

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Pennsylvania
Program Booklet
2024-2025

Commander Barbara Loncar



T-E-A-M

Together Everyone Achieves More

Together Everyone Achieves More!

My theme this year is "Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM)." Why did I pick this as my theme? Because we need to work together to succeed. In order for our organization to grow, we need to work together as a team.

Comrades or Veterans, depending on how you like to be referred to need to work together at the Post, District and Department levels. We need to learn from each other and share ideas. Do not discount others' ideas just because of having a certain way of doing things or "we've always done it that way." You need to try new ideas as they may be successful for your post.

Auxiliaries need to be looked at as an asset to help your post grow. The Auxiliary is part of the VFW Family and part of the team. We are both here to support veterans and their families.

By working together, we can grow our organization. The Auxiliary can recruit for the VFW and the VFW can recruit for the Auxiliary. Neither part of this organization should try to take over the other but instead join forces to become a strong organization.

Each Post should have a copy of the most recent National VFW Bylaws/Manual of Procedure and Ritual book plus the most recent Auxiliary Bylaws/Ritual book if they have an auxiliary. The Auxiliaries should also have a copy of the most recent VFW Bylaws/Ritual book along with their own Bylaws/Ritual book. Having this information on hand will help both sides of the organization better understand how to work with the other side.

Once you have a strong Post that is active in the community, other veterans will want to join your post. If you have an Auxiliary, they can help you within the community and add to the strength of your post. If you have a strong post, you can keep the Home Association Members from over taking your home post! We currently have too many posts that have been taken over by the Home Association. We as veterans have let this happen by not recruiting new members to replace us when we get older and are unable to help as we have in the past. We have allowed our home associations to become the stronger element within our post. Home Associations do not have the same priorities as the VFW as they are just out for themselves, not the veterans. Do not let your home association take over your post!

Once you grow your Post and Auxiliary into a strong post, share your success with others. Work on growing a strong District and infuse your success throughout the state! Every Veteran and their family are important to the VFW. We need to make sure that they feel welcome and important. We need to become one big Happy Family; Veterans and Auxiliaries!

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All documents are available at
www.vfwpa.org under the “Programs” tab

VFW Department of Pennsylvania HQ
4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109
717-234-7927

Program Chairpersons

Arthritis	Larry Hawthorne	larry.hawthorne@att.net	724-699-2521
Barger Scholarship	Dwight Fuhrman	Fuhrman1970@comcast.net	717-578-3151
Buddy Poppy	Claresa Whitfield	claresa1974@yahoo.com	610-322-1410
ByLaws	Glenn R. Umberger Jr.	Glenn.umberger@gmail.com	610-517-3455
Children's Coloring Contest	Glenn Owen	buck012@frontiernet.net	570-878-5577
Communications Contest	Dwayne MacKenzie	mackster@ptd.net	717-823-1002
Community Service	Robert Emerick	robert.emerick5566@yahoo.com	412-992-6580
Diabetes	Larry Hawthorne	larry.hawthorne@att.net	724-699-2521
Healthcare Award	Ruth Fairchild	fairchildra64@aol.com	724-544-4745
Homeless Veterans	David Gyger	djc57@verizon.net	717-991-1473
Legislative – National	Richard Cassey	richcasseyjr@gmail.com	610-937-1438
Legislative – PA	Jessica King	commander8430vfw@gmail.com	412-618-8902
National Home	Ron Peters	acavrp@hotmail.com	814-596-1698
Patriot's Pen	Bill Lamond	ta30chev@gmail.com	570-241-5875
POW / MIA	Dusten Zimmerman	d.e.zimmerman@live.com	570-418-1379
Safety Awards	Brian Delaney	vfwpost4712adj@outlook.com	570-575-3589
Scouting	Randy J. Rice	randy-rice@live.com	717-814-7914
Smart-Maher Teacher	Glenn Owen	buck012@frontiernet.net	570-878-5577
Student Veterans	Jesse Olson	vfw.pa.sva@gmail.com	706-577-7293
Suicide Prevention	Dave Dibelius	pavfwrider@comcast.net	267-718-4475
Veterans Court	Jeff Puckett	jeffpuckett153@yahoo.com	717-877-5702
VMS (Veteran and Military Service)	Tom Sally	tsally1964@gmail.com	484-794-3194
VFW Riders	Anthony Warner Larry Bills	anthony@gowarner.com lbills70@yahoo.com	412-983-8669 717-824-1614
Voice of Democracy	Vince Gavin	vincentdangavin@gmail.com	570-862-2955
Women Veterans	Amy MacKenzie	pawomenvets@gmail.com	717-575-3982

2024-2025 Planning Calendar

2024

July 4 & 5	Independence Day (Department HQ Closed)
July 20	Eastern PTI - Rising Sun Post #2819 District 1 (8:00 AM) 6850 Martins Mill Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19111 (215) 728-9376
July 21	Eastern PTI – Wozniak Pavloski Post #7963 District 10 (8:00AM) 272 Main Street, Eynon, PA 18403 (570) 876-0189
July 22	Eastern PTI Thomas Brill Post# 1532 District 12 (6:00 PM) 141 Shikellamy Ave, Sunbury, PA 17801 (570) 286-4951
July 27-Aug 1	National Convention Louisville, KY
August 9 &10	Department Flying Squadron, Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 (Invitation Only)
August 11	Central PTI Allen J. Beck Post #5265 District 21 (8:00 AM) 199 West First Ave, Spring Grove, PA 17362 717-225-4010
August 12	Central PTI Leroy O. Buck Post #7863 District 15 (6:00 PM) 150 Shaffer St, Duboisstown, PA 17702 (570) 323-9195
August 17	Western PTI King Dave Post #1132 District 19 (8:00 AM) 95 Wetmore Ave, Kane, PA 16735 (814) 837-6630
August 18	Western PTI Memorial Park Post #764 District 24 (8:00 AM) 460 Valley Brook Rd, McMurray, PA 15317 (724) 941-3358
August 19	Western PTI Garfield Thomas Jr Post #4963 District 26 (6:00 PM) 120 West Sample St, Ebensburg, PA 15931 (814) 472-8833
August 22-25	Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming, Savannah, GA
September 2:	Labor Day (Department HQ Closed)
September 6-8	National Auxiliary CAFÉ – National Home, Eaton Rapids, MI (Dept of PA VFW Auxiliary Bus Trip)
September 11:	Patriot's Day
September 20:	POW-MIA Day
September 29:	Gold Star Mother's Day

October 14:	Columbus Day (Department HQ (Closed)
November 1-3	Eastern States Conference – Burlington, VT
November 5:	Election Day
November 11	Veterans Day (Department HQ Closed)
November 15 & 16:	100 th Anniversary Celebration, Department of PA VFW Auxiliary, Harrisburg (VFW & Auxiliary COA meetings will be held)
November 28 -29	Thanksgiving Holiday (Department HQ Closed)
December 24	Christmas Eve (Department HQ Closed)
December 25	Christmas Day (Department HQ Closed)
December 31	New Year's Eve (Department HQ Closed)

2025

January 1:	New Year's Day (Department HQ Closed)
January 20:	Martin Luther King Jr (Department HQ Closed)
January 24-25	Mid-Winter Conference: Eisenhower Hotel, Gettysburg, PA
February 17:	President's Day (Department HQ Closed)
Feb 28-March 4:	Voice of Democracy Celebration: Washington, DC (Tentative)
March 1-5:	Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C. (Tentative)
March 14-16:	Women Veterans Conference/Expo – State College, PA
April 11-12:	Commander & President Joint Testimonial – Eisenhower Hotel, Gettysburg
April 18-21:	Good Friday & Easter Holiday Weekend (Department HQ Closed)
May 1:	Loyalty Day
May 26:	Memorial Day (Department HQ Closed)
June 11-14	Department Convention: Eisenhower Hotel, Gettysburg
June 19:	Juneteenth (Department HQ Closed)
June 28:	VFW National Home 100th Anniversary Celebration, Eaton Rapids, MI



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars**

Arthritis Program
2024-2025

Contest Rules:

It's time for the annual Arthritis contest.

The program is very simple. For every donation of \$25.00 by a Post, Auxiliary, or District, an entry ticket will be put in for a chance to win a lifetime membership.

There will be two (2) drawings at the next state convention.

Please Note: A \$50.00 donation is a requirement for the All-State Membership Program.

Thank you for all your support of this program in the past and please continue your support.

Please send check to:

Department of PA VFW
4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109
Earmark the Check "Arthritis"

If you have any questions, please contact:

Larry Hawthorne
VFW Department of Pennsylvania Arthritis Chairperson

Cell: 724-699-2521

Email: larry.hawthorne@att.net



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Jack Barger Sr. Memorial Nursing Scholarship Program
2024-2025**



A Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund was established at the 1989 VFW State Convention held in King of Prussia, PA. This fund is in honor of Jack E. Barger Sr., Department Commander, 1987-1988, who passed away during his term of office.

A \$500.00 scholarship was awarded in 1990 and over the past 30+ years the amounts and number of scholarships awarded has increased to six (6) \$1,000.00 scholarships per year. The two main efforts to raise money for these scholarships are requesting donations from VFW Posts and Auxiliaries and the Annual Nursing Scholarship Golf Scramble.

Candidates for this award will be solicited through the Pennsylvania Nursing Association (PNA) and its contacts with nursing schools in Pennsylvania. Chairpersons and deans of nursing schools will be asked to submit names of worthy candidates. The recipient(s) will be chosen by means of a lottery conducted by the Pennsylvania Nursing Association.

There are two qualifications placed on the candidate(s) by the VFW: (1) the individual be a veteran or the son or daughter of a veteran; (2) be a resident of Pennsylvania.

With the help of VFW posts and auxiliaries within Pennsylvania supporting the Golf Scramble by buying advertisements in the program book we will be able to increase the donation for the golf scramble to over \$10,000.00 each year. All monies for advertisements in the Golf Scramble Program Book and any monetary donations will go directly to the scholarship fund. Remember that none of this money supports the golfers participating in the scramble; however, they do support the scholarship program.

The 29th Annual Barger Nursing Scholarship Golf Scramble will be held on Friday, August 9 at the Bridges Golf Course 6729 York Road Abbottstown PA 17301 with registration at 7:00am and the shotgun start at 8:00am. This scramble will be followed by a luncheon at East Berlin VFW Post 8896.

Yours in Comradeship,

Dwight Fuhrman
Barger Scholarship State Chairperson
717-578-3151



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
VFW Teener Baseball Program
2024-2025**



VFW Teener Baseball Needs Your Help!

We are looking for donations from Posts throughout PA towards
State VFW Baseball Tournaments

The State Tournament is held for 13–14-year-olds
and for 15–16-year-olds.

All donations go towards trophies, umpires and food for every team coming to the
tournaments.

(8 teams for 4 days for each tournament)

Last year's donations had a huge impact on our tournaments.
We are hoping to make this year a success also.

Donations can be sent to the VFW State Headquarters.

Thank you for all your help.

All donations can be mailed to
4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109
Attention: Quartermaster

**ALL FUNDS RECEIVED FOR VFW TEENER BASEBALL GO TO
VFW TEENER BASEBALL.**



Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Pennsylvania
Buddy Poppy Program Contest
2024-2025

Goals of the Program:

1. 100% Post and Auxiliary participation throughout the Department;
2. Place Pennsylvania in the "**One Million Poppy Club**";
3. Encourage every member to wear a Buddy Poppy at all VFW functions and in their communities;
4. Remember our fallen by blanketing our communities with Buddy Poppies;
5. Increase participation of Posts and Auxiliaries in Buddy Poppy Display contest.

DEPARTMENT CONTESTS FOR 2024-2025

1. **District Chairperson** who attains 100% Post participation with three (3) poppies per member, by **December 31, 2024** (ordered from Department) will receive a Certificate of Appreciation, and a \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate. These awards will be given out at the Mid-Winter Conference, January 24-25, 2025.
2. **District Chairperson** who attains 100% Post participation and exceeding last year's purchases by 25% before **April 30, 2025**, will receive a \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate.
3. The first three (3) **District Chairperson** to have purchases of/or exceeding five (5) Buddy Poppies per member by **April 30, 2025**, will receive a \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate for the District.
4. If the Department makes it into the "**One Million Poppy Club**" by **April 30, 2025**, each **District Chairperson** will receive a special Commanders Choice Award and every **Post** will receive a specially designed certificate.
5. All **Posts** participating in the Buddy Poppy Program will receive a Certificate of Participation. These certificates will be given out at the State Convention.
6. **Posts** must purchase one (1) Buddy Poppy per member (minimum of 100 Poppies) to qualify for All-State
7. **Posts** exceeding five (5) Buddy Poppies per member in purchases will receive a Buddy Poppy Pin for the Post Chairperson. These Pins will be given out at the State Convention.
8. The top **Post** from each division purchasing the most Buddy Poppies per member by **April 30, 2025**, will receive a Buddy Poppy Award Plaque and \$75.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate. These Plaques will be given out at the State Convention.

Group 1: Divisions 1 through 2 based on the National Membership Divisions.

Group 2: Divisions 3 through 6 based on the National Membership Divisions.

Group 3: Divisions 7 through 11 based on the National Membership Divisions.

BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST RULES

1. While Poppies purchased in a prior year may be used in the Display, the 2024-2025 minimum Poppy Purchase is required to submit an entry.
2. All Buddy Poppy Display entries must adhere to the National Convention Buddy Poppy Display guidelines (Attachment C).
3. At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.
4. All Displays will be judge on the basis of effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty and number of Poppies used. Where a sample of a large number of identical items (such as corsages or wreaths) is entered, full credit shall be given for the total number of Poppies used.
5. All Buddy Poppy Displays will be judged based on the following categories:

Category 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign.
Category 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays
Category 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies.
6. All displays must have been assigned a category by the sponsoring Post or Auxiliary. Displays will not be judged if not categorized. Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
7. All displays must have an official display entry form filled out completely. (A).
8. All Posts/Auxiliaries will bring their poppies display to their perspective District Convention to be judged.
9. All 1st Place District winners in each category will advance to the Department Judging.
10. Buddy Poppy Display Entries will be judged during the 2024-2025 Department Convention following the Patriotic Rally.
11. The display area will be announced. All displays **MUST** be set up prior to the opening of the VFW Friday morning business session.
12. There will be five (5) judges, two each selected by the VFW and Auxiliary Department Chairpersons. The Chairperson will select the fifth judge. Judging will be completed in a closed forum.
13. Contest winners will be announced on Saturday prior to the nomination of officers.
14. Prizes will be awarded for 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place in each category.
15. Displays placing 1st or 2nd in the Department Contest are eligible to advance to the National Contest. The Post or Auxiliary **must** notify the Department Adjutant in writing by June 30, 2025 if they are attending the National Convention.
16. **The Department will not transport** any displays to or from any convention.

