

Membership Program 2024 - 2025

As we begin our 2024-2025 membership year, let's remember that our mission is to expand the membership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, forging stronger bonds within our veteran community while actively engaging and serving our local communities. Through collaborative efforts and innovative strategies, we aim to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive environment that honors the sacrifices of our veterans, advocates for their needs, and ensures a legacy of support for future generations.

Our primary objective for the 2024-2025 VFW membership year is to achieve a remarkable milestone: reaching 102% membership. This ambitious goal can be attained through a threefold approach:

1. Ensuring the continued commitment of our existing members by facilitating their annual membership renewal process.
2. Reaching out to those members whose dues have lapsed, encouraging them to reinstate their membership and rejoin our esteemed community.
3. Vigorously pursuing the recruitment of new members, welcoming fresh perspectives and contributions to our noble cause.

By steadfastly implementing these strategies, we are not only striving to meet our membership target but also reaffirming our dedication to serving veterans and advocating for their well-being. Together, let us unite in this endeavor and ensure the continued strength and vitality of our VFW family.

Mission

- To increase membership and participation in VFW programs.
- To enhance our presence in our communities through VFW Programs.
- To maintain a vital and viable presence in our State and National Legislatures.

Goals

- To increase the number of new and reinstated members to reach 102%.
- To increase our life membership by 25%.
- To maintain an average of 90% retention for posts in New Jersey and recognize the importance of membership and our relationship with our State and National Political Representatives.

Membership Director

The Membership Director, Past State Commander Barbara Kim-Hagemann, will oversee the program and work directly with members of the Recruiting and District Membership Teams. All VFW members are recruiters, and every member is encouraged to download the VFW app and or have a membership application in your possession at all times. The size of post/district membership will be calculated based on official numbers from national on July 1, 2024.

Department

The Department Commander and Department Membership Team will conduct membership drives at events across the state of New Jersey as available and directed throughout the VFW year.

(If there is a recruiting event occurring in a particular district and members from within the district attend, that can count towards recruiting event)

District

District Commanders will appoint a membership Chairperson and provide that name to the Dept. Membership Chair. **The District Commander and their respective Chairperson will organize a minimum of 4 district-wide recruiting events.** The results of new and reinstated members recruited after the event will be reported at each Council of Administration meeting.

Post

The Post Commander will be responsible for their Post's membership program and will report directly to the District Chair. **Posts will receive 100 points for each membership drive they host.**

Members

- Annual members will be offered 1/2 off life membership starting July 1, 2024, until all allocated funds are exhausted. This incentive will be on a “first come, first served” basis.

Post

Category 1 Post with 100 members or less

- Any Post that reaches 102% by 9/30/24 shall receive \$200.00. • Any Post that reaches 102% by 12/31/24 shall receive \$150.00. • Any Post that reaches 102% by 2/28/25 shall receive \$100.00.

Category 2 Post with 101 to 175 members

- Any Post that reaches 102% by 9/30/24 shall receive \$300.00. • Any Post that reaches 102% by 12/31/24 shall receive \$200.00. • Any Post that reaches 102% by 2/28/25 shall receive \$175.00.

Category 3 Post with 176 to 250 members

- Any Post that reaches 102% by 9/30/24 shall receive \$500.00. • Any Post that reaches 102% by 12/31/24 shall receive \$300.00. • Any Post that reaches 102% by 2/28/25 shall receive \$200.00.

Category 4 Post with 251 to 400 members

- Any Post that reaches 102% by 9/30/24 shall receive \$700.00. • Any Post that reaches 102% by 12/31/24 shall receive \$500.00. • Any Post that reaches 102% by 2/28/25 shall receive \$200.00.

Category 5 Post with membership over 401 members

- Any Post that reaches 102% by 9/30/24 shall receive \$900.00. • Any Post that reaches 102% by 12/31/24 shall receive \$600.00.
- Any Post that reaches 102% by 2/28/25 shall receive \$300.00.

Post Commanders in each Category 1 through 5 who obtains 102% by November 1, 2024, will be entered in to raffle for an exclusive dinner and overnight stay. (Dinner location and Stay will be announced)

Note: Throughout the membership year, various membership incentives will be offered, and awards presented to members who meet the required goals.

****All Post Commanders to reach 102% will receive a NJ VFW personalized polo, and 102% pin****

District Incentives

Districts - July 1, 2024-November 30, 2024

Category A Districts under 1000 members - 1, 3, 15, 18, 19, 21

- Any District reaching 102% in membership by November 31, 2024, shall receive \$1000.00.

Category B Districts with membership between 1000 - 2000 - 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 16, 17

- Any District reaching 102% in membership by November 31, 2024, shall receive \$1000.00.

Category C Districts with over 2000 members - 2, 8, 11, 12, 13

- Any District reaching 102% in membership by November 31, 2024, shall receive \$1000.00.

Districts - December 1, 2024-March 31, 2025

Category A Districts under 1000 members - 1, 3, 15, 18, 19, 21

- Any District reaching 102% in membership by March 31, 2025, shall receive \$500.00.

Category B Districts with membership between 1000 - 2000 - 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 16, 17

- Any District reaching 102% in membership by March 31, 2025, shall receive \$500.00

Category C Districts with over 2000 members - 2, 8, 11, 12, 13

- Any District reaching 102% in membership by March 31, 2025, shall receive \$500.00

The District Commander and their respective Chairperson will organize a minimum of 4 district-wide recruiting events. The results of new and reinstated members recruited after the event will be reported at each Council of Administration meeting.

District Commanders in each Category who obtain 102% by March 1, 2025, will be entered in to raffle for an exclusive dinner and overnight stay. (Dinner location and Stay will be announced)

Note: Throughout the membership year, various membership incentives will be offered, and awards presented to members who meet the required goals.

****All District Commanders to reach 102% will receive a NJ VFW personalized polo, and a 102% coin. ****

Recruiters

- Any New Jersey VFW Member who recruits 10 new members shall receive VFW Department of New Jersey Recruiting T-Shirt.
- Any New Jersey VFW Member who recruits 20 new members shall receive VFW Department of New Jersey Recruiting Polo.
- Any New Jersey VFW Member who recruits 30 or more members shall be entered into a drawing for \$250.00.
- Any New Jersey VFW Member who recruits 50 or more members shall be entered into a drawing for \$500.00.
- Top Recruiter over 60 members will receive a 3-night hotel payment or reimbursement for the State Convention.

All recruiting awards will be awarded at the 2025 NJ VFW State Convention (Note: final numbers will be calculated at the state convention.)

Membership Team

PSC Barbara Kim-Hagemann, Membership Director

Brian Green

Jon Hinker

Mike Boll

Tim Holland