



South Dakota

Department of South Dakota Program & Membership Guide



Dave Baumiller
State Commander

“We’re Stronger in Numbers”
2023-2024

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Comrades,

The Commander's motto for 2023-2024 is "We're Stronger in Numbers". I would like to see us all concentrate on increasing the number of Life Members across the State. Also, all Post members are vital—everyone is invited to participate in all Conventions and Conferences. Please assure all Post members, regardless of position, title or lack thereof, that they are encouraged to attend any events they have an interest in attending.

My expectation for Membership is that we make a concerted effort to hit every rodeo, state fair, Stock Show as well as any other group events to reach any prospective members out there. Remember, all members, especially Life Members are integral to our success.

The Past Commander has directed our Organization in a positive, and progressive direction. A path we will continue to follow. A path of accomplishing what is in the best interests of our Veterans.

Following is the Department Program and Membership Guide for 2023-2024, along with the National Membership Guide. The Program Guidelines and Incentives listed are not all-inclusive and may require updates as the year progresses.

As you will find there are expectations and obligations that Comrades, Posts and Districts are required to accomplish to satisfy various Programs and qualify for various Awards. We are continuing the progressive Reporting System initiated last year. Do your best; if you require assistance, please contact a comrade in your chain of command or Department Headquarters, and definitely keep an open mind, hold on to your patience and reach out if you want help.

Membership, as always, is one of our most important Goals. Every Post should set a Membership Goal of 102%, a very attainable Goal. There are several Programs named as part of our Expectations and Obligations. The more Programs your Post participates in, the more active members you have, and as a result an easier path to Recruiting and Retaining comrades.

What was expected last year will continue, with a few additions. Changes made this year were requested and necessary. Please take the time to review this Program. Again, if you need help, we are available.

I am confident that this will be great year for the South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars. Thank you in advance for all you do for Veterans.

v/r,

//signed//

Dave R. Baumiller Sr.
State Commander South Dakota

**“We’re Stronger in Numbers”
Commander Dave Baumiller
2023-2024**

**Post and District Expectations/Department
Dues**

(Regardless if trying to achieve All-State or All-American status)

VFW POST “to do” CHECKLIST

Use this checklist (and Membership Guide) to put you on the right track to be a successful, thriving VFW Post. If your desire is to obtain All-State or All-American Status, please refer to Membership Guide. **Start working programs/checklist on July 1st!** Do not forget to include your Auxiliary when submitting reports. The Dept Office will continue to send out reminders in monthly General Orders (GO’s).

Access GO’s, Forms, this Checklist, SD VFW Program information, etc., at:
SD VFW Website: <https://vfwsd.org>;
National VFW website: <https://www.vfw.org>

POST RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS	DUE BY:
JULY	
Complete & Maintain Monthly Accounting Report	Monthly
Complete & Maintain Monthly Meeting Agenda & Minutes	Monthly
Post Membership Plan (Form on Dept Website) (Submit to Dept HQs)	Jul 31st
Trustees' Quarterly Audit Report (Quartermaster & Adjutant Books & Records) (Apr - Jun) (Submit to Dept HQs)	Jul 15th
First Quarter Programs Report (May - Jul) (Submit to Dept HQs) - Update in Dashboard	Aug 15th
AUGUST	
Complete & Maintain Monthly Accounting Report	Monthly
Complete & Maintain Monthly Meeting Agenda & Minutes	Monthly
Complete Post BOND Forms (Submit to Dept HQs) (Watch GOs for Information)	Refer to Aug GOs
<u>Department Mandatory Department Dues (Post membership as of Jun 30th)</u>	
Hospital Fund (Supports VA Med Centers in SD) (.35 cents per member)	Aug 1st
Service & Rehabilitation Fund (Supports VAVS/VVS Programs in SD) (.20 cents per member)	Aug 1st
Memorial Park & Chapel (Supports cost of maintaining Park & Chapel located in Black Hills) (.10 cents per member)	Aug 1st
<u>Financial Donations (By Membership Category) (Post membership as of Jun 30th)</u>	
Veterans Military Service (VMS) (Paid to National) - Update in Dashboard	Aug 1st
Department Recruiting Events (Watch GO's and Emails)	Aug 1st
National Home for Children	Aug 1st
Special Olympics	Aug 1st
Purchase Buddy Poppies (.30 cents each - 3 per Post member as of Jun 30th)	Aug 1st

