

Department of Minnesota
Veterans of Foreign Wars 2016-2017
Membership Program



Membership is the lifeblood of every organization, and ours is no different. We face challenges to maintain and grow our membership, but we are up to the challenge!

Throughout the Department of Minnesota 21% of eligible veterans belong to our organization. While the average penetration varies from district to district, we have ample opportunities for membership.

These eligible veterans could be Vietnam veterans that never felt welcome. They could be Gulf War veterans that have felt forgotten. And, they could be Iraq/Afghanistan veterans that for a variety of reasons haven't joined. But, they are all out there.

Where are they? They are at your place of work. They are at your church. They live in your neighborhood. They are at the event you attended last week. They are pumping gas next to you. They are driving in front of you. And, they are past members.

How do we sell them on the benefits of membership? Find out if the prospective member has service related issues that our claims department could assist with. Do they have legislative concerns? If so inform them about our legislative goals and lobbying efforts. Know about National Programs including MAP, Adopt a Unit, and Unmet Needs. Talk about everything that we do in the community including;

Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy

Teacher of the Year

Scouting

VFW Baseball and Hockey

Poppies

Remember that “No One Does More for Veterans” than The Veterans of Foreign Wars. When you represent the VFW make sure that you make a good impression. Engage, Engage, Engage! To help you in your efforts this upcoming year the following tools, programs, and incentives have been created.



Realistic Growth and Retention

Together we all push the cart and we all win. Below is what Department has determined as post categories based on size of the post;

Small 1-175

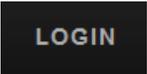
Medium 176-400

Large 401 +

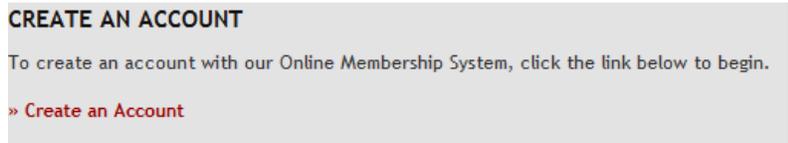
To access MEMSTATS from National:

1. www.vfw.org

2. select

A black rectangular button with the word "LOGIN" in white, uppercase letters.

3. if you don't have an account, you will need to set one up

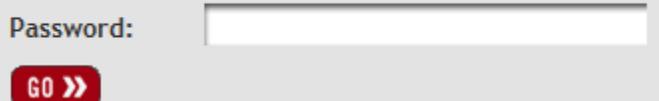
A light gray rectangular button with the text "CREATE AN ACCOUNT" in bold, uppercase letters.

To create an account with our Online Membership System, click the link below to begin.

[» Create an Account](#)

4.

5. if you have an account

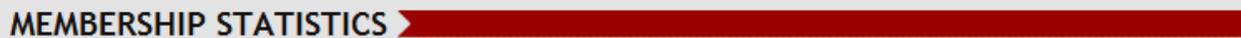
A light gray input field with the label "Email Address:" to its left.A light gray input field with the label "Password:" to its left.A red rounded rectangular button with the text "GO" and two right-pointing arrows in white.

6.

7. go to  click on it

A gray button with a red star icon and the text "MEMSTATS" in red, uppercase letters.

8. now you can pick from what statistics you want. Post, District, Department

A dark red horizontal bar with the text "MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS" in white, uppercase letters, followed by a white right-pointing arrow.

9. [Post Statistics](#) | [District Statistics](#) | [Department Statistics](#) | [Division Statistics](#) | [National Membership Report](#) | [Dept SO Query](#)

2016 - 2017 Leaders Planning and Scheduling Guide

(Tentative)

Please do not schedule district meetings that conflict with this schedule.

DUES NOTICE SCHEDULE: 90-60-30 Day Reminders

District Commanders should schedule their first meeting for as early in the year as possible.

