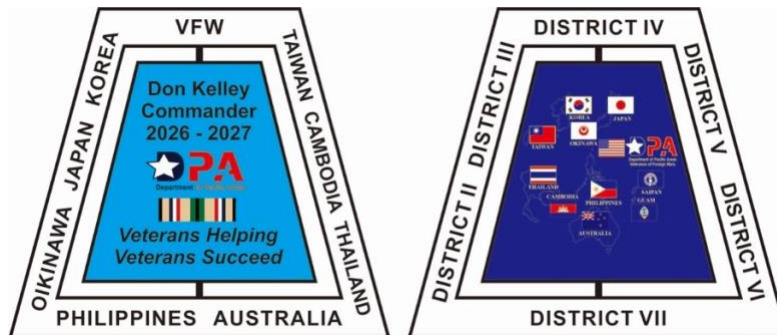




DONALD E. KELLEY

Department Commander

"VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED"

Department of Pacific Areas

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2026-2027



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Pacific Areas

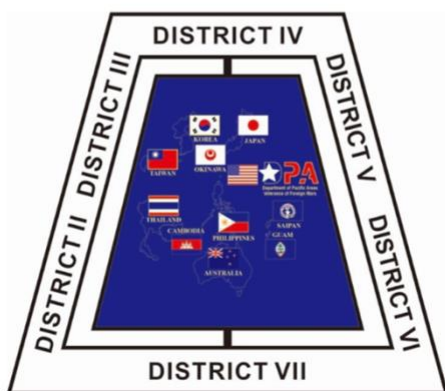


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MEMBERSHIP MISSION

Our objectives are to recruit, retain, and mentor a stable membership base that encompasses veterans from all generations. We strive to cultivate a membership with extensive institutional knowledge and active engagement at every level of the organization and within the local community. Each post should uphold a clear commitment to service, leadership, and community outreach. The fundamental principles of our organization emphasize supporting our members, their families, and the wider veteran community. Our initiatives will focus on recruiting new members, re-engaging those with lapsed memberships, promoting involvement in VFW activities at all levels, and retaining and mentoring current members. Additionally, we aim to increase both Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by the Department of Pacific Areas, securing robust membership is critical to ensuring effective representation at the VFW National level.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

- **NEW POST INSTITUTION PROGRAM REFUND**

Posts established during the year are eligible to receive a \$6.00 rebate from the Department for each new and reinstated member listed on the final Charter Application form submitted to National. Upon official institution and chartering of the new Post, the Department Quartermaster will issue refunds for those members recorded on the Charter as of the closing date (within 90 days following the Post's institution). *The Life Membership stipend does not apply to newly formed Posts.*

- **LIFE AND LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Recruiting life members plays a vital role in our membership initiatives. We aim to inspire everyone to join as Life Members, ensuring that all prospective and current members recognize the VFW's commitment to supporting them, fellow veterans, and their local communities. Building our Legacy Life membership is equally essential for sustaining Posts in the years ahead. Clearly, without attracting new members, our organization cannot thrive. Recruitment begins at the Post MEMBER level, and it is every Comrade's responsibility to help the organization continue growing.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING REWARD PROGRAM

- **EARLY BIRD PROGRAM**

(ends 10 December 2026)

- Posts that have more than 500 members and reaches 100%, plus an additional 10 members, will earn one Life Membership, one Bronze Legacy Life Membership, or a \$400 stipend for its Post Membership Program.
- Posts with fewer than 500 members and reaches 100%, plus an additional 5 members, will earn one Life Membership, one Bronze Legacy Life Membership, or a \$400 Stipend for its Post Membership Program.
- Districts with 100% membership in all posts receive a free Life Membership or a \$400 stipend.

- **RECRUITERS EARLY BIRD PROGRAM**

Members who recruit 25 new members between July 1 and October 31 will receive a ball cap representing their military branch. Caps will be distributed at the Mid-Winter Conference.

- **INDIVIDUAL RECRUITING PROGRAM**

- 1-5 members: Commander's Pin & DPA Pin
- 15 members: \$25.00 gift certificate
- 30 members: \$50.00 gift certificate
- 50 members: \$75.00 gift certificate
- 100+ members: \$150.00 gift certificate
- 200+ members: \$200.00 gift certificate
- For every 5 life members: \$25.00 gift certificate

Note: This award is given annually. Member counts remain unchanged after the Mid-Winter Conference. Reinstated members paid by the post aren't credited to individual recruiters, but if paid by the recruiter, they are counted.

