

# General Orders

AUGUST 2022



## AUDIT REPORTS

### QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Post Commanders, please ensure the Audits are turned in to the Department office. A Commander is not allowed to appoint an acting Trustee to fill in for a Trustee who is not present to sign an Audit.

## QUARTERMASTER BONDS

### BONDING

Quartermasters are required per Section 703, page 39 of the Bylaws to be bonded. The current bonds expire August 31, 2022. The rates are \$4.50 for \$3,000 to \$25,000, \$3.50 for \$26,000 to \$250,000, \$3.00 for \$251,000 to \$500,000, \$2.75 for \$501,000 to \$600,00 per thousand.

## STATE FAIR

### SD STATE FAIR

The Department VFW will have their own tent, table, and recruiting efforts at the State Fair in a different location. The building was sold to the DAV and the Department decided to rent a different space. If you would like to volunteer, contact Sr. Vice Commander, Dave Baumiller at 605-593-3389



## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING

The new online website for the South Dakota Dashboard is up and running. All community service is to be reported online. Log in to [www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org) > Login > Members Only > Member ID# = Member number and Password = Last Name with first letter capitalized.

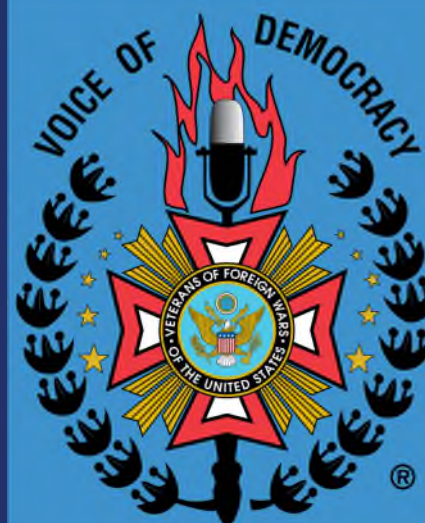
If you have any problems or need help, please contact Anna Waltner at the Department office 605-332-7441.

## VOD / PP / Teachers Award

Commanders, please make sure you have appointed a Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher's Award Chairperson for 2022-2023 Command Year. The time to start these programs is upon us. This information must be put into the National Dashboard and sent to Jerry Seiner, the Department Chairperson for these programs.

[Jerry.seiner@hotmail.com](mailto:Jerry.seiner@hotmail.com) or 605-481-1338. You can find the applications at [www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org) > resources > templates and forms > Programs

[www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org)



## FALL COUNCIL / HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 7 - 9, 2022

Fall Council is scheduled for October 7 - 9, 2022 at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Oacoma, SD. The room rates are \$99 per night. Please make your reservation as soon as possible.

The registration form will be in the back of these General Orders. You can also find them online at [www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org) > News > Fall Council Registration 2022

[www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org)

**Post Chaplains are reminded to forward deceased names to Post Quartermasters for proper reporting online to National.**

## BIG TEN CONFERENCE

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Members are reminded that the Big Ten Conference will be held in Milwaukee, WI October 14 - 16, 2022. You are encouraged and welcomed to attend.

If you would like to attend the Big Ten Conference, use this link to sign up for your registration.  
<https://form.jotform.com/220134250899153>

[www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org)

***Baseball Fans! Check out the SD VFW Baseball Website or Department Facebook Event Page for upcoming Tournaments!***

## District Fall Meetings

- District 1 - September 25, 2022 at 2 pm in Alcester
- District 4 - September 18, 2022 at 2 pm in Watertown Post #750
- District 6 - October 2, 2022 at 1 pm in Aberdeen at the Moose Club
- District 7 - October 23, 2022 at 2 pm in Chamberlain Post #6436
- District 10 - September 18, 2022 at 1 pm in Deadwood Post #5969

**ATTENTION: IF YOU WOULD LIKE A HARD COPY OF THE NATIONAL BYLAWS THAT ARE BEING PRINTED RIGHT NOW, PLEASE CONTACT ANNA AT THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE 605-332-7441 OR [ANNA@VFWDEPTSD.COM](mailto:ANNA@VFWDEPTSD.COM)**

**\*\*\*\*We will order no more than 1 copy per Post\*\*\*\***

**Membership Hot Tip: When looking at MemStats for your records, the "Prior Year" column is how many members your Post or District had on June 30, 2021. That is the amount of people you need to have on your Roster to have 100% on June 30, 2023.**



**OFFICIAL:**

*Anna Waltner*

QUARTERMASTER / ADJUTANT  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA VFW

**BY ORDER OF:**

*Tom Hafner*

COMMANDER  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA VFW

## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AUGUST GENERAL ORDERS

The Leadership of your Department has accepted the challenge of moving our Organization in a positive direction. This was demonstrated by the outstanding attendance of VFW and Auxiliary at the National Convention in Kansas City. Your delegation participated in several seminars, committee meetings, business meetings and awards ceremonies that will be beneficial to our membership over the course of this year. Thank you to all who attended.