2016	March 16	Veterans Day on the Hill	St. Paul Armory
2016	June 8-12	Convention/OTI	Rochester
2016	July 16	C of A	South St. Paul Post #295
2016	July 23-27	National Convention	Charlotte, NC
2016	Sept. 8-11*	Cmdr-in-Chief Homecoming	Louisville, KY
2016	Sept 9-11*	Fall Conference	Mahnomen (Shooting Star Casino)
2016	Oct. 21-23	Big 10	Kalamazoo, MI
2017	Jan. 19-22	Midwinter	Minneapolis (Marriott)
2017	Feb. 25 – Mar 1	National Voice of Democracy	Washington D.C.
2017	Feb. 26 – Mar 2	Legislative Conference	Washington D.C.
2017	TBD	Veterans Day on the Hill	St. Paul
2017	June 7-11	Convention/OTI	Marriott NW (Maple Grove)
2017	July 22-26	National Convention	New Orleans
2017	Aug. 17-20	Cmdr-in-Chief Homecoming	Cincinnati
2017	Oct. 20-22	Big 10	Bloomington, MN
2018	July 21-25	National Convention	Kansas City
2019	July 20-24	National Convention	Orlando
2020	July 18-22	National Convention	Reno

*Conflict with Nat'l Pres. HC

POST AWARD

HIGHEST MINNESOTA MEMBERSHIP PERCENTAGE AND NUMERICAL GAIN -POST

A certificate plus a stipend of \$100 to go into the Post Relief Fund will be awarded at the State Convention honoring the Highest Membership Percentage and Numerical Gain by a Post in Minnesota in 2017.

DEADLINE: May 15, 2017 (Memstats data)

MOST NEW AND/OR REINSTATED MEMBERS - POST

A certificate plus a stipend of \$100 to go into the Post Relief Fund will be awarded at the State Convention honoring the Minnesota Post with the most NEW and/or REINSTATED members for 2017.

DEADLINE: May 15, 2017 (Memstats data)

MOST LIFE MEMBERS RECRUITED-POST

A certificate plus a stipend of \$100 to go into the Post Relief Fund will be awarded at the State Convention honoring the Minnesota Post that has recruited the most Life members during the current membership year. Minimum number of members recruited to qualify is 15.

DEADLINE: May 15, 2017 (Memstats data)

MOST YEARS OF CONSECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP GROWTH –POST

A certificate plus a stipend of \$100 to go into the Post Relief Fund will be awarded at the State Convention honoring the Post with the Most Years of Consecutive Membership Growth. In addition, certificates will be awarded to the next four (4) Posts with the Most Years of Membership Growth. Based upon ACTUAL June 30, 2016

DEADLINE: May 15, 2017

Contest winners will receive a citation along with a \$100.00 award to be placed into Post Relief Fund to help needy Veterans with membership.

MISCELLANEOUS AWARDS

1. The District with the highest membership percentage, (must attain 100% to qualify) as of 1200 hours on the Friday of the State Convention event will receive the State Membership Flag (Big Red) to be held until the next State Convention. If there is not a District qualifying for the Big Red Flag, it will stay at the Department Headquarters. (This award is based upon reporting available at Memstats data and transmittals received at the first Council of Administration meeting at the State Convention.)
2. A plaque will be awarded to the District Commander with the HIGHEST membership percentage as of May 16, 2017. (Must be 95% to qualify based on Memstats data)
3. A plaque will be awarded to the District Commander with the HIGHEST numerical gain of membership based on Memstats prior year as of May 16, 2017.
4. There may be an ALL-State District Commanders team. To qualify the district must be at 100% membership
5. All members that recruit 10 new/reinstate members will receive a \$100 stipend (excluding quartermasters, unless post commander verifies that quartermaster actually recruited the new/reinstates).
6. Post Commanders - Special 100% in membership by Midwinter Conference the Post Commander will receive a \$100 stipend (Post must be in good standing).
7. All awards and monies (except for #6) will be handed out only to the members that qualify at the state convention on Friday 9 June 2017 after the Council of Administrative Meeting.

