

STATE ROSTER & PROGRAM BOOK



**DEUCE BRANDT
COMMANDER**

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COMMANDER'S INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your election to Commander. Whether you are a first-time Commander, have previously held, or continue another year in command, I welcome you all and thank you for your continued service and support to the Post, District and Department. Together we shall succeed through proactive leadership, set the example for others to follow, work collaboratively, and communicate often while upholding the oath we took to continue serving veterans and families.

My Motto this year is "Advocacy with Integrity and Mentorship" or "A.I.M." It is our pledge to focus our energy and daily work by putting the veteran, their families and our communities as our priority while using the utmost integrity. Legislatively ensuring every earned/deserved benefit is received and we ALL have the support we need from the lasting effects of service to our nation will be a main lane of effort as well.

I hope you find this year both fun and fulfilling. If we work as a team and remain focused on the mission we can and WILL do many great things that will have a lasting effect beyond ourselves and this year.

True leadership is not defined by the rank you once held, but by the integrity you demonstrate every day as a volunteer. You provide a blueprint for the next generation to follow. Your commitment to mentoring others ensures that the values of discipline and loyalty remain steadfast, transforming your legacy from one of past duty into a living example of character that inspires everyone around you.

COMMANDER EXPECTATIONS 2026-2027

Commanders, you have the responsibility to ensure that your Posts and Districts fulfill the mission of the VFW: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans. (<https://www.vfw.org/about-us>).

Together we can do great things. You took the oath to serve, and I expect you to do your job in the following areas:

- 1.** Earn All-State Honors.
- 2.** Promote teamwork between the Post and its Auxiliary. Your word is your bond so say what you mean and mean what you say.
- 3.** Promote teamwork between the VFW and other community groups and organizations. Be a leader, be positive, use integrity and mentor others.
- 4.** Promote and support the Service Officer program.
- 5.** Be up to date. Visit the Department and National websites regularly. Check your email often. Read and distribute the General Orders from the Department and National. Have an up-to-date Podium Edition of the VFW Congressional Charter Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

6. Ensure that your Post Officers and Chairpersons know their jobs and are fulfilling their duties. In the case of the former, I expect you to mentor them, conduct training and work with them so that they know and can do their jobs. Reach out if you need help, WE ARE A TEAM!
7. Promote and support Youth Programs in your Post/District. This is a must. It will demand everyone's help, as youth are our future and deserve our efforts.
8. Promote and support the National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.
9. Ensure your Posts properly report their Community Service activities through the Dashboard and work with your Auxiliaries.
10. Be visible in your community. This visibility includes – but is not limited – POW-MIA awareness, Loyalty Day, Memorial Day services, Flag Day recognition, and Veterans' Day remembrances and activities. Community events are **essential** to attend whether they are just for Veterans or not. BE PROFESSIONAL if you are attending in a VFW capacity IE: Member or Officer, on your own or "on duty" to attend etc.
11. Ensure your Posts distribute Buddy Poppies in your community at least twice per year. Participate in the Buddy Poppies Display contest at Conventions.
12. Be professional when conducting meetings and don't take things said personally or make assumptions. Take the high road and treat others as you expect to be treated. Professionalism includes dressing, accordingly, being organized, and conducting a well-run, educational meeting with respect for all.
13. Maintain your current Post membership and recruit new members. The VFW cannot achieve its mission or realize its vision without maintaining and expanding its membership. Retention will be a big deal this year, mentor those newer members!
14. Stay informed on Legislative needs and issues affecting veterans. Make sure all members know who their State Representatives and Senators are and be prepared to contact these legislators when the need to do so arises. We must always **advocate** and be proactive towards solving veteran issues in every corner of our City, County, State and National levels as every member has a voice and your voice matters. Action Corps participation makes a big difference with minimal time and effort, If you can be in person to advocate, Veterans filling a room in our caps makes a solid point that cannot be ignored.
15. Posts and District Commanders must represent your Post/District at ALL Council of Administration meetings.

National Commander-In-Chief VFW principles from the National Program Book:

"We are united by a common purpose: to serve those who have served. As One Team, we bring our unique skills, perspectives, and dedication together to meet the needs of our nation's heroes. With One Mission, we remain focused, ensuring veterans receive the care, respect, and opportunities they've earned. Leadership is ultimately a long-distance commitment. It's about showing up day after day, leading with humility,

adapting when things get tough, and never losing sight of the end goal. Even when the path is unclear. Together, we stand stronger, driven by purpose, bound by respect, and devoted to those who served. ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION, VETERANS FIRST.”

COMMUNICATION

For our organization to succeed we all must work together collaboratively both Comrades and Auxiliary alike towards our common goals and objectives. Communication must be clear, concise, transparent and continuously transmitted laterally and vertically at every level of our organization.