ATTACHMENT A

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Buddy Poppy Display Form
2024-2025**

Theme Explanation:

Fill out completely (print), separate and place under your display.

Number of Poppies used: _____

Category of Display: _____

Post or Auxiliary - Name and Location: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____



ATTACHMENT B**Winner Transmittal Sheet**

POST: _____

DISTRICT: _____

Category 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign (window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)

- Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW Buddy Poppy.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

Please state the THEME, POST, DISTRICT below

1st Place Category 1: _____

2nd Place Category 1: _____3rd Place Category 1: _____

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Displays (wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes).

- Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

Please state the THEME, POST, DISTRICT below

1st Place Category 2: _____

2nd Place Category 2: _____3rd Place Category 2: _____

Category 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies. (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)

- Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

Please state the THEME, POST, DISTRICT below

1st Place Category 3: _____

2nd Place Category 3: _____3rd Place Category 3: _____

A Buddy Poppy Display Contest will be held at the National Convention. Rules have been designed to put emphasis on the purpose and effectiveness of the displays. It is suggested that Department Contest rules be set up in conformance with this outline.

DISPLAYS WILL BE PRESENTED AND JUDGED IN THREE CATEGORIES:

Category 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign. (window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)

- Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW Buddy Poppy.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

Category 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays. (wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes).

- Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

Category 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies. (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)

- Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
- Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.
- Departments purchasing over 250,000 Poppies will be allowed two displays in each of the three categories for the National Display Contest. All others will be allowed one display in each of the three categories, no deviations.
- The Department Adjutant will notify the Buddy Poppy Director, in writing, by June 30 of the Posts that will represent the Department in each category. This will allow the necessary time to ensure each entry has sufficient space to set up at the National Convention. **NOTE:** The National Buddy Poppy Committee shall have no responsibility in setting up, taking down, or returning displays.
- Displays may be entered and set up at any time from 9 a.m. Saturday until 4 p.m. on Monday of the Convention week.
- Displays shall be set up in space provided in the Convention facility. At the time the display is set up, the responsible person must complete an entry form which will show the category of competition, the number of Poppies used, the purpose of the display, the Post and/or VFW Auxiliary number and location, and the name of the person who will dismantle and remove the display at the close of the Convention.
- Displays may be accompanied by a white card, not to exceed 4 inches by 6 inches in size, on which is lettered in black ink an explanation of the theme for the display or other information of interest to the viewers or the judges.
- Post name, number or location may not be visible on display entries. **Failure to comply will result in disqualification.**

Judging

Judging of displays will be on the basis of effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty and number of Poppies used. Where a sample of a large number of identical items (such as corsages or wreaths) is entered, full credit shall be given for the total number of Poppies used.

VFW Buddy Poppy Chairperson:

Claresa Whitfield (Post 287)

1318 Blackhorse Hill Road Coatesville, PA. 19320

E-mail: claresa1974@yahoo.com Phone: (610) 322-1410 (texting is ok)

Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Chairperson:

Cindy Peters (Auxiliary Post 1132)

1075 S Kendall Ave, Bradford, PA 16701

E-mail: imuttercin1@hotmail.com, Phone: 814-598-7743

**EFFECTIVE 7/1/23 NATIONAL VFW INCREASED THE COST OF
BUDDY POPPIES**

PLEASE USE THIS NEW FORM WHEN ORDERING BUDDY POPPIES – REV. 7/1/2023

RETURN ORDER FORM WITH CHECK TO
Department of PA, Veterans of Foreign Wars
4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943
1-717-234-7927
ATTN: BUDDY POPPY ORDER

<u>QUANTITY REQUESTED</u>	<u>MERCHANDISE</u>	<u>QUANTITY COST</u>
	BUDDY POPPIES	100 @ 30.00 Increased 7/1/23
	BUDDY POPPIES	500 @ \$150.00 Increased 7/1/23
	BUDDY POPPIES	1000 @ \$300.00 Increased 7/1/23
	BANKS	10 @ \$50.00 Increased 9/1/22
	VOLUNTEER BUTTONS	25 @ \$15.00
	POPPY BOARDS	50 @ \$25.00 Increased 9/1/22

NOTE: ALL ORDERS MUST INCLUDE SHIPPING CHARGE BELOW

100/1,999 POPPIES - \$7.00
2,000/3,999 POPPIES - \$10.00
4,000/ 7,999 POPPIES - \$14.00
8,000/11,999 POPPIES – \$21.00
12,000/15,999 POPPIES - \$28.00
16,000/20,000 POPPIES - \$32.00
BANKS/BUTTONS/BOARDS - \$7.00

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PAID BEFORE THEY CAN BE SHIPPED

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY ALL INFORMATION

Ship to:



**ALL BUDDY POPPY ORDERS MUST INCLUDE SHIPPING
CHARGE – IF NOT INCLUDED THE ORDER WILL BE
RETURNED**

CHECK# _____ AMOUNT \$ _____ INCLUDING _____ SHIPPING CHARGE
POST# _____ DISTRICT # _____
AUX# _____ DISTRICT # _____

For Department use only: Order received at Department: _____ Shipped: _____ Credited under Post: _____

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Bylaws & Amendments and Resolutions
2024-2025**

Bylaws and Manual Ritual

Congressional Charter Bylaws

Quick Reference Guide

Article I, Section 100 - Members Article II

Section 200 – Posts Article IV

Section 400 – Districts

Article V, Section 500 – Departments Article VI

Section 600 – National Article IX

Section 900 – Discipline Article X

Section 1000 – Rules of Order

Parliamentary Procedure

Robert’s Rules of Order – Newly Revised Robert’s Rules of Order – Newly Revised – *In Brief*

Bylaws Guidance and References

VFW Portal – <https://vfw.org> (Requires Log In)

My VFW / VFW Training and Support:

<https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/bylaws-training-forms-and-templates>

Download FREE digital version of the current Podium Edition

Templated Post Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation(Templates)

Templated District Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation(Templates)

Training Videos and Parliamentary Procedures Training Videos

Training Guides and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Elected and Appointed Officers – Position Specific Materials

Department of PA VFW Website: <https://vfwpa.org/>

Resources / Post Information and District Information

Any questions, please contact the Department Bylaws Chairman:

PSC Glenn R. Umberger Jr

Cell: 610-517-3455

Email: glenn.umberger@gmail.com



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Amendments and Resolutions
2024-2025**

**PREPARING A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE
OR RITUAL**

Bylaws: Any member in good standing, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National Bylaws; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention. Immediately following a Department Convention, the proposed amendment(s) must be forwarded to National Headquarters.

Manual of Procedure and Ritual: Any Post, District, or Department may propose an amendment to the Manual of Procedure or Ritual; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must have been forwarded, through channels and have been properly approved.

In order to meet National Bylaw/Manual of Procedure Article XIV requirements, to provide fifteen (15) day notice to all Posts of all amendments, the Adjutant General requests all amendments be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than five (5) working days following the close of the Department Convention.

Bylaw, Manual of Procedure or Ritual changes not in proper form, unclear as to meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

A proposed change to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual must be submitted as such, not as a resolution. Proposed amendments must be definite and specific as to the verbiage to be deleted or added. Use of the most recent amended copy of the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual is encouraged, as proposed changes considered by Convention delegates cannot be amended on the floor.

EXAMPLE 1

Proposed Amendment to National Bylaws proposed by Department of _____. Section 202 – Bylaws.

Amend Section 202, National Bylaws, by deleting the words “two-thirds (2/3)” in the first sentence of paragraph one, and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following: “majority”.

EXAMPLE 2

Proposed Amendment to National Manual of Procedure proposed by the Department of _____.

.Section 518 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Section 518, Manual of Procedure, by deleting paragraph (a) (1) d. in its entirety and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:

“Plan and organize all social functions.”

EXAMPLE 3

Proposed Amendment to National Ritual proposed by Department of _____.

Amend the Ritual by deleting on page 48, in the last sentence of the Member’s Obligation, the words “and acitizen of our great republic.”

Further amend by placing a period after the word “comrade” in the same sentence.

If you require help composing a proposed change to the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual, please contact Administrative Operations at National Headquarters for advice and assistance in properly preparing a proposed amendment to be voted upon by your department convention.

PREPARING A PROPOSED AMENDMENT **TO THE NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE** **OR RITUAL**

Bylaws: Any member in good standing, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National Bylaws; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention. Immediately following a Department Convention, the proposed amendment(s) must be forwarded to National Headquarters.

Manual of Procedure and Ritual: Any Post, District, or Department may propose an amendment to the Manual of Procedure or Ritual; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must have been forwarded, through channels and have been properly approved.

In order to meet National Bylaw/Manual of Procedure Article XIV requirements, to provide fifteen (15) day notice to all Posts of all amendments, the Adjutant General requests all amendments be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than five (5) working days following the close of the Department Convention.

Bylaw, Manual of Procedure or Ritual changes not in proper form, unclear as to meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

A proposed change to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual must be submitted as such, not as a resolution. Proposed amendments must be definite and specific as to the verbiage to be deleted or added. Use of the most recent amended copy of the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual is encouraged, as proposed changes considered by Convention delegates cannot be amended on the floor.

EXAMPLE 1

Proposed Amendment to National Bylaws proposed by Department of _____.

Section 202 – Bylaws.

Amend Section 202, National Bylaws, by deleting the words “two-thirds (2/3)” in the first sentence of paragraph one, and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following: “majority”.

EXAMPLE 2

Proposed Amendment to National Manual of Procedure proposed by Department of _____

.Section 518 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Section 518, Manual of Procedure, by deleting paragraph (a) (1) d. in its entirety and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:

“Plan and organize all social functions.”

EXAMPLE 3

Proposed Amendment to National Ritual proposed by Department of _____.

Amend the Ritual by deleting on page 48, in the last sentence of the Member’s Obligation, the words “and acitizen of our great republic.”

Further amend by placing a period after the word “comrade” in the same sentence.

If you require help composing a proposed change to the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual, please contact Administrative Operations at National Headquarters for advice and assistance in properly preparing a proposed amendment to be voted upon by your department convention.

PREPARING A RESOLUTION **TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION**

The policy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is established by resolutions adopted by the delegates attending Department and National Conventions. Most resolutions originate at the Post level and are passed through the District and Department before being acted upon at a National Convention. Many times, an otherwise worthy idea gets nowhere merely because it is not correctly presented.

A resolution contains two separate parts; a statement of the problem to be solved, and the proposed solution to the problem. The problem is outlined in the “*WHEREAS*” clauses, and the proposed solution is given in the “*RESOLVED*” section.

The “*RESOLVED*” section of a resolution should be complete in itself without depending on the “*WHEREAS*” clauses to give it meaning.

EXAMPLE

WHEREAS, the rising cost of living has created an intense hardship on those disabled veterans whose only income is a meager pension check; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we petition Congress to enact legislation which would provide a substantial increase in non-service connected pension rates.

If a resolution deals with a local problem, it needs no action on a level higher than that of the Post.

If the problem concerns an area larger than that served by the Post, it should, after Post approval, be presented before the District or County Council. All resolutions of statewide, regional or national concern must be acted upon by the Department Convention. Those resolutions approved by a Department Convention, which affect persons or matters outside the state boundaries, must be forwarded to the National Convention for final disposition.

When submitting a resolution to the Department Convention, a notation on the bottom should show the previous action taken, such as, approval by Post and, if applicable, by the District. A Post or District submitting a resolution to its Department Convention must follow guidelines established by the Department, which may require submitting the resolution to the Department Adjutant prior to the convening of the convention.

Resolutions not in proper form, with unclear meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

Resolutions approved by a Department Convention, which affect matters outside state boundaries, must be forwarded by the Department Adjutant to the National Convention for final disposition. Approved resolutions should be sent to National Headquarters at the close of the Department Convention. The Adjutant General requests all resolutions be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than five (5) working days following the close of the Department Convention. A resolution disapproved by the Department Convention **or not acted upon by the Department Convention** will not be considered by the National Convention.

Resolutions may also be originated by Department officers or by the Department Convention itself and acted upon by the Department Convention. A National Officer may originate a resolution concerning National affairs and submit it directly to the National Convention without Department action. Likewise, a National Convention Committee may originate a resolution and present it for approval during the National Convention.

Policy set by the National Convention is binding upon all subordinate units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. No Post or Department is permitted to take any individual action or espouse any cause contrary to the National Bylaws or to the actions of the National Convention except that it may propose changes in policy by the preparation of a resolution for consideration as outlined herein.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1) Any member in good standing may propose a National Bylaw, Manual of Procedure, or Ritual amendment directly to the National Convention delegates.
☐ True
☐ False
- 2) Article XIV of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure require the Adjutant General to provide notice to all Posts on any proposed amendment to be decided by the delegates of the National Convention.
A. 10
B. 15
C. 20
D. 30
- 3) National Bylaw, Manual of Procedure, or Ritual amendments are submitted to the Adjutant General in the form of a resolution.
☐ True
☐ False
- 4) A resolution adopted by the National Convention sets policy which is binding for all subordinate units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
☐ True
☐ False
- 5) In a resolution the “WHEREAS” represents the issue and the “BE IT RESOLVED” proposes the solution.
☐ True
☐ False
- 6) Resolutions approved by a Department Convention that affect matters outside its geographical boundary must be forwarded to the National Convention for final disposition.
☐ True
☐ False

1) False – An Amendment must be approved by a Department Convention or to be submitted by a National Officer; 2) 15 Days; 3) False, the amendment must be specific; 4) True; 5) True; 6) True



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars and VFW Auxiliary
Coloring Contest – Grades 2 -5
2024-2025**

Info: Department Commander Barbara Loncar
Department President Andrea Meintel
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers
District Chairman and Auxiliary Chairpersons
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Glenn Owen - Citizenship Education Awards Chairperson

Subject: 2024-2025 Coloring Contest

Theme: Grades 2,3: God Bless America

Grades 4,5: American Pride

Fellow Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

Welcome to another exciting year for the state coloring contest for grades 2-5.