If you have reviewed the “to do” checklist in the 2022-2023 Program & Membership Guide you can see we are approaching our busiest months; from Recruiting activities to District meetings to Fall Council to Youth activities and the list goes on. These activities will be addressed as part of the current and future General Orders by the individual Chairperson or Committee Representative. Your participation in these various activities is essential to our success. Leadership at all levels need your support. If your Chairperson or Committee Representative requests your assistance - please respond positively.

The National Commander-in-Chief’s number one goal this year is Membership. At the National level we have fallen below one million members; so, he has set the goal of 102% of Quota this year. Our first goal is to reach our Quota, which for South Dakota is 7,122. Each Post can go to the National website to obtain your Quota for this year. Our starting point is to retain 95% of our Continuous Members. Retention is a matter of contacting your Unpaid members and asking them to remain a member of our great Organization. Explain the benefits they have earned and what the VFW has to offer and that they are a valued member. We have Recruiting events planned across the State in an effort to gain new members and reinstate prior members, however, there is no better Recruiter than each of us asking a veteran one on one to join our ranks. Our Membership year began July 1. I am asking each Post and District to formulate your Membership Plan and implement it immediately.

A correction is in order regarding last month’s General Orders. My apologies. It was previously stated that a Post would be in arrears if it failed to satisfy its Obligations and District Dues, however, it was brought to our attention that only those obligations outlined in the Department or District Bylaws can be classified as such. That being said, District Dues are addressed in each individual District Bylaws and are therefore a requirement concerning representation at District and Department meetings. The Department is requesting that each Post make the appropriate donations to these worthwhile Programs to assist your veterans and promote the South Dakota VFW.

I am looking forward to attending as many of the upcoming District Meetings as possible. Also, Fall Council of Administration is scheduled for October 7 – 9 in Oacoma. Hope to see you there.

If I can be of any assistance, contact me at the email or phone number (leave a message if no answer) listed below.

Tom Hafner

Commander

[tbmhafner@santel.net](mailto:tbmhafner@santel.net) // 605-661-2750

Hope everyone made it back from the convention safely.

Now down to business...we have 2 posts that will be going away if we don't do something quickly. One post's demise is due to lack of membership, National will take their charter away. The other post will be closed due to failure to turn in the election report. I can't believe we're letting this happen, we know better than this. We know how to fix this.

This week I'm sending all Post Commanders a booklet I picked up at the convention. Please read through it because it's got a lot of important information on membership and post revitalization.

We're just under 7100 in membership. Before we lose any more posts, let's work together to make this Department healthy and alive. We don't need these people on an at-large list.

Dave Baumiller  
Sr. Vice Commander  
Department of South Dakota VFW  
[davebaumiller@gmail.com](mailto:davebaumiller@gmail.com)

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Greetings Fellow Veterans!

June has been full of excitement as I am planning to attend the Sturgis Rally for 3 days to work membership. Along with attempting to gain a member or two at the Parkston Freedom Rally. Watching a portion of the Vietnam Memorial Wall make its way down Main Street on June 29, 2022 and enjoying the festivities warmed my heart through this town's amazing sense of Patriotism.

I learned a great deal at the VFW National Convention in Kansas City July 16-21, 2022 and have returned with new ideas regarding membership recruiting!

Your Post and District Membership Plans are due to the State Adjutant Office **NLT October 1, 2022-No Exceptions**. I supplied an example of my Membership Plan in the June 2022 General Orders.

\*\*The original state Jr. Vice CDR Membership Plan indicated a suspense date of May 15, 2023 to reach 100% membership on the state level. However, the VFW National HQs have listed a suspense date of May 1, 2023 to reach 100% so I have adjusted the state Jr. Vice CDR Plan to reflect that date (please refer to the Membership Plan attached to this correspondence).