- **POST LIFE MEMBER RECRUITING PROGRAM**

- Posts with 500 or more members: For every 10 new or reinstated (N/R) Life Members recruited, you will receive either one \$400 stipend or one DPA-paid Life Membership to use for any membership program.

- Posts fewer than 500 members: For every 5 new or reinstated (N/R) Life Members recruited, you will receive either one \$400 stipend or one DPA-paid Life Membership to use for any membership program.

- **POST ANNUAL MEMBER TO LIFE MEMBER PROGRAM**

Posts that successfully convert 5 Annual Members to Life Members will receive a \$250 stipend.

DPA ALL-STATE AWARD PROGRAM

The DPA Membership Program annually honors Districts and Posts that demonstrate exemplary performance in supporting both the Department and National initiatives. The All-State program is designed to formally acknowledge outstanding leadership, effective teamwork, and achievements in membership objectives, as well as sustained commitment to VFW core programs.

- **ALL-STATE DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS**

- District, along with all Posts within its jurisdiction, is required to maintain Bylaws that have been formally approved by the National Commander in Chief.
- Quartermaster, as well as any individual responsible for District finances or assets, shall be properly bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National By-Laws no later than 31 August 2026.
- District and all associated Posts are required to complete the current year's Department inspection no later than 31 December 2026.
- Must achieve 100% plus one in membership as reported in National MEMSTATS.
- Senior Vice Commander, as recorded in the District Election Report, is required to participate in a mandatory All-American/All-State Programs and Dashboard Training session conducted by the Department Senior Vice Commander no later than 31 December 2026.
- Must have an appointed Benefits Advisor.
- Benefits Advisor, as identified in the District Election Report, is required to participate in a mandatory Benefits Advisor Training session conducted by the Department Service Officer no later than 31 December 2026.

- Quartermaster and Trustees, as identified in the District Election Report, are required to attend a mandatory Quartermaster/Trustee training session conducted by the Department Quartermaster no later than 31 December 2026.
- Must submit all audits to the Department Quartermaster. Each audit must be sent to and accepted by the Department Quartermaster at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org within 30 days.
- Must participate in the Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriots Pen (PP) Programs by submitting one entry per program via the ScholarsApp platform to the Department Level, as well as recording an entry in the VFW All-American Dashboard. Alternatively, the District may choose to make a \$125 donation per program to the VFW National Director of Programs, for each program in which it does not participate, using the VMS Donation link available on the VFW All-American Dashboard. Donations submitted through any other method will not be accepted and only the Quartermaster is authorized to make the payment.
- Must donate at least \$125 to the National Veterans Service (NVS) Program. This contribution must be made through the NVS Donation link found on the VFW All-American Dashboard. Donations submitted by any other method will not be accepted, and only the Quartermaster is authorized to make the payment.
- Must add or upgrade Legacy Life Members in a number equal to the total number of posts in their district.
- Must take part in the Department Awards program by submitting at least one district nominee to the Department JVC for judging no later than 15 April 2027. For fair representation, each District Award judging panel will include a Post member from every post.
- Must participate in the annual Department fundraising campaign by purchasing a full-page advertisement in the "Year in Review" publication for \$200. Donations should be sent to the Department Quartermaster at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org, and advertisements forwarded to PDC Larry Lyons, the Year in Review chairman, at pdcl Lyons935@gmail.com by 15 May 2027.

• ALL-STATE POST REQUIREMENTS

- Must maintain Bylaws that have been formally approved by the National Commander in Chief.
- Quartermaster, as well as any individual responsible for Post finances or assets, shall be properly bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National By-Laws no later than 31 August 2026.

