

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE**

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Program Year 2025 – 2026

MARK STAYTON

State Commander



Note: This program is intended to supplement, not replace, the VFW National Membership Program.

VFW DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE 2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

1. **Membership goals for 2025-2026:** To achieve 101% in membership by recruiting, retaining and mentoring a stable membership base that includes all generations of veterans. To cultivate a Department that is actively involved at all levels of the organization and in the local community. To ensure Posts have a strong tradition of assistance, camaraderie and community service. Every member is a recruiter.
2. **Critical Post Actions.**
 - A. Each Post Commander should develop a membership plan.
 - B. Improve communications to all your members.
 - C. Check on members you do not often see.
 - D. Contact members who have not renewed their membership and find out why. See if they would consider reinstatement.
 - E. Increase Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership.
 - F. Increase the number of members who recruit.
 - G. Partner with other VSOs and organizations.
 - H. Establish and maintain a social media presence.
3. **Individual Recruiter Awards:**
 - A. 5 Member Recruiter –\$10 and Commander's Pin.
 - B. 10 Member Recruiter – \$25
 - C. 20 Member Recruiter – \$50
4. **Top Recruiter** for the State (as of May 31, 2026) – Dept Commander Gift
5. **Post Membership Awards:**
 - A. Posts that reach 92% in membership by Dec 1, 2025 with one new member will receive \$50.
 - B. Posts achieving 100% in membership with at least two new members by January 1, 2026 will receive \$200.
 - C. Posts achieving 101% in membership with three new members by March 31, 2026 will receive \$100.
 - D. Any Post achieving 104% of their prior year adjusted total membership by 1 June, 2026 with at least 5 new and/or reinstated members will receive \$250.
 - E. Any District that achieves 101% in membership by June 1, 2026 will receive \$100.
 - F. The Department will pay \$100 of dues for each new life member or converted life member. The total provided by the Department will not exceed \$20,000.
6. **All-State Team of Post Commanders** – Posts completing all requirements listed below will be named to the All-State Team and will be recognized at the 2026 State Convention along with the Captain of the All-State Team.
 - A. Membership. A Post must achieve 101% in membership with two new members by June 1, 2026. Division 10 Posts must have a minimum of 51 members.
 - B. Attendance. Commander, Sr. Vice, or Jr. Vice must be present at all Council Meetings, June 2024 through May 2025.
 - C. The Quarterly Audit Reports must be submitted to the Department Quartermaster within 30 days following the end of each quarter (Jun/Sep/Dec/Mar).

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- D. Quartermaster's Bond must be renewed by August 31, 2025, or within 30 days of the application being received at the Post in accordance with National By-Laws.
- E. Post Inspection must be completed prior to February 28, 2026.
- F. Post must place Buddy Poppy order to Department Quartermaster of at least 500 total, flowers and/or tabs, by March 30, 2026.
- G. Must have one Voice of Democracy or Patriots Pen entry and one Teacher of the Year entry (any Grade) submitted to their District.
- H. Must hold a fundraiser for Veterans and Military Service and donate \$100 to VMS National Program Services NLT Dec 1, 2025.
- I. Submit Community Service / Americanism activity reports for each quarter (Jun/Sep/Dec/Mar) on the Department Dashboard. Must report at least twenty-five community events NLT May 1, 2026.
- J. Conduct two membership recruiting events and report results to District Commander.

7. All State District Requirements – Any District completing all requirements listed below will earn All-State Team recognition.

- A. Be 101% in Membership no later than June 30, 2026.
- B. The District Quartermaster must be bonded by Aug. 31, 2026.
- C. All posts in the District must be inspected by February 28, 2026.
- D. All Posts in the District must purchase Buddy Poppies.
- E. All District Quarterly Audits must be submitted as required by the By-Laws.
- F. The District must submit a candidate for State Judging in Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and a Teacher of the Year (any Grade).
- G. The District Commander, Sr. Vice, or Jr. Vice must attend all Council of Administration Meetings, (June through May).
- H. Participate in at least two membership recruiting events and report results to Department Adjutant.
- I. District Commander must visit each Post at least once and report to Department.

8. Appointments to the All-State teams will occur as the completion of requirements can be confirmed. District Commanders and Department Officers having oversight of these activities must submit initial reports to the membership chair NLT April 15, 2026.

9. National All American Post and District Programs. Posts and Districts are also encouraged to compete for their respective National All-American Program awards. These requirements are different from the All-State programs. Earning All-State does not automatically qualify a Post or District for the National All-American Program. Please refer to the National Commander's Program for the specific requirements.

10. Membership Chairman for 2025-2026 is John Morrow.

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