

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2025-2026



**AMY HOPE MEUCHEL
COMMANDER**

"MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT"

Greeting Comrades! I am honored to be elected as your Department Commander for the 2025-2026 administration year. With all of us working for a common goal, the Department of Maine Veterans of Foreign Wars can do outstanding things for our organization and our mission! I have faith in each and everyone of you to make the effort to fulfill our goals for this year and assist every veteran and veteran family that we possible can in the great State of Maine!

Please read this membership program in its entirety, as changes have been made to this year's program to make sure all our members have a chance to be recognized for their hard work, their efforts and to outline the requirements of this program as it has been designed.

The Department's membership chairman is Steve SanPedro. Please reach out to him or a member of the Department membership team for assistance with anything contained within this program's requirements.

Membership is the backbone of our organization; Without members there is no organization.

Respectfully,

**Amy Hope Meuchel
Commander**

"MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT"



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2025-2026



**Membership is the backbone of our organization.
Without members there is no organization.**

Our goals are:

1. **Retain and Mentor** our current Continuous Members from the 2024-2025 year.
2. **Recruit** New Members (**Continuous and Life**).
3. **Reinstate** our Lapsed and Unpaid Members.
4. **Encourage** Continuous Members to become Life Members.
5. **Motivate** Life Members to become Legacy Life Members.

***Everyone in the organization is a recruiter and every member is part of
the***

MEMBERSHIP TEAM.

Post Percentage Membership Target Date for 2025-2026 are by end of month:

Sept - 75% Oct- 80% Nov- 85% Dec-90% Feb-95% Mar-100%

The **ALL-STATE** Contest ends on June 30th, 2026.

The **Membership** Contest Year ends June 30th, 2026.

All members of the organization should be familiar with the guidelines and available awards within this program and how to qualify to receive them. If all criteria are met and the proper form is filled out, then the award will be given. If criteria are not met or the form is not filled out, then no award will be given. The size written on the form is the size that will be awarded. The Department will not be liable to replace wrong size ordered awards. (Shirts, Hats, etc.)

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

To assist our Posts, Districts, and the Department in meeting the goals set out by the Commander-in-Chief and meeting the goals set out by our Department of Maine, the National Headquarters has a wealth of resources at your disposal. Many of these resources are available free of charge to our members.

- Membership materials ranging from applications, recruiting brochures, posters and benefit brochures can be ordered directly from the Membership Department using the Membership Order form (located under Membership Quick Links once you log into vfw.org)

-Resources for Post Development, Membership Campaigns and Mentorship, such as training guides, videos and webinars are available in the Training & Support section on vfw.org

-Promotional tools such as radio spots, sample advertisements, public service announcements and media kits are available in the Media Room on vfw.org

*****vfw.org*****

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATUS

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National has the current Membership status that can be reviewed on the internet at <http://www.vfw.org> or under the Department of Maine web site "<http://www.vfwme.org>" [vfwme.org](http://www.vfwme.org)

Quartermasters have their Password and are responsible for ensuring the information is correct. If information is incorrect then the Quartermasters Manual has the proper phone numbers for National to get the problem corrected.

2025-2026

"MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT"

1. **EARLY BIRD DRAWING:** A drawing for two free Life Memberships. The first drawing will be drawn on Sept 30, 2025, for members expiring July through December 2025. All members that have paid their dues by Sept 30, 2025, will be entered. The Second drawing will be drawn on March 31, 2026, for members expiring January through June 2026. All members that have paid their dues by March 31, 2026, will be entered into the drawing. **This is an attempt to get Members to pay their dues early and be rewarded for it. **Be sure to put this out at your meetings!

2. **EARLY BIRD RECRUITING DRAWING:** A drawing for two \$100.00 cash awards. Any Member who signs up two new or reinstated members will be entered into the drawing. Members will get one chance for every two Members recruited. The first drawing will be drawn at the October 2025 CoA for members recruited July 1, 2025 until October CoA. The Second drawing will be drawn at the April 2026 CoA for members recruited from the October 2025 CoA up to the April CoA.

3. **The first Post** under 200 Members to achieve 102% will receive a Plaque.

4. **The first Post** over 200 members to achieve 102% will receive a Plaque.

5. **The first two Posts** to recruit 10 New Members will receive a check for \$100.00

6. The **Top Post Commander** in each Membership Division, with the most New Members at close of business on 30 November 2024 will receive a **Chrome Plated VFW Cross Pen with VFW Emblem.** **(Must be over 3)**

7. The **Top Post Commander** in each Membership Division with the most New Members at the close of business on January 31, 2025, will be issued an **Executive Folder.** **(Must be over 6)**

8. The **Top Post** in each Membership Division that has recruited the most New Members by April 30, 2026, will receive a plaque. **(Must be 10 New Members)**

9. A CHECK for \$50.00 will be awarded to the **Top Post** in each Membership Division that has recruited the most **Life** Members by April 30th, 2025. **(MUST be over 10)**

10. A White VFW Shirt or Navy Blue Polo Shirt (Your Choice) will be issued to any member that signs up at least 10 New/Reinstated Members by June 30th, 2026. **(Limited to just one of each shirt)**

