

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

2025-2026

“Train, Share, Communicate”



6/6/2025

Membership Plan Purpose and Philosophy

This membership plan is designed to provide clear guidance on increasing and maintaining membership at every level of our organization. If membership is not emphasized at the department level, it cannot be expected to succeed at the post level. Therefore, leadership must set the tone and lead by example.

Our approach aligns with the National Commander's Goals, which inform our departmental guidelines. As a department, we are committed to supporting these national initiatives by implementing their programs and meeting their requirements.

We will achieve our membership goals through consistent **training, sharing of best practices, and open communication**. All members and leaders are encouraged to actively participate in these efforts, working collaboratively to support our posts, districts, and the department.

Together, through unified purpose and shared responsibility, we can grow stronger and ensure the continued success of our organization.

Goals for This Membership Year

1. **Emphasize the Importance of Membership**
Membership is vital to the strength and sustainability of any organization—especially ours. Create meaningful incentives to encourage new memberships and retain current members.
2. **Leverage Technology and Community Engagement**
Maximize the use of the internet, social media platforms, and participation in local events to promote visibility, attract new members, and engage the community.
3. **Support National and Department Programs**
Actively participate in and promote both National and Department-level membership programs. These initiatives provide the structure and support needed to grow and maintain membership.
4. **Train and Mentor Future Leaders**
Prepare your relief. Share your knowledge and experience so the next person is ready to step up when the time comes. Leadership development is key to organizational longevity.
5. **Encourage Knowledge Sharing**
Collaboration and teamwork thrive when information is shared freely. Don't keep what you've learned to yourself—pass it on!
6. **Communicate at All Levels**
Open and consistent communication is essential. Whether it's between posts, districts, or the department—if we don't know about an issue, we can't fix it. Stay connected.

Department Commander's Programs

The Department Commander's Programs are designed to **educate both our fellow VFW members and the public** about the mission, purpose, and values of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Through these programs, we aim to strengthen understanding of what the VFW stands for and highlight the continued service our members provide—both to one another and to our communities.

These initiatives also serve to **recognize and celebrate the hard work of our posts and districts**, emphasizing leadership, teamwork, and dedication to fulfilling our mission. By actively participating in these programs, members reaffirm that the VFW remains a vibrant and vital part of our society, **still serving and still giving back** in numerous and diverse ways.

ALL-STATE POST COMMANDER HONORS ALL-STATE POST QUARTERMASTER HONORS CRITERIA

Posts are divided into 4 membership divisions based on previous years' membership.

	<u>POST MEMBERSHIP</u>		<u>QUOTA GOAL</u>
DIVISION #1	0-50	Membership	95% + 1 Member
DIVISION #2	51-100	Membership	95% + 2 Member
DIVISION #3	101-250	Membership	95% + 2 Member
DIVISION #4	251+	Membership	95% + 2 Member

All Posts who reach Quota Goal in Membership and complete the criteria listed below by the due date will be awarded All-State Honors and recognized at the 2026 Department convention.

All-State Post Requirements / Criteria

To be recognized as an **All-State Post**, the following criteria must be met by **May 15, 2026** (unless otherwise noted):

1. Membership Requirement

Achieve **at least 95% membership**, based on adjusted totals from the previous year (as of May 15, 2026).

2. Post Election Reports

Submit your **Post election reports** on time, ensuring they are **in good standing**.

3. Program Participation

The following programs must be completed by the deadline of **Nov 15, 2025**

o Voice of Democracy (VOD):

- Submit at least **one entry** to the district level and donate a minimum of **\$50.00** to the Department VOD program or donate **\$150.00** in lieu of an entry provides a summary of efforts made to recruit applicants.
- Submit AAR on National Dashboard (Adjutant)

o Patriot's Pen (PP):

- Submit at least **one entry** to the district level and donate a minimum of **\$50.00** to the Department PP program or donate **\$150.00** in lieu of an entry and provide a summary of efforts made to recruit applicants.
- Submit AAR on National Dashboard (Adjutant)

4. Service Office Donation

Submit a **minimum donation of \$100.00** to the Department Service Office before **May 15, 2026**.