The Dept will make sure to communicate with all of you often. This will be accomplished in person or as approved using digital means through:

- Monthly Staff Calls: First Tuesday every month to the maximum extent possible for continuity at Department Headquarters. Please be flexible, as experience has shown conflicts with schedules and events do happen and when necessary, changes to the date and time will be clearly communicated. These meetings are mandatory for all VFW Line Officers. VFW Auxiliary Line Officers are encouraged to attend. When approved meetings may be held using Zoom or Microsoft Teams (MS Teams).
- Monthly Zoom meetings will be held every first Tuesday at 6pm with all District Commanders (Auxiliary Presidents welcome. Invites will be sent). The purpose is to ensure important or critical information is effectively communicated to proactively solve problems, address issues and keep everyone informed of important topics and action items.
- Monthly first Tuesday Zoom at 7pm all Post Commanders (Aux welcome). Posts are the backbone of our organization and each of you directly represents me and are pivotal in meeting both VFW National and State goals and objectives I have set forth. Your concerns are my concerns, and these open discussions are encouraged, and everyone has a voice.
- IF STAFFING IS RESCHEDULED THE POST AND DISTRICT ZOOM WILL FOLLOW SUIT.
- Monthly Bulletins, the Dept webpage and Facebook are not being leveraged to the maximum extent possible. I encourage leaders at all levels to take advantage of promoting your events through this resource.
- Media relations: District and Post Commanders should take every advantage of leveraging local media for the events you hold. Get to know your local news contacts and invite them to your post. I would like to see all of us leverage the media to our advantage and this year I need your help improving this trend.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

I have an open-door policy, reach out! -With the expectation that leaders at all levels are to be engaged and solve problems at the lowest level possible. You are a leader, and I expect and trust you to not let issues go unresolved when they are observed or reported. When dealing with issues, first gather all the facts, be impartial and handle matters fairly and in a timely manner.

You are my direct representative and are entrusted to always act in the best interest of the VFW. Consulting with and knowing the National Bylaws to include those of your Post, District, and Department will in most cases lead you with a direction towards resolution of most issues.

If there is Police contact at a Post/District/VFW or VFW event within the Dept the Dept needs to be informed ASAP. This is still to be handled at lowest level possible however the Dept needs to be aware of such situations.

Be professional, keep your word, lead by example and you will find others will follow you and trust in your leadership. When making decisions you should always consider the following: 1. Is it Legal, Ethical and Moral, 2. What will it cost financially and personally. 3. What is the reality vs the perception. Remember you were elected because of the confidence your members have in you. If situations arise that can't be resolved at your level, elevate the matter to your District Commander for assistance. If the matter can't be resolved at the District level, make sure you have good documentation of all facts and actions previously taken to resolve the issue when elevating it to the Department.

AGENDAS

Detailed agendas showing daily activities will be issued by the Department Adjutant as far in advance as possible for all Department sponsored activities. I understand traveling and being able to prepare by knowing event scheduling and expectations. The agendas will include day by day expected dress codes for the members of the Department Council of Administration (CofA). Post Officers and VFW members are highly encouraged to do the same. Dress codes will be addressed later in this document. If no dress code is published, business casual is the expectation.

CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

The Department of Arizona has two Conferences (Fall and Winter) and one State Convention per each VFW year. This year, The Auxiliary President and I encourage MAXIMUM participation whether holding the title of Officer or Member.

Fall Conference:

Day 1 Friday: Arrival and set up Department Officers and Convention Committee Members.

Day 2 Saturday: Daytime Joint session for all members to include but not limited to training being the primary goal along with guest speakers during the day culminating with the evening banquet dedicated to our POW/MIAs.

Day 3: Sunday: Business session for VFW CofA. When the CofA is completed, the conference is over. CofA is a required attendance by Post/District representative (CDR, SVC, JVC) and Dept Officers and Chairman event.

Winter Conference: The Winter Conference is usually held in January and is where the highly coveted State Youth Education Programs Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriot Pen (PP) scholarship awards and recognition banquet are held.

Winter Conference:

Day 1 Friday: Arrival and set up Department Officers and Convention Committee Members.

Day 2 Saturday: Joint session for all members. Training, guest speakers etc during the day. Saturday night is the VOD/PP Awards ceremony and banquet.

Day 3: Sunday: Business session for Dept CofA. When the CofA is completed, the conference is over.

State Convention: The State Convention is typically held in June annually prior to the National Convention. The Convention is where Department Officers are nominated/elected and installed. We conduct our annual memorial ceremony to honor the memory and history of our fallen Comrades and Auxiliary members. We provide VFW awards to recognize outstanding achievement, host guest speakers, provide training opportunities and host activities that promote the esprit-de-corps and overall health and welfare of all members.