- Must complete the current year's Department inspection no later than 31 December 2026.
- Must achieve 100% plus one in membership as reported in National MEMSTATS.
- Commander, as identified in the Post Election Report, is required to participate in a mandatory Recruiting Training session conducted by the Department Certified National Recruiter no later than 31 December 2026.
- Senior Vice Commander, as recorded in the Post Election Report, is required to participate in a mandatory All-American/All-State Programs and Dashboard Training session conducted by the Department Senior Vice Commander no later than 31 December 2026.
- Junior Vice Commander, as indicated in the Post Election Report, is required to attend a mandatory Community Service Report (CSR) Training session conducted by the Department Junior Vice Commander no later than 31 December 2026.
- Must have an appointed Benefits Advisor.
- Benefits Advisor, as identified in the Post Election Report, is required to participate in a mandatory Benefits Advisor Training session conducted by the Department Service Officer no later than 31 December 2026.
- Quartermaster and Trustees, as identified in the Post Election Report, are required to attend a mandatory Quartermaster/Trustee training session conducted by the Department Quartermaster no later than 31 December 2026.
- Must submit all quarterly Audits—June, September, December, and March to the Department Quartermaster. Each Audit must be sent to and accepted by the Department Quartermaster at gmdpa@vfwpacific.org no later than the final day of the first month after the Audit period ends.
 - Quarterly due dates are as follows:
 - Apr - Jun Audit is due to Department QM NLT 31 Jul
 - Jul - Sep Audit is due to Department QM NLT 31 Oct
 - Oct - Dec Audit is due to Department QM NLT 31 Jan
 - Jan - Mar Audit is due to Department QM NLT 30 Apr
- Must submit at least 8 Community Service Reports (CSRs) each quarter from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.
- Must participate in the Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriots Pen (PP) Programs by submitting one entry per program via the ScholarsApp platform to the District Level, as well as recording an entry in the VFW All-American Dashboard. Alternatively, the Post may choose to make a \$125 donation per program to the VFW National Director of Programs, for each program in which it does not participate, using the VMS Donation link available on the VFW All American Dashboard. Donations submitted

through any other method will not be accepted and only the Quartermaster is authorized to make the payment.

- Must donate at least \$125 to the National Veterans Service (NVS) Program. This contribution must be made through the NVS Donation link found on the VFW All-American Dashboard. Donations submitted by any other method will not be accepted, and only the Quartermaster is authorized to make the payment.
- Must add at least one New or Upgraded Legacy Life Member.
- Must purchase 500 Buddy Poppies through the Department Quartermaster (form available on the Department website). For questions, contact the Department Quartermaster at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org.
- Must take part in the Department Awards program by submitting at least one Post nominee to the District for judging NLT 30 March 2027.
- Must participate in the annual Department fundraising campaign by purchasing a full-page advertisement in the "Year in Review" publication for \$200. Donations should be sent to the Department Quartermaster at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org, and advertisements forwarded to PDC Larry Lyons, the Year in Review chairman, at pdcl Lyons935@gmail.com by 15 May 2027.
- Commander is required to attend all District meetings. If unable to attend, the Senior Vice Commander or Junior Vice Commander may attend on behalf of the Post Commander and MUST deliver the Commander's report. Participation virtually is permitted when travel distance makes in-person attendance unfeasible. Following each District meeting, attendance reports must be submitted directly to the Department Senior Vice Commander at svcdpa@vfwpacific.org.

• ALL-STATE AWARDS

Districts or Posts designated as All-State by April 15, 2027:

- District Commanders will be awarded an All-State Cap or a \$50.00 stipend redeemable at the VFW Store, as well as complimentary tickets for the Department Convention Awards/Installation banquet for both the recipient and a guest, provided by Department.
- Post Commanders will be provided airfare to and from the Department Convention from their home District. Award recipients will receive either an All-State Cap or a \$50.00 stipend for use at the VFW Store, along with paid Department Convention Awards/Installation Banquet tickets for themselves and one guest, courtesy of Department. Additionally, Post Commanders residing in the country hosting the Department Convention will be granted a \$300 stipend to facilitate attendance.

- All-State Quartermasters will be awarded either an All-State Cap or a \$50.00 stipend for use at the VFW Store and will receive a \$300 stipend if they attend the Department Convention.

Districts or Posts designated as All-State by June 30, 2027:

- District Commanders will be awarded an All-State Cap or a \$50.00 stipend redeemable at the VFW Store, as well as complimentary tickets for the Department Mid-Winter Conference 2027 banquet for both the recipient and a guest, provided by Department. Airfare for attendance at the Department Mid-Winter Conference 2027 will be provided if the individual is no longer serving as District Commander.
- Post Commanders will be provided airfare to and from the Department Mid-Winter Conference 2027 from their home District. Award recipients will receive either an All-State Cap or a \$50.00 stipend for use at the VFW Store, along with paid Department Mid-Winter Conference 2027 Banquet tickets for themselves and one guest, courtesy of Department.
- All-State Quartermasters will be awarded either an All-State Cap or a \$50.00 stipend to the VFW Store, in addition to a \$200 stipend if they participate in the Department Mid-Winter Conference 2027.

Important Notes:

All-State District and Post Commanders whose airfare is covered by the Department are required to attend every Department business meeting, except for Committee Meetings. Airfare awards cannot be transferred to another person.