5. Community Service Reporting

Submit **at least one community service report** per quarter through the **VFWOR.org** portal. The quarters are as follows:

- o July - September
- o October - December
- o January - March
- o April - June

6. Buddy Poppy Purchase

- o Purchase a minimum of **10 Buddy Poppies per member**, or **500 Buddy Poppies**, whichever is greater.

7. District Meetings and Convention Attendance

- o Attend **all district meetings** and the **district convention** for your district.

8. Training Sessions

Attend **at least two training sessions** (either via Zoom or in-person).

9. Bonding Requirement

The Post must be **bonded** by **September 30, 2025**.

10. Recruiting Event

- o Hold at least **one recruiting event** by **May 15, 2026**.
- o Submit an **After-Action Report (AAR)** to the Department Membership Chairman.

All-State Post Recognition & Rewards

Posts that meet all the **All-State Post Requirements** will receive the following recognition:

- **All-American Post Streamer**
- **Post Home Citation**
- Recognition in the **Department newsletter**
- Posting on the **Department website** for one year.

In addition, the **top five posts** in each membership division will be awarded the following:

- **One free dinner** at the convention
- **Commander's Coin**
- **One ticket** for the **Legacy Life drawing** at the convention

All-State District Requirements / Criteria

To be eligible for the **All-State District** recognition, the following criteria must be met by **May 15, 2026** (unless otherwise noted):

1. **Membership Requirement**

Achieve **at least 95% membership**, based on adjusted totals from the previous year).

2. **District Election Reports**

Submit your **District election reports** on time, ensuring the district is **in good standing**.

3. **Program Participation (Due by December 15, 2026)**

Complete the following program requirements:

○ **Voice of Democracy (VOD):**

- Submit **one entry** to the district level and donate **\$50.00** to the VOD program.
- Submit AAR on National Dashboard (Adjutant)

○ **Patriot's Pen (PP):**

- Submit **one entry** to the district level and donate **\$50.00** to the PP program.
- Submit AAR on National Dashboard (Adjutant)

4. **Service Office Donation**

- Donate **\$100.00** to the **Department Service Office**.

5. **District Meeting Form**

- Complete and submit the **District meeting form** to the Department Adjutant **prior to August 1, 2025**.

All-State District Recognition & Rewards

Districts that meet the listed requirements and criteria will receive:

- A **plaque** and **certificate** recognizing their achievements
- **One ticket** for the **Legacy Life drawing** at the convention

Commander's Monthly Challenge

Duration: July 2025 – January 10, 2026

Challenge Overview:

Starting **July 1, 2025**, and continuing through **January 10, 2026**, the **top two posts** that add the most **Life Members** each month will receive **one ticket** to be entered into the **50/50 drawing** at the **Mid-Winter Convention**. (The **Post Commander** or another **Post Officer** must be present at the **Mid-Winter Convention** to accept the winnings.)

Training Opportunities for 2025-2026

1. Mid-Winter Conference Training

- **Date:** January 2026
- Training will be conducted during the **Mid-Winter Conference**. Be sure to attend for valuable updates and leadership development.

2. District Schools of Instruction (SOI)

- **Date:** First District meeting of the Fiscal year
- **Details:** District Schools of Instruction will be held during the first meeting of the year. Dates and locations will be provided by your District leadership.

3. Department Schools of Instruction (SOI)

- **Number of Sessions:** Three (3)
- **Date, Time, Location:** Specific dates, times, and locations will be announced. Stay tuned for updates. Will be posted on the slider on the Oregon Website!!!

