

Community Involvement (NOT VFW):

Will there be any other community involvement,
including other veterans' organizations?

YES ☐ NO ☐

IF YES- List the businesses/groups that are
participating & what they are contributing:

Post Contribution and Involvement:

Expected # of VFW/Auxiliary members attending? _____
Is the Post/Department contributing to the event with
funds, goods or services beyond what MAP is being
asked to provide? YES ☐ NO ☐
If yes, what amount? _____

Please check all activities VFW/Auxiliary members will assist with:

Plan ☐ Shop ☐ Set-up/clean- ☐
up Cook ☐ Serve ☐ Assist children ☐
Recruit ☐ Provide VFW ☐
materials/info Speak ☐ during event

Is the Post contributing any other kind of
goods or services?

VFW Recognition (check all that applies): Will

you have a VFW banner or flag on display? ☐
Will the members wear items with VFW ☐
logos?
Will the Unit's CO acknowledge the VFW's
contribution during his/her remarks?

*****Authorization*****

***** Acknowledgement 1:

To facilitate compliance with IRS regulations, the VFW Military
Assistance Program (MAP) will require the Post to provide a
report including eligible receipts no later than 30 days after
the scheduled event date. Failure to do so will result in a
request from National Headquarters for a full refund of the
Grant amount.

☐ (Must be checked)

Acknowledgement 2:

This money will not be used for lobbying in any way.
☐ (Must be checked)

Payee QM or Commander Signature

X _____ Date: _____

Printed Name and Title



Military Assistance Program Grant Report



Date of Event: _____

VFW Department: _____ District: _____ Post: _____

Type of Event (i.e., Welcome Home, Deployment, Family Briefing, etc.): Full

Unit Name:

Unit City / State:

Brief Description of Event: _____

Total amount of MAP funds utilized for the event. _____

Are Receipts for Expenditures Attached?: _____

Actual Attendance:

Number of Military: _____ Families: _____

Number of VFW and Aux members attending the event? _____

Number of others in attendance (dignitaries other group etc)? _____

Number of Members Recruited at the Event?: _____

- Please attach any newspaper articles or links to articles on the internet.

Names of VFW National or Department Officers or Certified Recruiters who attended:



SportClips
HAIRCUTS

HELP A HERO SCHOLARSHIP ★ PROGRAM

What is Help A Hero?

Sport Clips Haircuts, the nation's leading men's and boys' hair care provider, is a major supporter of the VFW and is also its "Official Haircutter". Since 2007, Sport Clips locations across the U.S. have helped U.S. service members connect with their loved ones by participating in the company's Help A Hero fundraising campaign, benefitting the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Operation Uplink™ Free Call Days. Through company and client donations, more than 2 million calls have been made possible - and counting!

Sport Clips continues to support the Free Call Days for deployed and hospitalized service members, but in the fall of 2013, the company expanded Help A Hero to support veterans as they *return* home through the gift of scholarships! The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" Program will help service members, like you, get the education and training needed to begin the *next* chapter of your life.

Continue reading to learn more about the scholarship and how to apply.

What is the VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship Program?

Each scholarship will provide recipients with up to \$5,000 to apply toward their education at an accredited post-secondary institution, including universities, colleges and trade schools. While the program is funded by Sport Clips' Help A Hero campaign, the VFW manages the scholarship program. Management functions include accepting applications, determining and awarding recipients, notification of award determinations and denials, and administering scholarships directly to the schools.

Am I eligible to apply?

Review the scholarship program criteria below. If you can check each box, you're eligible!

The applicant must:

- ☐ Be a citizen of the United States
- ☐ Be retired, honorably discharged, active duty, or a member of the National Guard or Reserve
- ☐ Have completed Basic Training and follow-on training (Advanced Individual Training, Technical school, Follow-On Training, etc.)
- ☐ Have or separated with a military pay grade of E-5 or below
- ☐ Demonstrate a need for financial assistance
- ☐ Participate in, be accepted to or currently enrolled in a VA-approved program or school at an accredited post-secondary institution

How do I apply?

The scholarship application is available online at VFW.org. Go to the "Assistance" page and click "College Scholarships". You will find a program overview, a helpful Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guide, and a link to the application.

Please note: Application must be submitted online using the form on VFW.org. Applications submitted by U.S. mail, e-mail, and fax will not be accepted.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the cut-off date for applications?

Applications for fall semester will be accepted January 1st through April 30th and applications for spring semester will be accepted August 1st through November 15th.

How often can I apply for the scholarship?

You may apply once per academic semester.

I haven't been deployed. Can I still apply?

Yes, as long as you have completed basic training and AIT, Technical or Follow-On training.

I'm not currently enrolled in school (or) I've been accepted, but haven't made a final decision on which school to attend. Can I still apply?

Yes! You are eligible to apply as long as you've been accepted to a school, even if you haven't enrolled in classes yet. If you've been accepted to multiple schools, please list the school you are favoring on the application.

Once I've applied, will I be notified of the scholarship decision outcome?

Yes. The VFW will notify every applicant whether they are chosen as a recipient, or not.

Applicants that receive denial letters are highly encouraged to re-apply provided that they still meet the eligibility criteria.

Who do I speak with for more information?

Contact the VFW at HelpAHero@vfw.org



VFW Riders



STATE CHAIRMAN	Charles Fillyaw	DISTRICT CHAIRMAN	_____
	912-704-7359	PHONE	_____
	fillyawc@hotmail.com	EMAIL	_____

- Promote and support the programs of the Veteran of Foreign Wars
- Promote motorcycle safety programs.
- Provide a social atmosphere for VFW members who share the same interest.

