

**DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
2026-2027 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**



“Be the Change!”

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MEMBERSHIP MISSION

This Membership Program is designed to recruit, reinstate and retain a committed membership base to help support the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) mission. Develop a membership that is educated in organizational procedures and policies and actively engages in all levels of the Department and in their local communities. Embrace all generations of veterans and develop strong leadership and community involvement in our Posts. This will be done by:

- Increasing membership and participation in VFW programs.
- Increasing our presence in our communities through VFW events and programs.
- Developing community organization partnerships.
- Retaining a vital and valuable presence in our local, State and National Legislatures.

MEMBERSHIP GOALS

- To increase the number of new and reinstated members to reach 100%+1 of last year's membership. This will be based on membership numbers ending 30 June 2027.
- For every member to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member.
- Reinstate previous members.
- To increase and participate in the number of membership drives in our communities.
- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts.
- To increase our Life Membership and Legacy Life Memberships.
- To retain existing membership in addition to recruiting new members.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

The Membership Chairman, **Jack Hawley**, will oversee the program and will work directly with members of the Post and District Membership Teams. His contact information is: Phone: **406-899-3973** Email: **jack.hawley.1@icloud.com**

INDIVIDUAL RECRUITING AWARDS

# Recruited	Award from State	Award from National
1	Mini Certificate	
5	Commanders Coin	Recruiter pin
10	\$20 Gift Card	Recruiter pin
15	\$30 Gift Card	Recruiter pin
25	\$50 Gift Card	Commander-in-Chief's Coin
50	\$75 and Plaque	Recruiter's Medical Bag
75	\$100 and Plaque	Commander-in-Chief's Medallion Set
100	\$200 and Citation	Century Cap (or \$50 VFW store credit) and Citation

The top recruiter for the state on 1 June 2027 will be presented a top recruiter medal and citation at the state convention in June 2027.

POST RECRUITING AWARDS

Each Post that reaches the following benchmarks by the cut-off dates will receive one entry into a drawing for every level reached. All drawings will be held at the Mid-Winter Conference in Great Falls on 30 Jan 2027.

- 88% in Membership by 30 September 2026 - \$50
- 93% in Membership by 31 October 2026 - \$100
- 100% in Membership by 30 November 2026 - \$200
- 100%+1 in Membership by 31 December 2026 - \$300

ABOVE & BEYOND AWARDS:

Every post that exceeds the membership goal and reaches the following benchmarks by 30 April 2027 will receive the following items for each level reached:

- 101% in membership - Pennant
- 102% in membership - "Veterans check in here" banner.
- 103% in membership - "Are you eligible" banner and a tote

All above & beyond awards will be presented at the state convention in June 2027.

The top three posts with the highest percentage increase in membership over 100%+1 based on the report from OMS on 30 June 2027 will receive a personalized plaque and citation at School of Instruction on 14 August 2027.

FIRST SIXTH MONTHS MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Each month from July through December all membership increases for each post will be given a point value. All points will be added up after 31 December 2026 and the post with the most points will receive \$400, 2nd place will receive \$200, and 3rd place will receive \$100. A tracking sheet (digital and/or hard copy) is available for you to track your points.

- New Annual and Reinstated members are worth one (1) point each.
- One-Step Upgraded members (Annual to Life, Life to Bronze Legacy, Bronze to Silver Legacy, Silver to Gold Legacy) are worth two (2) points each.
- Two-Step Upgraded members (Life to Silver Legacy, Bronze to Gold Legacy) are worth three (3) points each.
- New Life Members are worth four (4) points each
- Life to Gold Legacy upgraded members are worth five (5) points each.

NEW YEAR MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

For the new year (the second half of our VFW year), points will continue to be tallied for all membership increases as stated above for the first six months challenge. All points will be added up after 30 June 2027 and the post with the most points will receive \$400, 2nd place will receive \$200, and 3rd place will receive \$100 at School of Instruction. A tracking sheet (digital and/or hard copy) is available for you to track your points.

ALL-STATE POST REQUIREMENTS

To qualify as an All-State Post, all of the following requirements must be accomplished:

1. A minimum of one representative at the School of Instruction 13-14 Aug 2026.
2. Must be inspected by 15 October 2026.
3. A minimum of one representative at both the Fall and Spring District meetings.
4. A minimum of one representative at the Mid-Winter conference on 30 Jan 2027.
5. Must have four (4) Quarterly Audits for the year, 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2027, on file with the Department Quartermaster. Specifically, the Quarterly Audits for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarters for calendar year 2026 and the 1st Quarter of calendar year 2027 must be received before the last day of the month following the end of each quarter. Any exception to this requirement must be addressed to the Department Quartermaster in advance of the report due date.
6. Must submit Community Activity Reports to Department Headquarters that fulfill a minimum of one event per program (Americanism, Community Activities, Buddy Poppies, National Home, National Military Service, Safety, Scouting, and Youth Activities) for the reporting year (1 Apr 2026 - 31 March 2027). **NOTE:** *If you want to be All-American, you must submit one report every quarter (Due by 31 Jul 2026, 31 Oct 2026, 31 Jan 2027, & 30 Apr 2027).*
7. Must host or participate in a minimum of two (2) recruiting events and report results of each on a Community Activity Report to Department Headquarters.
8. Must participate in the VFW Day of Service event held during the month of May and register and report event at todaysvfw.org/day-of-service no later than 1 June 2027.
9. Must submit a completed 2026–2027 Election Report to Department Headquarters by 1 May 2027.
10. Must pay state delegate fees to Department Headquarters before 1 May 2027.
11. Must be 100%+1 in the Membership Program by 30 June 2027