There will be one winner per grade and the winners will receive a \$50.00 check and a certificate.

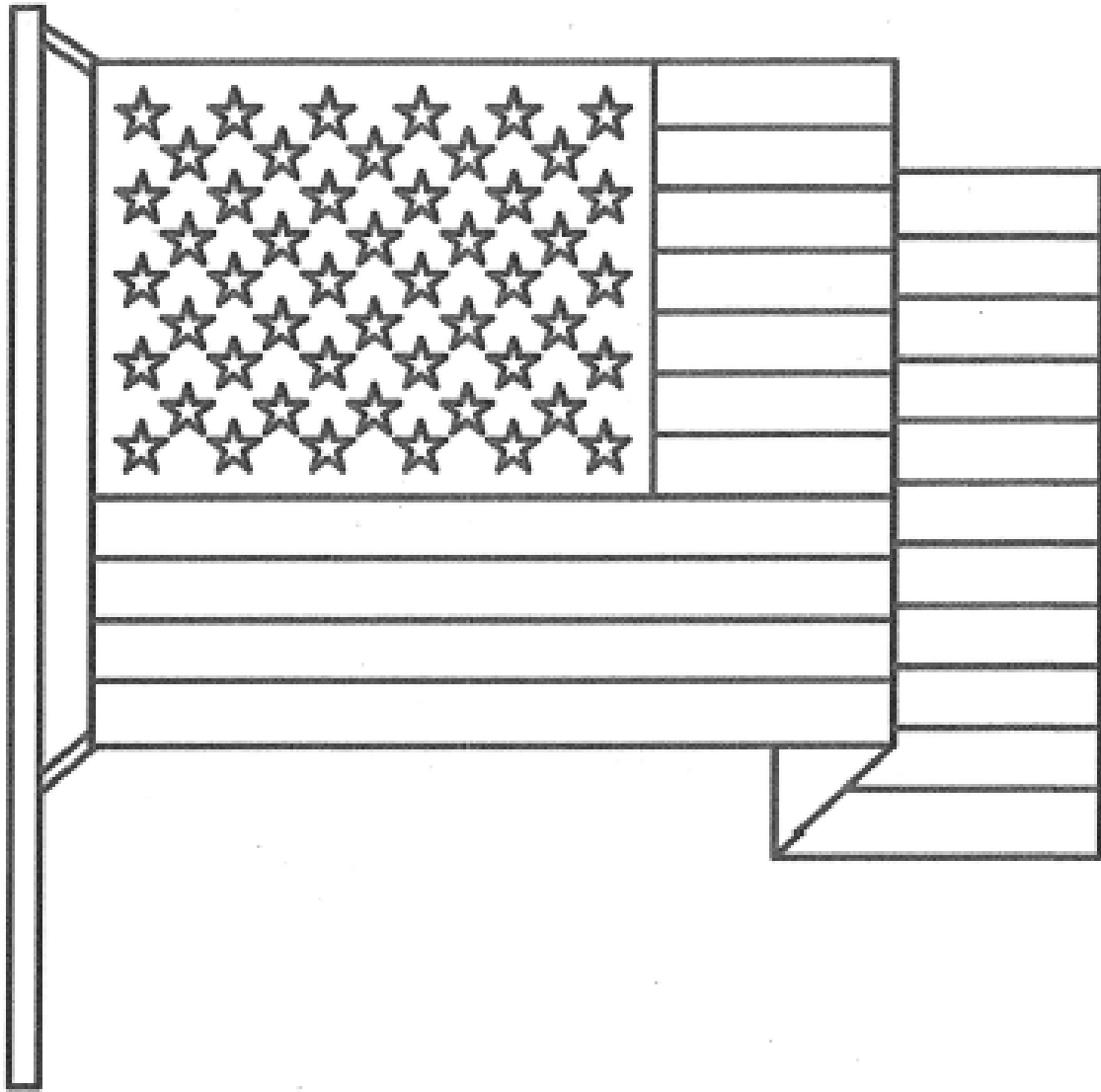
Schools will send their entries to a local post, not the state chairman.

Posts and Districts will set their own deadlines and the District will submit their winners for the four grades to State Chairman by 7 March 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Glenn Owen
8563 Rt 467
Leraysville PA 18829
buck012@frontiernet.net
570-878-5577





God Bless
America

Note: This picture is for students in Grades 2 and 3

VFW Children's Coloring Contest

For students in grades 2 and 3

Name of Student: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

Please return the completed coloring page to:

Insert your post information here

Deadline for Submissions is _____

Set your own deadline, but allow time to judge the pictures and forward your winners to the Chairperson by 3/7/25.

AMERICAN



PRIDE

Note: This picture is for students in Grades 4 and 5

VFW Children's Coloring Contest

For students in grades 4 and 5

Name of Student: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

Please return the completed coloring page to:

Insert your post information here

Deadline for Submissions is _____

Set your own deadline, but allow time to judge the pictures and forward your winners to the Chairperson by 3/7/25.

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
PA Dept. Communication Contest for Post & District Newsletters & Websites
2024-2025**

Submissions are now being accepted for the VFW Pennsylvania Department Communications Contests—the Newsletter Contest and the Website Contest. The deadline for entering both contests is January 31, 2025

Newsletter Contest

Does your Post or District have a newsletter or e-newsletter that deserves recognition for communicating important VFW news and information; and promoting growth and participation in programs? If so, consider entering your publication in the Department’s Contest.

The Pennsylvania State VFW Contest is separate from the National VFW Contest, which uses a different entry form and deadline. Posts and Districts should send entries for the National-level Contest directly to National Headquarters; National entries are not submitted through the Pennsylvania State Headquarters. For more information on the National Publications Contest, watch www.vfw.org. Posts are free to enter their newsletter regardless of whether they win a Pennsylvania Department-level newsletter award.

Each issue of your Post/District publication should confirm why your VFW Post is an important organization for members and their communities.

Entries will be judged on the breadth of information presented, layout including use of photos/artwork, grammar, spelling, accuracy, easy to read design format and the overall professionalism of the newsletter.

Note: Entry tip: strong newsletters provide contact info for leadership, leadership messages, information about VFW events and volunteer opportunities, veterans benefit information, patriotic information, a listing of the VFW’s mission and news about Post support of veterans, military troops, youth, and local communities. Use a consistent layout, photos/graphics, error free writing, active voice, and interesting content.

Use the entry form for all Department Communication Contest entries.

Send only one copy of your newsletter published between November - December 2024 and January 31, 2025.

Website/Social Media Contest

This contest features categories for Post and District websites and social media presence. Websites and Social Media content will be evaluated on easy navigation, quick load time, overall content, information of value to veterans from all service eras, important links to online resources, and creative design (use of images/graphics and design to attract users). Make sure your content is current. **Use the entry form for all Department Communication Contest entries.**

Submit your entries via email or regular mail before midnight January 31, 2025 to Chairperson Dwayne MacKenzie at Mackster@ptd.net using a subject line reading **“PA VFW Website Contest.”**

The body of the message should contain: **Post name, town and number; website internet URL address or social media platform and handle (@ephratavfw on Facebook, for example); Post mailing address and phone number, email address of the person submitting the entry, a statement about who designed and maintains the website, webmaster’s name and contact information including email address and phone, and any supportive comments.**

For Department research only and not to be factored into the judging: Please note if the website was designed by a Post member or a paid company (if fee paid to a web development company, please note the company name and budget for the site creation), and list if the site is housed on a server owned by the Post or through a web development company. We can use this information to guide other Posts that contact HQ for guidance on creating a website.

The National organization does not have a VFW website or social media contest.



Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Publication Contest Entry Form
2024-2025

All entries from Posts/Districts must be sent directly to the Department Communications Chairman (Post/District Newsletters & Websites) and must be accompanied with this form. Please be sure to check the box for the appropriate publication frequency of your newsletter, and the box for how the newsletter is distributed.

The deadline to send your entry to the Department Chairman is **January 31, 2025.**

District/Post Adjutants: Please include a copy of this form with each winning entry.

☐ District Entry:

☐ Post Entry:

Name of Publication: _____

Post Number: _____ District Number: _____

Editor's Name: _____

Editor's address (street): _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Editor's Phone number and email address: _____

Publication Frequency:

☐ Published 1-4 times a year

☐ Published 5 or more times a year

Distribution Method:

☐ Mailed to full membership

☐ Mailed to full membership and emailed

☐ Emailed only

☐ Other (please explain) _____

Any questions, please contact the Department Communications Chairman:

Dwayne "Mack" MacKenzie

311 Jeff Avenue

Ephrata, PA 17522

717-823-1002

Email: mackster@ptd.net

National Annual Publication Contest 2024-2025

VFW Announces Annual Publications Contest Submissions must be mailed by April 1, 2025.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is now accepting submissions for its 2024-2025 National Publications Contest. VFW publications published up to four times annually, or five or more times annually, are eligible to be judged. All entries submitted must have been published sometime between Jan. 1, 2024, and Dec. 31, 2024.

Department-level publications:

- Newspaper/Newsletter Defined as being printed on newspaper stock.

Best Feature Story All publications judged together in this category and submitted separately. The story must be a published article of at least 300 words. It can be originally written by your newspaper/magazine staff or by a freelance writer or be reprinted from a newspaper within your state. Feature articles published in online/electronic newsletters, newspapers or magazines also are eligible, but must be printed in color and submitted via USPS, not email.

- Magazine Defined by physical size and paper stock or designed for online distribution as a PDF. Online/electronic magazines must be printed in color and submitted via USPS, not email.

District/Post-level publications:

- Overall Design and Content Each category will be awarded three places: a grand award (first overall), silver (second overall) and bronze (third overall). Grand prize winners will receive a plaque, and the silver and bronze awards will take the form of a certificate suitable for framing.

The VFW Publication Department's awards system conforms to that of professional societies within the association publishing industry: National Mature Media Awards, Association Trends, Society of National Association Publications, Society of Professional Journalists and Communications Concepts. In other words, the same types of awards for which VFW magazine competes.

Examples of eligible subjects for the Best Feature submissions include operations of state VA departments, National Guard/Reserve unit deployments overseas, troop-support activities, Department VFW programs, dedication of state memorials and state or local commemorative events for the 50th anniversary of Vietnam. **Editorials or opinion articles WILL NOT be considered this year.** Articles written by VFW magazine staff and reprinted in District, Post or Department publications **will not** be considered. Only one issue per publication will be reviewed by judges. **DO NOT** send multiple editions, as judges will not review all of them.

All entries should be sent directly to the VFW National Headquarters. Similar to last year, the competition will **be open to any submission, not just the winning submissions from the Department level.** This is to remove any bias at all levels. One copy of each submission should be postmarked by April 1, 2025.

Mail to: Publications Contest VFW Magazine

406 W. 34th Street, Suite 523, Kansas City, MO 64111

Contact for any questions: Ismael Rodriguez Jr. irodriguez@vfw.org

**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Pennsylvania
Community Service Contest (CSR)**

CONTEST #1 - START DATE: July 1, 2024-April 30, 2025

There will be four (4) divisions

- Division 1 - Posts with membership over 551
- Division 2 - Posts with membership of 351 to 550
- Division 3 - Posts with membership of 151 to 350
- Division 4 - Posts with membership under 150

Qualifying posts must turn in a report every month with entries in all four (4) categories:

Community Service, Americanism, Safety, And Youth Activities.

The top three (3) VFW Posts in each division to properly have their reports in by the deadline date of April 30, 2025, with the most cumulative total of dollars and hours for all categories will be awarded a gift certificate for the VFW Store in the amount of \$100.00.

Contest #1 ends on April 30, 2025

CONTEST #2: The **FIRST TEN (10)** District VFW Chairmen who have their District reported at 100% will receive a Special Gift from State Commander Barbara Loncar at the Department of PA VFW Convention in June 2024.

Community Service Reporting via the Department Website Portal

1. **NEW!** Post may submit their Community Service Entries for All-State via the Department of Pennsylvania website. These entries will be uploaded to the All-American Dashboard. No More duplicate entries necessary. This is the preferred method.
 - i. www.vfwpa.org
 - ii. "Login" – "Members Only" – enter your VFW ID #, Password is your LAST NAME
 - iii. "Program Reports"
 - iv. Enter your community service! You can only enter one activity at a time.
(Americanism, Safety, Youth Activities, Community Service)
 - v. There will be a lag time for the entry to filter to the All-American dashboard.
Be Patient, but check back often.
2. A Post may choose to submit using the fillable pdf form on the vfwpa.org website, or the hardcopy included in this booklet.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Robert Emerick, 302 Wildwind Drive Rostraver Twp. PA. 15012

E-mail: robert.emerick5566@yahoo.com **Phone:** 412-992-6580





All-State Criteria

A Post Community Service Report must be on file with the department chairman as such:

At least two reports during the period of 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2025.

At least two reports for the period of 1 January 2025 to 30 April 2025.