SEPTEMBER	
Complete & Maintain Monthly Accounting Report	Monthly
Complete & Maintain Monthly Meeting Agenda & Minutes	Monthly
Trustees' Quarterly Audit Report (Quartermaster & Adjutant Books & Records) (Jul - Sep) (Submit to Dept HQs)	Oct 15th
OCTOBER	
Complete & Maintain Monthly Accounting Report	Monthly
Complete & Maintain Monthly Meeting Agenda & Minutes	Monthly
Attend Department Fall Council of Administration Meeting	Annually in Oct
Attend Fall District Meeting	Oct/Nov
Posts Pay District Dues (Pay District QM)	Oct 1
2nd Quarter Programs Report (Aug - Oct) (Submit to Dept HQs) - Update in Dashboard	Nov 15th
<u>Annual Awards Programs (Forward to District POC)</u>	
Patriots Pen (One Entry to District Judging for every 15 Entries at Post Level)	Oct 31st
Voice of Democracy (One Entry to District Judging for every 15 Entries at Post Level)	Oct 31st
Teacher of the Year (Teacher Entry Grades (K-5) (6-8) (9-12) (Submit to Dept Chair)	Oct 31st
NOVEMBER	
Complete & Maintain Monthly Accounting Report	Monthly
Complete & Maintain Monthly Meeting Agenda & Minutes	Monthly
Veterans Day Activities (Submit on Quarterly Programs Report) (Submit to Dept HQs) - Update in Dashboard	Dec 15th
DECEMBER	
Complete & Maintain Monthly Accounting Report	Monthly
Complete & Maintain Monthly Meeting Agenda & Minutes	Monthly
Trustees' Quarterly Audit Report (Quartermaster & Adjutant Books & Records) (Oct - Dec) (Submit to Dept HQs)	Jan 15th
JANUARY	
Complete & Maintain Monthly Accounting Report	Monthly
Complete & Maintain Monthly Meeting Agenda & Minutes	Monthly
Attend Mid-Winter District Meeting	Jan/Feb
Attend Department Legislative Conference	Annually in Jan
3rd Quarter Programs Report (Nov - Jan) (Submit to Dept HQs) - Update in Dashboard	Feb 15th
<u>Annual Awards Programs (Watch GO's)</u>	
Public Servant Recognition (Entries to Dept Chair) (Law Enforcement, Fire Fighter & EMT)	Jan 1st
FEBRUARY	
Complete & Maintain Monthly Accounting Report	Monthly
Complete & Maintain Monthly Meeting Agenda & Minutes	Monthly
District Inspector Conduct Post Inspections (Send Copy to Dept HQs)	Feb 15th

MARCH	
Complete & Maintain Monthly Accounting Report	Monthly
Complete & Maintain Monthly Meeting Agenda & Minutes	Monthly
Accomplish One Membership Round-Up/Activity (Form on Dept Website) (Submit to Dept HQs)	Mar 15th
Conduct/Complete Post Inspection (Form on Dept Website) (Copy to Dept HQs)	Mar 31st
Trustees' Quarterly Audit Report (Quartermaster & Adjutant Books & Records) (Jan - Mar) (Submit to Dept HQs)	Apr 15th
Annual Awards Programs (Watch GO's)	
Scout of the Year (Boy/Girl) (Submit to Post-Mar 1)(Post to Dept Chair-Apr 1)	Mar 1st
APRIL	
Complete & Maintain Monthly Accounting Report	Monthly
Complete & Maintain Monthly Meeting Agenda & Minutes	Monthly
Complete National Convention Form & Delegation Form (Submit Form/Fees to National) (QM will receive in Mail)	Annually in Apr
Complete Department Convention Form & Delegation Form (Submit Form/Fees to Dept HQs) (Watch GO's)	Annually in Apr
Complete Post Election Report (Submit to National for 2023-24)	Jun 1st
Complete Annual Post Committee Appointment Letter (Submit to Dept HQs for 2023-24)	Jun 1st
Attend Spring District meeting	Apr/May
4th Quarter Programs Report (Feb - Apr) (Submit to Dept HQs) - Update in Dashboard	May 1st
MAY	
Complete & Maintain Monthly Accounting Report	Monthly
Complete & Maintain Monthly Meeting Agenda & Minutes	Monthly
Memorial Day Activities (Submit on Quarterly Programs Report) (Submit to Dept HQs) - Update in Dashboard	Annually by Jun 30th
Loyalty Day Activities (Submit on Quarterly Programs Report) (Submit to Dept HQs) - Update in Dashboard	Annually in May
Complete Tax Form 990 - Complete on IRS Website (Copy to Dept HQs)	Refer to May GOs
Community Service and Program Books	May 1st
JUNE	
Complete & Maintain Monthly Accounting Report	Monthly
Complete & Maintain Monthly Meeting Agenda & Minutes	Monthly
Attend Department Convention	Annually in Jun
Trustees' Quarterly Audit Report (Quartermaster & Adjutant Books & Records) (Apr - Jun) (Submit to Dept HQs)	Jul 15th
PROGRAMS TO WORK ON ALL YEAR	
Achieve 102z% in Membership	on-going
Support & Attend Dept Recruiting Events	on-going
Donate and Support Commanders/President Special Project	on-going
Publications Contest (Post Newsletter)	on-going
Veterans in the Classroom	on-going
Support SD VFW Baseball	on-going
Youth Activities	on-going
Americanism	on-going
Post Special Project Award	on-going

