



DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

MEMBERSHIP
★ **PROGRAM** ★



2026 - 2027

Philip H. Smith

★
STATE COMMANDER

★ **STRONGER TOGETHER** ★

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

**MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
Program Year 2026 – 2027**

**Philip H. Smith
State Commander**

**Program Manager
Thomas Phippin Post 4961
Jr. Vice Commander**

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

VFW DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE 2026-2027 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

1. **Membership goals for 2026-2027:** 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 communication 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. 5-9 Members Recruiter - \$25.00
 - B. 10 -14 Members Recruiter - \$50.00
 - C. 15-19 Members Recruiter - \$75.00
 - D. 20+ Members Recruiter - \$100.00
4. **Top Recruiter and Top recruiting Post** for the State (as of May 31, 2027) – will receive a Commander's award.
5. **Post Membership Awards will be paid by the Department membership program:**
 - A. Posts that reach 100% in membership by Nov 30, 2026, with one new member will receive \$100.
 - B. Posts achieving 102% in membership with at least two new members by January 31, 2027, will receive \$150.00.
 - C. Posts achieving 103% in membership with three new members by March 30, 2027 will receive \$200.00.
 - D. Any Post achieving 105% of their prior year adjusted total membership by 1 June, 2027 with at least 5 new and/or reinstated members will receive \$250.00.
 - E. The Department will pay \$100.00 of dues for each new life member or converted life member. Payment must be processed through the local post, and the post check submit a check to the Department Quartermaster. The total provided by the Department will not exceed \$20,000 (200 members) unless the COA approves additional funding.
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 2027 State Convention along with the Captain of the All-State Team.
 - A. Membership. A Post must achieve 102% in membership with two new members by June 1, 2027. Division 10 Posts must have a minimum of 51 members.
 - B. Attendance. Commander, Sr. Vice, or Jr. Vice must be present at all Council

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Meetings, June 2026 through May 2027.

- 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).
- D. Quartermaster's Bond must be renewed by August 31, 2026, 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 December 31, 2026.
- F. Post must place Buddy Poppy order to Department Quartermaster of at least 500 total, flowers and/or tabs, by March 30, 2027.
- G. Must have one Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen entry and one Teacher of the Year entry (any Grade) submitted to their District.
- H. Must hold a fundraiser for or donate to Veterans Military Service \$125.00 and donate DPAA \$75.00 National Program Services NLT Dec 1, 2026.
- 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, 2027. (**Honor Guard duty does not count as an event**)
- J. Post Commander's shall submit their Post 2 required recruiting events to the Dept. Program Manager by Sept 1, 2026, if they would like Department participation in their Recruiting event. Conduct two membership recruiting events and report the results on the VFW Community Dashboard. <https://vfwde.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp>

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

- A. Be 102% in Membership no later than June 30, 2027.
- B. The District Quartermaster must be bonded by Aug. 31, 2026.
- C. All posts in the District must be inspected by February 28, 2027.
- 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 2026 through May 2027).
- 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, 2027.

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

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to the National Commander's Program for the specific requirements.

10. **Membership Chairman** for 2026-2027 is Thomas Phippin 302-841-2211.

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