Ambassador Program

The definition of an ambassador is an authorized representative or messenger. This is what each member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars becomes when we engage potential members. We all represent this great organization and we all have the ability to recruit even during mundane tasks like going to the grocery store.

Organized recruiting events offer an opportunity to be in front of potential members in venues where they are seeking information. Every local auto, gun, craft, wedding, employment show/fair offers an opportunity to host an information booth. These are great opportunities to recruit new members and re-engage with members who have not been active with their local post for a while.

Each event a Post or District attends, the Department will pay \$150.00 up to the cost of the space, or the actual cost, whichever is less.

To claim reimbursements send the event receipt to the Department Quartermaster. Please also carbon copy (cc via email) the Department Membership Chair. Including digital photos is greatly appreciated!

Department has banners, table cloths and pamphlet / flyers available for your event. How to reserve a booth and materials: Email, send a letter or stop at Department Headquarters and talk to Tate. Email: tatemnvfw@vfwmn.us

While attending the event, it is recommended that three people be on-hand to work the booth. Plan on discussing how your post supports the following programs and why they are important to the community. (Department will dispatch a **Knowledgeable Past State Commander** upon request to help work the program.)

Veterans Services	VFW Action Corp
Legislative Services	Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen
National Military Services Recognition	Firearm Safety instruction for youth
Buddy Poppy	Americanism and Flag education
National Security & Foreign Affairs	Community Service

2016 - 2017 Post Membership Contest

(3 Awards)

There will be three or more drawings for a \$1,000 stipend to enable 1 person to attend the 2017 National VFW Convention in New Orleans, LA July 22-26, 2017. To receive the \$1,000 the winner must attend the National Convention. If the winning post commander or post officer can't attend the National Convention their post will receive a \$500 stipend for their relief fund. Drawing winners must declare their intention to attend the National Convention by May 14th, 2017. Any remaining funds will result in additional drawings at the State Convention.

The first drawing will be held at the Midwinter Conference. All posts that are 100%, in good standing, and at the Midwinter Conference will have a ticket in the drawing. Posts will have additional tickets for every 1% or 2 members over 100%.

The second drawing will be held at the White Bear Lake VFW 1782 during the VFW State Hockey Tournament. Exact time will be announced at the Midwinter Conference and published in the General Orders. It is also a post drawing. All posts in good standing and 100% in membership and in good standing are eligible. Additional ticket for every % over 100% or every 2 members over 100%

The third \$1,000 drawing will be held on May 15, 2017 for members that have recruited 10 new or reinstated members. For every member over 10 the recruiter will have an additional ticket in the drawing. Quartermasters are not eligible unless their commander verifies that they actually recruited the new/reinstates.

REQUIREMENT: Each person must attend the national convention in order to receive the \$1,000 award

**This award is less any stipend from Department or National. For example: National is providing attendee a \$500 stipend, Department will provide an additional \$500 so the total reaches \$1,000.

A post can only win one drawing.

2016-17 District Membership Contest

All District Commanders, District Sr. Vice Commanders and District Jr. Vice Commanders that qualify will receive a \$500 award to attend the 2017 National VFW Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, 22-26 July, 2017. If only the District Commander and one officer can attend, they will both receive \$750. If only the District Commander can attend they will receive \$1,000. To qualify Districts must attain 100% in membership.

Requirement: Each winning District Officer winner must attend the 2017 National VFW Convention to be eligible to receive the award.

The deadline for this contest is June 9, 2017 and will be determined by Memstats data as of June, 2017.

District Commanders that achieve 100% in Membership by the Friday night Council meeting at the Mid-Winter conference will receive a Gold Legacy Life membership.