I am here for you if you need anything or have any questions concerning membership. I am here to serve you. Thank You for Everything You Do for Veterans and their Family Members each day!  
Things to be included on your post and district membership plans are as follows:

1. Date Membership Drive started in your post/district.
2. How many new, reinstated or annual members your Post plans on recruiting this year.
3. How many annual members will become life members.
4. What is your target date to get 100% plus.
5. How many members will be working on membership (include their phone numbers).
6. How many recruiting days will you have during the year.
7. Include any other pertinent information.

## Membership Plan:

1. The Jr. Vice CDR Membership Drive will begin July 1, 2022 and continue through June 30, 2023.
2. I plan on attending events throughout the year to increase our membership numbers in SD as a whole, and will invite post and district members to join me at the events within their districts, to assist them with increasing their own district and post membership numbers.
3. Life Membership is very important. It is my hope that at least 10% of all Annual Members within SD become Life Members.
4. The State Jr. Vice CDR target date of 100% plus for the entire state is **\*May 1, 2023**.
5. Every VFW member should be working on membership. This includes holding membership drives and carrying a VFW Application with you at all times. I keep a pack on me at all times. If each member of SD's VFW signs up one member by May 15, 2023 we should have no problem reaching our 100% plus goal across the state this command year.
6. Every day is a Membership Recruiting Day and Opportunity!

Very Respectfully,

Glynis Collier  
Jr. Vice CDR  
DEPT of SD VFW  
[dakpatriot@gmail.com](mailto:dakpatriot@gmail.com)  
Cell #803-466-7031

Note: "\*" Indicates an update to this document.

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I'm Robert Harrington, your State Surgeon. I am looking forward to working with every one of you.

My plan for this year is to get out to hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living to visit with our Veterans. I will be going to at least 1 in every District.

Once again, I look forward to working with everyone. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Robert C Harrington  
Department of South Dakota VFW  
State Surgeon  
[Robharrington73@gmail.com](mailto:Robharrington73@gmail.com)  
912-346-0193

Greetings,

This last month I was lucky enough to have an appointment to attend the National Convention in Kansas City, MO and I enjoyed my time and learned a lot from the different Service Officer classes. As I am sure, most of you have seen the PACT Act was just voted down in the Senate. As we know as veterans, nothing good comes easy. I know that we all will continue to fight for what is right and for others. I am looking forward to putting on the Post Service Officer Training at the Fall Council and would appreciate it if the Post Service Officers could make it, and if not take notes because there will be a test. Okay there will not be a test, but there will be information that will need to be shared with other members who are unable to attend.

Cody Mangold

Department Service Officer

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Just a quick summary of my activities since the start of this year.

Went to the memorial services for Darwin's wife Jean. The auxiliary memorial ritual on Saturday and the comital on Monday at the South Dakota State Veteran's Cemetery. Upon leaving I stopped and picked up information about the cemetery to copy and hand out at recruiting events.

Attended the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Ramona. The District 4 flag was carried along with the American and VFW flags. After parade set up and man an informational table close to the announcer's stand.

Signed up a new life member

Bill Orton, District 4

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## National Legislative Committee Aug 2022 GO's Barbara McKean

Are you interested in what's going on at Washington, DC with Legislative Priorities affecting our Veterans? The VFW is carrying the voice of 22 Million Veterans! Our nation made a promise to those who serve, and we fight to ensure it is kept.

Please visit our National website to check out what the VFW is doing and see where we stand on the issues at: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>

### **Our 2022 Priority Goals:**

- Budget
  - Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
  - Education, Employment and Transition Assistance
  - Health Care
  - Military Quality of Life
  - National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA
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## VOD/PP/Teacher of the Year

There is a new kid on the block. I am Jerry Seiner from Post 7319 in Wagner, and I will be the new Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year Committee Chairman.

I would like to start by thanking Keith Blume for his many years of service to the program. He has done an exceptional job; his shoes will be hard to fill.

We will not be following the dates that are recommended by the National Committee. The deadline for having the five district contest winners to me is **December 7, 2022**. Each district may set their own deadline but must have essays to me by the December date. Teacher of the Year nominations from the districts will hold the same deadline date, **December 7, 2022**.