Each Post or District shall register its riders' group, using a form designated by the Adjutant General, and be required, from time to time, to update group contact information. Information provided will be used to promote and disseminate information regarding VFW organized riding events and VFWRG policy recommendations.

In addition, any unit adopting a uniform utilizing registered mark of the VFW, shall register and seek approval of said design in accordance with section 803 of the National By-Laws/Manual of Procedure and this policy.

New guidelines coming out this year.

Riders will make a monthly report to their sponsoring unit

Ride activities by the sponsoring unit will be required to have liability release waivers for each participant outside of the VFWRG, regardless of age or status, if those individuals will be participating in or on a motor vehicle for the event.

Waivers and liability release forms will comply with the National Policy as well as guidelines from the American Motorcycle Association (AMA).

Sponsoring units will be required to have proof of general liability insurance to protect such units and must name, as additional insureds, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Department in which the sponsoring unit is located.

Check VFW Riders under About Us on VFWGA.com

Planning a Post Meeting

A successful Post meeting meets these requirements:

- Start on time
- Keep it short
- Make it interesting
- Make it informative
- Accomplish something



The meeting should also follow the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ritual and the general rules of parliamentary procedure.

The meeting's success depends on the person with the gavel – the Commander. The Commander can control the start of the meeting by banging the gavel; the Commander can keep the meeting short by keeping it moving; the Commander can make it interesting and informative by a little planning; the Commander can make sure something is accomplished by knowing ahead of time just what they want to accomplish.

Commander in preparation for the meeting:

- Meet with the Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to the meeting to make certain that their records are in order for their part in the meeting. This includes the roll call of officers, the reading and referring of membership applications, reading of minutes, reading of bills, Quartermaster's report, reading of communications, etc.
- Know what unfinished business is left to transact. If it is not brought up by someone on the floor, bring it up yourself.
- Have a reminder list of new business to be discussed.
- Turn over all mail and information pertaining to their activities to committee chairman. This gives them time to review it and report on it during the meeting.
- If there's not much business to conduct, a meeting can be pepped up by inviting an interesting speaker to address the group.

During the meeting:

- Start on time
- A Post meeting is a business meeting and the more business that is done, the better. Keep discussions on track. Stick with parliamentary procedure so that a motion is made before a subject is discussed. Keep the discussion focused on the motion.
- As the Commander you are the boss during the meeting. Don't be arbitrary, but if you have to make a decision, make it.
- Allow everyone to have their say but make them stick to the subject.

OPENING POST CEREMONIES

COMMANDER:

The officers will take their respective stations. All persons not members of the VFW will kindly retire, and the guard will close the doors. (The Commander ascertains if nonmembers have retired.)

COMMANDER:

By the power and authority vested in me, I am about to open Post for the transaction of any business that may lawfully come before it. (Two gavel raps.)

OFFICER OF THE DAY:

Satisfy yourself that all present are entitled to remain.

COMMANDER:

Officer of the Day, you will prepare the Post room for the salute to the colors. (Two gavel raps.)

COMMANDER:

Call Attention **(PRESENT ARMS - ORDER ARMS)**

COMMANDER:

Comrade Chaplain, you will deliver the opening prayer.

UNCOVER - PARADE REST

COMMANDER:

Attention! Comrades, you will join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. **(PRESENT ARMS!)**

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

COMMANDER: **ORDER ARMS!**

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 always the

obligations of **UNSELFISH** comradeship and loyalty to our organization and to the government of the United States of America.

I now declare..... Post No. duly opened for the transaction of business. Guard, you will admit any in waiting who may be worthy.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

(Post)

1. Opening Ceremonies

2. **COMMANDER:** (Leading all members in recitation of Section 230102 of the Congressional Charter.)

The purposes of the corporation are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational; and are:

1. to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members;
2. to assist worthy comrades;
3. to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans;
4. to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws;
5. to foster true patriotism;
6. to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and
7. to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies.

3. Calling the roll of officers.

4. Reading, referring, membership applications.

5. Report of Investigating Committee.

6. Balloting for applicants.

7. Mustering in of recruits. **(VOTE)**

8. Reading of minutes of previous meeting.

9. Quartermaster's report; disbursements.

10. Quartermaster's report; receipts.

11. Reading of bills.

12. Report of Service Officer
13. Is there a Comrade or the family of a Comrade in distress?
14. Report of all committees.
15. Remember our National Home. (Interrupt business at 9:00 PM or as close to 9:00 PM as is practical for National Home for Children Ceremony.)

COMMANDER:

(Raps gavel twice.) All present will rise. Parade rest. Comrade Chaplain, you will ask Divine blessings upon our National Home for Children.

16. Unfinished Business: (Reading of communications associated with unfinished business. Read and Vote.)
17. New Business: (Reading of communications associated with new business. Read and Vote.)
18. Nominations, elections and installation of officers.
19. Good of the Order: (Reading of communications associated with good of the order. Read and Vote.)
19. Closing Ceremonies. (There being no further business, we will have our closing ceremonies.)
20. **COMMANDER:** Comrade Chaplain, you will deliver the closing prayer.
21. Salute the Colors.
22. **COMMANDER:** Comrades, I now declare this business session of _____
Post No. _____ closed. Our next regular meeting will be _____

INCOME TAXES – Our V.F.W. Posts are EXEMPT from Federal Income Taxes under Section 501 (c-19) of the Internal Revenue Code because we are NOT organized NOR operate for profit AND we operate exclusively for the purpose of social welfare.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has ruled that “exclusively for the promotion of social welfare” means that we are PRIMARILY engaged in, OR operated for, the purpose of promoting in some way the common good and welfare of the people of our community OR bringing about civic betterment’s and social improvements.