District Commanders that achieve 100% in membership between the end of the Friday night council meeting at Mid-winter and the start of the Thursday night council meeting at the State Convention in Plymouth will receive a Bronze Legacy Life Membership. (Must be a life member to receive this award)

2016-2017 ALL-STATE POST COMMANDER POINT SYSTEM

Up to Twenty (20) Department of Minnesota All-State Post Commanders will be selected. Each will receive a special lapel pin, All-State Post Commander's WHITE hat and a \$25 check toward State Convention expenses. (The check is issued only if in attendance at the joint awards session of the State Convention.)

Judging of the All-State Team of Post Commanders will be based on points earned in the following categories: Membership, Community Activities, Poppies, Voice of Democracy, Meeting Attendance, Past Performance, Legislative, Loyalty Day and Hospital Program. In order to be the ALL-State Captain you must attend the banquet at the State Convention, if the Captain is not present it will go to the next person in line that attended the banquet.

MEMBERSHIP:

Points for reaching 100% Membership based on (go to www.vfw.org) MEMSTATS' "Prior Year" totals are as follows:

Prior Year Post Size	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Category I (25-75)	12	10	8	6	4	3	2	1
Category II (76- 175)	13	10	8	6	5	3	2	1
Category III (176- 400)	14	11	9	7	6	4	3	2
Category IV (401-700)	15	12	10	8	7	5	4	3
Category V (701-1,000)	16	13	11	9	8	6	5	4
Category VI (Over 1,001)	17	15	13	11	9	8	7	6

An additional point will be rewarded for every percentage point over 100%, or every 2 members over 100%, whichever is greater. Deadline is April 30, 2017

OFFICERS TRAINING INSTITUTE (OTI)

All commanders will receive five (5) additional points if they attend OTI or attend a Department Sponsored OTI at a District Meeting. You will receive an additional five (5) points if your Post Quartermaster does the same and an additional one (1) point for any post member that attends.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

STATE REPORTING - One (1) point may be earned each month (from April to March) in which a creditable Community Activities Report is received ON TIME, from the Post or Auxiliary. A bonus of three (3) points may be earned if a Post or Auxiliary completes all twelve (12) reports. A Post may earn three (3) points for being credited from Department VFW Headquarters in Americanism, three (3) points for being credited in Safety, and three (3) points for being credited in Youth Activities.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOT'S PEN

A Post may earn three (3) points by submitting one (1) Voice of Democracy tape and completed entry materials into the District Voice of Democracy competition. A Post may also earn three (3) points by submitting one (1) Patriot's Pen Essay and completed entry materials into the District Patriot's Pen competition.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

A post may earn up to three (3) points by submitting a teacher of the year nomination per category to district teacher of the year competition. One point will be award for each of the following categories, K-5, 6-8, 9-12.

POPPY PROGRAM

Eight (8) points may be earned by ordering poppies in 2016 at least equal to the average purchase over the last 3 years. Two (2) points may be earned for purchasing poppies in excess of last year's purchase. (250 Poppies over) One (1) point may also be earned for entering the District Poppy Display Contest. Ten (10) additional points may be earned for ordering at least ten (10) Buddy Poppies per Post member.

LEGISLATIVE

Five (5) points may be earned by sending introductory letters to each of your U.S. Representative, three (3) U.S. Senators, State Representative and State Senator. Send copies of each letter to the Department Headquarters. One point per legislator.

POST SERVICE OFFICER

Three (3) points may be earned by appointing a Post Service Officer and reporting it on your Election Report

HOSPITAL PROGRAM

One (1) point will be awarded for submitting five (5) Hospital reports on the Community Service Report form.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Three (3) points may be earned for attending the State Fall Conference. Three (3) points may be earned for attending the State Midwinter Conference. Five (5) points may be earned for attending ALL your District Meetings. Post Commanders or Representative MUST attend all

scheduled District meetings to be eligible for All-State Honors. (THIS MUST BE DOCUMENTED BY THE SIGN-IN SHEETS PROVIDED AT ABOVE MENTIONED CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS!) NO EXCEPTIONS

Absolute requirement to be considered for the All-State Team of Post Commanders. Post Commanders or Representative MUST attend all scheduled District meetings to be eligible for All-State Honors. You will need 100% based on "Prior Year's" Membership by April, 2017, Five (5) Hospital Reports, and copy of "Proof of Eligibility". A letter will be sent to Post Commanders obtaining 100% based on "Prior Year's" membership.