Day 1 Thursday: Registration, Joint session with awards and memorial service.

Day 2 Friday: Business session for VFW and Auxiliary. Past Commanders Dinner/fundraiser.

Day 3 Saturday: Morning Flag raising with VFW Riders Group, VFW/Auxiliary Business Sessions, Elections, Installation of Officers, Banquet, Guest speaker, and entertainment/fundraiser.

Day 4: Sunday: Separate business sessions and incoming CofA. When the CofA is completed, the Convention is over.

Dress Codes: To promote professionalism and standardization, the following dress codes will be used and are strongly recommended for all 2026-2027 events. Dress codes (see below) will be listed for each day as appropriate on all event agendas and generally are:

VFW DRESS CODE DEFINITIONS

VFW Business Consists of closed toe dress footwear, trousers, long sleeve shirt, jacket, belt, tie. (i.e., Suit & Tie.), dress or skirt with open or closed footwear, VFW name tag and VFW Cap.

Business Casual Consists of dress footwear, trousers, (NO JEANS) long or short sleeve collared shirt, belt, skirt, a jacket with no tie is optional, VFW Service Cap, and name tag.

Casual Consists of closed toe footwear, trousers, and shirt, hat and belt optional (i.e., Tennis shoes, blue jeans, golf shorts and T-shirt with sleeves.) a dress/skirt with sandals.

Recreational Consists of footwear open or closed, shorts or trousers, shirt, hat and belt optional (i.e., Golf shorts, tennis shoes or sandals, T-shirt) wearing a dress/skirt.

Formal Dress Consists of closed toe dress footwear, trousers, long sleeve shirt, jacket, belt, tie. (i.e., Suit & Tie or Tux.), formal gown with open or closed toe footwear VFW Name tags are optional, No VFW Service Caps. Miniature service medals and awards or branch lapel pins are encouraged for wear.

DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN & COMMITTEES

I expect chairman to be proactive in discharging the duties and responsibilities of the programs you are selected to lead. You have my full support, and I will do everything I can to assist you to be successful in meeting and exceeding all objectives and goals. I highly encourage and request each of you to reach out early and communicate with your Auxiliary chairman and work together to make a difference for all veterans and families in everything we do.

This year we have a “Chair of Chairs” Jim Shanley, Dept Jr Vice Commander (JVC) will be working with his counterpart Becky Baldwin from the Auxiliary to support and guide our Dept Chairman in bettering our ability to train, ensuring value added for all.

All VFW Dept Chairman now have the Chain of Command in place with Dept JVC to have someone to reach out to, he is your POC. Let us know what is needed and where, how the Dept can help our Posts and Districts be successful in completing our true mission.

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRMEN: Plans membership programs for the year, coordinates and schedules statewide membership drives with assistance from District Chairman, aids the Department Commander in selecting awards or incentives for membership recruiting, orders membership material and SWAG, takes inventory of and consults budgetary spending with the Quartermaster, keeps members aware of membership goals and objectives. Keeps the Commander aware of Post and District activities and membership totals. Membership drives should always include the Auxiliary.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: The audit committee is responsible IAW the State Bylaws to audit the books and records of the Quartermaster each quarter.

BUDDY POPPY: Provides advice to the Districts/Post in conducting Buddy Poppy Drives and resolves/coordinates Poppy issues with the Quartermaster. Encourages participation in Buddy Poppy display contests throughout the Dept. Keeps the members aware of updates with National Poppy information. Post level chairman are

in charge of assuring enough Poppies are on hand for the drive and scheduling both VFW and Auxiliary workers for the day of the drives. They will coordinate any Poppy issues with the State Chairman.

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Prepares and plans the budget subject to approval by the Council of Administration.

CHAIR OF CHAIRMAN: Coordinates and oversees quarterly zoom and activity reports of all chairmen. Keeps the Chief of Staff and Department Commander apprised of inactivity or needs of any Chairman. Provides guidance and assistance to all Chairman when necessary.

CITIZENSHIP/EDUCATION/TEACHER OF THE YEAR: Provides information and assistance to District/Post Chairman and school administrators to recognize worthy teachers in grades K-12 who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism. Ensures timely receipt of District nominations, conducts evaluations of nominees and ensures Department winners are forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

COMBAT TESTED GAMING (CTG) CO-CHAIRMEN: Promote and inform about the program throughout the Dept and online. Provide support to other AZ CTG chairmen, fundraise and ensure longevity and visibility of CTG.

DIGITAL CHAIRMAN: Assist Posts/Districts with training and setting up all things social media/fundraising/advertising through the use of current digital methods and products to help promote the VFW message to the community and beyond.

