

COMMANDERS
SPECIAL PROJECT
MY WARRIORS PLACE

My Warriors Place Program

My Warrior's Place is a Retreat Center for our Veterans, Military Service Members, Laws Enforcement Officers, Fire Fighters, Gold Star, Blue Star, and Silver Star Families. Additionally, My Warrior's Place offers several amazing programs for those who have put their life on the line for our safety and wellbeing, endured the death of a Fallen Warrior, and/or experienced the horrors of war. Each program offered by My Warrior's Place plays an important role in the healing and coping process, and the support that is obtained through these programs is priceless!

Special Project Chairperson

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Program Reporting:

Remember that Programs keep your Post viable in the community and play a big part in keeping your Post, District and Department strong and a part of our great National Organization. Programs also assure that you retain your tax exempt status. Programs are reported electronically through the Department of Florida Website "vfwfl.org, Login, Report Entry" If you need assistance contact Rosalie Bice at Department Headquarters or the Programs Director.

Quartermaster Information:

QUARtermaster BOND is \$4.00 per \$1000
THE MINIMUM BOND REQUIRED IS \$3,000. Make sure you are not under bonded.

Each Post shall remit \$1.25 for each member of record as of July 1st (minimum \$125.00), payable by September 30th each year. All assessment proceeds will be used to operate the Department Service Office.

Each Post will receive an invoice in their VFW Post E-mail for these amounts that must be paid by September 30th to be eligible for All State Judging.

Each District shall remit \$300.00 by September 30th each year. All proceeds will be used to assist in the operations of the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Programs.

Membership Mission

To recruit, retain, and mentor a stable membership base, including all generations of veterans. To cultivate a membership that is well versed in institutional knowledge and actively involved at all levels of the organization and in the local community. To establish Posts with a strong tradition of service, leadership, and community outreach.

- **Build a strong organization for the future through growth and retention.**
- **Work together to achieve the VFW's goals. The VFW State Headquarters staff is here to assist in coordinating programs, developing new membership initiatives and building awareness among our membership and the entire veteran community.**

Membership Objectives & Goals

- **Recruit new and recover unpaid membersGoal 101%**
- **Retain and mentor existing membership.....Goal 100%**
- **Develop new Posts and revitalize existing Posts**
- **Increase Life MembershipGoal 2% Gain**
- **Increase Legacy Life MembershipGoal 5% Gain**

Post Responsibilities

- **Name a Membership Chairman by August 31, 2022 and report that name to the District Membership Chairman**
- **Hold at least two (2) membership drives during the year.**
- **Report to the District Membership Chairman monthly on your progress**
- **Hold at least two (2) Community Service events with other organizations.**

District Responsibilities

- **Appoint a District Membership Chairman**
- **Monitor Memstats frequently to monitor & advise Posts in the District as to their progress.**
- **Hold a minimum of two (2) membership drives with Posts in the District.**
- **Report to the Department Membership Chairman monthly on the progress of the District.**
- **Ensure that all Posts have promotional material and applications for membership drives.**
- **Hold at least two (2) Community Service events with other organizations.**

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM DETAILS & INCENTIVES **INDIVIDUAL VFW RECRUITER AWARDS**

BRONZE STAR AWARD:

Any member recruiting 15 new and/or reinstated members by May 31, 2023 will receive a specially designed commander's challenge coin.

SILVER STAR AWARD:

Any member recruiting 25 new and/or reinstated members by May 31, 2023 will receive a specially designed commander's challenge coin and a \$25.00 Gift Card.

LEGION OF MERIT AWARD:

For every new Life Member recruited by May 31, 2023 (minimum of 5) the recruiter will receive a specially designed commander's challenge coin and \$50.00 gift card.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS AWARD:

The top five recruiters, signing up the most new and/or reinstated members (minimum of 50) by May 31, 2023 will receive a specially designed commander's challenge coin, and a \$100.00 in gift cards.