Membership Goals/Objectives

1. Build a stronger VFW for the future
2. Instill Mentorship, Team building and Esprit de Corps among members
3. Provide Veteran Service Officers (VSO) outreach to Posts and Districts
4. Ensure ALL veterans living in the State of SD are aware of the Programs, Benefits, and Assistance available through the VFW
5. Increase Membership and Participation in the VFW
6. Recruit more Life Members
7. Increase Legacy Life Membership
8. Recruit New and Recover Unpaid Members
9. Retain and Mentor Existing Membership
10. Encourage cooperation between Posts for Membership Drives
11. Encourage Involvement within your Communities and to get the word out what the VFW is all about
12. Change the image of the VFW to a family friendly and modern environment
13. Embrace and welcome all Veterans!
14. Encourage Family Members to join the Auxiliary

The Membership Program is a Post program. We need to ensure we involve our members in Recruiting and Retention. We still have too many members who are not renewing their membership. Encourage members when they sign up or renew their membership to become Life Members. They can use the 12-month payment plan. Offer Incentives or Discounts, get creative!

❖ **We are only as strong as our Membership Status!!**

Membership Achievement Goals

- 🎖️ Increase the number of New Members by 5%
- 🎖️ Increase our Life Members by 10%
- 🎖️ Increase Reinstated Members by 5%
- 🎖️ Increase Legacy Life Members by 5%
- 🎖️ Average 95% Retention for Posts in South Dakota

Student Veterans Chairman

This Chairperson will work with the Recruiting and Retention team to gain access to the State Universities and Colleges. He or She will assist the team in recruiting Student Veterans. The VFW will help the Recruiter obtain a computer, tables, signs, table covers, and other things needed through a grant from National VFW.

Top Recruiter

The Member who signs up the most new, new life or reinstated members will receive an incentive (TBD). The top recruiter will not be eligible for the incentives below.

🔥 **District Membership Captains that achieve 102% or greater in District membership will receive a membership “Captain” pin.**

🔥 **See also page 12, Top Post Member Recruiter**

State Headquarters will use information from the National Monthly Recruiter Report. **Cutoff date May 31, 2024.**

Commander’s Recruiting Challenge

State Commander Baumiller is challenging every member of the Department of South Dakota to recruit two (2) new or recovered members this year.



Annual Members (individual member)

Recruit 5% total Post member count based of Mem Stats (Commanders and Quartermasters have access to Mem Stats in OMS) on **Jul 1, 2023.** You will receive an incentive TBD.

Life Members (individual member)

Recruit 5% total Post member count based of Mem Stats (Commanders and Quartermasters have access to Mem Stats in OMS) on **Jul 1, 2023.** You will receive an incentive TBD.

LEGACY Life Members (Post)

Recruit 2% total Post member count based of Mem Stats (Commanders and Quartermasters have access to Mem Stats in OMS) on **Jul 1, 2023.** You will receive an incentive TBD.

Months/Percentages to reach for Membership:

- 🔥 Jul 31, 2023 – obtain 80%
- 🔥 Sept 30, 2023 – obtain 85%
- 🔥 Nov 30, 2023 – obtain 92%
- 🔥 Jan 31, 2024 – obtain 94%

- 🏆 Mar 31, 2024 – obtain 96%
- 🏆 May 31, 2024 – obtain 102%

Retention Defined

Although Retention is ***not*** a prerequisite for the All-State or All-American Programs, it is extremely important to understand how Retention is derived and the significant role it plays in accomplishing growth. The number of paid members in your Post on Jun 30th is your ensuing year's "prior year total." A new or recovered member is required to make up for each prior year member the Post failed to retain.