IT IS NOT “promotion of social welfare” if the primary activity is carrying on a business with the general public. The IRS is required by law and regulations to know HOW THE POST IS OBTAINING ITS MONEY AND WHAT IT IS DOING WITH IT! Our required programs for Community Service, Youth Activities and Americanism are included in the meaning of “promotion of social welfare.”

Each Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in the State of Georgia is required to file annually the information return Form 990 on or before the 15th day of the fifth month following the close of the Post’s accounting period with the Internal Revenue Service Center, Atlanta, Georgia 39901.

In case of a complete liquidation, dissolution or termination the return shall be filed on or before the 15th day of the fifth month following complete liquidation, dissolution or termination.

Each VFW Post that has exempt status for Georgia purposes must annually file a copy of the forms they file with the IRS, such as the Federal Forms 990, 990-N & 990-T. The due date for filing a copy of the Federal Forms with Georgia is the same date for filing with the IRS.

Any correspondence relating to exempt organizations should be addressed to: Georgia Income Tax Division, P. O. Box 38467, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

Posts that generate funds from an unrelated trade or business are required to file IRS Form 990-T and pay corporation taxes. Filing date is the same as for Form 990 or 990 N. Georgia requires that the Post file Form 600-T if they file on 990-T with IRS. The address in the preceding paragraph applies.

What is an unrelated “Trade or Business,” An unrelated trade or business is any trade or business that is regularly carried on, and that is not substantially related (aside from the need for funds) for the organizations exempt purposes?

In the State of Georgia “Bingo” is not an unrelated trade or business since it was approved by State Statute for tax exempt organizations only.

PAYROLL TAXES: At any time that you hire an employee (including a paid Bingo worker) please have them fill out a Form W-4 at the time of hiring. You must always withhold FICA/Social

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING TAXES

Security as a minimum. A part time employee is not exempt from FICA/Social Security Tax at any time.

There are other taxes associated with employees that must not be overlooked. Federal and State unemployment taxes, workman's compensation insurance, Federal and State withholding and taxes on tips reported by employees. If in doubt, please contact a good accountant or the State offices for the taxes.

Other Federal Forms that come into play are forms 1099-MISC. These must be issued by the Posts that employee bands, contract laborers, entertainers, and receive rents when the total amount paid to an individual is \$600.00 or more per year.

The Important thing to remember from year to year with regard to Form 990 is that the government wants to know where and how the Post obtained its money and what it did with it. In this connection it is imperative that the Post keep adequate records with regard to all its financial activities. Post are urged to use the Club Accounting System for the bar type activities that has been developed by ideal and is available from the VFW Emblem and Supply Department. The keeping of good records greatly facilitates the preparation of the Form 990 or 990-N regardless of who prepares it, while careless record keeping vastly compounds the difficulties in preparing the return.

Form 990 is not a simple form to fill out. It is recommended that if you do not have a member with accounting experience to prepare the report that you contact the IRS for assistance or seek the advice of a Certified Public Accountant.

BINGO INFORMATION – Bingo is legal in the State of Georgia for Tax Exempt organizations such as VFW Posts and its Auxiliaries after the Post has been chartered for a minimum of two years. If you plan on playing Bingo please contact the following for complete information prior to any actions. All Posts will comply with State of Georgia Regulations.

Bingo Coordinator
Georgia Secretary of State
214 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404.656.2881

**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Department of Georgia**

Adopted June 24, 2023

Bylaws

ARTICLE I

NAME AND TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION

- Section 1. Name: This Subdivision of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Incorporated, shall be known as the "Department of Georgia, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Incorporated," hereafter referred to as the "Department."
- Section 2. Territorial Jurisdiction. The territorial jurisdiction of the Department shall conform with the territorial limits of the State of Georgia.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

- Section 1. The purposes of the corporation are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational, and are:
1. to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members;
 2. to assist worthy comrades;
 3. to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans;
 4. to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws;
 5. to foster true patriotism;
 6. to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and
 7. to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies.

ARTICLE III

AUTHORITY

- Section 1. The supreme power of this Department shall be vested in the National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and shall, at all times, be governed by the Congressional Charter and Bylaws adopted by said National Convention, mandates of the National Council of Administration, and lawful orders of the Commander-in-Chief.
- Section 2. Subject to the provisions of the Congressional Charter and Bylaws, the government of the Department shall be vested in a Department Convention, Department Council of Administration, and lawful orders of the State Commander.

ARTICLE IV

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

- Section 1. The Department Headquarters shall be located in Macon, Bibb County, Georgia.
- Section 2. Official correspondence emanating from Department Headquarters shall be in writing, or in printed or email form, signed by the State Commander, or the State Adjutant who shall attest to all official communications and reports with their signature or electronic signature in the case that email is used.
- Section 3. All Department minutes and proceedings, including electronic recordings, shall be kept on file at the Department Headquarters.