*****EACH POST MUST RECRUIT FIVE (5) New/Reinstate members to qualify*****

All Post Attaining 100% will be considered for ALL STATE Honors

2016 – 2017 ALL-STATE POST QUARTERMASTER POINT SYSTEM

Up to Twenty (20) Quartermasters will be selected by the Department of Minnesota, VFW and honored along with the All-State Team of Post Commanders at the Department Convention. Each honored Quartermaster will receive his/her choice of cap or pin and a check for \$25.00 toward his/her Convention expenses. This check will only be awarded if he/she is in attendance at the Joint Session of the Convention.

Post Quartermasters must attend all District Meetings.

The following points will be tabulated in the judging of the All-State Team of Post Quartermasters.

You must qualify in all the following categories.

POINTS FOR REACHING 100% OF "PRIOR YEAR" MEMBERSHIP IN THE MONTH

Prior Year Post Size	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Category I (25-75)	12	10	8	6	4	3	2	1
Category II (76- 175)	13	10	8	6	5	3	2	1
Category III (176- 400)	14	11	9	7	6	4	3	2
Category IV (401-700)	15	12	10	8	7	5	4	3
Category V (701-1,000)	16	13	11	9	8	6	5	4
Category VI (Over 1,001)	17	15	13	11	9	8	7	6

An additional point will be given for every point over 100%, or every 2 members over.

AND CATEGORY LISTED BELOW:

NOTE: To receive the above points, you must make 100% of "Prior Year" membership by the end of the listed months. As a Post Quartermaster, you can access your "Prior Year" total on MEMSTATS (www.vfw.org) after September 1, 2014--- or contact Department Headquarters.

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

New and Reinstates - There will be one point awarded for every New and Reinstated member AFTER Post achieves 100% of "Prior Year" Membership. These points will be awarded from September to April only.

Audits - There will be ten (10) points for Post Trustees Report of Audit turned into Department Headquarters within thirty (30) days of the close of the quarter. (This will only apply to the quarters ending in September, December and March.) There will be five points (5) for Audits turned in to Department Headquarters within forty-five (45) days of the close of the quarter. Exceptions will be made to those Posts that are unable to meet deadlines because of special bookkeeping procedures ... but will have to be verified by all three Post Trustees and the Post Commander in writing.

Meeting Attendance - Three (3) points may be earned for attending the State Fall Conference. Three (3) points may be earned for attending the State Midwinter Conference. Five (5) points may be earned for attending ALL your District Meetings. (Post Quartermasters or Post Representative MUST attend all District meetings to be eligible for ASPQM.) (THIS MUST BE DOCUMENTED BY THE SIGN-IN SHEETS PROVIDED AT ABOVE MENTIONED CONFERENCES, MEETINGS AND PICK-UPS!!!)

Additional Points - There will be additional points, maximum of TEN, for overall performance throughout the year. These points are as follows:

Three (3) points for paying your Hospital/Campership within 90 days of July 1st. One (1) point if your Hospital/Campership is paid before December 30th.

Three (3) points if your Quartermaster/officer Bond payment reached or was recorded at Department Headquarters before October 15th.

Four points will be added to your score after the judging of the All-State Team of Post Commanders ... if YOUR Commander is selected to that Team.

Tie-Breakers - All ties will be broken by reviewing your All State Post Quartermaster Questionnaire and your consistency of reporting throughout the preceding year.

In April you will receive a letter and questionnaire. This letter will only be sent to those Posts achieving 100% of "Prior Year" Membership!!!