



Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars



Leadership Directory 2025-2026



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Facebook: Search "VFW Department of PA"

State Commander



The road to becoming Commander of the PA Veterans of Foreign Wars was very interesting to say the least. I would like to thank you for the honor and privilege to lead this great organization. I have always believed that when you become a leader, it is not about you but making those around you better. I also realize that I cannot do it alone. Like when we were deployed, everyone accomplished a successful mission.

My motto is **Teach, Coach, Mentorship**. So many times, over the years, I have heard that we elected a member to a position but also heard that they have no experience and are provided with no help. That is where Teach Coach and Mentorship is vital to help them become successful for the District or Post. Leaders cannot let anyone fail. I would like to thank Bill Stellfox for agreeing to assist Posts and Districts if a Quartermaster needs training, I encourage Posts and Districts to reach out to Bill and his team for the training.

I am sure we get tired of hearing about membership, but it is important to every Post, District, and the Department. About half of the Posts in our Department did not recruit one member. This may not hurt a Post with many members, but the Posts that have very few members could result in that Post losing its charter. But more importantly, we have a moral obligation to recruit new members for several reasons.

1. When we go to Washington or Harrisburg to fight for Veterans and the family, it is important to show we represent thousands of members.
2. When a member of the services leaves the service, someone needs to be there for them. That should be us! Tom Sally is leading our membership program. Tom has my support, and we should reach out to him and take our Department to a National Leader where we belong.

Finally, I realize that I cannot do this alone. It will take all of us to move our department forward. I accept this role, as a solemn commitment to serve you, my fellow veterans, with integrity, compassion, and tireless effort.

William Roland

William (Bill) Roland, State Commander 2025-2026

Pennsylvania Map of Districts

WEST:

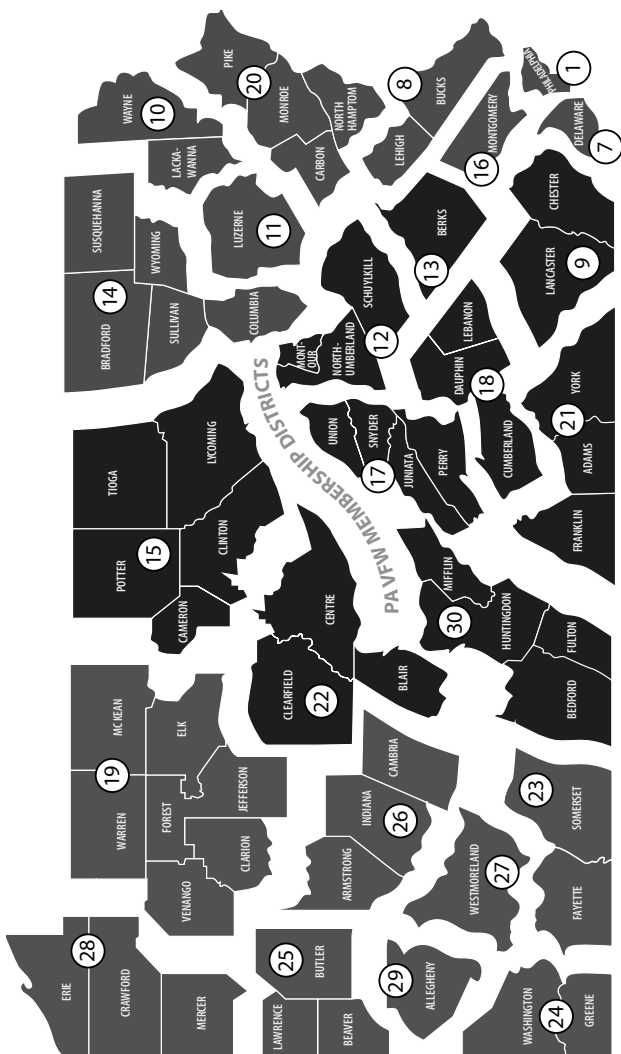
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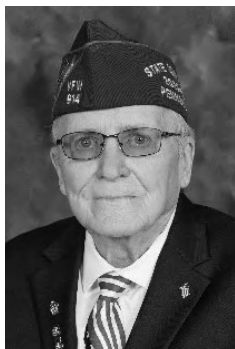
9, 12, 13, 15,
17, 18, 21, 22, 30