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ARTICLE V

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

- Section 1. The Department Council of Administration shall consist of the following officers:
- (i) Elected: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Chaplain, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, District Commanders, and the immediate Past Department Commander.
 - (ii) Appointed: Adjutant, Chief of Staff, and Inspector
- Section 2. The Department Council of Administration shall meet in regular session not less than twice each year, at such time and place as the State Commander or Council of Administration shall designate.
- Section 3. The State Commander may direct the State Adjutant to conduct email or mail ballots; the results of such ballots shall be reported for the record at the next stated meeting.
- Section 4. The State Commander may call a special meeting of the Council of Administration whenever the same may be necessary for the welfare of the Department. The State Commander shall call a special meeting upon a request (written or email ballot) by the majority of the Department Council of Administration. In case the State Commander refuses to call such a meeting, the Department Council of Administration may proceed to hold such meeting in accordance with the National Bylaws. No business shall be transacted at the special meeting except that business for which the meeting is called.
- Section 5. The Council of Administration may set and levy fees on the Districts to pay for items deemed necessary for the welfare of the Department membership such as the hospitality room. The State Quartermaster will provide a report of monies collected as well as monies expended.
- Section 6. The Department administrative staff shall be allowed to attend Council of Administration meetings for the purpose of providing administrative support to the Council unless the Council specifically advises them not to attend.
- Section 7. The Council may determine that a COA meeting is to be held via electronic means NLT 48 hours prior to the convening of said meeting at which point the Adjutant shall send out instructions for electronic attendance. In the event that the meeting is to be held in person, no electronic attendance will be permitted unless it is approved by the Department Commander.
- Section 8. All Districts must be represented at the Council meeting. In the event that a District Commander cannot attend, the District Commander shall ensure that either the District Senior Vice Commander or District Junior Vice Commander represents the District at the meeting.

ARTICLE VI

DEPARTMENT DISTRICTS

- Section 1. The Department Districts shall be formed, chartered, and operated in accordance with the provisions of the National Bylaws.
- Section 2. The Department of Georgia shall be comprised of Districts as indicated on the listing in Attachment 1 to these bylaws. They may be altered in accordance with the National Bylaws, from time to time, as need may arise.

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ARTICLE VII

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

- Section 1. The Department shall convene an annual convention in accordance with the National Bylaws.
- Section 2. In the event of an emergency, failure to act expeditiously in preparing for the Annual Convention, or failure to comply with the proposals upon which a Convention bid was approved by the Department Convention, the State Commander, with the approval of the Council of Administration, may change the site, as well as the time and place of same.
- Section 3. A Convention committee shall be appointed by the State Commander to conduct the business affairs of the Convention.
- Section 4. The Department Convention Committee, or such person as may be designated by the Department Commander, shall notify all Posts and Districts within the Department at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention of the room rates, registration fees, banquet rates, and all other necessary costs, fees, and special conditions or limitations governing rates and conduct during the Convention.
- Section 5. All other Committees shall be appointed by the State Commander at least sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.
- Section 6. The voting delegate strength for each Post within the Department shall be as prescribed by the National Bylaws based on the record of members in good standing according to the records in the Department Headquarters as of March 31st, current year. Additionally, the Post Commander, or in their absence, the Post Senior Vice Commander, or in their absence, the Post Junior Vice Commander, if present, may be registered and function as a member of the Convention.
- Section 7. In accordance with the National Bylaws, a delegate registration fee shall be paid by each Post for each delegate to which the Post shall be entitled, based upon the State Quartermaster's record as of March 31st, current year. The delegate registration fee shall be forwarded by each Post regardless of the number of delegates present at the annual Department Convention. The delegate fee is \$12.00 per delegate plus an additional \$5.00 fee for the Post Commander. Posts failing to forward the full delegate Registration fee shall be considered delinquent and in arrears.
- Section 8. (a) Only those officers and delegates to the Department Convention for whom registration fees have been paid shall be entitled to vote in the Convention.
- (b) A fee as recommended by the Convention Committee and approved by the Council of Administration not to exceed \$15.00 for pre-registration shall be required by the Department for each person receiving credentials as prescribed by the National Bylaws. An additional fee may be charged for on-site registration.
- (c) A fee as recommended by the Convention Committee and approved by the Council of Administration shall be required by the Department from each person pre-registering that receives credentials and banquet seating. An additional fee may be charged for on-site registration and banquet seating.
- Section 9. (a) Elected officers for the Department of Georgia Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will include Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, and Surgeon. With regard to order, the nomination and election shall fall after those offices required by National Bylaws.

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(b) Voting on all elected officers shall be by roll call vote by Districts, randomly selected. Voting of the Posts of the District will be in numerical order. Should only one candidate be nominated for an elected office, the presiding officer shall be empowered to instruct a member of the Convention to cast one (1) unanimous ballot for the nominee who shall then be declared elected.

(c) A candidate for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief from the Southern Conference shall be selected at a Department Convention by roll call vote by Districts, randomly selected. Voting of the Posts of the District will be in numerical order. The State Commander, or in their absence the State Senior Vice Commander or Junior Vice Commander, if present, shall be mandated to cast the Department vote on the first ballot at the Southern Conference for the candidate selected at a State Convention. Should that candidate be dropped for due course or after the first ballot, the State Commander, or in their absence the State Senior Vice Commander or Junior Vice Commander, if present, shall vote the poll choice(s) of the Department Members present.