Option 1: If you are submitting the old form, either hard copy or fillable pdf, it must be emailed or postmarked NLT the **seventh day of the following month to submit a CSR**. i.e the October CSR is due by November 7. All reports must be filed on the current service year CSR form.

www.vfwpa.org “programs” “community service” download the CSR, complete and return to Bob Emerick

Option 2: (preferred) – use the new CSR portal on the Department website. (see page 35)

Robert Emerick, 302 Wildwind Drive Rostraver Twp. PA. 15012

E-mail: robert.emerick5566@yahoo.com **Phone:** 412-992-6580

COMMUNITY SERVICE BEST PRACTICES

How a VFW Post interacts with its community determines the relevancy of the VFW. Someone once said, “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” The VFW and its Auxiliary’s ability to impact veterans, youth, political issues, patriotism, civic pride, volunteerism and almost anything you can name, is directly dependent upon our Posts being recognized as caring and involved participants in their communities.

It is our goal that this guide will provide ideas to aid Posts as they develop and expand the kind of reputation that will benefit their community and themselves. The impact on the community is immeasurable. The benefit to the Post is new members, more effective fundraising, greater participation in events and tremendous goodwill. The Post is, for most Americans, the only thing they know about the VFW. It’s up to us to make sure our communities have a favorable opinion of our great organization and our veterans.

Definition of Community Service – The National Community

Service Trust Act defines community service: “encompasses any human act serving the common good; in the interest of the community.” Community service is further defined as “a service that is performed for the benefit

of the public or its institutions.” Since 1899, community service has been a cornerstone of the VFW and reporting the millions of hours our members spend each year is important. It not only helps us ensure proper recognition for our members, but it helps showcase to the public our hard work and dedication.

Reporting – For the purposes of volunteer recognition, VFW community service hours must be performed by and as a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As it is the intent of VFW community service to impact a broad spectrum of the local community, the work must also be performed for an organization outside of the VFW and its Auxiliary and must be verified by an authorized representative of that organization. In addition, efforts performed for the benefit of the Post or Auxiliary should not be considered as community service. This kind of effort could be maintenance, upkeep, or beautification of the Post home, cooking or serving a meal for a Post fund raiser or working on bingo night. Please keep in mind that efforts that are part of the normal requirements of a Post or Auxiliary would not be considered community service. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, flying the American flag or the POW flag, conducting flag retirement programs, placing flags on graves, building memorials, hosting bingo, Post dinners, “Buddy”® Poppy drives, or anything that only benefits the Post. A particularly controversial area in VFW community service is service to one’s church. Generally, these efforts are not considered community service for two reasons: They are not performed for the community at large; and they are part of an individual’s service to their faith and not to the VFW.

The [national] community service year is July 1 - June 30 annually. Events should be reported 365 days a year and not weekly, monthly, or quarterly. This will prevent forgetting the specific details of what events happened. All events should be reported online through VFW Department (state) online reporting websites or through the VFW Programs Dashboard Tool for those Departments who do not have an online solution. Lastly, do not forget that Posts can – and are highly encouraged – to report their Auxiliary community service events also. However, this is not mandatory because the Auxiliary has their own community service report which will only be submitted at the Post level.

Ways to Support Your Community – In many cases, the brainstorming process of planning community service can be the most difficult. We’ve compiled a list of both good and non-qualifying events to help you plan the perfect community event.

Examples of Good Community Service

Assisting of veterans within the community:

- Scholarships to youth
- Sponsoring of youth teams
- VA hospital work on behalf of the VFW
- Blood drives
- Legislative town halls
- Care packages for troops, homeless etc.
- Register to Vote campaigns.
- Food Bank support
- Building of ramps for disabled veterans
- Hosting job fairs
- Visiting VA Homes & nursing facilities
- Community Clean Up activities

- Natural Disaster Relief support
- Clothing Drives
- Donations to civic organizations within the community that align with our values

Examples of Non-Qualified Community Service Events

- Flying the US Flag
- Flying the POW Flag
- Post dinners
- Bingo
- Building memorials
- Paid VFW Service Officer work
- Personal efforts of a member volunteering at a church or other non-profit organizations
- Buddy Poppy Drives
- Membership Drives
- Anything that directly benefits the post
- Reciting the pledge of allegiance at a post meeting
- Charging, renting or loaning the Post hall to their Auxiliary or Cootie Pup -Tent

Please note: These lists are not all inclusive but rather a frame of reference of what is good to host and report versus what events should not be reported.





DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
Programs Reporting Form



July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 (Reporting)
July 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025 (For Awards)

Reporting Month _____

POST _____ DISTRICT _____

COMMUNITY SERVICE

A. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. ORGANIZED AND ASSISTED
IN A BLOOD DRIVE | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |
| 2. RECYCLING PROGRAM | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |
| 3. ADOPT A HIGHWAY | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |
| 4. ORGANIZED CPR CLASS | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |
| 5. OTHER COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |

B. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS :

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. ASSISTED OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
IN THE COMMUNITY | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |
| 2. ASSISTANCE TO VA
OR HOSPITAL | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |
| 3. OTHER COOPERATION WITH OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS PROJECTS | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |

C. AID TO OTHERS:

- | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. COMMUNITY HOSPITAL/NURSING
HOME VOLUNTEERS | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |
| 2. SENIOR CITIZENS | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |
| 3. SPECIAL NEEDS INDIVIDUALS | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |
| 4. OTHER AID TO OTHERS
PROJECTS | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |

D. SCHOOL AND CHURCH ASSISTANCE:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. VOLUNTEER IN SCHOOL /CHURCH | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |
| 2. SPEAKER IN SCHOOL/CHURCH | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |
| 3. ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL/CHURCH | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |
| 4. OTHER SCHOOL/CHURCH
ASSISTANCE PROJECTS | HOURS SPENT _____ | MONEY SPENT _____ |

**TOTAL OF HOURS/MONEY
FOR SECTIONS A/B/C/D/**

HOURS _____ MONEY _____

**ANY COMMENTS OR ADDITIONAL EXPLANATIONS SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THIS FORM AND
MAIL TO THE VFW STATE COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN AT THE ADDRESS PROVIDED ON THE
REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM.**

AMERICANISM - PROJECTS COMPLETED:

1. HONOR GUARD	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
2. COLOR GUARD	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
3. CONDUCTED A GET OUT THE VOTE PROGRAM	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
4. VETERANS DAY PROGRAM	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
5. PEARL HARBOR DAY PROGRAM	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
6. LOYALTY DAY PROGRAM	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
7. MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
8. VFW PROGRAMS (ARTHRITIS/ BUDDY POPPY/DIABETES/NATIONAL HOME/ETC.)	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
9. HELPING VETERANS	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
10. OTHER AMERICANISM PROJECTS	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____

TOTAL HOURS/MONEY

FOR AMERICANISM PROJECTS

HOURS _____ MONEY _____

SAFETY

THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL SAFETY CATEGORIES COMPLETED:

1. DRUG AWARENESS	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
2. RECREATIONAL SAFETY	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
3. HIGHWAY SAFETY	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
4. HOME/FIRE SAFETY	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
5. ASSISTING POLICE/FIRE DEPT.	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
6. OTHER SAFETY PROJECTS	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____

TOTAL HOURS/MONEY

FOR SAFETY PROJECTS

HOURS _____ MONEY _____

YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROJECTS COMPLETED:

1. SPORTS/ATHLETICS	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
2. SCOUTING	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
3. V.O.D. ESSAY CONTEST	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
4. PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____
5. OTHER YOUTH PROJECTS	HOURS SPENT _____	MONEY SPENT _____

TOTAL HOURS/MONEY

FOR YOUTH PROJECTS

HOURS _____ MONEY _____

PREPARED BY _____ DATE _____

TITLE : _____ DISTRICT # _____ POST # _____

MAILTO:

Robert Emerick
Community Service Chairman
Department of PA, VFW
302 Wildwind Drive
Rostraver Twp. PA. 15012
Cell # (412) 992-6580
E-Mail: robert.emerick5566@yahoo.com

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Diabetes Program
2024-2025**



This program is in support of anyone who has Diabetes whether they be young or old.

Last year was good with 19 Posts, 3 Auxiliaries and 2 Districts participating. A total of \$32,365.00 was raised. I know we can do better this year. Let's have a better year.

Please Note: A \$50.00 donation is a requirement for the All-State Membership Program.

Thank you for all your support of this program in the past and please continue your support.

Please send check to:

Department of PA VFW
4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109
Earmark check "Diabetes"

If you should have any questions, please contact:

Larry Hawthorne
VFW Department of Pennsylvania Diabetes Chairperson

Cell: 724-699-2521

Email: larry.hawthorne@att.net



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Healthcare Award Program
2024-2025**

Guidelines for Healthcare Awards

1. A narrative of no more than 500 words will be submitted to the posts no later than February 28, 2025.
2. Once a winner is chosen from your post, the narrative will be submitted to the Chairperson of Healthcare awards no later than March 15, 2025.
3. When you send your winner in, make sure the nomination support form is filled out and attached.
4. The winner in each category will receive a plaque at the state convention. If the winner cannot attend the state convention the plaque will be given to the post/district commander to be awarded.

Category 1 - VA Volunteer of the Year Award - Nominees for this award must be a regularly scheduled volunteer and must volunteer and work with one of the following: hospitalized veterans, CBOC veterans, veterans in community living centers, homeless veterans or veterans confined to their homes.

Category 2 - Outstanding VA Healthcare Employee of the Year Award - The goal of this award is to provide recognition to a VA healthcare provider who takes the extra steps to provide exemplary service to our veterans and their families.

Category 3 - Outstanding Community Healthcare Employee of the Year Award - The goal of this award is to provide recognition to a healthcare provide who takes the extra steps to provide exemplary service and support to our veterans and their families within the community.



**Department of Pennsylvania
Healthcare Award
Program 2024-2025**

AWARD NOMINATION SUPPORT FORM

Name of Recipient: _____

Organization/Hospital Name: _____

Nomination Submitted by: _____

Submitting Post: _____

Submitting District: _____

Post/District Commander: _____

Please mail to Health Awards Chairperson no later than March 15th to:

Ruth A. Fairchild
VFW Department of Pennsylvania Health Awards Chairperson
845 Arlington Ave
New Castle, PA 16101
Email: fairchildra64@aol.com



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Homeless Veterans Program
2024-2025**

HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH

Many veterans, especially those who served in combat zones, leave the military with significant physical and emotional wounds that make transitioning to civilian life difficult. Unfortunately, one of the largest groups of America's homeless population are veterans. There are too many of our nation's heroes living on our streets that have special needs and require a helping hand.

The VFW supports homeless veterans in many ways including donations to homeless shelters, support of regional "stand downs," donating clothing and personal hygiene items, fighting for more government resources to reduce the homeless population, and put veterans back to work.

Posts and individuals can send donations to the Department's Homeless Veterans fund in any amount which will be shared with veterans' and shelters.

See Homeless Veterans Report Form on the next page.
The reports are due monthly.

David "Spike" Gyger
VFW Department of Pennsylvania Homeless Veterans Chairperson
111 Cameron Avenue
Hummelstown, PA 17036
717-991-1473
Email: djc57@verizon.net



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Homeless Veterans Chairman's Monthly Report**

Period Covering: _____

Number of events during this period: _____

How many Post and Auxiliary members participated? _____

Hours spent at event: _____

Mileage (if applicable): _____

Donation type:

Clothing: Yes _____ No: _____ Value: _____

Food: Yes _____ No: _____ Value: _____

Monetary: _____

Other (Please give a brief description):

Was it a fundraiser? Yes _____ No _____

What organization will benefit from it?

Amount raised: _____

Chairperson's Name: _____ District Number: _____

Post Number: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please mail or email this report to:

Pennsylvania VFW Homeless Veterans Chairperson

David "Spike" Gyger

111 Cameron Avenue

Hummelstown, PA 17036

Email: djc57@verizon.net

Revised – Jun 2023



Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Overview 2024-2025

We are Rich Cassey Jr and Jess King, your VFW National Legislative Representatives for the Department of Pennsylvania. We have been appointed by State Commander Loncar to represent ALL veterans and their families from the State of Pennsylvania, in Washington DC. This is an extreme honor that has been bestowed upon us, and we take fighting for veterans' legislation very seriously!

There is a wide variety of legislation that we as a National Legislative Team are working on with guidance from our VFW DC office. These bills impact suicide, female veterans' healthcare, and MST (Military Sexual Trauma), retirement pay and claim sharks who are working loopholes to take you hard earned entitlements (if you let them). These are just a few examples of the legislation that we on the VFW National Legislative Team continue to fight for.

Recently, the Honoring Our PACT Act was passed and put into law. This is one of the largest pieces of legislation to ever get passed to benefit our veterans! The PACT Act covers many veterans, from various time frames, that served and/or are still serving in different areas around the world. Pieces of legislation like this only get passed with the help of all of YOU! Please contact an Accredited VFW Service Officer, to see if you qualify for benefits under the PACT Act.

We need YOU to help US help our fellow Comrades and their Families by signing up for Action Corps (see next page). Action Corp let's YOUR voice be heard. It is a direct link to some of the legislation, we as the VFW National Legislative Team, are working on. Action Corps also gives you a POW/MIA weekly update.

Signing up for Action Corps is important and may be done by anyone who cares about veterans and their families. This includes our Auxiliary members, and any other individuals of voting age who want to advocate for our veterans and their families. So PLEASE be sure to share the sign up link and QR code with everyone you can. Placing signs in your post and newsletters is also very helpful

Responding to Action Alerts is paramount! This is where your voice is heard. Action Alerts are pre-filled messages to YOUR Representatives (based off the address you used when signing up), telling them how YOU and the VFW want them to vote on a particular piece of legislation heading to the floor. Your replies will be seen by Your Representatives and reenforces our stance when we tell them in our meetings how the veterans in Pennsylvania feel about the proposed bills.

Pennsylvania has over 100,000 VFW & Auxiliary members, and just over 17,000 Action Corp Members. And worse yet, we only average around 350 responding to Action Alerts. We, as Pennsylvanians, need to have a stronger response to these Action Alerts, so our Representatives in DC take us seriously!

Jess and I are here to serve you on Capitol Hill and We will do our best, to ensure the veteran legislative fight for benefits continues until all Veterans needs are met.

WE are your voice on the Hill, YOU are the amplifier to make our voice is heard!