11. A Soft Brief Bag will be awarded to the Top Post Commander in each Division that has picked up the most Life Members by June 30th, 2026. **(Must be over 5)**

12. A Plaque will be awarded to the 2 Posts with the longest continuous growth. **(Must be minimum of 5 years)**

13. All 101% Post and District Commanders and Quartermasters will receive a 101% Pin. **(This goes until June 30, 2026)**

14. All Post and District Commanders that become 101% will receive a **Special Citation** in a Frame Signed by the State Membership Chairman and State Commander. **(This goes until June 30, 2026)**

15. Any VFW Member or Auxiliary Member that recruits 5 New/Reinstated Members for the VFW will receive a **Special State Commander Ball Cap**. **(This goes until June 30, 2026)**

16. Recruiter of the Year: The member that has the most New members with a minimum of 20 will receive two paid nights at the Hotel for the Department Convention and a banquet ticket.



ALL-STATE COMMANDER'S & QUARTERMASTER'S CRITERIA



QUOTAS ARE 101% OF 2025's MEMBERSHIP TOTAL

DIVISION # 1	10 - 50	DIVISION # 4	151 – 200
DIVISION # 2	51 - 100	DIVISION # 5	201 – 300
DIVISION # 3	101 - 150	DIVISION # 6	301 - Higher

1. POST COMMANDERS & QUARTERMASTERS that reach a minimum of 101% of the previous year's Membership by June 30, 2026, and have **ALL OF** the following achieved:

- a. Must be 100% reported in all **ACTIVITIES** by June 30th through the All-American Dashboard and approved by National VFW.
- b. Must have all Post Trustees Reports turned in for each quarter within 45 days of reporting period and verified by Department Quartermaster.
- c. Must have post inspection completed and submitted by January 31, 2026.
- d. Must have purchased 5 Buddy Poppies per member (Membership Quota at end of 2025 Year)
- e. Must have a Recruiting Event (Reported to State Membership Chairman) (**Check w/ State QM if insurance is required**)
- f. Must complete a **fundraiser** with the proceeds going to Veterans & Military Support Program, minimum of \$50.00 (**SEND REPORT TO: Christopher Armstrong after submitting report through All-American Dashboard at the following link** <https://hereos.vfw.org/page/22950/donate/1>)
- g. Must donate a minimum of \$50.00 to the Commanders Special Project along with promotion and awareness of the project.
- h. Must have a minimum of one entry for Voice of Democracy and one entry for Patriot Pens submitted to District for judging.

2. All Post Commanders and Quartermasters must have each PERSONALLY recruited **TWO (2) New Members.**

3. The Commander and Quartermaster are each required to accomplish activities and membership listed in items above. For instance, if the Commander does not qualify in any of the required task and the Quartermaster does, the Quartermaster could be an "All State" even though the Commander doesn't qualify. **(THIS GOES BOTH WAYS)**

If you are qualified, you will receive the following:

- a. Commander – Quartermaster – Cap
- b. Commander – Quartermaster – Citation
- c. Commander – Quartermaster – Convention Banquet Ticket (If qualified before the banquet)

The awards will be given out at the Department Convention Banquet in June 2026, if qualified by May 2026. Anyone qualifying after this date but before July 1, 2026, will receive awards at the October CoA.

ALL-STATE DISTRICT COMMANDER'S CRITERIA

1. The District Commander must:

- a. Have all Posts at or above 100% of the previous year's membership.
- b. Have submitted at least 1 Patriots Pen and 1 Voice of Democracy to Department for judging.
- c. Have all Posts purchase 5 Buddy Poppy's per member based off the 2024 - 2025 Membership.
- d. Have all Posts submit all Trustee reports to the Department Quartermaster.
- e. Have all Posts bonded, and proof submitted to the Department Quartermaster.
- f. Have all Posts conduct a recruiter event and attend and participate in at least one event.
- g. Have District Trustees Reports turned in for each reporting period and verified by Department Quartermaster.
- h. Have visited all posts at least once during the year, prepare, and submit a formal report to the Department Commander and Department Adjutant. (For Districts with less than four (4) post, it is highly recommended that more than one visit is conducted.)
- i. Have one meeting for the purpose of promoting schools of instruction for Post officers.

2. District Commanders must have each PERSONALLY recruited **TWO (2) New Members.**

3. All-State District Commanders are eligible to purchase an All-State District Commander cover at their own expense.

****OUTSTANDING DISTRICT COMMANDER OF THE YEAR****

The prize is a trip to the National Convention and an OUTSTANDING DISTRICT COMMANDER OF THE YEAR COVER. The trip covered is plane fare **which you must arrange** and stipend to help cover part of the cost of the room equal to a national appointment; Or you can still receive the Hat and refuse the trip and receive \$200.00 to do with as you please.

***CAPTAIN OF THE ALL-STATE COMMANDERS TEAM* WILL RECEIVE**

A Trip to the National Convention 2026 in: Reno, Nevada in July 2026. This amount will be the same amount as National gives for an appointment which is the flight **which you must arrange** and a stipend to help cover part of the cost of the room; Or you can decline the trip and receive a check for \$200.00 to do with as you please along with a cover with "Captain of the ALL-State Team."