ARTICLE VIII

RESOLUTIONS

- Section 1. Resolutions for Convention consideration shall be typewritten, and four (4) copies shall be delivered to the State Commander, or Adjutant, at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the Convention, so a copy can be recorded by the Adjutant. Copies for study shall be forwarded to the Committee Chairman at least fifteen (15) days prior to the convening of the Convention.
- Section 2. Resolutions, other than those of condolence and appreciation, shall not be considered by the Convention unless the provisions of Section 1 of this Article have been complied with, except by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered Convention delegates.
- Section 3. All resolutions passed at a Department Convention shall have continuing force and effect unless rescinded, repealed, or amended by a subsequent Department Convention.
- Section 4. Any resolution or action of any Department Convention affecting the continuing policy, operations, or finances of the Department shall be listed by subject in a subject file to be maintained by the State Adjutant at Department Headquarters which shall be available, at all times, to the Department Officers and Council of Administration.

ARTICLE IX

DEPARTMENT DUES

- Section 1. The Department per capita tax shall be \$6.50 per annum, payable by every member in good standing, except life members.
- Section 2. New annual and life members that join a Post in the Department will be assessed a \$1.00 admission fee and shall be paid to the Department. The Department will bill the Post in April of the current year for the total admission fees due for new memberships submitted through March and again in July for new memberships submitted in April, May, and June.

ARTICLE X

POST AND DISTRICT REMITTANCE TO DEPARTMENT

- Section 1. All remittances of money to Department Headquarters shall be made payable to the "Department of Georgia Veterans of Foreign Wars."

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Section 2. The Instituting Officer shall transmit membership funds collected upon instituting a new Post to Department Headquarters.

Section 3. Remittances shall be as prescribed by the National Bylaws.

**ARTICLE XI
FUNDS AND AUDITS**

Section 1. General Fund: All money received by the Department from whatever source, which is not set aside as a "Special Fund," or for a designated purpose, shall constitute the General Fund.

Section 2. Special Funds:

(a) Dues Reserve Fund: A dues reserve fund shall be credited within the Department with not less than fifty percent of its part of the current year's dues paid by members prior to July 1, including Life Membership dues payouts received from the National Organization. The Quartermaster shall not disburse, nor shall an obligation be incurred against this fund.

(b) Restricted Funds: The Council of Administration shall, in each annual budget, provide for the following restricted funds:

- (1) Building: Funds which shall be available for the payment of mortgage amortization, maintenance, repairs, upkeep, improvements, insurance and utility charges on real property owned by the Department.
- (2) Contingency: Funds which shall be available for the payment of such charges, not reasonably anticipated or provided for in the annual budget, which have been recommended by the Budget and Finance committee and approved by the Council of Administration.
- (3) Veterans of Foreign Wars Programs: Funds received, which may include but not limited to, cash, certificates of deposits, bonds, stocks, bank accounts, negotiable instruments and or money received from the disposition of personal or real property, resulting from the surrender or forfeiture of Post charter, shall be deposited in an interest bearing account. The interest/dividends therefrom shall be available for the purposes set forth in the Congressional Charter, Section 230102 to augment VFW Programs, except the Council of Administration may otherwise authorize expenditures from the principle fund.
- (4) Service Officer (Post/District) Recognition and Enrichment (Perpetual) Fund: Funds received, which may include but not limited to cash, certificates of deposit, bonds, stocks, bank accounts, shall be deposited into a restricted interest bearing account. The interest/dividends therefrom shall be available for the recognition and enhancement of Post and District Service Officers as determined by the Department Veterans Service Committee and approved by the Council of Administration.
- (5) Disaster Relief: Funds received to aid in the relief of veterans (families) who have suffered personal financial loss resulting from disaster. The State Quartermaster is hereby authorized to disburse money from this fund in an amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (1,000.00), except as otherwise directed by the Council of Administration.

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- (6) We Care: Funds received and disbursed to veterans (families), in an emergency, who may have experienced unforeseen financial shortfall. Normally used to prevent utilities from being cut off, or eviction from a dwelling, provide food or lodging are usually provided on a one-time basis. A three-person committee determines and controls disbursement of funds.

NOTE: Except for those funds restricted to augment Veterans of Foreign Wars Programs and disbursement of the restricted Disaster Relief funds, payment may be made from these funds only in accordance with the policies established by the Department Convention or the Council of Administration within the limits of the approved budget.

Section 3. Custody of Funds: The State Quartermaster shall be the custodian of all funds, and will maintain separate accounts for the General Funds, Special Funds, and such other funds as may be required by the National Bylaws.

Section 4. Budget and Finance Committee:

(a) The State Commander shall, upon the date of installation, appoint a standing Budget and Finance Committee consisting of not less than three nor more than five members.

(b) The Budget and Finance Committee, acting for the Council of Administration, shall audit the accounts and records of the State Quartermaster at least quarterly, or as necessary, and report their findings to the Council of Administration. This Committee shall be responsible not merely for the detail audit of the accounts, but also for ensuring that the expenditures for any account does not exceed the annual budgeted allotment for that year and make recommendations at any time to the Council of Administration, touching on the financial affairs of the Department.

Section 5. Bonding: Department Officers and employees handling Department monies or property shall be bonded in a sum at least equal to the amount of liquid assets for which they may be accountable.

Section 6. Annual Budget:

(a) In accordance with the National Bylaws, the Council of Administration shall at its first regularly scheduled meeting following the Department Convention adopt an annual budget based on the tentative budget as submitted by the State Quartermaster with the recommendations of the Budget and Finance Committee.

(b) No expenditure of Department funds may be authorized or exceed the allowance set forth in the annual budget, except that the Council of Administration, upon recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee, may amend the budget. However, dollar amounts may be transferred *at the discretion of the Department Quartermaster* among budget lines to meet the needs of the Department without obtaining approval from the Council of Administration as long as the overall bottom line of the budget is not altered.