Yours in Service,

Rich Cassey Jr

Rich Cassey Jr

VFW National Legislative Chair/PA

Jessica King

VFW National Legislative Co-Chair/PA

To sign up for Action Corp got to: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>

OR

Text “VFW” to 50457

OR



<https://vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts>

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Pennsylvania Legislative Program
2024-2025**

At the State / Department level, we tend to focus on state legislation which is often overlooked from a national's viewpoint – beyond the fact there is competent staff at the national level to manage the federal legislative needs. However, there are four current legislative issues of importance to many in Pennsylvania that I think need urgent resolution through legislation, as the Honor the PACT Act absorbs the majority of the VA's attention.

1. Federal Legislation Needed:

- a. **S. 344/HR 1282 (Major Richard Star Act):** A bill to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.
- b. **HR 592:** H.R. 608 which would terminate the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Modernization Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to be stopped dead in its tracks. The VA needs a modern health records management system which can integrate properly with DoD and the private sector if improvement in VA healthcare is wanted. The VA's inability to get a new system off the ground in a timely manner is not a reason to give up. H.R. 592 is meant to address this issue.
- c. **Amendment to Public Law No: 117-168. (Honor our PACT Act):** We have talked to DMVA about the need to press the issue of adding a presumptive condition for melanoma for Vietnam War veterans as occurred for those of the Gulf War era. The result is inertia presently.
- d. **VA Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) restart:** In technical violation of this study commissioned by the Mission Act of 2018, key senators terminated the “base realignment and closure”-like bill in mid-2022. It needs to resume to its logical conclusion so transparent debate can be made on a process now hidden from view. The importance? Pennsylvania is significantly affected by VA plans for the new healthcare system it is developing.

I integrate my efforts at a state level with the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council, the State Veterans' Commission, and various advocacy nonprofits, such as the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council. There are many legislative efforts, but four have risen of more immediate importance to veterans and requiring concerted attention at the moment (Funding for our department veterans service officers is now a managed issue and no longer a concern.).

2. State Legislation Needed:

- a. **H.B 363/S.B. 126:** Both involve eliminating VA disability income as a consideration when applying for Pennsylvania benefits affected by level of income. However, the bills as constructed fail to account for veterans' pensions and military medical retiree (disability) pay – among those probably most in need of this provision. We are attempting to resolve this.
- b. **Disabled Americans Veterans Transportation line item:** Transportation services to get veterans to their claims and healthcare appointments has finally gotten some attention, but concrete actions are still lacking. One means is improving and replacing the existing but aging fleet of Veterans Transportation Service vehicles primarily provided by the DAV, but telehealth and other providers are also affecting the extent. A meeting with VISN-4 is to be requested to determine what is really needed for a line-item increase to the 2023-2024 budget.
- c. **Gulf Wars and Afghanistan Conflict bonus** (ca 11 September 2001 to 11 September 2022): The time has come to resolve this legislative issue if the benefit derived from it is to have its intended effect. Again, as with the Persian Gulf War bonus, the state government sits and waits on us to complain. It will require a public referendum, a long and slow process. So, we must act now.

Questions, Please Contact:

Department of PA VFW Legislative Chairperson:

Jessica King

Cell: 412-618-8902

Email: commander8430vfw@gmail.com



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
VFW National Home Program
2024-2025**

The VFW National Home is a place where military veterans and their families can get a fresh start by living rent free for up to four years and have access to case management services, life skills training, tutor, and other educational services as well as other recreational and community services needed to aid the healing process. It provides a safe and peaceful environment for the entire veteran's family.

The humble beginnings of the VFW National Home can be traced to a 23-year-old Michigan woman Amy Ross who in 1922 made it her mission and legacy to help find jobs for thousands of unemployed Veterans in her home city of Detroit. News of Ms. Ross' efforts reached millionaire cattleman Corey Spencer, who gifted her 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan. On January 7, 1925 the VFW National Home was founded, helping to honor the pledge of **"Honor the dead by helping the living."**

The home welcomed its first family, a widow with six children, into an old, framed farmhouse. The home has since grown into a vast sprawling campus of tree lined streets with playgrounds, parks, childcare facilities, community center, multiple family-oriented facilities, a guest lodge, chapel, administrative offices and forty-two single family homes.

All the homes are named for the states that sponsor them, after a sponsor, or after an organization. Department of Pennsylvania VFW sponsors House # 1. The majority of contributions used for funding are from VFW's and other donations. National Home is forever evolving to meet the changing needs of veterans and military families to better assist them with reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment, rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, emotional wounds, financial stress, or fractured family relationships, among other issues that can affect a parent serving our country and his/her family. In accepting a family to the program, it is asked that they must be committed to making changes in their lives.

To remain at National Home, they must demonstrate consistent progress toward family goals. In partnership with them the home is dedicated to helping each family succeed in reaching their full potential.

If your Post or individual member knows of a family who may need assistance encourage them to:

- Call the Helpline at 1-800-313-4200
- Email help@vfwnationalhome.org
- Visit vfwnationalhome.org/help

The way that the VFW supports the National Home is through your donations. The fund supports the following:

- Maintenance of VFW sponsored buildings including emergency repairs and needed renovations.

Donations can be made through the Department of PA, by mail or in person.

Send checks to: Department of PA VFW
4200 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109
Earmark Checks: National Home

Become a Life-Member:

VFW members are encouraged to become life members of National Home. Life members may vote for Trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any changes to the bylaws and articles of incorporation.

Any individual or organization not associated with the VFW can also support the National Home by becoming an Associate Life member. These members do not receive voting privileges.

The cost of becoming a life member is a one-time fee of \$50.00 and includes a membership certificate, a wallet card, and a pin.

Visit vfnationalhome.org/membership for more information, an application, or to purchase a life membership.

Other ways to give:

Tribute Bricks are available to purchase, donations to the Tribute Park and fundraisers are other ways you can support National Home. I encourage everyone to visit their website at: vfnationalhome.org

We need to spread the word of the many wonderful programs they do and have done for our veterans and the veterans' families.

I will be working on methods of fundraising for the National Home, including taking donations to be sent to Department of PA VFW for Commander Gyger's year.

If enough interest is shown, I am hoping to sponsor a Bus Trip to the National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

If you have any questions, or if you need applications, Please Contact

Ronald Peters
VFW Department of PA National Home Chairperson
Cell: 814-596-1698
Email: acavrp@hotmail.com





**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Contest
2024-2025
“My Voice in America’s Democracy”**

Info To: Department Commander Barbara Loncar
Department President Andrea Meintel
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers
Department Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
District Patriot's Pen Chairmen and District Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: William D. Lamond III
VFW Department of Pennsylvania Chairperson

Subject: 2024-2025 Patriot's Pen Patriotic Youth Essay Competition

Theme: “My Voice in America’s Democracy”

Fellow Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Welcome to another exciting year of the Annual State Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Writing Contest. I know that with all your hard work and dedication to this program we will have yet another successful year. This year, the theme “My Voice in America’s Democracy” encourages young minds to examine America’s storied history as well as their own experiences in American society. I thank each of you for your hard work and dedication to this program. With your support, we will have a very successful year. The following information should help you get started:

Post and District Chairpersons can access the program guides, find participating Posts, download student brochures or purchase them online (Item #04420) from the National VFW website www.vfw.org. Students can also complete a Patriot's Pen entry form on the National website using the Patriot's Pen link. The Department website is www.vfwpa.org; where you will find Department deadlines and the student entry brochure.

State Deadlines for the 2024-2025 Patriot's Pen Program are listed below:

- 1.) October 31, 2024 - Student Deadline Entry is at midnight
- 2.) November 18, 2024 - Post judging completed
- 3.) December 3, 2024 - District judging completed
- 4.) December 9, 2024 - District Winner Entry Form, Typed Essay, Head and Shoulders Photo of good quality, District Summary Report and District Participation report **in the hands** of the Department Chairman, William D. Lamond III, 3360 Nashotka Road, Madison Township, PA 18444. **THESE MUST BE MAILED. NO EMAILS, PLEASE.**

*****DO NOT MAIL TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS*****

- 5.) December 11, 2024 - Department judging (Time and location to be announced)
- 6.) January 15, 2025- Department Winner and Reports submitted to National Headquarters
- 7.) January 25, 2025 - Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet at the Eisenhower Hotel, Gettysburg. The Patriot's Pen first place winner for the Department will attend.

Please note that all Patriot's Pen participation reporting is completed on the All-American Dashboard, starting at the Post level. Once the Post completes their judging and forwards their winners to the District Chairperson, the Post must enter the participation stats (Post and Auxiliary participation, number of participating students, number of winners advanced, monetary awards and additional money expended) into the dashboard. When the District and Department approves your participation report, National will approve and turn status to MET in the dashboard. This process will ensure each Post receives credit. For more information on reporting program participation visit, vfw.org/my-vfw/all-American-dashboard.

REMINDER: One of Commander Loncar's requirements for All State Post is a Voice of Democracy entry or monetary donation in lieu of an entry. **All Divisions: Donation of \$250.00**

The State Auxiliary Chairperson is Pam Sopher. If you have any questions or concerns, Pam and I can be contacted as follows:

William D. Lamond III
3360 Nashotka Road
Madison Township, PA 1718444
(570) 241-5875
Email: ta30chev@gmail.com

Pam Sopher
110 S. Kerr St
Titusville, PA 16354
814-516-5157
E-mail: pamauxdp@gmail.com

If your Post is unable to get a Patriot's Pen submission, please contact Bill Lamond. He will get you a student's submission!

Thank you!

In Support of our Troops and Friendship in the VFW and Its Auxiliary,

William D. Lamond III

William D. Lamond III
VFW Department of Pennsylvania
Patriot's Pen Chairperson



2024-2025 Theme

“My Voice in America’s Democracy?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot’s Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 73,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot’s Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students are ineligible.)

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot’s Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.

- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of October 31, 2024. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post’s approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

How Am I Judged?

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:

You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points:

Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:

Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

What Is the Theme?

VFW’s Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year’s theme. The 2024-2025 theme is:

“My Voice in America’s Democracy?”

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2024.

Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.vfw.org/FindaPost) to “Find a VFW Post.”

If you don’t have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit [vfw.org/contactus](https://www.vfw.org/contactus) to look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office’s phone number and email.

**For assistance contact
the VFW National Headquarters
at 816.968.1155**

Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

2024-2025 Official Entry Form

Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

() Phone Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) Grade in School Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

() Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

What Are the Rules?

- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).
- The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.
- At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants No. of winners

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

() Phone Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

() Daytime Phone Email

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on .

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact:

Phone: Best Time To Call:

Alternate Contact:

Phone: Best Time To Call:



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
POW/MIA Recognition Day
2024-2025**

National League of POW/MIA Families POW/MIA FLAG HISTORY

The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia was incorporated in the District of Columbia on May 28, 1970. The League's sole purpose is to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and the repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died during the Vietnam War.

Its Web site is www.pow-miafamilies.org.

POW/MIA Recognition Day honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action.

By custom, it is on the third Friday in September.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag shall be flown over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations.

The VFW will not rest until we achieve the fullest possible accounting of all missing American military service members from all wars. The VFW encourages the U.S. government to continue its missing personnel accounting efforts and is directly engaged with former enemy nations urging their fullest cooperation and assistance in obtaining information about American POWs/MIAs. VFW national officers make periodic trips to Pacific, Asian and European countries where they meet with senior host country officials to stress the importance of conducting investigation and recovery operations, as well as gaining access to documents and archival research facilities.

VFW's Stance on POW/MIA Issues

1. Never quit on achieving the fullest possible accounting of all American POWs/MIAs from all wars.
2. Urge Congress to fully fund the requested amounts for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and all supporting agencies involved in the Full Accounting Mission.
3. Encourage POW/MIA public awareness projects and events.
4. Support POW/MIA Recognition Day.
5. Encourage the flying of the POW/MIA flag on all local, state and federal government buildings as a reminder that this issue is a matter of national importance.
6. Immediately drape all transfer cases containing recovered remains of military members with the U.S. flag upon departure from foreign soil.

7. Solicit and provide information to assist the government of Vietnam in accounting for their own missing in action during the war with the U.S
8. Keep the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs intact in mission, personnel, and funding.

Each human carries around a cellular dog tag called nuclear DNA—genetic material inherited in equal shares from a person’s mother and father at the moment of conception. It is unique to each individual and a sure-fire identifier. Law enforcement uses nuclear DNA to convict criminals, and military investigators use it to identify current battlefield and accident victims. Usually, this is done by comparing a known sample of the victim’s DNA to DNA taken from the bodily remains. But first there must be a sample on file. Please help in giving a DNA sample.

POW/MIA stands for prisoners of war and missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday of September each year.

In 2024, it will be on Friday, **September 20th**. It is a day to honor and remember the service members who were captured or who remain unaccounted for and please remember to have a ceremony at your post to honor those veterans.

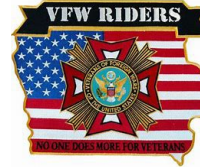
For any other questions, please contact:

Dusten Zimmerman
Pennsylvania VFW POW/MIA Chairperson
144 West Branch Road
Galeton, PA 16922
Email: d.e.zimmerman@live.com



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
VFW Motorcycle Riders Program
2024-2025**

Do you like to ride? Are you looking for quality people to ride with?
Join the VFW Motorcycle Riders!



The purpose of the VFW Riders is to support the VFW by promoting the public visibility of the VFW, its programs, and the VFW National Home through community service and participation in veteran's service events, through responsible motorcycling in our community.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the VFW Riders, you must first be a member in good standing with one of the following:

1. Regular Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
2. Auxiliary Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars
3. Social Member "Supporter" of a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post / Home Association

For More Information Contact:

(EAST) Larry Bills (Post 845) Larry Bills @ 717-824-1614 or LBills70@yahoo.com

(WEST) Anthony Warner (Post 945) anthony@gowarner.com 412-983-8669



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Safety Awards Program
2024-2025**

**Public Servant Award Citations for Emergency Medical Technicians, Law Enforcement
Personnel, Firefighters, and 911 Dispatchers**

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement and firefighter personnel, 911 dispatchers to receive VFW Public Servant Awards. Post Safety Chairperson are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to their Department Headquarters by **December 15**. (*Note: new date*). The Department must select a single candidate for each of the three awards and submit those to VFW National Headquarters by February 1.