EAST:

**1, 7, 8, 10,
11, 14, 16, 20**



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State Committee Chairpersons ... continued



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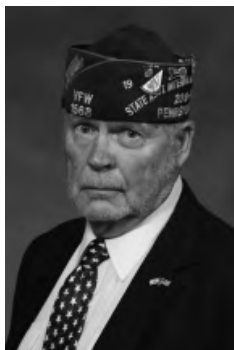


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State Committee Chairpersons ... continued



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State Committee Chairpersons ... continued



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State Committee Chairpersons ... continued



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In Memorium

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1914-15 – Thomas Crago
1917-18 – William Ralston
1920-22 – Robert G. Woodside
1925-26 – Fred Stover
1933-36 – James E. Van Zandt
1945-46 – Joseph M. Stack
1951-52 – Frank C. Hilton
1959-60 – Louis G. Feldmann
1971-72 – Joseph L. Vicites
2015-16 – John A. Biedrzycki, Jr.

Past State Commanders

1913-15 – William J. Brawley
1916 – Hugh L. McLaughlin
1915-16 & 1920-21 – E.J. Poole
1921-22 – Edward Rankin
1922-24 – R.J. Walsh
1924-25 – C. Blaine Smathers
1925-27 – Harpur M. Tobin
1927-28 – John L. Bingham
1928-30 – James E. Van Zandt
1930-31 – Aaron R. Gardner
1931-32 – Daniel J.C. O'Donnel
1932-33 – Benjamin Ralsky
1933-34 – Henry Grab

1934-35 – Joseph M. Stack
1935-36 – Raymond E. Conway
1936-37 – Philip A. Burket
1937-38 – John V. Horan
1938-39 – Chester W. Zerbe
1939-40 – Lloyd C. Pike
1940-41 – Leo Moerschbacher
1941-42 – John W. Rankin
1942-43 – William H. Bechtel, Jr.
1943-44 – Earl A. Seitz
1944-45 – James F. Coley
1945-46 – Nelson W. McCloskey
1946-47 – John U. Shrover
1947-48 – Frank C. Hilton
1948-49 – Hiram V. Hartman
1949-50 – G. Lynn Brotherson
1950-51 – Louis G. Feldmann
1951-52 – James J. Davis
1952-53 – Hugh H. Hoke
1953-54 – Elmer D. Christine
1954-55 – Joseph E. Kovach
1955-56 – Marlan O. Walter
1956-57 – Morton Fromm
1957-58 – William J. Tepsic
1958-59 – John C. Cavender
1959-60 – John J. Piparato
1960-61 – Leonard R. Santore

In Memorium ... continued

1961-62 – John T. Radko	1984-85 – Tavio Angelo
1962-63 – Frank J. Zenzer	1985-86 – Ricky DeLoreto
1963-64 – George E. Hartman	1986-87 – Allen Q. Jones
1964-65 – William J. Farley	1987-88 – Jack E. Barger
1965-66 – Joseph L. Vicities	1988-89 – Almon J. Long
1966-67 – Leo L. Woyton	1989-90 – Charles R. Feltenberger
1967-68 – Norman P. McFadden	1990-91 – Frank Fisher
1968-69 – Eugene R. Manfrey	1991-92 – Donald Lehman
1969-70 – Lowell H. Norris	1992-93 – William C. Allen
1970-71 – Ronald G. Tyler, Sr.	1993-94 – Norman F. Rettig
1971-72 – Rudolph E. Shearer	1994-95 – Neale H. Deibler
1972-73 – Michael M. Mullen	1995-96 – Donald J. Mills
1973-74 – Louis Rizzo	1997-98 – Peter Krenitsky
1974-75 – Ervin L. Steele	1998-99 – Albert Thomas, Jr.
1975-76 – Frank E. Rinaldi	1999-2000 – Franklin E. Lopes
1976-77 – Joseph G. Hertzler	2000-01 – George Cain
1977-78 – Mariano J. Badali	2002-03 – John A. Biedrzycki, Jr.
1978-79 – Robert T. May	2003-04 – Charles Prince
1979-80 – Anthony J. Longo	2004-05 – John Brenner
1980-81 – Albert V. Palumbo	2014-15 – Gary Smith
1981-82 – George S. Kosanovich	2017-18 – Dwight R. Fuhrman
1982-83 – Thomas J. Dougherty	2019-20 – Wayne Perry
1983-84 – Raymond C. Mullin	