ARTICLE XII

INVESTED DEPARTMENT FUNDS

Section 1. The funds of the Department now invested, or any funds that shall be invested in the future, shall not be liquidated, except by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Council of Administration sitting in a

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regular session, or at a special meeting called for that purpose by the Department Commander, and then only on a recorded roll call vote.

ARTICLE XIII

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

- Section 1. The State Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant, Assistant Quartermaster, Chief of Staff, Service Officer, Inspector, Legislative Officer, and such other officers as deemed necessary and not in conflict with the Congressional Charter and Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
- Section 2. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Department Junior Vice Commander, the Department Judge Advocate may, without undue delay, succeed to the title and duties of the Junior Vice Commander.

ARTICLE XIV

CONSOLIDATION OF POSTS

- Section 1. Two or more Posts in the Department of Georgia may consolidate as provided for in Section 209 of the National Bylaws and Manual of procedure.

ARTICLE XV

FRATERNAL REVIEW/DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE

- Section 1. The State Commander shall appoint a Fraternal Review Committee consisting of not less than nine (9) members. They shall be available to the State Commander to review problem areas presented in writing by any Comrade, Post or District Commander and will make recommendations for resolution to the State Commander.
- Section 2. Notwithstanding Section 1 above, the State Commander may appoint additional Fraternal Review committees to conduct reviews of fraternal activities of Posts and other entities and is not limited to the committee referred to in Section 1 above.
- Section 3. The Council of Administration shall establish and provide a budget account for the support of an appointed Fraternal Review Committee. The budget account should be sufficient to provide mileage, hotel and meals during travel plus a nominal fee on a daily basis established by the Council of Administration for individuals involved in on-site visits to the Post/District. The Post/District shall reimburse the Department for the cost of the Fraternal Review Committee.

ARTICLE XVI

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

- Section 1. The State Commander will appoint as necessary and as required Administrative Committee members to function on behalf of Posts and/or Districts when charters have been suspended. The appointed State Administrative Committee members will operate on behalf of the members of the Department of Georgia in working with the Post or District under suspension.
- Section 2. The mission of the appointed State Administrative Committee is to conduct the necessary business of the Post/District to resolve the reasons for the suspension action.

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- Section 3. The State Administrative Committee will ensure that all records, money, or other property of the Post or District is safeguarded and under proper authority and control.
- Section 4. The Council of Administration shall establish and provide a budget account for the support of an appointed State Administrative Committee. The budget account should be sufficient to provide for mileage, hotel and meals during travel involved on a daily basis established by the Council of Administration for the individuals involved in on-site visits to the Post/District. The Post/District shall reimburse the Department for the costs of the State Administrative Committee.

**ARTICLE XVII REDISTRICTING
COMMITTEE**

- Section 1. The State Commander shall appoint a Redistricting Committee which shall continually review the structure of each District and make timely reports to the Council of Administration and recommendations to the Department Convention.
- Section 2. The Redistricting Committee shall be composed of at least six members as appointed by the State Commander.
- Section 3. The Council of Administration shall provide a budget account for the support of the Redistricting Committee.

**ARTICLE XVIII
BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

- Section 1. The State Commander shall appoint a Bylaws Committee which shall continually review the Department and National Bylaws and make timely reports to the Council of Administration and recommendations to the Department Convention.
- Section 2. The Bylaws Committee shall be composed of at least six members as appointed by the State Commander.
- Section 3. The Council of Administration shall provide a budget account for the support of the Bylaws Committee.

ARTICLE XIX

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MOTORCYCLE RIDERS GROUP OF GEORGIA

- Section 1. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Motorcycle Riders Group of Georgia, herein after referred to as VFWRG is a committee made up of members of the VFW and its Auxiliary in good standing. The VFWRG is a group within the VFW that enjoys the past time of motorcycling. The VFWRG is an official committee of the Department of Georgia VFW.
- Section 2. Each VFWRG will be subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the National, Department, District and Post and also includes Addendum #1, Department of Georgia, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Addendum #2 Commander-in-Chief letter dated 14 September 2010. Addendums to these Bylaws are included in the Commanders Book.
- Section 3. The addendums may be amended from time to time by the issuing authority.

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ARTICLE XX

PROGRAMS CHAIR

- Section 1. The Department Council of Administration may provide such remuneration as it deems advisable to such chair.

ARTICLE XXI

STATEMENT OF POLICY

- Section 1. Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department of Georgia, shall not be responsible for the negligent or wrongful acts or omissions nor the contractual obligations or debts of any Post, District, activity, clubroom, holding company, or subordinate units sponsored, conducted, or operated by, for or on behalf of any Post, District, activity, clubroom, holding company or subordinate units.
- Section 2. THIS SECTION DELETED AT THE JUNE 2022 DEPARTMENTCONVENTION;
- Section 3. THIS SECTION DELETED AT THE JUNE 2022 DEPARTMENTCONVENTION.
- Section 4. No member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Georgia, shall provide the personal contact information of another member to anyone outside the Department for any unofficial VFW purpose, nor themselves use such information for any personal, commercial, or political purpose without the consent of the member or members. Personal contact information includes any or all of the following: name, personal address, personal phone number, and personal email address. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the Department of Georgia from soliciting or authorizing solicitations of its membership to benefit the purposes of the organization.