NOTE: The VFW National Programs Department does not require all documentation items to be mailed to Kansas City, Missouri (from Department to National.) The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the “VFW Department Public Servant Award Citation Request Form” which can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the Department upon request –send an e-mail to tbeauchamp@vfw.org or call 816-756-3390, ext. 6287.

VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Public Servant Citation: 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.

VFW National Law Enforcement Public Servant Citation:

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 individual employed by private companies or security services.

VFW National Firefighters Public Servant Citation:

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.

Criteria for these awards – Candidates must have demonstrated:

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

911 Dispatcher Award Citation:

Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience in which safeguard the community, the state, and the nation. 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.

Documentation required for all Candidates:

- 1) Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
- 2) One (1) page resume of the candidate's overall background.
- 3) One (1) page resume of the candidate's background in their field.
- 4) One (1) page listing of the candidate's accomplishment and awards in their field.
- 5) Photograph (preferably a head shot) of the candidate.
- 6) NEW One (1) page VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form is now available under the VFW website log in to assist in obtaining nominations (but is not a required document.)

Nomination – Post Safety Chairperson should send the above information to their Department Headquarters to arrive not later than **December 15**.

Departments should forward a completed “VFW Department Public Servant Award Citation Request Form” for each of their Department winners to arrive no later than February 1 to:

If you have questions, please contact:

Brian Delaney
VFW Department of PA Safety Chairperson
52 Carey Street
Ashley, PA. 18706

E-mail: bdelane21@yahoo.com

Phone: 570-575-3589



Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

FIREFIGHTER AWARD

Every community certainly has at least one **“Outstanding Firefighter”** nominee who should be recognized. Each Post Commander is urged to direct his appointed safety Chairperson to find a nominee or name a special Chairperson to submit an **“Outstanding Firefighter”** nominee. The Post Chairperson is responsible for coordinating this program and selecting the Post’s most worthy candidate. After the judging is complete at Post level, the post must select their first-place winner and the Post must send **all entries** to the District to be forwarded to the state Chairperson so that all the Post receives credit for all entries.

All Districts **will** have a safety Chairperson. If your district does not have a Safety Chairperson, then submit **all entries** to Department HQ.

If your District has a District Chairperson, the Post will then submit all entries to the District Safety Chairperson for judging. After the judging is complete at District level, the District must select their first-place winner and the District must send **all entries** of the District to the state Chairperson so that the Post get the credit for all entries. All District winners and all entries are to be forwarded to Department for state judging.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication, or one achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the nation and community.
2. Unswerving loyalty to, and active performance in, the defense, safety, and security of the nation’s citizens; on a full time, part-time or a volunteer basis.
3. Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience, not only in fields within fire safety but in those fields which safeguard the community, the state, and the nation.

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

FIREFIGHTER AWARD

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

TITLE OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

(1) Resume of Nominee's Background:

(2) Resume of Nominee's Background in Firefighting Work:

(3) Nominee's Accomplishments in the Firefighting Field:

(4) Letter of endorsement from Post Commander: (This is a necessity)

Post Commander Name: _____

Post Number: _____ District Number: _____

Post Commander Signature: _____

Please Send Completed Forms, Resume, and Letter to:

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

Firefighter Award

4002 Fenton Avenue

Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943

717-234-7927

**NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE LETTER OF
ENDORSEMENT FROM THE VFW POST COMMANDER.**

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 15th

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN AWARD

Every community certainly has at least one **“Emergency Medical Technician”** nominee who should be recognized. Each Post Commander is urged to direct his appointed safety Chairperson to find a nominee or name a special Chairperson to submit an **“Emergency Medical Technician”** nominee. The Post Chairperson is responsible for coordinating this program and selecting the Post’s most worthy candidate. After the judging is complete at Post level, the post must select their first-place winner and the Post must send **all entries** to the District to be forwarded to the state Chairperson so that all the Post receives credit for all entries.

All Districts **will** have a safety Chairperson. If your district does not have a Safety Chairperson, then submit **all entries** to Department HQ.

If your District has a District Chairperson, the Post will then submit all entries to the District Safety Chairperson for judging. After the judging is complete at District level, the District must select their first-place winner and the District must send **all entries** of the District to the state Chairperson so that the Post get the credit for all entries. All District winners and all entries are to be forwarded to Department for state judging.

The emergency medical technician award will be presented so that those brave and honest men and women in the field of emergency service might know that their dedication and goodwill are appreciated.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication, or one achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the nation and community.
2. Unswerving loyalty to, and active performance in, the defense, safety and security of the nation’s citizens; on a full time, part-time or a volunteer basis.
3. Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience, not only in fields within fire safety but in those fields which safeguard the community, the state, and the nation.

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN AWARD

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

TITLE OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE _____

CITY _____ PA _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: _____

(1) Resume of Nominee's Background:

(2) Resume of Nominee's Background in Emergency Services Work:

(3) Nominee's Accomplishments in the Emergency Services Field:

(4) Letter of endorsement from Post Commander: (This is a necessity)

Post Commander Name: _____

Post Number: _____ District Number: _____

Post Commander Signature: _____

Please Send Completed Forms, Resumes, and Letter to:

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

Emergency Medical Technician Award

4002 Fenton Avenue

Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943

717-234-7927

**NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE LETTER OF
ENDORSEMENT FROM THE VFW POST COMMANDER.**

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 15th

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

JOHN RADKO AWARD

Every community certainly has at least one “**Outstanding Police Officer**” nominee who should be recognized. Each Post Commander is urged to direct his appointed safety Chairperson to find a nominee or name a special Chairperson to submit an “**Outstanding Police Officer**” nominee. The Post Chairperson is responsible for coordinating this program and selecting the Post’s most worthy candidate. After the judging is complete at Post level, the post must select their first-place winner and the Post must send **all entries** to the District to be forwarded to the state Chairperson so that all the Post receives credit for all entries.

All Districts **will** have a safety Chairperson. If your district does not have a Safety Chairperson, then submit **all entries** to Department HQ.

If your District has a District Chairperson, the Post will then submit all entries to the District Safety Chairperson for judging. After the judging is complete at District level, the District must select their first-place winner and the District must send **all entries** of the District to the state Chairperson so that the Post get the credit for all entries. All District winners and all entries are to be forwarded to Department for state judging.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication, or one achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the nation and community.
2. Unswerving loyalty to, and active performance in, the defense, safety and security of the nation’s citizens; on a full time, part-time or a volunteer basis.
3. Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience, not only in fields within fire safety but those fields which safeguard the community, the state, and the nation.

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

JOHN RADKO AWARD

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

TITLE OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: _____

(1) Resume of Nominee's Background:

(2) Resume of Nominee's Background in Law Enforcement Work:

(3) Nominee's Accomplishments in the Law Enforcement Field:

(4) Letter of endorsement from Post Commander: (This is a necessity)

Post Commander Name: _____

Post Number: _____ District Number: _____

Post Commander Signature: _____

Please Send Completed Forms, Resume, and Letter to:

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

John Radko Award

4002 Fenton Avenue

Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943

717-234-7927

**NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE LETTER OF
ENDORSEMENT FROM THE VFW POST COMMANDER.**

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 15th

911 DISPATCHER AWARD

Every community certainly has at least one **“Outstanding 911 Dispatcher”** nominee who should be recognized. Each Post Commander is urged to direct his appointed safety Chairperson to find a nominee or name a special Chairperson to submit an **“Outstanding 911 Dispatcher”** nominee. The Post Chairperson is responsible for coordinating this program and selecting the Post’s most worthy candidate. After the judging is complete at Post level, the post must select their first-place winner and the Post must send **all entries** to the District to be forwarded to the state Chairperson so that all the Post receives credit for all entries.

All Districts **will** have a safety Chairperson. If your district does not have a Safety Chairperson, then submit **all entries** to Department HQ.

If your District has a District Chairperson, the Post will then submit all entries to the District Safety Chairperson for judging. After the judging is complete at District level, the District must select their first-place winner and the District must send **all entries** of the District to the state Chairperson so that the Post get the credit for all entries. All District winners and all entries are to be forwarded to Department for state judging.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication, or one achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the nation and community.
2. The nominee must demonstrate his or her professional interaction with the caller(s), coworkers, and responders by applying skills such as multitasking, customer service and the operation of the equipment used. Most of all, the nominee must show the due respect to the Telecommunicator position.
3. Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience, not only in fields within fire safety but in those fields which safeguard the community, the state, and the nation.

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

911 DISPATCHER AWARD

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

TITLE OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

(1) Resume of Nominee's Background:

(2) Resume of Nominee's Background in Dispatching Work:

(3) Nominee's Accomplishments in the Telecommunication Field:

(4) Letter of endorsement from Post Commander: (This is a necessity)

Post Commander Name: _____

Post Number: _____ District Number: _____

Post Commander Signature: _____

Please Send Completed Forms, Resumes, and Letter to:

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

Dispatcher Award

4002 Fenton Avenue

Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943

717-234-7927

**NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE
LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT FROM THE VFW POST COMMANDER.**

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 15th OF EACH YEAR

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Youth Activity / Scout of the Year Program
2024-2025**

The VFW Scout of the Year Program is open to Scouts who are registered, active members of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship who have received the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.

There is no minimum age requirement for applicants if all other eligibility criteria has been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old and if an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year, they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline.

Scouts should download and submit a completed VFW Scouting Scholarship form, resume of high school activities, scouting record, community service record and letters of recommendation to a local VFW Post no later than **March 1**.

Note: A Scout can enter through ONE VFW Post only.

Local VFW Posts submit their winning candidates with full entry criteria to their respective VFW Department (state) Chairperson by **April 1**. Ensure that if a District judging is taking place that entries are forwarded to the District first and that enough time is allotted to ensure that the Department still receives the entry by April 1.

From there, the Department Chairperson selects a winner and forwards the entry to the VFW National Headquarters by **May 1** for recognition.

Judging in person may not be an option now for some, and there are other options to complete your judging.

Eagle Scout Award* – One Eagle Scout is presented with the PA VFW Eagle Scout of the Year Award.

For more information, please contact VFW State Headquarters at (717) 234-7927.

Pennsylvania VFW Youth Activities/Scouting Chairperson

Randy J. Rice (Post 3376)
201 Snively Mill Rd.
Lititz, PA. 17543
E-mail: randy-rice@live.com
Phone: (717) 814-7914



SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program



WHAT IS THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM?

Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recognizes individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

- Be the recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.
- Be a registered, active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship at the time the above reward was received.
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting and community.

Prior National Scout of the Year winners are ineligible. There is no minimum age requirement for applicants as long as all other eligibility criteria has been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old. If an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year, they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline. A Scout may enter through only one VFW Post. A local Post can be identified by zip code at vfw.org/FindaPost.

WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

- Deadline for entry to VFW Post is **March 1**.
- One candidate with full entry criteria must be submitted by a VFW Post to the next level of judging by **April 1**. The VFW Department Scouting chairman can provide this information.
- The Department winner must be selected and submitted by their Department Scouting chairman to the VFW National Headquarters by **May 1**.

Questions should be directed to 816.756.3390, ext 6155.
during normal business hours Monday through Friday or
emailed to scouting@vfw.org.

Official Entry Form

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH CONTESTANT
and submitted directly to a VFW post in your community.

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Home Phone

Email

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Scout Troop Number

SCOUT/VENTURE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing information is accurate and if I am the winner, I will make myself available to receive the award at a presentation ceremony as designated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Scout/Venture Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

UNIT LEADER'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above-named Scout/Venture is an active member of our unit or was when the award was received and the information supplied by the candidate is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Unit Leader's Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

PARENT'S CONSENT

I hereby certify that all information on this application is correct. I willingly submit this name for consideration as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States' Scout of the Year. If this individual is selected as the winner, I will ensure that he/she is allowed to attend a presentation ceremony as designed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Father, Mother or Guardian Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

PHONE: _____

SPONSORING VFW POST

POST NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE: _____

DISTRICT CERTIFICATION IF APPLICABLE, CHECK WITH THE VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT #: _____

DISTRICT CDR.: _____

DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY DEPARTMENT VFW SCOUTING CHAIRMAN OR DEPT. COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED?

The following documentation should be submitted:

- **Photograph of the Scout** — must be attached to this form. The Scout must appear in correct, complete uniform for their current rank. Recommended size 3" x 5".
- **School Participation Record** — a single page, one-sided resume of the candidate's school activities indicating academic achievements, offices held, honors received and significant participation in other activities.
- **Scouting Record** — maximum of three pages, one side only, listing of all Scouting participation beginning with Cub Scouts or Brownies - years of participation, unit numbers and sponsors. Also include when Eagle, Gold, Summit or Quartermaster Award was received and Palms. Identify leadership positions held at all levels, participation in Scouting activities (jamborees, Order of the Arrow conferences, etc.) and the candidate's Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster Project.
- **Community Service Record** — a single page, one-sided resume listing participation in community and religious service organizations (excluding Scouting and school), noting leadership positions held and any recognition received.
- **Letters of Recommendation** — Submit three letters, no more than two pages in length from:
 - A scout leader.
 - A community member.
 - A teacher/faculty member (if homeschooled, a parent letter is allowed).
 - In addition, you may include one or two additional letters, no more than two pages in length from local community members who have special knowledge of the candidate's abilities/accomplishments.
- **Completed Entry Form** — submitted to a local VFW Post. Local Posts can be identified by zip code at vfw.org/FindaPost.

WHO MAKES UP THE VFW SCOUTING TEAM?

The backbone of Scouting in the VFW is the VFW Scouting Team. These VFW members are deeply involved in Scouting, most with decades of experience.