“DRIVE-BY HUGS” LIASON: Encourages buddy checks by quick visits doing “drive-by hugs” and letting individuals know we care and will meet them where they are.

EMPLOYMENT OFFICER: Provides informational updates to keep Post/District Commanders aware of veteran job fairs, employment opportunities and events. Work with Post/District Resource Officers for assistance in their communities and employment throughout the State. Use AZ211.

HOMELESS AND FOOD INSECURTIES: Assists Post/District Commanders with updates and locations for veterans in need of shelter and food assistance. Work with Post/District Resource Officers for assistance in their communities. Use AZ211.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICERS NATIONAL: Responsible for keeping membership aware of critical legislative initiatives that affect veterans and benefits. Works with State VFW Legislative Chairman. Promote and monitor the Legislative/PAC/Action Corp Program with the Districts and Posts. Keeps the Chief of Staff and Department Commander apprised.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICER STATE: Responsible for keeping membership aware of critical legislative initiatives that affect veterans and benefits. Works with National VFW Legislative Chairman and completes monthly reporting to National. Keeps the Chief of Staff and Department Commander apprised.

LIFE AND LEGACY MEMBERSHIP: Provide information and promote benefits to all members regarding these special membership programs.

NATIONAL HOME: Encourages annual membership and fundraising support of Arizona Home by donations for upkeep and repairs. Briefs all members of the current resident status, proposed improvements and any issues needing assistance.

OUTDOORS CHAIRMAN: Works with other entities to ensure information about outdoor and recreational events for Veterans and their families are widely acknowledged, supported and attended by our membership. Host activities/events for the betterment of the Dept. and its members.

POW/MIA AND LOYALTY DAY CHAIRMAN: Responsible to update all members on the status of revery and repatriation of service members. Plans appropriate POW/MIA program and recognition ceremony (Fall Conference). Advises and assists Posts/Districts with information on POW/MIA programs.

PRO-TEAMS CHAIRMAN: POC and Chair of the committee in charge of working with professional sports teams to promote experiences, enrich the lives and enhance the mission -of the members of the VFW within the Dept of AZ through professional sports and their programs and fundraising activities. (Contracts must go through proper channels IE: QM, Commander or CofA).

PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS: Provides information and assistance to Posts regarding awards and proper submissions of all nominees. Informs the Dept Commander and Chief of Staff of any worthy situations that Dept should be aware of IE: Within Dept of AZ Public Servant loss of life, community events and programs, awards etc.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Encourages and Maintains contacts with television stations, radio stations, and newspapers. Provides articles to the media on activities of the VFW Post. Assist the Department Commander schedule press conferences and meetings through the Chief of Staff.

SCOUTING/YOUTH PROGRAMS (ALL): Plans and assists in projects that are beneficial to youth within the Dept of AZ and our communities. Is responsible for reporting projects after complete. Promote and monitor the National Scouting Programs within the Districts and Posts.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Responsible for opening and closing Dept of Arizona Conferences and Conventions, maintains proper decorum during official business, and assists the digital chairman during conference room setups.

SUICIDE AWARENESS/PREVENTION: Organizes and leads prevention training for the Department, making sure every member stays informed about important issues and potential warning signs. Proactively communicate updates on new programs, resources, and support opportunities, all with the goal of protecting the health and well-being of our team. Fosters an open environment where members feel encouraged to look out for each other and seek help when needed.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & PATRIOT'S PEN: Provides advice and assistance to Post/District Chairman regarding the 2026-2027 theme and deadlines. Coordinates and ensures all judging is completed in a timely manner. Extends help and assistance to school administrators regarding these core scholarship programs. Educated on Scholars app to assist from students to Dept and all in between. Coordinates with

appropriate personnel to ensure a successful Dept Winter Conference VOD/PP experience.

WEBMASTER: Run Dept website, assist Posts/Districts with their own website development and other online issues.

ALL STATE CRITERIA FOR POST COMMANDER 2026-2027

Judging will be completed 15 May 2027

Commanders Introduction: Team, the criteria set forth below is so the Dept can properly recognize Post Commanders and their teams for their dedicated hard work and efforts towards the VFW mission. Posts are the core of the VFW and without your efforts, this organization would not exist. I thank each of you for your volunteerism and dedication. It is truly making a lasting difference between the communities and the veterans that we serve. Thank you for leading by example, going above and beyond and helping the Dept of AZ to fulfil and meet this year's motto; "Advocacy with Integrity and Mentorship."

Post Commander's Resume and book (digital or hard copy) MUST be received at HQ no later than 13 May 2027. The resume will also include any item listed below that is required.