ARTICLE XXII

AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered delegates present and voting at the Department Convention. No amendment shall become effective until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
- Section 2. No amendment shall be considered unless a copy of the same shall have been forwarded to all Posts and District Commanders and Department Officers at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.
- Section 3. Wherever these Bylaws or subsequent amendments may be found to be in conflict with the present or any future National Bylaws the latter shall prevail and be binding on this Department as though written herein.
- Section 4. The Department Judge Advocate in concert with the Department Adjutant shall be authorized to correct punctuation and typographical errors to ensure the Bylaws reflect the intent of the Department Council of Administration.

Proposed amendments and addendums amended and added to the Bylaws were adopted by the annual Convention of the Department of Georgia on June 24, 2023.

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ATTACHMENT 1

Contained herein are the Districts and the Posts within them that make up the Georgia Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as adopted at the 80th Department of Georgia Annual Convention held June 24-26, 2022.

DISTRICT 1 2681 Marietta 3679 Fort Oglethorpe 4911 Rome 5262 Canton 5376 Calhoun 5428 Acworth 6570 Blue Ridge 6688 Summerville 7402 Buchanan	DISTRICT 2 4346 Toccoa 4570 Clayton 4828 Royston 5456 Elberton 5897 Lavonia 7394 Blairsville 7720 Cornelia 7807 Hiawassee 8076 Hartwell 8452 Gainesville 9143 Cumming	DISTRICT 3 1187 Winder 4180 Snellville 4706 Decatur 5255 Lawrenceville 5290 Conyers 10822 Dunwoody Sandy Springs 12002 North Fulton 12164 Atlanta-Buckhead	DISTRICT 4 649 Augusta 2557 Madison 2872 Athens 3910 Athens 4421 Monroe 5899 Washington 6445 Harlem 6686 Eatonton 12190 Evans
DISTRICT 5 665 Columbus 4670 Warm Springs 5000 Cusseta 5448 Griffin 6542 Barnesville 8480 Griffin 10558 Cataula 12110 Columbus	DISTRICT 6 660 Savannah 4392 Thunderbolt 5745 Swainsboro 5893 Metter 6602 Hinesville 7116 Sylvania 7331 Richmond Hill 7357 Claxton 7764 Reidsville 10825 Statesboro 12149 Rincon	DISTRICT 7 2588 Brunswick 4092 St Simons Island 4382 Waycross 4583 Jesup 4625 Alma 5976 Douglas 8379 Glennville 8385 Kings Bay	DISTRICT 8 1777 Valdosta 2785 Albany 4830 Moultrie 4904 Bainbridge 4995 Thomasville 5250 Tifton 5659 Quitman 5743 Dawson 5978 Nashville 6046 Colquitt 8433 Cairo
DISTRICT 9 658 Macon 3563 Lyons 4742 Cordele 4784 Americus 6077 Hawkinsville 6126 Perry 6605 Warner Robins 8536 Dublin/Cedar Grove 9709 Macon 9998 Warner Robins 10229 Mt. Vernon	DISTRICT 10 2667 Newnan 3650 Fayetteville 5080 Lake City 6330 Jonesboro 6449 Fairburn 9949 Peachtree City 12180 Henry County		

<p align="center">Department of Georgia Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Legend for District Map</p>

District 1:

Post 2681 (Marietta)*
 Post 3679 (Fort Oglethorpe) *
 Post 4911 (Rome)
 Post 5262 (Canton)
 Post 5376 (Calhoun)*
 Post 5408 (Acworth)*
 Post 6570 (Blue Ridge)
 Post 6688 (Summerville)*
 Post 7402 (Buchanan)*

District 2:

Post 4346 (Toccoa)*
 Post 4570 (Clayton)
 Post 4828 (Royston)
 Post 5456 (Elberton)*
 Post 5897 (Lavonia)*
 Post 7394 (Blairsville)
 Post 7720 (Cornelia)*
 Post 7807 (Hiawassee)*
 Post 8076 (Hartwell)*
 Post 8452 (Gainesville)
 Post 9143 (Cumming)*

District 3:

Post 1187 (Winder)
 Post 4180 (Snellville)
 Post 4706 (Decatur)
 Post 5255 (Lawrenceville)*
 Post 5290 (Conyers)
 Post 10822 (Dunwoody Sandy Springs)
 Post 12002 (North Fulton)
 Post 12164 (Atl/Buckhead)

District 4:

Post 649 (Augusta)*
 Post 2557 (Madison)
 Post 2872 (Athens)*
 Post 3910 (Athens)*
 Post 4421 (Monroe)
 Post 5899 (Washington)
 Post 6445 (Harlem)*
 Post 6686 (Eatonton) *
 Post 12190 (Evans)*

District 5:

Post 665 (Columbus)*
 Post 4670 (Warm Springs)
 Post 5000 (Cusseta)
 Post 5448 (Griffin)

Post 6542 (Barnesville)*
 Post 8480 (Griffin)*
 Post 10558 (Cataula)*
 Post 12110 (Columbus)

District 6:

Post 660 (Savannah)*
 Post 4392 (Thunderbolt)
 Post 5745 (Swainsboro)
 Post 5893 (Metter)
 Post 6602 (Hinesville)*
 Post 7116 (Sylvania)*
 Post 7331 (Richmond Hill)*
 Post 7357 (Claxton)
 Post 7764 (Reidsville)*
 Post 10825 (Statesboro)
 Post 12149 (Rincon)*

District 7:

Post 2588 (Brunswick)
 Post 4092 (St Simons Is)
 Post 4382 (Waycross)
 Post 4583 (Jesup)*
 Post 4625 (Alma)*
 Post 5976 (Douglas)*
 Post 8379 (Glennville)
 Post 8385 (Kings Bay) *