The topic for the Voice of Democracy contest this year is "Why is the Veteran Important?" The topic for the Patriot's Pen contest is "My Pledge to Our Veterans". Entry forms for the contests are included in the General Orders or you may go to the VFW website at [www.vfwsd.org](http://www.vfwsd.org). Click on the community tab and then go to Youth and Education to find more information on the three programs.

All three of the programs are now a requirement for All American status for your post. You must have at least one entry for VOD and Patriot's Pen and one entry in any of the 3 teacher categories.

I can be contacted by phone at 605-481-1338 or email at [jerry.seiner@hotmail.com](mailto:jerry.seiner@hotmail.com). I am here to answer any of your questions or assist you in any way I can. Together we can make your post successful in these programs.



The National Convention was attended by approximately 25 VFW members and 30 Auxiliary members from the State of South Dakota.



Parkston VFW Post 3298 received the All-American honor and “walked across the stage” during the National Convention. To the right is Post 3298’s Post Commander, Charles McKean



Dr. Martin Christensen, Post QM and Cindy Christensen, Post Chaplain from Post 2750 in Mitchell SD accepted the award for Outstanding Community Service Post during the 123<sup>rd</sup> National Convention.



Saturday started off with Membership workshops followed by Dashboard Training and the National Council of Administration Meeting, which all provided excellent training and the opportunity to see our very own Rick Williamson in Action during the National COA meeting.

On Sunday we attended the Big Ten Conference meeting where Carol Whitmore from Iowa was elected into the chairs and will be the First Female National VFW Commander in History. It was a great day to be in the VFW. This was followed by Committee Meetings for all our delegates elected from South Dakota to sit in and vote on resolutions that affect us all. **Great Job Team South Dakota!**

Monday and Tuesday are when the business sessions were held, filled with guest speakers, awards and presentations. Tuesday Night ended with a Patriotic Parade followed by entertainment from Chapel Hart, Musical Group from Mississippi! So Good!

Our new Commander in Chief, Tim Borland was elected and sworn in on Thursday, along with all National officers.

Troy Foster from Sisseton VFW Post made and donated the below flag with the Eagle which was part of the silent auction during the National Convention. This donation and flag was sold for \$450. All money raised goes to VMS and will benefit Military Veterans and their families. Thanks again Troy, your donation was greatly appreciated and reflects very highly for the State of South Dakota!



It was hot and very humid this year in Kansas City, MO, but a great time was had by all. I strongly encourage you to attend a future National Convention.



## Below are the questions and responses in regards to the State Convention:

These email(s) were forwarded to Commander, Tom Hafner and as a courtesy for the Past Commander, Barb McKean is the one to have the opportunity to address your concerns

The original venue for the State Convention, which had been under contract for 3 years, was immediately closed within 90 days before our State Convention which left us scrambling for accommodations.

Each concern or frustration emailed to us is in bold. Response is immediately below.

1. **Need a better microphone so all can hear. This may have been operator error, but still.**
  - a. This was discussed during the Convention planning meetings and the State President and her team originally decided the Auxiliary did not need a microphone. Going forward, recommend putting the microphone closer to your mouth so you can be heard better and have one available as a back-up.



