



**VFW Department of NJ  
Membership Programs  
2025 - 2026**

**Jon Hinker  
Department Commander  
“Advocate For All”**

## **NJ VFW Commander's Statement for Membership 2025-2026**

As the Commander of our esteemed Department of New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars, I am honored to extend an invitation to all veterans to join our ranks. Our organization is dedicated to advocating for the rights and wellbeing of veterans, ensuring that their sacrifices are recognized and valued. Our advocacy efforts span from our local communities to the national stage, addressing the unique needs and challenges faced by veterans, their families and the communities in which we reside.

We take immense pride in our legacy, a testament to the unwavering commitment and camaraderie that bind us together. Our rich history is marked by countless achievements and the tireless dedication of our members, who have upheld the highest standards of service and patriotism. By becoming a part of our organization, new members will contribute to this enduring legacy and help pave the way for future generations.

Mentorship is a cornerstone of our values. We believe in the power of experienced veterans guiding and supporting their peers, fostering a sense of belonging and growth. Through our mentorship programs, we provide invaluable guidance and support, helping veterans navigate the transition to civilian life and achieve their personal and professional goals.

Retention of our members is paramount to our success. We strive to create an inclusive and supportive environment where every veteran feels valued and appreciated. Our family support programs offer resources and assistance to the families of our members, recognizing the critical role they play in the wellbeing of our veterans.

Furthermore, new membership, albeit life membership, annual membership, or reinstated must feel empowered to move this organization ahead into the future. Ours is a membership of combat Veterans that are bound to each other by service on foreign soil for our Country and its people. We are a unique group of people, whose service lives on in the work we do with the VFW.

My mission to “Advocate for all”, mentor, support, and inspire can only be achieved by growing this organization. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans and their families.

Respectfully,

Jon Hinker

## **Membership Program 2025-2026**

Our membership program mission will focus on several key objectives to strengthen our organization.

- Increase Membership to expand our ranks by inviting more veterans to join our organization and participate in VFW programs.
- Build Coalitions: We believe in the power of partnerships and will work to build alliances with other organizations and stakeholders to advocate for veterans' rights and wellbeing.
- Community Outreach: Our efforts will extend to local communities, where we will actively recruit new members and promote the benefits and support that our organization offers.
- Ensure vital lines of communication are open, while having a visible presence with State and National Legislatures.

By focusing on these goals, we can create a stronger, more vibrant community of veterans dedicated to service and advocacy.

## **Membership Program Goals**

- Increase new and reinstated memberships to 101%.
- Increase life memberships by 25%.
- Achieve a retention rate of 92% in all Posts throughout the state.

## **Membership Director**

Membership Director, Past State Commander and Triple Crown, Barbara Kim Hagemann will oversee the program, working directly with recruiting and district membership teams. All VFW members are encouraged to download the VFW app or carry a membership application. Post/district membership size will be based on official National numbers as of July 1, 2025.

## **Department**

The department commander, along with the department membership team, will carry out membership engagements at various events throughout New Jersey as scheduled and authorized during the VFW year.

**(Recruiting events in your districts and Post level, attended by membership can count towards All State Requirements)**

## **District**

District Commanders shall designate a Membership Chairperson and submit their name to the Department of New Jersey VFW Membership Chair. The District Commander and the appointed Chairperson shall coordinate at least four district-wide membership recruitment events annually. The outcomes of new and reinstated member recruitments following these events shall be reported at each Council of Administration meeting.

## **Post**

The Post Commander is responsible for managing the Post membership program and sends reports directly to the District Chairperson. Posts earn 100 points for each

## **Members**

- **Annual members will be offered 1/2 off life membership starting August 1, 2025, 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 101% by September 30, 2025, shall receive \$200.00.
- Any Post that reaches 101% by December 31, 2025, shall receive \$150.00.
- Any Post that reaches 101% by February 28, 2026, shall receive \$100.00.

### **Category 2 Post with 101 to 175 members**

- Any Post that reaches 101% by September 30, 2025, shall receive \$300.00.
- Any Post that reaches 101% by December 31, 2025, shall receive \$200.00.
- Any Post that reaches 101% by February 28, 2026, shall receive \$175.00.

### **Category 3 Post with 176 to 250 members**

- Any Post that reaches 101% by September 30, 2025, shall receive \$500.00.
- Any Post that reaches 101% by December 31, 2025, shall receive \$300.00.
- Any Post that reaches 101% by February 28, 2026, shall receive \$200.00.

### **Category 4 Post with 251 to 400 members**

- Any Post that reaches 101% by September 30, 2025, shall receive \$700.00.
- Any Post that reaches 101% by December 31, 2025, shall receive \$500.00.
- Any Post that reaches 101% by February 28, 2026, shall receive \$200.00.

### **Category 5 Post with membership over 401 members**

- Any Post that reaches 101% by September 30, 2025, shall receive \$900.00.
- Any Post that reaches 101% by December 31, 2025, shall receive \$600.00.
- Any Post that reaches 101% by February 28, 2026, shall receive \$300.00.

Post Commanders in each Category 1 through 5 who obtain 101% by November 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 at Department Convention 2026 who meet the required goals.**

**\*\*\*\*All Post Commanders to reach 101% will receive a NJ VFW personalized polo.**

### **District Incentives**

#### **Districts - July 1, 2025-November 30, 2025**

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

- Any District reaching 101% in membership by November 31, 2025, shall receive \$1000.00.

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

- Any District reaching 101% membership by November 31, 2025, shall receive \$1000.00.

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

- Any District reaching 101% membership by November 31, 2025, shall receive \$1000.00.

## **Districts - December 1, 2025-March 31, 2026**

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

- Any District reaching 101% membership by March 31, 2026, shall receive \$500.00.

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

- Any District reaching 101% in membership by March 31, 2026, shall receive \$500.00

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

- Any District reaching 101% in membership by March 31, 2026, 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 101% by March 1, 2026, 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 at Department Convention 2026 who meet the required goals.**

**\*\*\*\*All District Commanders to reach 101% will receive a NJ VFW personalized polo, and a Commanders coin. To be presented at Department Convention 2026.\*\*\*\***

## **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

Mike Boll

Tim Holland

Charles Thorpe

Milo Hannah