1. COMMANDERS BOOK AND RESUME: COMPLETED AND RETURNED (digital or Hard Copy) by 13 May 2027
2. Post must be 100% +1 in membership, by 1 May 2026. (All American requirement includes 80% retention and 100% plus 1).
3. Post must have a representative (Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, or Jr. Vice Commander) at each Department C of A.
4. Post must have a representative (Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, or Jr. Vice Commander) escort a "first timer" at ONE Department Conference or Convention during the 2026-2027 year. (Acknowledge during CofA attendance IE: Commander plus 5 with first timer. We will have them stand to be welcomed and move to the next Post).
5. Post must have a representative (Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, or Jr. Vice Commander) at each District meeting.
6. All Accountable Officers must be bonded by 1 September 2026.
7. Post must support an Auxiliary Program by 1 May 2027. (Additional Aux programs supported earns more points, see below).
8. Post Trustees Reports of Audit (4) for the period from 30 June 2026, 31 October 2026, 31 December 2026 and 31 March 2027 will be on file at VFW Arizona HQ NLT 1 May 2027. (Part of being in Good Standing).
9. Post Commander must have recruited three (3) new members AND meet the 80% Post retention All-American requirement before 13 May 2027.
10. Post must have been satisfactorily inspected and the inspection report on file with Department. The inspection must have met the satisfaction of the Department Inspector and Department Commander. (Part of being in Good Standing).

11. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY: Must submit an entry to District for judging. Must be submitted by Post to the programs dashboard before the posted deadline. (All American requirement).
12. PATRIOTS PEN: Must submit an entry to District for judging. Must be submitted by Post to the programs dashboard before the posted deadline. (All American requirement).
13. Commander-In-Chief Special Project Donation for the DPAA through the dashboard (\$75 minimum). (All American requirement).
14. Post must have a current Post Election report submitted and be in good standing. (All American requirement).
15. Post must participate in the VFW day of service during May registered by 13 May 2027, at todaysvfw.org/day-of-service/ participation no later than 1 June 2027. Learn more about Day of Service at todaysvfw.org/. (All American requirement).
16. Must donate to Veterans & Military Support Services, minimum \$125. (All American requirement).
17. Must donate \$50 to the State Youth Programs Fund through the Dept QM.

ALL THE ABOVE CRITERIA MUST BE COMPLETED TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR “ALL STATE HONORS”.

IN ADDITION, A MINIMUM OF 325 POINTS MUST BE ACCUMULATED UTILIZING THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA to be considered for All State honors: (The highest point recipient will be selected “Arizona All State Captain”).

1. VETS IN THE CLASSROOM: (10) points per school visit, maximum (30) points.
2. FLAG RAISINGS, OR FLAG RETIREMENTS: (10) points, maximum (30) points.
3. LOYALTY DAY PROGRAM: (10) points for Post ceremony as reported in the community service report.
4. VFW NATIONAL HOME/AZ COTTAGE – DONATION: Minimum Donation of \$50 must be received by Department Quartermaster prior to 13 May 2027. (25) points.
5. NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER’S AWARD: (25 Points) Post must submit one entry of any category (Elementary, Middle or High School) to District for judging. Must be submitted by Post to the programs dashboard before the posted deadline.
6. PUBLIC SERVANT: (25) points for one of any category of public servant submitted to District for judging, i.e. Police Officer, Firefighter, EMT, 911 dispatcher. This should be reported on the community service report.

7. POW/MIA CEREMONY: (10) points for post ceremony as reported on community service report. (20) points awarded to the Post that displays a Missing Man Table off post property (maximum 50 points).
8. SCOUTING & YOUTH PROGRAMS: (5) points, (25) maximum points for activities reported on the community service report.
9. SUPPORT AN AUXILIARY PROGRAM: Not the same program as the requirement, a SECOND Auxiliary program's support is necessary for these extra points. (10 points for each program supported, 25 points for social or print media of VFW and Aux of cooperation/support with pic). (75 max)
10. QM RESUME SUBMISSION. (15) points.
11. Donation to the Service Officer fund through the Dept QM -\$25 is 10 points, \$50 is 25 points. (25 max).
12. MEMBERSHIP DRIVES: (5) points per drive (25) points max.
13. MEMBERSHIP points will be awarded for the following:
 - Posts with 25 to 450 members:
 - (10) Points awarded if 100% by 31 January 2027
 - (20) ADDITIONAL points awarded if 101% by 1 May 2027
 - Posts with more than 451 members:
 - (20) Points awarded if 100% by 28 February 2027
 - (30) ADDITIONAL points awarded if 101% by 1 May 2027

EACH "ALL STATE" POST COMMANDER WILL RECEIVE A CAP, LAPEL PIN, AND POST CERTIFICATE.

POST COMMANDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMITTING A POST QUARTERMASTER RESUME TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS PRIOR TO 13 MAY 2027, FOR THE QUARTERMASTER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR "ALL STATE HONORS." QM WILL BE "ALL STATE" ONLY IF COMMANDER ACHIEVES "ALL STATE."