2. **Sunday morning was bad news and if the Auxiliary members had not helped, it would have been worse. When we needed a breakout room, it was bad to be interrupted and told to be out before we were finished. If they can't accommodate a little longer, we need someplace that can. This is so infrequent that I felt they were unreasonable.**
  - a. This impromptu early meeting was not scheduled. There were 2 other rooms available that could have been used in the facility. The building was reserved for specific days and times based on the request from both the VFW and the Auxiliary. If there was a need for the use of that room earlier or later than scheduled, this could have been communicated and possibly accommodated.
3. **It is nice not to have to run across town for lunch. Was there any reason, the food could not have been served in one of the other rooms at the venue?**
  - a. The Auxiliary specifically requested the Gold Star lunch to be catered from somewhere else.
4. **We had much better food for lunch than the banquet. The chicken was apparently frozen food, not fresh made and certainly not up to temp. I expect better for the price.**
  - a. This is a personal opinion and we have received nothing but positive remarks for others in attendance.
5. **The "included" meals that we all paid for but then had to pay for our chairman and Gold Star Family meals. Next time all meals should be ala carte, so we only pay for those we partake in.**
  - a. This is standard tradition. This was also discussed and approved by the Auxiliary.
6. **I think if they are serving lunches like they did, we should stay at the facility and just eat the food. It was not a "box lunch" as we were led to believe we would have if we didn't leave.**
  - a. The Auxiliary committee wanted it this way. They wanted to go to a separate location and have this catered by request. There is a reason there is a committee Chair and co-chair from both the VFW and Auxiliary for the State Convention.
7. **I know people just walked into Gold Star and Hospitality Night at Post and Officer meals that did not pay.**
  - a. This was an Auxiliary event. It may be a good idea for next year to have the Auxiliary as the point of contact for any separate events, including the RSVPs and collection of funds.
8. **Hospitality Night. I fully agree with Kim on all her points. Enough said. Don't plan on me paying next year if this is how it will be.**
  - a. This is a campaign for Candidacy. The feedback from the VFW is that they want food. The money collected from the Candidates is supposed to cover the catering brought in. However, we only received money from 4 of the Auxiliary Candidates.
9. **I also disagree with this full meal and all the leftovers that were given free to bar patrons, not even registered for convention, also all the bar patrons or whoever they were, that should have been up there eating.**
  - a. The local Mitchell VFW Post paid over ½ of this meal. The rest was paid from the candidates. The LEFTOVER food was shared with Post patrons so as not to be wasted.
10. **The Post needs to stop charging candidates \$100 for this. The Post should cut down on the food (no meal needed) and pay for it entirely since money is apparently no object to them.**
  - a. Again, this is a personal opinion. This is tradition and not the opinion of the VFW. It is better to work as a team than to separate all events. At the very least more cost effective that way. Again, this was discussed during the State Convention planning process and approved by both the VFW and Auxiliary.
11. **Hospitality Room. Very crowded, probably because no liquor at venue. I can live with that.**
  - a. This is also tradition. Any other Convention that you attend, this is going to happen. Next year, we are looking for more options in hotel rooms but because there was another function in town that weekend, this was the best option we had at the time. We also would have liked a bigger room.

- 12. There needs to be better communication with the Post side. I know the Post controls the convention; however, there needs to be cost savings. Time after time the members tell us they cannot afford to attend these events but instead of cutting costs, the costs go up. The cost of housing was outrageous for those staying at hotels. There needs to be better negotiating of prices and amenities for all these events or find another location.**
  - a. This was a coordinated effort between the VFW and the Auxiliary, not just what the VFW wanted. Costs go up because of inflation and the cost of doing business.
- 13. If the Post wants to have “free meals” included, let the Post pay for the meals, not the members through the registration fee. This was a first and the higher prices were not appreciated by many.**
  - a. Will need some clarification on what your idea of a “free meal” is. None of this was free.
- 14. The Post apparently does not have Gold Star or Chairman type lunches, so they don’t consider that we pay an extra \$35 or so added to the registration.**
  - a. This is tradition. This is how this has always been done. The Auxiliary coordinated the Gold Star event during the Convention. VFW (or Post) had nothing to do with this.
- 15. We need to cut down on wasted time during the day when business could be conducted instead of spending extra days there. Having some meetings packed too closely together (Memorial and Gold Star) but then having hour long breaks between meetings should be avoided. Some of this cannot be avoided but there is way too much.**
  - a. The agendas are done individually by both the VFW and Auxiliary.
- 16. Name badges need to be color coded if the person is not a member of Auxiliary. It was pointed out to me later that everyone’s tags were the same, so I potentially let a non-member enter the meeting, even though we have always been told the name tag is fine.**
  - a. The VFW would appreciate if the name tags could be done by the Auxiliary in the future. Anna already has so much on her plate for the Convention and would not have time to color code name tags. The VFW has protocol in place for this exact issue, so we would not need the color-coded name tags.
- 17. The Mitchell Post and Auxiliary did the best they could, and I thank them for that, but I hope the post can correct all our concerns for next year.**
  - a. It is not the Post or VFW’s fault that some of you in the Auxiliary were not happy with this State Convention. We feel bad, but it was totally out of our control. However, this is why there is a Chairman and co-Chairman from both the VFW and Auxiliary for this exact reason.
- 18. Venue - nice venue - maybe should have switched rooms, as my understanding was there were more Auxiliary members there. Limited space to try and do floor work (especially for newbies lol)**
  - a. The Auxiliary was offered to do the marching in the Armory to allow for more room. This was decided by the Auxiliary that they did not want that and declined. The Auxiliary was also there during the planning stages, and even walk-throughs, and this was never mentioned. My recommendation is to move all the unnecessary, extra tables, etc. from your meeting room for seating purposes.
- 19. Failure to communicate - but on who’s part? Venue wasn’t ready for set up the night before (I was instructed to be there by 3 to set up, stage wasn’t ready). Unaware Auxiliary was meeting there on Sunday morning. Meeting cut short to clear out.**
  - a. We could only get into the 4-H Fairgrounds at 3 pm. The stage had to be “put together” when at venue. Everything else could have been set up at that time. I was there and there was plenty to be done at 3.
- 20. Not a bad thing to not have alcohol available 24/7. Some people liked...some did not. But I think it was nice to have a banquet where people aren’t focused on getting in line for alcohol. It didn’t diminish the night by not having alcohol.**
  - a. It is nice to have some positive feedback.