POST MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

David G. Snyder Plaque

The first Post to achieve 101% membership by September 30, 2022 (Posts that are 101% life membership must obtain 15 new members to qualify) Post mergers do not qualify for this award.

Emerson Lee Plaque

The first Post to achieve 105% membership by November 30, 2022

John E. Hamilton Award

The Post with the greatest numerical increase in membership by April 30, 2023

Ira Hopper Award

The Post with the greatest percentage increase in membership by April 30, 2023

90% Membership — Commander and Quartermaster receive a Silver Star.

101% Banner — All Posts achieving 101% membership.

101% Membership — Post Banner, Commander and Quartermaster receive a Gold Star. **101% + Quota Buster** — Post Date Plate, Commander and Quartermaster receive a Q Pin.

*All posts must fill out an **ALL STATE ENTRY FORM** and submit it to State Headquarters by April 1, 2023 to qualify for All State Judging. The form is on the VFW Florida website at vfwfl.org, resources, reports and forms.

NOTE: If Post Commander or Quartermaster change during the year, a new All State Entry Form must be submitted immediately.

ALL STATE POST COMMANDERS

ALL STATE POST COMMANDERS AND QUARTERMASTERS WILL BE JUDGED BY THE AWARDS COMMITTEE AND SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

Meet the following percentages according to division, and requirements in the Department Dashboard plus program reporting, donations, meetings/school attendance and accounting deadlines met.

All State will be awarded to all posts that earn the honor, by accomplishing all requirements, regardless of division or number of posts in a division.

POST DIVISIONS:

Division - 1	951-UP	101%	Division - 7	112 – 142	103%
Division - 2	750 – 950	101%	Division - 8	88 – 111	103%
Division - 3	356 – 749	101%	Division - 9	68 – 87	105%
Division - 4	246 – 355	102%	Division - 10	51 – 67	105%
Division - 5	185 – 245	102%	Division - 11	1 - 50	105%
Division - 6	143 – 184	102%			

****NOTE: ALL-STATE CUT-OFF RUNS THROUGH COB JUNE 26th. POSTS REACHING ALL-STATE STATUS BY THE "MAY" ALL-STATE JUDGING DATE WILL BE PRESENTED WITH THEIR ALL-STATE CAPS AT DEPARTMENT CONVENTION. THOSE REACHING ALL-STATE AFTER THE "MAY" JUDGING DATE WILL BE PRESENTED WITH AN ALL STATE PLAQUE AND A CHECK FOR \$150 TO ORDER THEIR OWN CAP & SHIRT.**

DIVISIONS ARE BASED ON JUNE 30, 2022 MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS, ADJUSTED PRIOR YEAR TOTAL. CHECK DIVISION # ON MEMSTATS REPORT.

DISTRICT DIVISIONS:

Division - 1	5,000 - UP	100%
Division - 2	3,282 - 4,999	100%
Division - 3	2,172 - 3,281	100%
Division - 4	1,447 - 2,171	100%
Division - 5	906 - 1,446	100%
Division - 6	0 - 905	100%

POST AND DISTRICT DIVISIONS ARE BASED ON JUNE 30, 2022 MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS, ADJUSTED PRIOR YEAR TOTAL. ALL POST AND DISTRICT DIVISION STATUS IS POSTED ON MEMSTATS.

The Awards Committee **may eliminate** from judging any post:

- That does not meet the requirements delineated on the Department Dashboard under "Members Only Section" - on time and correct.
- Any Post failing to purchase three poppies per member, based on **June 30, 2022** membership totals by **April 30, 2023**.
- Required Schools attendance

To attend the Department School of Instruction or have the Sr. Vice Commander or Jr. Vice Commander attend. **Must sign in to receive credit.**

To attend the District School of Instruction or have the Sr. Vice Commander or Jr. Vice Commander attend. **Must sign in to receive credit.**

- To file tax reports with state and federal government, including forms (IRS Form 990) and state sales tax where required.
- A copy of the District or Post 990 must be submitted to Department Headquarters.