EACH "ALL STATE" QUARTERMASTER WILL RECEIVE A CAP, LAPEL PIN, AND POST CERTIFICATE. All programs forms can be downloaded from the AZ State website. www.vfwaz.com (click "Resources then Reports/Forms")

THE "ALL STATE CAPTAIN" WILL RECEIVE A CAP AND CERTIFICATE.

ALL STATE CRITERIA FOR DISTRICT COMMANDER 2026-2027

Judging will be completed on 15 May 2027

- 1.** District Commanders' book and resume (Digital or Hard Copy) must be received by Department Headquarters by 15 May 2027. The resume will also include any item listed below that is required.
- 2.** Cumulative membership of all Posts in the District must be 100% plus 1 by 1 May 2027. (Mindful this plus 80% retention is National requirement for Post's All American, additional points for the District if Posts within that District are at or above 80% ret. by deadline).
- 3.** Must attend or send a representative to each Council of Administration meeting. (Commander, Sr Vice Commander, or Jr Vice Commander).
- 4.** District must have a representative (Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, or Jr. Vice Commander) escort a "first timer" at ONE Department Conference or Convention during the 2026-2027 year. (Acknowledge during CofA attendance IE: Commander plus 5 with first timer. We will have them stand to be welcomed and move to the next District).
- 5.** All Accountable Officers must be bonded by 1 September 2026.
- 6.** District Trustee Audits from 30 June 2026, 31 October 2026, 31 December 2026, and 31 March 2027 will be on file at VFW Arizona HQ NLT 1 May 2027.
- 7.** Commander must have signed up three (3) new members, as documented in the National Recruiter files. (See Additional points).
- 8.** District must support an Auxiliary Program by 1 May 2027. (Additional Aux programs supported earns more points, see below).
- 9.** Commander must attend a minimum of at least one meeting per Post in their District throughout the year. Encouragement to attend as many meetings and events as possible to support and mentor. Reports/AAR sent to Dept ADJ and CDR after visit, included in book.
- 10.** District must have been satisfactorily inspected with the inspection report on file at Department Headquarters. A Satisfactory report will be determined by the State Inspector with the advice and consent of the Department Commander.
- 11.** VOICE OF DEMOCRACY: Must submit a District entry to the Department for judging by the posted deadline. Additionally, this must be entered into programs dashboard as appropriate.
- 12.** PATRIOTS PEN: Must submit a District entry to the Department for judging . This also must be entered as appropriate to the programs dashboard.
- 13.** NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER'S AWARD: (25 Points) District must submit one entry of any category (Elementary, Middle or High School) to Department for judging. Must be submitted by District to the programs dashboard before the posted deadline.

14. Donation of \$100 to the Department's "other awards" (NEW) through the Dept QM to recognize worthy individuals.

ALL THE ABOVE CRITERIA MUST BE COMPLETED TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR All State Honors (District).

IN ADDITION, A MINIMUM OF 470 POINTS MUST BE ACCUMULATED UTILIZING THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA to be considered for All State Honors (District):

Programs: All State District Commander

1. MEMBERSHIP points will be awarded for the following:
 - District with membership up to 2,500 members
 - (10) points for 100% by 31 January 2027
 - (20) ADDITIONAL points for 101% by 1 May 2027
 - District with more than 2,500 members
 - (20) points for 100% by 28 February 2027
 - (30) ADDITIONAL points for 101% by 1 May 2027
2. District School of Instruction at each of the District meetings. (10) points each, SOI outside of normal meeting days coordinated with Dept Chairmen (20) points each. (100 max).
3. Buddy Poppy Drives: (10) points for each District level drive (must have more than 2 Posts collaborate for it to be District not Post level). (30) points max. Attending and assisting during a non-home District drive (10) points. (30) ADDITIONAL points for Buddy Poppy Display contest at the District level during District Convention.
4. National Commander-In-Chief Special Project DPAA donation \$100 through the dashboard. (15) points. (All American requirement).
5. LOYALTY DAY: (10) points for assisting any Post conduct a Loyalty Day observation as submitted on the Commander's resume.
6. POW/MIA: (20) points for conducting a ceremony offsite as reported on the Commander's resume. Missing man table also qualifies for the points.
7. TRUSTEE REPORTS: (10) points for each Trustee report filed on time with the Department.
8. In addition to three new members, (25) points awarded to the District Commander who signs up 10 new members, as documented in the National Recruiter files.
9. POSTS WITHIN DISTRICT AT 80% RETENTION: Each Post within the District at or above 80% by 1 May 2027 will earn the District (10) points per post, if ALL Posts within the District meet this goal before 1 May 2027 the District will receive the maximum points of (75) regardless of number of Posts in District.
10. VETS IN THE CLASSROOM: (10) points per school visit with pic and information about the visit for each, maximum of (50) points.