- 21. Food - not impressed. Banquet - roast was tough (others said theirs was good). My chicken was soggy and cold. I left ¾ of it. Pork loin was fine.**
  - a. This is a matter of opinion. We have received very little negative feedback or comments about the food.
- 22. Hospitality night - not impressed. Paid \$100 for a table but there was no place to set up our table. These should have been reserved for those that paid to set up their table. (Kim and Sue paid and had no place to set up)**
  - a. Tables were set up for people that paid in advanced. There were multiple attempts for follow-ups sent about the Hospitality night. There were a few people who paid theirs that night that came before you and took the tables paid for. Also, tables are set up for the VFW/Auxiliary line officers going through the chairs at the same time, not for extended guests.
- 23. No communication as some people set up in the afternoon, our understanding was our table would be there.**
  - a. Again, your tables were taken by people who paid that evening.
- 24. Food - substandard. Ribs are a messy thing to eat and then even harder to eat in a public venue. Food was all cold by the time I was able to get there and eat. Area was very crowded and cramped however the waitress did her best to make sure everyone was served.**
  - a. Again, this is a personal opinion. This was discussed during the planning meetings for the State Convention and approved by all.
- 25. Hospitality room at hotel - was nice, however, sad that they gave us a room that had black mold over the window.**
  - a. This was last minute accommodations. It was either this or nothing.
- 26. The Auxiliary did not have a room to host the Audit and Budget meetings in on Wednesday evening before convention.**
  - a. This was based on the request of the Auxiliary during the convention planning meetings.
- 27. Chairman's Luncheon and Gold Star Mother and Family Luncheon**
  - a. These events were completely ran by the Auxiliary. VFW had zero input, nor ever has in the past.
- 28. Because of no room availability for above events at 4-H building I asked to use Mitchell Post Home. No mention of rental fee when I asked and received approval.**
  - a. There was room at the 4-H building, but the Auxiliary wanted and requested this to be a separate location.
- 29. On Thursday morning I received a message from Don on \$50 per use fee totaling \$150 for 3 events. I scrambled to collect all of mine and Mike's cash on way to convention. Also, a \$200 deposit which I later received back.**
  - a. The \$150 needs to be discussed with Post #2750. The VFW has no part in this nor any recollection of it being discussed during the planning meetings.
- 30. The convention is entirely a Post generated event with the Post getting all the money for registration and other events.**
  - a. This is a Department event ran by Committee Chair and Co-Chair from both the VFW and Auxiliary and we were lucky enough to have a Post home from Mitchell to even assist. Parkston does not have a Post home. The Mitchell Post was kind enough to sponsor this event for us and went above and beyond to make this an enjoyable event for all. This State Convention did not generate excess funds.
- 31. The Auxiliary gets no money of any kind. We use members due money to pay for our Presidents expenses and mileage.**
  - a. The VFW is unaware of the Auxiliaries financial status or your accounting practices. However, the VFW also pays for their COA attendees expenses IAW our by-laws. This should be discussed during your New President's planning year.