Appointed by their Department Commander, they are responsible for promoting scouting in their state. They are available to encourage Posts to sponsor units, support units and individual Scout projects. They should be the Department's "expert" on all phases of scouting. Many Departments have multiple members of the VFW Scouting Team, but every Department should have at least one individual to promote the values of scouting to youth and to the VFW itself. For more information on the VFW Scouting Team call 816.756.3390, ext 6155, or email scouting@vfw.org



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



2024-2025 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

Info to: Department Commander Barbara Loncar
Department President Andrea Meintel
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers
District Commanders and District Auxiliary Presidents
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Glenn Owen
State Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Chairperson

Subject: 2024-2025 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

Welcome to another exciting year for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Each year the VFW selects elementary(K-5), middle (6-8) and high school (9-12) teachers to participate in this program.

Post and District Chairpersons can access the program guides and entry forms from the National VFW website www.vfw.org or Department website www.vfwpahq.org: The Department entry deadlines will be posted to Department website:

State Deadlines for 2023-2024 Smart/Maher Teacher Award are:

1. October 31, 2024 – Entry form to Post
2. November 17, 2024 – Entry form to District if applicable
3. December 22, 2024 – Post / District winners forward to State Chairperson Glenn Owen Address: 8563 Rt 467, LeRaysville, PA 18829.

Do not mail to Department Headquarters

4. January 31, 2025 - State Winners forward to National

Thank you,

Glenn Owen

VFW Department of PA State Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Chairperson
buck012@frontiernet.net
570-878-5577



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

What is the Teacher Award Program?

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America’s youth. VFW and its Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America’s educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America’s history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They’re concerned about the perpetuation of America’s noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn’t you like to see them get the honor they deserve? Now you can.

Why Should I Enter?

VFW wants to identify and recognize America’s best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. The national awards include \$1,000 Smart/Maher award for each of the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses, \$1,000 award for each winning teacher’s school, commemorative plaques and all-expense-paid trip to the VFW National Convention.

Who is Eligible?

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national VFW winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the official entry form contained on the next page, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed entry form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit vfw.org/FindaPost for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2024. It is the responsibility of the nominator to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Citizenship (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

Innovation (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher’s effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

Resources (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

Passion (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student’s individual success?

*If you have any questions, please call
Tammy Beauchamp, 816.756.3390, ext 6287
or tbeauchamp@vfw.org.*

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: Name, Title	
Phone	Best time to call
Alternative Contact: Name, Title	
Phone	Best time to call

2024-2025 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

2024-2025 Official Entry Form Teacher Award Competition

Please tell us who you are nominating—below in box.

Name: First, M.I., Last	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
() Phone	Email
Grade Level (K-5, 6-8, or 9-12)	
School Name	
School Address	
() School Phone	School Email

Person Nominating Teacher

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this teacher has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Teacher Award Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairperson's Signature _____ Post # _____

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairperson's Signature
(If Applicable) _____

Post Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

VFW Post Email _____

No. of teachers participating _____

No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post /Aux. scholarship awards \$ _____

Amt. of Post /Aux. additional expenses \$ _____
(banquet, pins, etc.)

To Be Completed by the VFW District (If Applicable)

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Teacher Award District Competition and is our entry into the Department judging.

District Chairperson's Signature _____ Dist # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

()
Phone _____ Email _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Teacher Award Department Competition, is our entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson's Signature _____
()
Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

The winner ☒ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries will begin at the local VFW Post level. Individual nominees may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One Post winner can be submitted for each level, and to District by Nov. 15. If your Department does not have a District judging, then submit to your Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. Otherwise, one District winner, at each level, may advance to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to find your local VFW Post. Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/ContactUs and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at tbeauchamp@vfw.org.

Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Student Veterans Program
2024-2025

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



University Contacts

To link up with Veterans on campus, speak to the following Campus Personnel:
Admissions Department
VA Certifying Official

Student Activity

Events to consider becoming a part of at local campuses:

College Visit
Days Admissions
Events Alumni



For more information or further assistance, Please Contact:

Jesse Olson

VFW Department of Pennsylvania Student Veterans Chairperson

706-577-7293

Email: vfw.pa.sva@gmail.com



Suicide Prevention Program 2024-2025

The overall goal of the VFW Department of Pennsylvania is to reduce the rate of suicide among its veterans. This must be a top priority for our members in Pennsylvania. Our program will focus on 4 objectives.

1. Engaging and supporting other Veteran Suicide Prevention Initiatives
2. Conducting activities at Department functions to improve Mental Health
3. Long term fund-raising and planning for a Veterans Family Mental Wellness weekend.
4. Post and District Challenge

It is estimated that Veterans are 1.5 times more likely to die by suicide than those who never served in the military. The risk factor for Women Veterans is higher, at a rate of 2.2 times that of those who never served.

The leading cause of death throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic for Veterans was Suicide. In 2021, the suicide rate for confirmed Veterans was 6,392. This was 114 more than 2020. From 2001 – 2021, 133,867 of our Veterans have ended their own lives. There has not been one year in which that number has dropped below 6000 a year. The highest rates are ages 18-54.

The Suicide Prevention program is challenging each District and each Post to individually combat what is arguably the most important crisis facing our Veterans right now.

Part 1: Engaging and supporting other Veteran Suicide Prevention Initiatives

- One Tribe Foundation – This organization is supported by our incoming National Commander in Chief Al Lipphardt. One Tribe's mission is to create a community that raises awareness and combats suicide by empowering Veterans, First Responders, Medical Frontline Workers and their families through traditional and non-traditional therapies. www.1tribefoundation.org
- Irreverent Warriors – This organization is supported by many members of our Department and is Veteran specific in their mission: "To bring Veterans together, using humor and camaraderie, to improve mental health, and prevent Veteran Suicide." www.irreverentwarriors.com
- Mission 22 - Mission 22 provides support to Veterans and their families when they need it most: right now. Through a comprehensive approach of outreach, events, and programs, we're promoting long-term wellness and sustainable growth. www.mission22.com
- Stop Soldier Suicide – This organization's mission is solving the issue of Suicide among Veterans. They have a goal to reduce the rate by 40% by 2030. www.stopsoldiersuicide.org

Part 2: Conducting activities at Department functions to improve Mental Health

You're going to want to come to the Mid-Winter Conference, Testimonials, and Department Convention this upcoming year... We have a plan! Team and group activities have been proven to be a benefit to our Veterans, and we plan on having things aimed at improving Mental Health and reducing Stress at each of these State functions. A piece of advice... You might want to bring your PT gear... You never know when you might need it!

Part 3: Long term fund-raising and planning for a Veterans Family Mental Wellness weekend.

Family involvement in Mental Health is critical. It is the goal of the Suicide Prevention Program to create and execute annually, a weekend Mental Health Retreat for our Veterans AND their family. This program needs assistance from the District and Post levels to make this happen. Our goal for 2024-2025 is to raise approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000 to be used to secure a location and provide a Friday night through Sunday morning event in the future for Veterans in Pennsylvania which will focus on several areas including but not limited to:

1. Mental Health Improvement
2. Resource Management
3. Family Element Focus
4. Financial Management Specialists
5. Reducing Stress

Part 4: Post and District Challenge

1. Fitness Challenges:
 - a. 22 A Meeting Challenge: 22 Push-ups a Meeting. Video your Post Meeting participants doing 22 Push-ups per meeting from September through December and **post to Department social media or email the videos to the Chairperson and be entered for a life membership drawing and again from January through May** to raise awareness of 22 Veteran Suicides a Day.
 - b. September 22 A Day Challenge: Pennsylvania Legislation has adopted September as "Military Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month." Challenge yourself to 22 Push-ups a Day for every day of the month in September. **Provide information to the Department Chairperson and or post to Department social media and be entered for a drawing for a life/legacy membership.**
 - c. 5 X 5 or 10 X 10 Challenge: Do a walk/hike. 5 miles with 5 pounds on your back or 10 miles with 10 pounds on your back. Post to Department social media or email the Department Chairperson with the video or photos. **5 X 5 Challenge participants will be entered into a random drawing for a \$100 VFW Store Gift Certificate. 10 X 10 Challenge participants will be entered into a random drawing for a \$200 VFW Store Gift Certificate.**

Post it to your Post or District social media or share it with one of the Department Facebook pages or groups. Let the Department Chairperson know you're involved so we can recognize it!

2. Support Challenge:
 - a. Get involved with Irreverent Warriors or the Travis Manion Foundation events. Donate to either organization to sponsor Veterans or sign up to attend or volunteer! **Provide documentation to the Department Chairperson and be entered for a \$200 VFW Store Gift Certificate.**

The Suicide Prevention Chairperson will ensure that resources are publicized in each newsletter and that new resources are researched for our members. Always know you can visit www.veteranscrisisline.net , Call/Dial 988 and Press 1, or text 838255.

Contact the Suicide Prevention Chairperson Dave DiBelius at: 267-718-4475 or

Email: pavfwrider@comcast.net or david@gphomesolutions.com

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars**

The Veterans Court Program

2024-2025



WHAT IS A VETERAN'S COURT:

A Veterans Court is a Special Court that handles cases of Veterans who've committed minor or certain felony offenses due to service-related mental or psychological disorders such as PTSD, Addiction, or Traumatic Brain Injury.

The Court is a Hybrid Drug and Mental Health or Wellness Court that's designed for Veterans and promotes Sobriety, Recovery, and Stability. It's done through a coordinated response that involves cooperation and collaboration with the Court System as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Volunteer Veteran Mentors, and Veterans and Veterans' Family Support Organizations.

The Court aims to address the underlying issues that affect Veterans and provide them with Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Education rather than Jail or Prison time. A Veterans Court also offers Veterans the support and structure of their Peers and Mentors.

The first Veterans Court was established in 2008 in Buffalo, New York.

Today there are 25 counties in Pennsylvania that have a Veterans Court.

WHY A VETERAN'S COURT PROGRAM:

Approximately more than half of the 2.6 Million Veterans Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan have returned with mental health conditions related to their Service. One in six struggle with Addiction, and one in five suffer from PTSD or Major Depression.

Over 320,000 Veterans from these conflicts suffer from a traumatic brain injury. Many seek to self-medicate with alcohol and substance abuse, often leading them down a destructive path.

Currently, there are nearly 700,000 Veterans are in the Criminal Justice System with many incarcerated for crimes related to their injuries and conditions. While Veterans should and must be held to the same standards regarding Civil Law, a Veterans Court is a Veteran-Only option designed to provide them the help they need, stop the cycle of Law Enforcement Intervention, and improve not only their lives but the lives of their Families and Loved Ones.

HOW A VETERANS COURT WORKS:

Following an arrest if the offender is identified as a Veteran, they can be screened for VA Healthcare Eligibility. Suitability for the Program is determined thru a series of screenings to include factoring in public safety. Legal Counsel will explain the Program including the stringent requirements involved and advises the Veteran in the decision-making process to enter the Program or not.

Participants in the Veterans Court Program that will interact with the Veteran include but are not limited to the Court System (Judge, Probation/Parole, District Attorney, the Public Defender's Office or Defense Legal Counsel), the Department of Veterans Affairs, Social Services, and Volunteer Mentors.

Judges in Most Civilian Courts handle a wide range of infractions and Civilians on a daily basis. The Veteran's Court is a Veterans Only Docket that allows the Judge to specialize and build on their knowledge of the Military and Veteran Issues to make more objective decisions.

During Court Sessions a representative from the VA is often present and linked for access to confidential medical records. They can make Treatment Appointments as well as communicate important information to the Court. Probation/Parole is also present to validate the Participant is meeting required appointments and other mandated directives.

While a Veterans Court often allows the Veteran to remain in their Community while undergoing treatment, the Judge will regularly check on their progress. If the Veteran fails to meet the requirements of the program such as failure of a drug screening test or disobeys a Court Order or Requirement of the Program the Judge may impose Sanctions. These Sanctions include Community Service, Fines, Jail Time, or even Transfer out of the Program back to a traditional Criminal Court or to serve out their Sentence.

The Veteran is responsible for full payment of restitution to any victims of their crimes (the details and amount of which if any is owed are negotiated up front and included in the Veterans Treatment Court Contract). Participants are also responsible for all court costs, fines and fees and may be responsible for the cost of all treatment sessions and drug testing.

The Judge is often a Motivator who provides encouragement in helping the Veteran go thru the Program.

A Program typically consists of 3 Phases usually consisting of Six Months each.

Phase I. Initial Entry. This Phase includes mandatory Court appearances on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, usually a weekly or even daily drug testing, community service, counseling, and mandated appointments. Often considered the most stressful and potentially overwhelming Phase. Designed to start the concept of Teamwork and utilization of the tools provided to make smart independent decisions and avoid the pitfalls that got them into their situation.

Phase II. If the Judge determines the Participant is ready to move on then Phase II gradually allows for more independence and freedom. Drug tests may be random or bi-weekly, Court appearances may now be bi-weekly or monthly. Requirements vary from Court to Court.

Phase III. Usually entered after a year in the Program. Requirements continue to be lifted in preparation for graduation.

The Judge may move the Participant back to Phase II or I at anytime if he or she determines the Participant is regressing.

After Graduation the Judge in coordination with the District Attorney may reduce the original charges.

The intent of the Program is to enable the Veteran to return to the Community and their Loved Ones and Family as a Proud and Contributing member to Society. As one Judge stated “The Most Important Day of the Rest of Your Life is not Graduation, but the Day After”. He meant that after Graduation nobody would be looking over the Veteran’s shoulder to make sure they made appointments or avoided destructive decisions. The Program provides the Veteran with the Tools they need to make responsible decisions on their own and where to reach for help.

The Judge is the Final Authority on Determining if a Participant Graduates from the Program.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRANCE INTO A VETERAN’S COURT PROGRAM

US Military Veterans of Any Service or Period of Service are Eligible.

Participants have included Veterans from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Cold War.

A Veteran’s Participation and Entry into the Program is Voluntary.

VETERAN COURT MENTORS

Veteran Court Mentors are Veteran Volunteers who serve as a Participant's supporter, guide, and confidant.

They attend the Court Sessions with the Participant and help them resolve their issues and also meet with them outside of Court.