- 11. FLAG RAISING OR FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY:** (10) points at each event, maximum of (30) points as reported on the Commander's resume.
- 12. YOUTH PROGRAM:** (25) points for organizing assistance and support for a youth event.
- 13. SUPPORT AN AUXILIARY PROGRAM:** Not the same program as the requirement, a SECOND Auxiliary program's support is necessary for these extra points. (10 points for proof of support or 25 points for social or print media of VFW and Aux cooperation/support). (50 max)
- 14. QUARTERMASTER'S RESUME:** (15) Points for completed submission.

EACH "ALL STATE" DISTRICT COMMANDER WILL RECEIVE A CAP, LAPEL PIN, AND DISTRICT CERTIFICATE.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMITTING A DISTRICT QUARTERMASTER RESUME TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS PRIOR TO 13 May 2027 FOR THE QUARTERMASTER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR "ALL STATE STATUS" QM WILL BE "ALL STATE" ONLY IF COMMANDER ACHIEVES "ALL STATE."
EACH "ALL STATE" DISTRICT QUARTERMASTER WILL RECEIVE A CAP, LAPEL PIN, AND DISTRICT CERTIFICATE.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT 2026-2027 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Without active, passionate members, we will cease to exist. Membership gives our leaders strength through numbers and the voice necessary to legislate for all veterans and fight to keep the benefits they earned and deserve. 100% membership is our job and baseline we must always maintain.

Every member is a recruiter and it's our job to articulate why membership is important to everyone.

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION: 80%+ IS KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL YEAR TOWARDS ALL AMERICAN

LIFE MEMBER OPTIONS

One-Time payment of \$45

Age as Dec 31st

11 Monthly Installments

18-30 YEARS OLD \$425.00 \$38.64 (with initial payment of \$45.00)

31-40 YEARS OLD \$410.00 \$37.27 (with initial payment of \$45.00)

41-50 YEARS OLD \$375.00 \$34.09 (with initial payment of \$45.00)

51-60 YEARS OLD \$335.00 \$30.45 (with initial payment of \$45.00)

61-70 YEARS OLD \$290.00 \$26.36 (with initial payment of \$45.00)

71-80 YEARS OLD \$225.00 \$20.45 (with initial payment of \$45.00)

81 YEARS + \$170.00 \$15.45 (with initial payment of \$45.00)

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Commander:

Sr Vice Commander

Jr Vice Commander

Quartermaster

Adjutant

Judge Advocate

Surgeon

Chaplain

Chief of Staff

Inspector

Deputy Inspector

Jr PDC

CHAIRMEN CONTACT INFORMATION

Appointee	Email Address	Chairman Appointment
Allison Helm	helm3253@gmail.com	Suicide Prevention
Anthony Hernandez	ajhernandez_13@yahoo.com	State Legislative
Bobby Jones	Starace2002@gmail.com	Homeless & Food Insecurities
Cassidy Voss	vosshogg@gmail.com	CTG Co-Chair
Derek Hulsebus	derek.l.hulsebus.civ@army.mil	K2 Liason
		Youth/Scouting
Deuce Brandt	vfwdeucebrandt@gmail.com	Awards
		Training
		Legacy Life
Don Lynch	donlynch090@gmail.com	Outdoorsman Activities
Frank Alger	frankwalger@aol.com	AZ Vet Hall of Fame
George Leon	gleon4542@gmail.com	Photographer
Gracy Mariscal	vfwmariscal@yahoo.com	TOY
		VOD/PP
		Citizenship & Education
Greg Akers	akersg17@gmail.com	Special Aide to the CDR
		POW/MIA & Loyalty Day
Greg Algorri	gregory.algorri@gmail.com	Grand CDR Liason to MOC
		IT/Web/Media
		Media/Public Relations
Greg Harrell	harrellfamily2011@yahoo.com	Fundraising/ Sponsorships
		Jr PDC
		Media/Public Relations
		Vet Service Committee
Heather Bullock	cos@vfwaz.com	Chief of Staff