- 32. I have checked with the other Officers about previous rental fees of Post home. Was informed that it is always provided to Auxiliary for their events fee free as a courtesy for all their hard work during the year for Department Posts.**
- The Department Commander does not have a Post home. The Post #2750 hosted us. The fee discussion needs to be had with the Post. Again, the VFW has no recollection of this being discussed during the planning meetings.
- 33. I have contacted Department officers and rental money not available. As such cannot pay me back.**
- Again, this needs to be discussed with the Post #2750. The fee was never discussed during any of the planning meetings. The VFW has no input in these activities held by the Auxiliary.
- 34. I really need the money back to use for National. Have talked with Doc several times about the fee. Was a fee charged for Friday night event? We officers each paid \$100 for event.**
- Again, this needs to be discussed with Post #2750. The rental fee was never discussed during the Committee meetings.
- 35. Next year we will end up having to use Auxiliary meeting room for the 3 events and will just eat the provided meals.**
- That will be more cost effective and should be discussed during the State Convention planning meetings.
- 36. We really need more meeting space as very crowded room was a constant complaint from attendees during meetings. We provide a lot of registrations for meeting.**
- The room was approved by the Auxiliary prior to the Convention. The recommendation for this would be to move your raffle and Buddy Poppy tables outside of that room or in the hallway. Use that meeting space for meetings only. Practice marching, moving around, etc. in the large armory area and use the meeting room solely for the meeting. Just an idea.
- 37. May I suggest you contact other Post members about rental fee or Auxiliary events. Without Auxiliaries the Posts don't receive help from them and I feel we are a vital part of each Post.**
- Again, ask Post #2750 for your money back as the rental fee was not discussed during any planning meetings discussions.
- 38. Saturday evening banquet. Many Auxiliary members want held where catered with no set up or tear down and alcohol available.**
- We would have liked that also. This was discussed during the planning meetings and we really had no other options with it being moved at the last minute. The 4-H fairground is already booked and paid for the 2023 Convention and alcohol is prohibited on the fairgrounds.
- 39. Pirogies that catered Gold Start mean a much higher quality meal and yet affordable.**
- Please bring your ideas to the 22-23 State Convention planning meeting and get quotes from multiple catering venues to present.
- 40. Department officers want to get rid of the \$100 Candidate fee and provide food of their choice on Friday night as done for many years before covid hit.**
- It has gone both ways in the past. This was what was agreed upon at the convention planning meetings. Keep in mind, the VFW members do want to eat and drink during this event. Unless you tell each candidate what to bring, you will end up with mints and mini candy bars from most as the VFW members will not cook or prepare food when traveling.
- 41. I'm sure Patti Mitchell Department Auxiliary President would appreciate being in on your discussion.**
- Patti has been invited for the After-Action Meeting on July 27, 2022 at 6 pm. We welcome her to listen and take notes for her upcoming Convention in 2023. Please make sure she and anyone else with these concerns have addressed them with Wanda Mix and her committee members prior to the meeting.

Thanks for your inputs and concerns. We are 1 team! Thanks!



## 2022-2023 Theme

# “Why Is The Veteran Important?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$30,000 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 80,000 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, “Why Is The Veteran Important?”

### 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 \$156,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000.

### 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, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, 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. 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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, 2022**. 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.

# 2022-2023 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's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's 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 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's/Chairman's Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's 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 Chairman's Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Phone

Email

## To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition, is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's 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:  
816.756.3390 ext. 6155  
Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)**

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2022-2023 Theme

### “My Pledge to Our Veterans.”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022

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 84,000 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. 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 or former winners that placed in the National contest 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 Oct. 31, 2022. 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 2022-2023 theme is:

**“My Pledge To Our Veterans.”**

#### Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2022.

#### Note:

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

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://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](http://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 816.756.3390 ext. 6155  
Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)**

# 2022-2023 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. 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 Veterans 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 Voice of Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature

Post#

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's 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 Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairman's Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Phone

Email

## To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition, is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's 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: \_\_\_\_\_



Twisted X Brands  
A Proud Sponsor



# 2022-2023 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



**Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022**

## 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 Past Commander-in-Chief John Smart 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 nomination form contained in this brochure, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed nomination form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit [vfw.org/Find-a-Post](http://vfw.org/Find-a-Post) 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, 2022. 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?

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*If you have any questions, please call  
Tammy Beauchamp, 816.756.3390, ext 6287 or  
[tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org)*

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## Local VFW Post Information:

---

Contact

---

Phone

Best time to call

---

Alternative Contact

---

Phone

Best time to call

# 2022-2023 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



**Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022**

## 2022-2023 Official Entry Form Teacher Award Competition *Must Be Completed by All Contestants*

Name: First, M.I., Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Email

Grade Level (K-5, 6-8, or 9-12) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School City, State \_\_\_\_\_

## 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/Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman'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 Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Dist # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Email

## To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

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 Chairman'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, in each grade level, advances to District, if applicable, then one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost) to "Find A 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 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 [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org).