Confidentiality of conversations between the Mentor and Participant is paramount. However the Mentor is obligated to report any concerns of safety to the Mentor Coordinator or if deemed an emergency, report immediately to proper authority.

VFW DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS COURT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Expand the Mentor Program
- Increase Awareness of the Veteran Court Program
- Expand the Veteran Court Program (Thru County Memorandums of Agreement or Add Programs)

VETERAN COURT PROGRAMS BY VFW DISTRICT AND COUNTY

VFW District 1 – Philadelphia
VFW District 7 – Delaware
VFW District 9 – Chester, Lancaster
VFW District 10 – Lackawanna
VFW District 12 – Northumberland
VFW District 13 – Berks
VFW District 15 – Clinton, Lycoming
VFW District 16 – Montgomery
VFW District 18 – Dauphin, Lebanon
VFW District 20 – Carbon
VFW District 21 – York
VFW District 23 – Fayette
VFW District 24 – Washington
VFW District 25 – Beaver, Butler
VFW District 26 – Armstrong, Cambria, Indiana
VFW District 27 – Westmoreland
VFW District 28 – Erie, Mercer
VFW District 29 – Allegheny

A Total of 18 VFW Districts represent 25 Counties.

VFW DISTRICTS WITH A VETERAN TRACKING COURT

VFW District 11 – Luzerne (Adult Drug)
VFW District 25 – Lawrence (Adult Drug)

VFW DISTRICTS WITH NO VETERANS COURT IN THEIR COUNTIES.

VFW Districts 8, 11, 14, 17, 19, 22, and 30.



**If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jeff Puckett
VFW Department Chair of the Veterans Court Program
Email: jeffpuckett153@yahoo.com**



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Veterans & Military Support Program
2024-2025**

Greetings Teammates, my name is Tom Sally and I am the new Veterans & Military Support Department Program Chairman. The VMS program oversees the Military Assistance Program (MAP), the Adopt-a-Unit Program, Unmet Needs program and the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship". We also oversee the donations which go to the VMS programs which provide monetary support for most of these programs. One of the other ways we earn money for these programs is by selling pins which you will see shortly at one of your district meetings.

Adopt-a-Unit Application

<https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support/adoptaunitapplication>

MAP Grant Application

<https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support/mapgrantapplication>

In addition to the above programs VMS also two certificate programs.

The VFW National Headquarters has the Legacy Citation of Merit available. Order the Legacy Citation of Merit to commemorate and memorialize our Service Members Killed In Action. Recognize, celebrate, and honor them with your post, auxiliary, and Gold Star Families. Step-by-step instructions on how to order the Legacy Citation of Merit to commemorate and memorialize our service members killed in action.

https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY_VFW/Training-and-Support/Veterans-and-Military-Support/Reports/Legacy-Citation-of-Merit-Instructions.pdf?v=1&d=20220318T155511Z&la=en

The VFW National Headquarters Military Working Dog Recognition Program has a new citation available. Order the Military Working/War Dog Citation to recognize their service, bravery, and devotion to their fellow troops. Step-by-step instructions on how to order the Military Working War Dog citation to recognize their service, bravery and devotion to their fellow troops.

https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/us_mwd_recognition_citation

Lastly, and most importantly, we need to share how we are taking care of Veterans. Our Motto "No One Does More For Veterans" needs to be seen by all. We need to report all the things we are doing for Active, Guard, Reserve and Retired Vets. The Department of PA has not submitted a report to National in years. On the next few pages are examples and blank forms for districts to submit to me monthly. We need to highlight what we are doing for vets, whether it is doing a honor guard for a funeral, a homeless Vet's stand down, a Golf tournament that supports Vets or a Welcome home ceremony.

Any questions: please contact Tom Sally at tsally1964@gmail.com 484-794-3194

**VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT
MONTHLY CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Please submit this form no later than the 30th of each month.
As the Veterans & Military Support Programs Chairman, what did YOU do this past month?

Tell us about all of your Department troop support events not funded by VFW National.

Please include yellow ribbon events, homeless stand downs, District/Post meetings where Veterans & Military Support Programs were discussed or any other events held in support of our service members, veterans and their families!

Don't forget to include attendance numbers for each activity or event.

1	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance		\$ Spent			
	26	1234	Crossroads Event	60		\$150.00			

Details of Event

Crossroads Event at the PA National Guard Headquarters. Briefed the members that were separating and retiring about the VFW VMS Programs and membership benefits/Visited Post 1234 and discussed VMS Programs and membership. Provided light refreshments.

2	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance		\$ Spent			
	26	4321	Added a Vet			\$1,500			

Details of Event

Veteran received help with rent and medical bills, with the help of Department.

Another veteran received help with car payments from post 4321.

3	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance		\$ Spent			
	26	7894	Army ROTC Dining Out	200		\$100.00			

Details of Event

Post 7894 attended the Penn (Johnstown) State University Army ROTC (Cyclone Battalion) Dining Out

4	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance		\$ Spent			
	26	5648	Homeless Vets Stand down	60					

Details of Event

Post 5648 conducted a homeless Vets stand down and members slept in two different parks in the city overnight to bring awareness and raise money. The Post raised over \$30K in funds for the homeless.

5	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance		\$ Spent			
	26	2589	Welcome Home	250		\$1,500.00			

Details of Event

Post 2589 held a welcome home BBQ for the families and Airmen of the 123rd AW.

6	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance		\$ Spent			
	26	4563	Veterans Funeral	50		\$100			

Details of Event

Post 4563 rallied the community to attend a veteran's funeral who had no living relatives and provided a wreath.



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
77th Annual Voice of Democracy Youth Essay Contest
2024-2025
“Is America Today Our Forefather’s Vision?”**

Info to: Department Commander Barbara Loncar
Department President Andrea Meintel
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers
Department Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
District Voice of Democracy Chairpersons
District Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Vince Gavin
State Voice of Democracy Chairpersons

Subject: 2024-2025 Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition

Theme: **“Is America Today Our Forefather’s Vision?”**

Fellow Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

Welcome to another exciting year of the Annual State Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition. I know that with all your hard work and dedication to this program we will have a very successful year. The following information should help you to get started:

Post and District Chairpersons can access the program guides, find participating Posts, download student brochures, or purchase them online (Item #04420) from the National VFW website www.vfw.org. Students can also complete a Voice of Democracy entry form on the National website using the Voice of Democracy link. The Department website is www.vfwpa.org; where you will find the following Department information: Department deadlines and the student entry brochure, and the Department Perpetual Scholarship information and donation form. For more information on reporting program participation visit, vfw.org/my-vfw/all-American-dashboard.

State Deadlines for the 2024-2025 Voice of Democracy Program are listed below:

1. October 31, 2024 - Student Deadline Entry is at midnight.
2. November 16, 2024 - Post judging completed.
3. December 1, 2024 - District judging completed.
4. December 9, 2024 - District Winner Entry Form, Flash Drive of Essay, Typed Essay, Head and Shoulders Photo of good quality, District Summary Report and District Participation Report **in the hands** of the Department Chairperson.
 - a. **These Items Must Be Mailed.** If you have a digital recorded essay, please download it to a flash drive and mail it, for ease of judging.

DO NOT MAIL TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

1. December 11, 2024 - Department judging (Time and location to be announced)
2. January 15, 2025 - Department Winner and Reports submitted to National Headquarters.
January 18, 2025 - Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet, Eisenhower Hotel,
Gettysburg

The 2024-2025 State Auxiliary Chairperson is Pam Sopher. If you have any questions or concerns, Pam and I can be contacted as follows:

Vince Gavin
658 Miller Street
Eynon, PA 18403
(570) 862-2955
Email: vincentdangavin@gmail.com

Pam Sopher
110 S. Kerr St
Titusville, PA 16354
814-516-5157
E-mail: pamauxdp@gmail.com

We are looking forward to meeting and talking with each one of you during this program year. Please review the Program and Entry Form as well as the PA State Perpetual Scholarship Fund information and donation forms. Please make copies for your Post Chairpersons, Auxiliary Chairpersons, and the Members so that they can promote and work this very important Youth Activity. As you promote the programs, please encourage participation in the Perpetual Scholarship Fund.

REMINDER: One of Commander Loncar's requirements for All State Post is a Voice of Democracy entry or monetary donation in lieu of an entry. **All Divisions: Donation of \$250.00**

Thank you!

In Support of our Troops and Friendship in the VFW and Its Auxiliary,

Vince Gavin

VFW Department of Pennsylvania Voice of Democracy Chairperson
vincentdangavin@gmail.com
570-862-2955



2024-2025 Theme

“Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ (VFW’s) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year’s theme is, “**Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?**”

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

The Rules

Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or – 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: First, visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.vfw.org/FindaPost) to “Find A VFW Post.” If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office’s phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, **Oct. 31, 2024**. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

2024-2025 Official Entry Form
Voice of Democracy Competition
Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last
Address
City, State, Zip
()
Phone Email
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) Grade in School Age Jacket Size
School Name, City, State
Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian
(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)
Parent/Guardian Signature Date
()
Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone
Parent/Guardian Email

Participant Agreement for Students
Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have not inappropriately used any AI tools or Chat GPT. I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post
I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.
Post Commander/Chairperson Signature Post #
VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)
Post Address
City, State, Zip
VFW Post Email
No. of students participating
No. of winners advanced to District
Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$
Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.
District Chairperson Signature Dist. #
Address
City, State, Zip
()
Phone Email

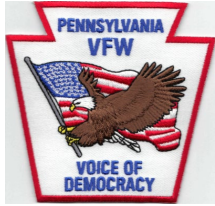
To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.
Department Chairperson Signature
()
Daytime Phone Email
The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on

For assistance contact:
816.968.1155
Email: youthships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:
Contact:
Phone: Best Time To Call:
Alternate Contact:
Phone: Best Time To Call:





**76th Annual Voice of Democracy
Scholarship Program
Department Of Pennsylvania
VFW 2024-2025**

“Is America Today Our Forefather’s Vision?”

Info to: Department Commander Barbara Loncar
Department President Andrea Meintel
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers
Department Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
District Voice of Democracy Chairpersons
District Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
District Commanders and District Presidents
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Vince Gavin
State Voice of Democracy Chairperson

Subject: Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars Perpetual Scholarship Fund
2024-2025

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

The Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars Perpetual Scholarship Fund was started a few years ago to give every District Winner in the state a minimum \$500 cash. Because of declining interest rates, the fund is not financially self-sustaining. All 25 prizes have been sponsored. However, there are still many Private Party Individuals, Posts, County Councils, District VFW and Auxiliaries that have inquired about continuing to support the Perpetual Scholarship Fund. To give recognition to all of those who so generously donate, we have established a fund entitled **“DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM”**. In order to become a member of this esteemed program, the minimum donation is \$500.00 or above. All these donations will be acknowledged annually at the Voice of Democracy Banquet (both verbally and in the program booklet).

Private Party Individuals, Posts, County Councils, District VFW and Auxiliaries that would like to donate \$499.00 or below; your name or unit will become a **“PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP PATRON DONATION”**. All these donations will be acknowledged annually at the Voice of Democracy Banquet. Please use the enclosed forms to make your donations.

VERY IMPORTANT! All Perpetual Scholarships will remain open and additional donations can be added at any time. Example—Two \$500.00 donations will become a \$1,000.00 Perpetual Scholarship Donation.

Vince Gavin
State Voice of Democracy Chairperson



PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORMS
2024-2025
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

\$500.00 AND ABOVE
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS PERPETUAL
SCHOLARSHIP DONATION TO THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM

AMOUNT OF DONATION:

\$ _____

CHECK NUMBER: _____

PLEASE BE SPECIFIC AS TO HOW YOUR DONATION SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED
AND PRINTED IN THE AD BOOKLET OR ADD TO EXISTING DONATION

\$\$499.00 AND BELOW
PERPEUTAL SCHOLARSHIP PATRON DONATION

AMOUNT OF DONATION:

\$ _____

CHECK NUMBER: _____

PLEASE BE SPECIFIC AS TO HOW YOUR DONATION SHOULD BE LISTED AS A
PATRON PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATION OR ADD TO EXISTING
DONATION

MAIL FORMS TO:
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
4002 FENTON AVENUE
HARRISBURG, PA 17109-5943



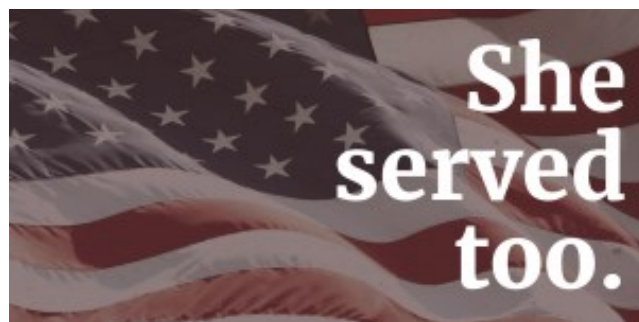
2025 PA Women Veterans Expo

March 14-16, 2025

State College, PA

Sponsored by

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA



All women veterans in Pennsylvania are welcome to attend.
You do not need to be a member of the VFW in order to attend.

Please join us for a time of fellowship, camaraderie, workshops and presentations by, for, and about women veterans—highlighting the issues that matter and impact them directly.

Each year is different, don't miss out!

Preregistration is required. This event fills quickly!

Register and view the agenda by using the QR code:

Or visit www.vfwpa.org (under the "Programs" tab)

Final Registration 01/31/2025(*or until sold out*)



This event is organized by the
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Pennsylvania, with
financial contributions from Districts,
Posts, Auxiliaries, & Individuals.

Location: The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center

215 Innovation Blvd, State College, PA 16803

2025 will offer a new, expanded format, consisting of breakout sessions, resource and informational vendors, and "down-time" to develop and renew personal connections. Each year is different, don't miss out!

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA

Women Veterans Chairperson Amy MacKenzie

717.575.3982

pawomenvets@gmail.com

[illegible]

***NO ONE DOES MORE FOR
VETERANS***