Captain will be based on:

- a. Post percentage
- b. Number of New and Reinstated Members

**WHEN IN DOUBT ASK FOR HELP FROM THE DEPARTMENT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, ASST. CHAIRMAN OR DEPUTY
CHAIRMAN DEALING WITH MEMBERSHIP PROBLEMS.**

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Membership Chairman:

Steven SanPedro

251 Gray Rd.

Windham, ME 04062

Tel: 207 894-5260

Email: sanpedro105@roadrunner.com

Membership State Recruiter:

(North) Membership

James A. Ewing

2368 Lee Rd.

Lee, ME 04455-4409

Tel: 207-290-3865

Email: ewing2004@hotmail.com

Membership State Recruiter:

(Central) Membership

Chad Steward

101 Eaton Corner Road

Athens, ME 04912

Tel: 207-654-2830

Email: cwsteward1964@gmail.com

Membership State Recruiter:

(South) Membership

James Bachelder

2973 Milton Mills Rd.

Acton, ME 04001

Tel: 207-432-7127

Email: James.bachelder@metrocast.net



BELOW IS THE COST FOR

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Thru 30 \$425.00
31 – 40 \$410.00
41 – 50 \$375.00
51 – 60 \$335.00
61 – 70 \$290.00
71 – 80 \$225.00
81 – UP \$170.00



“ALL-STATE CHECK OFF LIST”

(This was put together **“ONLY AS A TOOL”** to assist you)



ALL OF THE INFORMATION HERE IS TAKEN FROM THE DEPARTMENT of MAINE 2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM.

THE ALL-STATE CONTEST ENDS ON JUNE 30th, 2026 / COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES ENDS ON JUNE 30th, 2026

1. ALL QUOTA'S ARE 101% OF 2025's MEMBERSHIP TOTAL (DIV'S ARE LISTED IN PROGRAM)
 - a. ARE WE 101% OF LAST YEAR? _____
2. DID WE REPORTED IN VOD and PATRIOTS PEN? _____
3. DID WE send the Veterans & Military Support Program Minimum of \$50.00?
4. (Chairman is Jennifer Lane – Questions Please Call or E-mail him) _____
5. DID WE PURCHASED 5 BUDDY POPPIES PER MEMBER? _____
6. ARE WE REPORTED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE? _____
7. WAS POST INSPECTED AND SUBMITTED BY JANUARY 31, 2026? _____
8. DID WE TURN IN POST TRUSTEE REPORTS FOR EACH QUARTER? _____
9. DID MY POST COMPLETE A RECRUITER EVENT? _____
10. DID POST COMDR “or” QM RECRUIT 2 NEW MEMBERS? _____
11. DID WE send in a Minimum of \$50.00 to the COMMANDERS SPECIAL PROJECT? _____

ALL POSTS SHOULD HAVE THEIR MEMBERSHIP TEAMS IN PLACE BY NOW AND SHOULD MEET ONCE A WEEK TO SEE WHERE THEIR POSTS STAND AND PLAN NEW THINGS TO GET ALL THE NEW / REINSTATED AND LIFE MEMBERS THAT THEY CAN TO MAKE THEIR POSTS NUMBER #1 IN THE STATE.

ALSO REMEMBER – WE MUST RETAIN THE MEMBERS WE HAVE TO STAY STRONG!

RECRUITING IS EVERYONES JOB **“YES EVERYONE” IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO GROW IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MAINE THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR!
HAVE YOU RECRUITED A MEMBER THIS WEEK?
READ THE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

<p><u>REMEMBER THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE TO ASSIST YOU.</u> YOU MUST STILL STUDY THE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM ON A REGULAR BASIS.</p>
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MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT



**AMY HOPE MEUCHEL
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
DEPT OF MAINE, VFW 2025 - 2026**



FORM TO BE COMPLETED FOR ALL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

(PRINT or TYPE) Name of Member:	Shirt Type White/Polo	Size	Post Number	Name on sleeve	Remarks
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					

{EVERYTHING ON THIS FORM MUST BE PRINTED OR TYPED}
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

Mail this Form when Completed to:
Membership Chairman
Steven SanPedro
251 Gray Rd. Windham, ME 04062
sanpedro105@roadrunner.com

RECRUITING EVENTS

Post or District# _____

Location of Event _____ Date _____ Time _____

VFW Member & Title Present at Event

Description of Event: _____

Approximate # of People Talked With: _____

of People Signed Up: New _____ Reinstated _____

Comments of Event: _____

Notify Membership Chairman Steven SanPedro of Event prior to Date of Event.

Submit a signed copy of this Report to the Membership Chairman
Steven SanPedro 251 Gray Rd., Windham, ME 04062

"mailto:sanpedro105@roadrunner.com" sanpedro105@roadrunner.com

Please include photos or news articles to be used in the Commanders
Membership Book

Date: _____

Signature of Post Commander or Department Officer