Past State Commanders

1996-97 Howard L. Adler, Jr. VFW Post 1810 417 Birmingham Avenue Mount Oliver, PA 15210 (412) 885-5412	2005-06 Robert C. Eiler VFW Post 7842 12544 N Lakefront Drive Conneaut Lake, PA 16316 (412) 974-4095 golddust2@peoplepc.com
2001-02 Charlie Beistline 14180 Fox Hill Dr. Gulfport, MS 39503	2006-07 Dominic A. DeFranco VFW Post 764 462 Thompsonville Road McMurray, PA 15317 (724) 941-5921 (412) 613-9528 domde1@comcast.net

Past State Commanders ... continued

2007-08

John B Getz, Jr.
VFW Post 3376
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Reinholds, PA 17569
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jmgetz@dejazzd.com

2008-09

Larry M. Wade, Sr.
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venus@penn.com

2009-10

Frank G Mills, Sr.
VFW Post 1754
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Hesston, PA 16647
(814) 599-3198
fdlmills@comcast.net

2010-11

Benjamin A Mastridge, Sr
VFW Post 6495
14 Bittersweet Road
Levittown, PA 19057
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(267) 254-9062
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2011-12

Larry N. Reece
VFW Post 5752
315 Orange Street
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
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(717) 799-8948
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2012-13

Ruth A. Fairchild
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845 Arlington Avenue
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fairchildra64@aol.com

2013-14

Russell R. Canevari
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bigguy1248@comcast.net

2015-16

Glenn R. Umberger, Jr.
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2016-17

Thomas A. Brown
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paatom1@verizon.net

2018-19

Thomas M Hanzes
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Past State Commanders ... continued

2020-21

Ronald J. Peters
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(814) 366-1698
acavrp@hotmail.com

2021-22

Nathaniel Smith
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(610) 509-2324
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2022-23

Henry Mannella
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2024-25

David W. Gyer
VFW Post 9639
111 Cameron Avenue
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Department Service Office Locations

PENNSYLVANIA VFW ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICERS AND CLAIMS CONSULTANTS

Jessica King-Department Service Officer

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John B. Getz, Jr.-State Adjutant/Quartermaster

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Email: quartermaster@vfwpahq.org

Cynthia Lewis-Veterans Service-Operations Manager

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Email: clewis@vfwpahq.org

Altoona

VAMC

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Cindy Kinzey

Office: 814-943-8164 ext. 18166

Cell: 814-600-9096

Email: Cindy.Kinzey@va.gov

Butler

Butler VAMC

353 N. Duffy Road, Room FN 0001, Butler, PA 16001

Erie

VFW Erie Dept. Service Division

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Office: 814-835-8494 Fax: 814-835-8493

Shannon Pictrasiewicz

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Jim Brown

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Email : jim.vfwerie@gmail.com

Department Service Office Locations ... continued

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Julie Hutchison (Supervisor)

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Rachel Vandyne

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Harrisburg

4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109

717-234-7927

Jonathan Hart

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Email: jonathan.hart@va.gov

Mechanicsburg Veterans Center

Thurs: 8:30-4:00

Harrisburg: Monday-Friday-8:30-4:00

Nicole Williams

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Email: nwilliams@vfwpahg.org

Harrisburg: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00

Lebanon VAMC

Ronald Smith

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Email: rsmith@vfwpahq.org

Lock Haven

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Cynthia (Bardo) Hammer (Supervisor)

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Karen Hammer -Office Admin.