4. Zoom Training Sessions

- The Department will be hosting various **Zoom training sessions** throughout the year. Will be posted on the Oregon website slider please keep looking at our website, it has updated information.
- Topics and schedules will be posted on our **department website calendar** at **VFWOR.org**. A link will be provided for easy access to each session.
- **Suggestions:** If you have a specific topic you would like to cover, please contact the Department Adjutant to suggest it for the training schedule. These will be added to our zoom training schedule.

5. Encouragement to Attend

- All members are encouraged to take full advantage of these training sessions to enhance their knowledge, skills, and involvement with the VFW.

To receive the National All-American award turn to the National All-American section of your roster book.

Membership Mission:

To build a strong organization through recruiting new members while retaining our current membership, building a solid foundation for the future. To assist in mentoring our leadership and members, coordinate programs to support our Posts, Districts, and Departments in their membership efforts, and to provide training for all levels of VFW membership.

Membership Chairman **District/Post**

Membership Chairman Responsibilities

Post Membership Chair

Each post is required to designate a **Membership Chair** to assist in the recruitment and retention of members. Responsibilities include:

1. **Track Expired Memberships**
 - Keep the **Post Commander** informed on expired memberships to ensure timely renewals.
2. **Host Membership Drive**
 - Organize and conduct **at least one (1) membership drive** annually to recruit new members.
3. **Participate in District Recruiting Events**
 - Actively engage in **one district recruiting event** to support membership growth at the district level.
4. **Request Unpaid/Relocated Membership List**
 - Request the **unpaid/relocated membership list** from the **Department Quartermaster**. This list can be a valuable resource for identifying **potential new members** for your post, as it includes individuals who may have moved or have not yet renewed their membership.

District Membership Chair

Each district is required to designate a **District Membership Chair** to assist in the ongoing recruitment and retention of members. Responsibilities include:

1. **Track Membership Totals**
 - Keep the **District Commander** updated on **membership totals** to monitor progress and needs.
2. **Host District Recruiting Event**
 - Organize and facilitate **at least one (1) recruiting event** at the district level.
3. **Assist with District Recruiting Events**
 - Provide support and assistance for **district-wide recruiting events** to maximize participation and success.

All-State Post Checklist for 2026

1. **Membership Requirement**
 - ☐ 95% membership,
2. **Post Election Reports**
 - ☐ Submit **Post election reports** on time
3. **Program Participation**
 - **Voice of Democracy (VOD) -must do one**
 - ☐ **one entry** to the **district level** and \$50 to Dept and report on National Dashboard
 - ☐ donate **\$150.00** in lieu of an entry and summary
 - **Patriot's Pen (PP) -must do one**
 - ☐ **one entry** to the **district level** and **\$50** to the Dept and report on National Dashboard
 - ☐ donate **\$150.00** in lieu of an entry and summary
4. **Service Office Donation**
 - ☐ min donation of **\$100.00** to the **Dept Service Office** by **May 15, 2026**.
5. **Community Service Reporting**
 - Submit **at least one CSR** of activity per quarter through **VFWOR.org** portal.
 - ☐ **July - September**
 - ☐ **October - December**
 - ☐ **January - March**
 - ☐ **April - June**
6. **Buddy Poppy Purchase**
 - ☐ minimum of **10 Buddy Poppies** per member, or **500 Buddy Poppies**, whichever is greater.
7. **District Meetings and Convention Attendance**
 - ☐ Attend **all district meetings** and the **district convention** for your district.
 - ☐ **Meeting 1**
 - ☐ **Meeting 2**
 - ☐ **Convention**
8. **Training Sessions**
 - Attend **at least two training sessions** (either via Zoom or in-person).
 - ☐ **Date** _____ / **Location** _____ / **topic** _____
 - ☐ **Date** _____ / **Location** _____ / **topic** _____
9. **Bonding Requirement**
 - ☐ bonded by **September 30, 2025**.
10. **Recruiting Event**
 - ☐ **recruiting event** by **May 15, 2026**.
 - ☐ **After Action Report (AAR)**