**** FIRST ROUND JUDGING ENDS APRIL 30, 2023**

**** SECOND ROUND JUDGING ENDS June 26, 2023**

ALL STATE POST COMMANDER AWARDS

An "All State Post Commanders Team" will be selected and each member will receive the following awards:

- An "All State" Post Commander Shirt
- An "All State" Post Commander Cap
- An "All State" Plaque for the Post

ALL STATE POST QUARTERMASTERS

- If the Post Commander qualifies for All State, the Post Quartermaster may also qualify "IF" the following Quartermaster requirements are met:
- Quartermaster must individually see that all reports required of them are correct and submitted on time, to include; Trustees Report of Audit, Tax Reports, and the IRS 990 Form.
- Maintain their records so they may be certified, when inspected, by the Post Trustees per the VFW National guidelines.
- Attend school of instructions for District and State, and retain proof of such attendance.
- Must be the Post Quartermaster for a minimum of 90 days prior to judging, unless the prior Quartermaster was relieved by the Department Commander within this 90 day period.

Other Considerations: Regardless of whether the requirements above are fulfilled, the Awards Committee may also consider personal conduct and attendance at District and Dept. Meetings.

ALL STATE POST QUARTERMASTER AWARDS

An "All State Post Quartermasters Team" will be selected and each member will receive the following awards:

- An "All State" Post Quartermaster Shirt
- An "All State" Post Quartermaster Cap

ALL STATE DISTRICT COMMANDER REQUIREMENTS

District Commanders must achieve 100% in membership by April 30, 2023 to receive their award at the Department Convention. Districts can still qualify for All State Awards until **June 26th, 2023 but will be awarded at a later date.**

District Commanders will achieve "All State" if they complete the following requirements;

- Programs
 - Voice of Democracy — an entry advanced to Department Judging

Patriots Pen — an entry advanced to Department judging

Teacher Award — an entry **in 1 category** advanced to Department judging

- National Military Service — Make a donation of \$250 min. to National VFW Un-Met Needs no later than February 1st, 2023.
- National Veterans Service — 100% of all Posts must appoint a Service Officer and **all Service Officers must be on file at the VFW Department Service Office.**
- School of Instruction — Districts must conduct a School of Instruction and proof of such school must be submitted to Department Headquarters no later than November 15th.
- Post Visits — All posts within the District must be visited 3 times between August 1, 2022 and April 30, 2023 by the Commander, the Sr. Vice Commander or the Jr. Vice Commander.
- District 990 District must have their IRS Form 990 submitted to IRS with copy sent to Department Headquarters in order to be awarded "All State" District

District Commanders must attend one post meeting plus one other visit. Visitation Reports must be submitted to Department within 30 days of each visit.

District Commanders are directed to hold a minimum of two District Membership Drives during the year and report the results to the Membership Director and the Dept. ADJ/QM. (July 1-Dec. 31, 2022 and Jan. 1-April 30, 2023)

Appoint a Mentorship Team to mentor new Post Leadership
(Submit report to Department Headquarters)

Partner twice with 2 separate organizations for a community service event
(Submit reports through dashboard)

ALL STATE DISTRICT COMMANDER AWARDS

An "**All State District Commanders Team**" will be selected and each will receive:

- **An "All State" District Commander Shirt**
- **An "All State" District Commander Cap**

“WHY IS THE VETERAN IMPORTANT TO ME”

The 2022-2023 Voice of Democracy competition is open to all students in grades 9 through 12

Student’s entry due to Post..... October 31, 2022
Post judging to be completed byNovember 15, 2022
District judging to be completed by.....December 5, 2022
District winning entry due to Department Chairperson.....December 15, 2022
District participation report due to Department ChairpersonDecember 15, 2022

Department winner goes to National by January 15, 2023

For information go to the Department website at vfwfl.org, “Programs” & “Voice of Democracy”

DEPARTMENT VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

FIRST PLACE

“Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith Scholarship

\$2,500.00

SECOND PLACE

\$2,000.00

THIRD PLACE

\$1,500.00

FOURTH PLACE

\$1,000.00

FIFTH PLACE

\$500.00

John M. Carney Plaque

The VFW Post sponsoring the State Voice of Democracy Winner

PATRIOT’S PEN

“MY PLEDGE TO OUR VETERANS”

The 2022 -2023 Patriots Pen competition is open to all students in grades 6 through 8.