Karen ham mervfw@gmail.com

Nadine Willits

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Nadine.Willits@va.gov

Department Service Office Locations ... continued

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Linda Eshenbaugh (Supervisor) Cell: 724-996-4076

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Maura Wahl

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Joshua Croner

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Tim Owens

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Travis Cousins

Cell: 717-614-3319

Philadelphia Service Office

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Philadelphia, PA 19144

Office: 215-381-3123 Fax: 215-381-3491

Anji Johnson (Supervisor)

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Email: Evangeline.johnson@va.gov

Jack (John) Leaming

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Email : John.Leaming@va.gov

Department Service Office Locations ... continued

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Michael Nichol

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Email : Michael.Nichol@va.gov

Gilda Reid

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Trudy Strain

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Joseph Wartski

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Reading

Liz Graybill

Email: lizgraybill@yahoo.com

Cell: 484-577-6898

Wilkes-Barre

1123 East End Blvd. Bldg. 35 Suite 1

Wilkes Barre, PA 18702

Office: 570-821-2535 570-821-2536 Fax: 570-821-2539

Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00 Closed for Lunch-12:00-1:00

Joann Kane {Supervisor}

Office: 570-821-2535

Email : joann.kane@va.gov

Lorie Ybarra

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Karen Born bria

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Judy Zaykoski

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Department Service Office Locations ... continued

Department of Pennsylvania VFW Headquarters

4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943

Phone: 717-234-7927

Fax: 717-234-1955

Web site: www.vfwpa.org

Facebook: On FB site search "VFW Department of PA"

Department Commander

William Roland – billroland5008@yahoo.com

State Adjutant & State Quartermaster

John B. Getz, Jr. – quartermaster@vfwpahq.org

Administrative Assistant

Buddy Poppies – District Meetings – Bonding –

Audits – Membership

Joyce Reece – jreece@vfwpahq.org

Patti Stark – pstark@vfwpahq.org

Executive Assistant to the State Commander and

State Quartermaster/Adjutant

*Post and Home Association By-Laws – Post and Home
Association Articles of Incorporation – Post Service Officer Tests*

Marsha Fuhrman – mfuhrman@vfwpahq.org

Veterans Service Administration Operations Manager

Cynthia Lewis – clewis@vfwpahq.org

Mail Room, Clerical Support, Facebook & Social Media

Felisha Acosta – facosta@vfwpahq.org

***All request for Department Speakers and Department
Leadership to attend a function, must be requested and submitted
on the Departments form. Please send all request by email to
mfuhrman@vfwpahq.org or quartermaster@vfwpahq.org.***

Please request your speaker well in advance of your event.

Important VFW & Auxiliary Dates for 2025-26

2025

June 19	Juneteenth (Department Headquarters Closed)
June 28	VFW National Home, 100th Anniversary Celebration, Eaton Rapids, MI
July 4	Independence Day (Department Headquarters Closed)
July 11	Barger Scholarship Golf Scramble
August 9-13	National Convention, Columbus, OH
September 1	Labor Day (Department Headquarters Closed)
September 11	Patriot's Day
September 19	POW-MIA Day
September 25-28	Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming, De Moines, IA
September 28	Gold Star Mother's Day
October 13	Columbus Day (Department Headquarters closed)
October 24-25	Eastern Conference, Wilmington, DE
Oct 31-Nov 1	Commander's Testimonial, DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh, Cranberry
November 4	Election Day
November 11	Veterans Day (Department Headquarters Closed)
November 27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday (Department Headquarters Closed)

Important VFW & Auxiliary Dates for 2025-26

December 24-26	Christmas Holiday (Department Headquarters Closed)
Dec 31 – Jan 2	New Year’s Holiday (Department Headquarters Closed)
2026	
January 15-18	Mid-Winter Conference, Eisenhower Hotel, Gettysburg, PA
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr (Department Headquarters Closed)
February 16	President’s Day (Department Headquarters Closed)
Feb 28-Mar 5	Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.
March 27-29	Women Veterans Conference, Pittsburgh Marriott North
April 3 -6	Good Friday & Easter Monday (Department Headquarters Closed)
April 10-11	President’s Testimonial, Wyndham Garden, York
May 1	Loyalty Day
May 25	Memorial Day (Department Headquarters Closed)
June 17-20	Department Convention, DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh, Cranberry
June 22	Juneteenth Observed (Department Headquarters Closed)