		Convention Committee Year 1
		Budget/Finance
		Fundraising/ Sponsorships
Hope Blood	vfwhopeblood@gmail.com	Western Conference
Hugues Byrne	vfwhughbyrne1@gmail.com	All-State/All American
		Audit Committee
		Awards
		Budget/Finance
		By-Laws
		Dashboards (National & Dept)
James Shrader	jamesshradercmdr12043@gmail.com	VMS
Janice Owens	gijanice61@gmail.com	Sergeant At Arms
		Convention Committee Year 3
Janice Robertson	bells_whistles@hotmail.com	"Drive By Hugs" Liaison
Jay Darnell	cw5darnell@gmail.com	CTG Co-Chair
Jeri Harwood	jeriharwood@aol.com	Public Servant
Jim McCormick	jmccormickvfwaz@usa.net	Vet Service Committee
Jim Shanley	jimj1067@cox.net	Audit Committee
		Budget/Finance
		Chair of Chairman
John Garrison	johngarrison541@gmail.com	Pro-Team Committee Chair
Johnnie DeBoard	johnnettegibson@yahoo.com	Liaison to Auxiliary
Josh Philipps	j.philipps801@gmail.com	By-Laws
Keith MacDonald	kmacdon@cox.net	Audit Committee
		Budget/Finance
Ken Deist	vfw.vbapho@va.gov	Service Officer
Kim Akers	kimakersvfwauxpost285@gmail.com	Liaison to Auxiliary
Leland Gilmore	gleland47@yahoo.com	Buddy Poppy
Mandy Peery	cantinacruz@gmail.com	Membership Co-Chair
Mike Bullock	michael.e.bullock30@gmail.com	Audit Committee
		Inspector

Mike Kemery	mikek5004@yahoo.com	Vet Service Committee
Mike Parker	commander@vfw9400az.org	Convention Committee Year 2
Nedra Sealey	nedrasealey@gmail.com	Awards
		Hospital
		National Legislative State Homes (PHX & TUC)
		VAVS (Prescott, PHX, & TUC)
Rob McDermott	mac_99223@yahoo.com	Employment
		National Legislative
Sue Odam	sgarrison45@yahoo.com	Community Service
Tim Borland	tborland62@gmail.com	By-Laws
		Membership Co-Chair
Tim Ogden	ogdentim@cox.net	VOD/PP
Dept Chaplain	brenda_smith89@gmail.com haroldmay568@gmail.com	National Home
Bill Schaeffler	azdezrider@msn.com	Vet Service Committee

DISTRICT COMMANDER CONTACT INFORMATION

District 1		
Edward Reid	(303) 915-1259	
Post 769 Quartzsite	Post 1763 Yuma	Post 2357 Bouse
Post 3708 Salome	Post 6790 Wellton	Post 8242 Yuma
District 2		
Harry Hart	(928) 503-2133	
Post 541 Prescott	Post 1709 Flagstaff	Post 6739 Camp Verde
Post 7400 Cottonwood	Post 9632 Page	Post 10227 Prescott Valley
Post 12128 Williams		
District 3		
Allison Helm	(623) 810-6909	helm3253@gmail.com
Post 40 Avondale	Post 285 Surprise	Post 1433 Glendale
Post 2135 Peoria	Post 6310 Tolleson	Post 12098 Buckeye
Post 12210 Glendale		
District 4		
Tom Kendra	(480) 330-6104	
Post 720 Phoenix	Post 1760 Mesa	Post 1796 Black Canyon City
Post 3513 Scottsdale	Post 3632 Tempe	Post 7507 Fountain Hills
Post 9400 Sunnyslope		
District 5		
Heather Bullock	(520) 255-4052	

Post 549 Tucson	Post 2767 Mammoth	Post 4903 Tucson
Post 5990 Marana	Post 10015 Tucson	Post 10254 Three Points
Post 12222 Oro Valley		
District 6		
Anthony Hernandez	(602) 828-4820	
Post 1704 Globe	Post 2364 Pinetop/Lakeside	Post 6789 Window Rock
Post 8807 Tonto Basin	Post 8987 Eagar	Post 9907 Show Low
District 7		
Greg Algorri	(520) 678-3117	
Post 836 Bisbee	Post 2066 Nogales	Post 6271 Benson
Post 9972 Sierra Vista	Post 9977 Pearce Sunsites	Post 10385 Thatcher
District 8		
Lonne Lewis	(760) 213-9795	
Post 404 Mohave Valley	Post 6306 Golden Shores	Post 7061 Parker
Post 9401 Lake Havasu City	Post 10005 Bullhead City	Post 10726 Parker Dam
District 9		
Anthony Cangialosi	(951) 235-9741	
Post 2190 Chloride	Post 2555 Golden Valley	Post 3516 Kingman
Post 9833 Dolan Springs	Post 10386 Kingman North	Post 11014 Meadview
District 10		
Frank Alger	(480) 570-4032	
Post 1677 Casa Grande	Post 3584 Superior	Post 3713 Coolidge
Post 7401 Chandler	Post 7968 Apache Junction	Post 9399 Apache Junction
Post 12043 Maricopa		

***ALL OTHER INFO WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE DEPT WEBSITE FOR ROSTERS TO BE AS UP TO DATE AS POSSIBLE.**