



GEORGIA MEMBERSHIP/PROGRAMS

2023 – 2024

Department of Georgia
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

MEMBERSHIP BASICS

MEMBERSHIP MISSION AND VISION:

- Recruit, Retain, and Reinstate a stable and growing membership base.

MEMBERSHIP GOALS AND BENCHMARKS FOR 2023-2024:

- Special Bravo Zulu recognition for Posts reaching 107%
- Recruit new and recover unpaid members: 105%
- Retain existing membership: 75%
- Increase Life Membership: 5%
- Increase Legacy Life Membership: 1%

The best way to grow a stable membership is for your Post and Auxiliary members to be active as a group in your community.

We must improve the way we communicate with our Post members. Take the lead.

We must

- Take care of our members and their families
- Stay current on veterans' issues and advocate on the local, state, and federal level
- Be involved in our local community by leading and partnering with other veterans and local organizations
- Be the organization that our community thinks of when they think of veterans

SUCCESSFUL POST CRITERIA

Mandatory Requirements

- Attain 105% in membership for the 2023-2024 year ending June 30. *This increase will be determined using the starting membership numbers for the 2023-2024 year.*
- 75% membership retention (see Department Memstats report)
- Participate in the Department Membership Round-up
- Submit an entry for District judging in **two of the three** core programs. (All three are required for All-American)
 - Voice of Democracy
 - Patriot's Pen
 - Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award one teacher (1)
- Make donations to all three (3) of the programs:
 - Veterans and Military Support (VMS),
 - National Home for Children (Georgia House), and
 - Commander's Project

Minimum donations are based on Georgia Divisions, established exclusively for Georgia and **not to be compared** with National Divisions. Divisions are based on the starting membership number for the 2023-2024 membership year.

Division 1	(286 and over)	\$200 minimum
Division 2	(130 - 285)	\$175 minimum
Division 3	(89 - 129)	\$150 minimum
Division 4	(70 - 88)	\$125 minimum
Division 5	(up to 69)	\$100 minimum

- Post Commander (or in their absence, the Post Sr Vice or Post Jr Vice) attends **all District meetings**. Attendance must be verified by signature on sign-in sheet. There must be no more than one Zoom attendance/Excused absence.
- Post Commander (or in their absence, the Post Sr Vice or Post Jr Vice) must attend **all sessions of Georgia Leadership Training (GLT)**.

- Post Quartermaster and anyone on the accounts must be **sufficiently bonded** in accordance with Section 703 of the National By-Laws for the current membership year.
- Post Service Officer must **attend** the VFW sponsored **Service Officer Training Class**.
- Submit all four (4) Trustee Reports of Audit to the State Headquarters by these dates:

Apr - June	by August 31
Jul - Sep	by November 30
Oct - Dec	by February 29
Jan - Mar	by May 31 (must be in by April 30 for initial All State consideration)
- Purchase three (3) Buddy Poppies per member before April 30. (Minimum order 500)
- Consistently submit Community Service reports in the Programs Dashboard throughout the year.
- Pay all Department and District obligations.
- Submit at least eight (8) Chaplain Monthly Reports to admin@georgiavfw.org
- Have an active Social Media account. Your Post cannot be listed as a "bar." Send the link to tech@georgiavfw.org
- Correct any issues identified on your Post inspection.



ALL-STATE TEAM OF POST COMMANDERS CRITERIA/AWARDS

Criteria

- All "Successful Post Criteria" from the previous page.
- Posts must attain at least 105% membership in 2023-2024 year.
- At least 1% of Post membership is New and/or Reinstated, plus 75% retention of membership.
- In determining the All-State team, Department of Georgia posts membership growth will be based on the starting 2023-2024 membership year numbers.

Award

Each member of the All-State Team of Post Commanders will receive

- "All-State" Post Commanders' cap, pin and citation
 - Posts that meet criteria by April 30 and are selected by the Awards Committee will receive these awards at the 2024 Department of Georgia State Convention
 - Posts that meet the criteria between May 1 and June 30 and are selected by the Commander will receive their awards at the Georgia Leadership Training (GLT).
 - Only Posts that qualify by April 30 will be considered for the All-State Captain honor.
- Post Commanders that meet criteria by April 30 will receive a travel/trip award of \$150 to help defray expenses to the Department of Georgia State Convention (Must attend the State Convention to receive the award). *Department Council of Administration (COA) members and Past State Commanders are not eligible for the travel/trip award. Cannot receive multiple Department travel awards/stipends.*

In determining the All-State team, Department of Georgia posts will be divided into the following divisions. These divisions are established exclusively for Georgia not to be compared with National Divisions. Divisions are based on the starting 2023-2024 membership year.