District 8:

Post 1777 (Valdosta)
 Post 2785 (Albany)*
 Post 4830 (Moultrie)*
 Post 4904 (Bainbridge)
 Post 4995 (Thomasville)
 Post 5250 (Tifton)
 Post 5659 (Quitman)
 Post 5743 (Dawson)
 Post 5978 (Nashville)*
 Post 6046 (Colquitt)
 Post 8433 (Cairo)

District 9:

Post 658 (Macon)*
 Post 3563 (Lyons)*
 Post 4742 (Cordele)*
 Post 4784 (Americus)
 Post 6077 (Hawkinsville)*
 Post 6126 (Perry)*

Post 6605 (Warner Robins)
 Post 8536 (Cedar Grove)
 Post 9709 (Macon)
 Post 9998 (Warner Robins)
 Post 10229 (Mt Vernon) *

District 10:

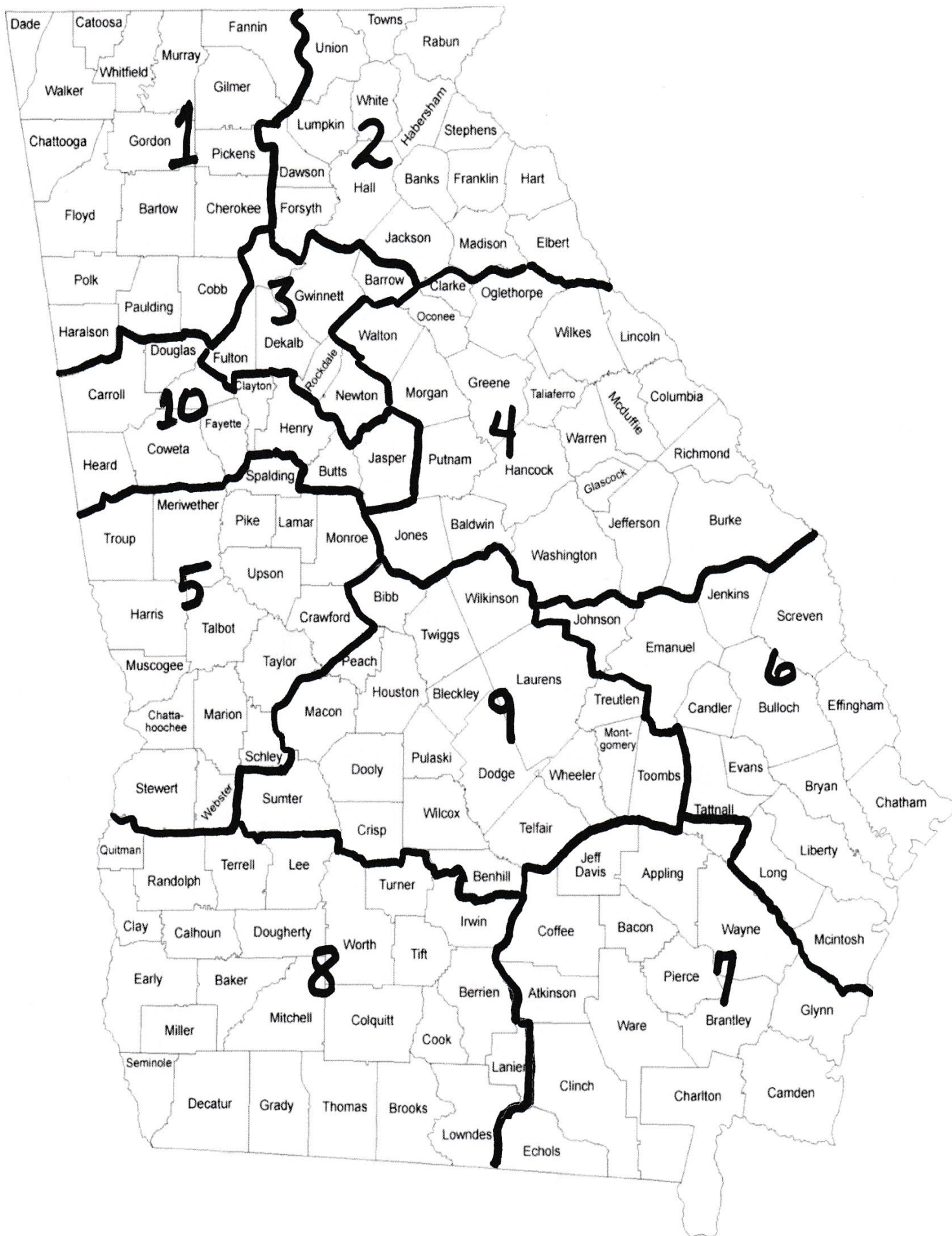
Post 2667 (Newnan) *
 Post 3650 (Fayetteville)
 Post 5080 (Lake City)
 Post 6330 (Jonesboro)*
 Post 6449 (Fairburn)*
 Post 9949 (Peachtree City)
 Post 12180 (Henry County)

The above listed are the Posts and Auxiliaries (indicated by " * ") in each of the Districts delineated on the attached Georgia map and is the listing at the time of the establishment of the Districts by the Georgia State Convention on June 12, 2009 to be effective on June 14, 2009 by the will of the body. (Updated June 25, 2023)

OFFICIAL:

State Adjutant

Charles A. Dobbins



MEET THE CHALLENGE



2023-2024

Duane T. Sarmiento
Commander-in-Chief