NOTE: *Posts that have failed to meet all requirements above by the stated deadlines will not be qualified as an All-State Post. Requests for requirement waivers should be brought to the attention of the State Commander for approval prior to the date of the meeting or requirement due date unless otherwise stated above.*

ALL-STATE COMMANDERS/QUARTERMASTERS

MEMBERSHIP

Points can be credited by achieving the following goals by the dates posted:

Achieve 100% membership by <u>31 December 2026</u>	75 Points
Bonus: Achieve 100%+1 membership by <u>31 December 2026</u>	25 Points
Achieve 100%+1 membership by <u>30 April 2027</u>	50 Points
Bonus: Achieve 101%+ membership by <u>30 April 2027</u>	25 Points
Achieve 100%+1 membership by <u>30 June 2027</u>	25 Points
Total	<u>200 Points</u>

PROGRAMS

Posts will receive **10 Points for each** of the following programs that they report in; Americanism, Community Activities, Buddy Poppies, National Home, National Military Service, Safety, Scouting and Youth Activities (80 Points max). Information will be collected from the Post Community Activity Report and other reports. A **bonus of 10 points each** can be credited by forwarding, a Scout, Fireman, EMT, Law Enforcement Officer, 911 Dispatcher, Employer, or Member of the Year to Department for judging (70 bonus points max). Entry forms are available at vfwmt.org.

Total **150 Points**

Submit a Patriot's Pen entry to District	25 Points
Submit a Voice of Democracy entry to District	25 Points
Submit a Citizenship Teacher of the Year to District	25 Points
Total	<u>75 Points</u>

BUDDY POPPIES

Purchase 500 Poppies	10 Points
Bonus: Purchase 500 Additional Poppies (up to 9x)	90 Points
Total	<u>100 Points</u>
Grand Total	<u>525 Points</u>

The top ten (10) All-State Post Commanders and Quartermasters (5 each) will receive an All-State Commander/Quartermaster Cap respectively. The top All-State Commander/Quartermaster team will be named Captains and will receive All-State Commander/Quartermaster Captain Caps. If your Post is not 100%+1 by 30 April 2027 but achieves 100%+1 in membership by 30 June 2027 and meets all other qualifications for the All-State Program, the All-State Star pin for the Commander and Quartermaster will be presented at a later date and an All-State cap can be ordered through the Department Quartermaster at the officer or Post's expense.

NOTE: *If you already own an All-State cap for your position, you will be offered a Gold Star insignia to place on your current cap instead of receiving a new cap. This will allow the next Commander/Quartermaster in line to receive his/her first cap. The Department will only purchase ten (10) caps and all Commanders/Quartermasters meeting the All-State requirements who do not receive a cap will be recognized with a Gold Star insignia. If the recognized All-State Commander/Quartermaster was not awarded a cap, they may be purchased through Department Headquarters, if so desired, at the member's or post expense.*



ALL-STATE DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

To qualify as an All-State District all of the following requirements must be accomplished.

1. The Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, and/or Jr. Vice Commander must attend the School of Instruction 13-14 Aug 2026.
2. Must have district books inspected by the department inspector by 15 October 2026.
3. All posts must be inspected by 15 October 2026.
4. Must conduct both a Fall and Spring District meeting.
5. Submit one Patriot's Pen entry to Department by 15 December 2026
6. Submit one Voice of Democracy entry to Department by 15 December 2026
7. Submit one Teacher of the Year entry to Department by 1 January 2027.
8. The Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, and/or Jr. Vice Commander must attend Mid-Winter conference on 31 Jan 2027.
9. Ensure all posts have submitted election reports before 1 May 2027.
10. District must achieve 100%+1 membership by 30 June 2027.

NOTE: Districts who fail to meet all requirements above will not be qualified as an All-State District. Requests for waivers should be brought to the attention of the State Commander for approval prior to the date of the meeting or requirement due date.

The Department Commander will be contacting each District Commander monthly to receive updates on their District.

ALL-STATE DISTRICT COMMANDERS/QUARTERMASTERS

The highest scoring District Commander and Quartermaster will be selected as All-State District Captains and will receive All-State District Captain's Caps. If no District is 100%+1 by April 30, 2027, but is 100%+1 by June 30, 2027 the All-State caps will be presented at a later date as long as all other requirements are met.

Each of the criteria below must be achieved by the deadlines for the points to apply. The points will be used to determine the Captains of the All-State team of District Commanders and Quartermasters.

District Books Inspected by <u>15 October 2026</u>	50 Points
All Posts Inspected by <u>15 October 2026</u>	100 Points
Submit a Patriot's Pen Entry by <u>15 December 2026</u>	25 Points
Submit a Voice of Democracy Entry by <u>15 December 2026</u>	25 Points
Submit a Teacher of the Year Entry by <u>1 January 2027</u>	25 Points
<i>Bonus:</i> District 100%+1 Membership by <u>30 April 2027</u>	50 Points
<i>Bonus:</i> All Posts 100%+1 by <u>30 April 2027</u>	100 Points
All Posts submit election reports before <u>1 May 2027</u>	50 Points
District 100%+1 Membership by <u>30 June 2027</u>	25 Points
All Posts 100%+1 by <u>30 June 2027</u>	50 Points

Grand Total 500 Points

NOTE: Only the All-State District Captain's Caps will be purchased by the department. If you already own an All-State District cap for your position, you will be awarded a Gold Star insignia to place on your current cap. If your District qualifies for All-State, but is not the top scoring district, All-State District caps may be ordered through Department Headquarters, if so desired, at the member's or District's expense.

ADDITIONAL BONUS: Each District that reaches 100%+1 in membership by 31 December 2026 will receive \$500 for your District.