<u>Division 1</u>	<u>2 may be awarded</u>
<u>Division 2</u>	<u>2 may be awarded</u>
<u>Division 3</u>	<u>2 may be awarded</u>
<u>Division 4</u>	<u>2 may be awarded</u>
<u>Division 5</u>	<u>2 may be awarded</u>

Notes

Additional winners may be selected from each division at the discretion of the Awards Committee and Commander.

The Captain of the All-State team will be selected from the All-State Team of Post Commanders by the Awards Committee. All divisions will be considered in the selection process. Only those Posts qualifying by April 30 will be considered for this honor.

POST SCORECARD

Points are not awarded for All State Requirements - you have to do those before points are even counted.

Two Commanders Attend	40	_____
Three Commanders Attend	60 (can't get both)	_____
Chaplain Attends	20	_____
Trustees Attend	20 points each	_____

Core Programs

Entries in all 3 programs * <i>sent to District (VOD, Patriot's Pen, Teacher)</i>	50	_____
Two Teachers (<i>Elementary, Middle, High</i>)	50	_____
Three Teachers (<i>Elementary, Middle, High</i>)	75	_____
State Contest Winner <i>(VOD, Patriots Pen, Teacher)</i>	75 each	_____
State 2 nd Place Winner <i>(VOD, Patriots Pen, Teacher)</i>	50 each	_____
State 3 rd Place Winner <i>(VOD, Patriots Pen, Teacher)</i>	25 each	_____

Community Activity/Recognition

Submit Safety Recognition entry *		
Law Enforcement	50	_____
Firefighter	50	_____
EMT	50	_____
911 Dispatcher	50	_____
Submit a Scout of the Year entry *	25	_____
State Contest Winner <i>(Scout, Public Safety)</i>	75 each	_____
State 2 nd Place Winner <i>(Scout, Public Safety)</i>	50 each	_____
State 3 rd Place Winner <i>(Scout, Public Safety)</i>	25 each	_____
Adopt-a-Unit Program (Conduct/Report an Event)	50	_____
Nominate a VFW Service Officer of the Year <i>(does not have to be from your Post. See criteria on website.)</i>	20	_____

Nominate someone for Mr/Ms VFW 20
(does not have to be from your Post. See criteria on website. The same nomination cannot be used for multiple Posts.)

Nominate someone for Chaplain of the Year 20
(does not have to be from your Post. See criteria on website.)

NEW Nominate a local business as Veteran Employer of the Year 20
(does not have to be from your Post. See criteria on website.)

NEW Nominate someone for VFW Member of the Year 20
(does not have to be from your Post. See criteria on website.)

NEW Nominate one JROTC Cadet of the Year 20
(does not have to be from your Post. See criteria on website.)

NEW Nominate someone for John F Gwizdak Heroic Youth 20

Relief Account Donations

Commander's Special Project (Extra Donation)
Double your minimum donation 50
Triple your minimum donation 75

National Home (must be to the Georgia House)
Double your minimum donation 25
Triple your minimum donation 25

Veterans & Military Support
Double your minimum donation 25
Triple your minimum donation 25

We Care Fund
Minimum donation 25
Double your minimum donation 25
Triple your minimum donation 25

Other Donations

Commander Lipphardt's CIC Homecoming Fund
Double your minimum donation 100

Membership

New/Reinstated Life Members 5 each

New Legacy Life Members 5 each
(Total movement based on 1 pt bronze, 2 pt silver, 3 pt gold)

New/Reinstated Continuous Members 1 each



TOTAL POINTS

*** All submitted entries must be judgeable. Incomplete entries that are submitted will not count.**

ALL-STATE TEAM OF POST QUARTERMASTERS CRITERIA/AWARDS

NOTE: Posts All-State recognition does not guarantee Quartermaster recognition. Quartermasters must complete the criteria below to be considered.

Criteria

- Post must complete All "All State Criteria" from the previous page.
- Quartermaster attends all GLT sessions
- Quartermaster attends all District meetings (In order to be excused, the absence must be approved by the district commander **prior** to the meeting)
-  • Quartermaster must have no more than one excused absence or Zoom attendance.
- Membership requirements are the same as Post Commander
- Post records are kept up to date
- Post must have an EIN registered with the IRS and must file tax reports with the State and Federal government on time (including Form 990, 990N, 990T, Sales Tax returns, and annual bingo report as reported on the Post Inspection form).
-  • All issues identified on the Post Inspection must be corrected.