Student’s entry due to PostOctober 31, 2022
Post judging to be completed byNovember 15, 2022
District judging to be completed by.....December 5, 2022
District winning entry due to Department Chairperson.....December 15, 2022
District participation report due to Department ChairpersonDecember 15, 2022

Department winner goes to National by January 15, 2023

DEPARTMENT PATRIOT'S PEN AWARDS

FIRST PLACE

\$600.00

SECOND PLACE

\$400.00

THIRD PLACE

\$200.00

For information go to the Department website at vfwfl.org, "Programs" & "Patriots Pen"

C. Milton Davis Plaque

The VFW Post sponsoring the State Patriots Pen Essay Winner

SCOUT OF THE YEAR

All Posts are encouraged to select and recognize a Scout of the Year, submit the winner to District level for judging, and forward those winners to the Department judging. The application for Scout of the Year can be found online at the Department Website vfwfl.org go to "Programs" and "Scout of the Year".

Nominees for the Department Scout of the Year Award are to be submitted to a Post by **March 1, 2023**. Post must submit forms to the Department Chairperson by **April 1, 2023**.

The Nominees from Posts are to be sent to the Department Scouting Team Chairperson.

The winning entry will receive **\$250.00 check and plaque**.

Department winner goes to National by May 1, 2023

VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Each year the VFW recognizes the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers. This contest is for teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions, and institutions effectively through the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Awards. Outstanding teachers in the categories of grades K through 5, grades 6 through 8, and grades 9 through 12 will be recognized. For information go to Department Website vfwfl.org, "Programs" & "Teacher of the Year"

Nominations

Nominations may be submitted by fellow teachers, supervisors or other interested individuals. Self-nominees are not eligible.

Nominees submitted to Posts..... October 31, 2022
Post Winners to DistrictNovember 15, 2022
District winning entry due to Department Chairperson.....December 15, 2022
District participation report due to Department Chairperson.....December 15, 2022

Department Winners go to National by January 15, 2023

VFW DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA CITIZENSHIP TEACHER AWARD

- A \$500.00 check to the winning teacher in each of the three categories as selected by the Department Committee
- A Plaque for each winning teacher

PUBLIC SERVANT GOLD MEDAL AWARDS

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects an emergency service person, a law enforcement officer, and a fire fighter to receive the VFW Gold Medal Awards. The presentation of these awards will be made at the post in an awards ceremony. Post Safety Chairpersons are encouraged to submit a candidate for this award to the appropriate Department Public Servant Award Chairpersons by **January 1, 2023**.

Eligible candidates for each award will receive:

- A Certificate from VFW National
- A Plaque from VFW Department of Florida

Emergency Medical Technician Gold Medal

Any individual, who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation's citizens.

Firefighters Gold Medal

Any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

Law Enforcement Gold Medal

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individuals employed by private companies or security services.

Criteria for all Gold Medal Awards:

Candidates must have demonstrated:

- Recognition by their colleagues for those they serve
- Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties
- Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills in their profession.

Documentation required of each candidate:

- A nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone, e-mail and identifying the award which the individual should be considered.
- A one page resume of the candidate's overall background
- A one page resume of the candidate's background in the field
- A photograph "preferably head shot" of the candidate

Nominations

Post Safety Chairpersons are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to the Law Enforcement, Fire Prevention & EMT Chairman by **January 1, 2023**.

David M. Bear

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