Award

Each member of the All-State Team of Post Quartermasters will receive

- "All-State" Post Quartermasters' cap, pin and citation
 - Posts that meet criteria by April 30 will receive these awards at the 2024 Department of Georgia State Convention
 - Posts that meet the criteria between May 1 and June 30 will receive their awards at the Georgia Leadership Training (GLT).
- Post Quartermasters that meet criteria by April 30 will receive a travel/trip award of \$150 to help defray expenses to the Department of Georgia State Convention (Must attend the State Convention to receive the award). *Department Council of Administration (COA) members and Past State Commanders are not eligible for the travel/trip award. Members cannot receive multiple Department travel awards/stipend.*

In determining the All-State team, Department of Georgia posts based on the ending 2023-2024 membership year.

Notes

Same as Post Commanders above

SUCCESSFUL DISTRICT CRITERIA

Mandatory Requirements

- District reaches at least 105% in membership.
- Submit entries to the Department Chairman for all three (3) core programs. Entry must be submitted in time for Department judging and must be of quality to be judged.
 - Voice of Democracy (1 entry)
 - Patriot's Pen (1 entry)
 - Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award (1 for each level = 3 entries)
- Make at least a \$150 donation to the Veterans and Military Support program.
- Make at least a \$150 donation to the Commander's Special Project –
- Make at least a \$150 donation to the Al Lipphardt CIC Homecoming Fund.
- Inspect all Posts in the District by December 31, 2023 and have those inspections submitted to the Department HQ.
- Submit a Trustee Report of Audit to Department Headquarters after each District Meeting/Convention.
- Conduct at least four (3) District-wide recruiting events and report the results to Department Headquarters by April 30. Send recruiting event report to admin@georgiavfw.org
- Participate in the Department Membership Round-up
- Sufficiently bond the District Quartermaster for the current year in accordance with Section 703 of the National By-Laws.
- Appoint a Student Veterans chairman coordinator, by name, to Department Headquarters by August 30.
- Submit at least one (1) correct SVA report per semester (Fall and Spring) to admin@georgiavfw.org. Fall NLT December 31. Spring NLT April 30.
- Appoint a District Service Officer, by name, to Department Headquarters by August 30, 2023
- District Service Officer must attend the VFW-sponsored Service Officer training.

NEW

ALL-STATE TEAM OF DISTRICT COMMANDER
AWARDS

Criteria

- All "Successful District Criteria" from the previous page.

Awards for District Commanders/Districts

District Commanders who meet the listed criteria and have helped their Posts engage in their local communities may be selected to the team of All-State District Commanders. The Awards Committee will look at your complete body of work.

Each member of the All-State Team of District Commanders will receive:

- "All-State" District Commander cap, pin and citation
 - Districts that meet the criteria by April 30 will receive these awards at the Georgia State Convention.
 - Districts that meet the criteria after April 30 will receive receive these awards at the next year's Georgia Leadership Training (GLT).

State Recognition Awards

Individual Awards

Joe L Smith Memorial Award

Plaque presented to Mr/Ms VFW of the Year. Deadline for nomination is April 30.

Richard Branson Outstanding Service Officer Award

Plaque presented to the Outstanding Service Officer of the Year. Deadline for nomination is April 30.

John F Gwizdak Heroic Youth Award

Award to recognize a youth who took heroic and/or patriotic action in their local community. Deadline for nomination is April 30.

NEW

VFW Employer of the Year

Award to confer recognition on one employer for outstanding records in hiring and retention of veterans. Deadline for nomination is April 30.

NEW

JROTC Cadet of the Year

Award for special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership for Junior ROTC cadets. This award seeks to recognize a remarkable cadet who will become a leader in their community and serve their country.

NEW

VFW Member of the Year

This award is to recognize a member of the VFW who has exemplified in their actions and accomplishments, the true spirit of our Organization in serving the needs of their Post, and Community, and who has dedicated themselves in a professional manner to addressing the pillars of our organization.

State Recognition Awards

Post Awards



Americanism Awards

Award presented to the top Americanism Post for the year based on submitted Community Service reports. Participation dates are May 1 to April 30.

Community Service Awards

Award presented to the top Community Service Posts for the year. Participation dates are May 1 to April 30.



Youth Activity Awards

Award presented to the top Youth Activities Posts for the year. Participation dates are May 1 to April 30.

Bravo Zulu Post 107% Achievement Award

All Posts that achieve at least 107% in membership will receive a distinctive banner along with special recognition at the Department Convention in June.



Post 107% Achievement Incentive

All Posts who achieve at least 107% in membership by March 31 will receive a cash award for the Post.

- By December 31 - Posts will be entered into a drawing where up to 20 Posts will receive \$1,000. *(All other Posts qualified by this date will receive the February 9th incentive.)*
- By Mid-Winter Conference - Feb 9 - Posts will receive \$500.
- By Tax Day - April 15 - Posts will receive \$300.
- By Convention - June 6 - Posts will receive \$200.