Your Post retention is derived from six types of payment components based on your prior year total of annual members:

- 🏆 A prior year Annual member pays his or her Annual Membership dues
- 🏆 A prior year Annual member pays their Life Membership via the Installment Plan
- 🏆 A prior year Annual member pays for Life Membership
- 🏆 A prior year Annual member transfers to another Post and pays his or her annual membership dues to your Post prior to transfer
- 🏆 A prior year Annual Member transfers to another Post and pays the Life Membership installment fee to your Post prior to transfer
- 🏆 A prior year Annual Member transfers to another Posts and pays Life Membership dues to your Post prior to transfer

Consider a Life Membership

This will help your Post and it will increase the payout your Post receives on your behalf each year. This Membership also pays for itself as you do not have to be bugged for your dues annually. Please consider converting to Life Membership as it boosts our overall numbers and there are no annual dues to track down.

Consider obtaining Legacy Life Membership

As a Legacy Life member, future generations will know you not only for the sacrifices you made as a veteran but for the contributions you made as a member. As a Legacy member your payouts come back to the state and the post every year until you pass away and then it will go on forever. There are many other incentives! Visit <https://www.vfw.org>

**ALL-STATE POST COMMANDER & POST QUARTERMASTER
QUALIFICATIONS**

Membership Categories

Posts in the Department of South Dakota have been divided into six (6) Membership Categories. These Categories will be used to determine points for the All-State Teams for Post Commander and Post Quartermaster.

Also, these Categories will be used for other contests that have been introduced or additional contests that may be introduced later by the Membership Committee.

The Membership Committee highly recommends you take the time to review the "Membership Categories for 2023" and the 2023-2024 VFW National Membership Program.

<p>Category 1 (Total: 20) Alcester Armour Chamberlain Elk Point Eureka Faith Flandreau Gettysburg Goodwin Lake Andes Lemmon Marty Mobridge Newell Parker Plankinton Quinn Turton Tyndall Wessington Springs</p>	<p>Category 2 (Total: 14) Belle Fourche Beresford Brandon Britton Burke Canton Miller Parkston Redfield Scotland Vermillion Wagner Webster Winner</p> <p>Category 3 (Total: 6) Huron Madison Milbank Sisseton Spearfish Sturgis</p>	<p>Category 4 (Total: 4) Deadwood Brookings Mitchell Pierre</p> <p>Category 5 (Total: 4) Aberdeen Custer Watertown Yankton</p> <p>Category 6 (Total: 2) Rapid City Sioux Falls</p> <p>Department Total: 50 Posts</p>
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All-State Post Commander & Post Quartermaster Teams and the Baker-Simpson & William J. Radigan Awards

To be considered for the selection on the All-State Post Commander and Post Quartermaster Teams, you are required to complete the following criteria by the judging date in May of 2024 (the exact date to be published in Apr 2024 GO's). This contest is open to all Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters in the Department of South Dakota and begins Jul 1, 2023.

1. Post must attain **102% Membership** based on Jun 30, 2023, Membership Statistics (MemStats in OMS).
2. Post must submit their 2023-2024 **Election Report** in OMS and Department Headquarters **NLT Jun 1, 2023**.
3. Post must appoint a **Veterans Service Officer (VSO)** and submit to Department Headquarters **NLT Jun 1, 2023**.
4. Post must purchase **Three (3) Buddy Poppies per member** based on Post Membership as of Jun 30, 2023.
5. Post must submit payment for all **Department Dues** (Hospital, Service & Rehab, Memorial Park) based on Post Membership as of Jun 30, 2023, to Department Headquarters **NLT Oct 1, 2023**.
6. Post must submit a **Membership Plan**, to include Post Membership Chair to Department Headquarters and Department Membership Chair (Additional Points Available)
7. All Four (4) **Quarterly Trustee Audit Reports and Programs Reports** must be submitted to Department Headquarters.
8. Each Post must **Obligate** an amount based on your Membership Category to the **Veterans and Military Support (VMS) Programs**. Submit funds **Directly** to National VMS Department through link listed in National Membership Program (send copy to Department Headquarters).
9. Post shall submit **District Dues** to their District Quartermaster based on Membership as of Jun 30, 2024.
10. Membership Top Post Member Recruiter: To encourage engagement at the Post level, **any** member not a Commander or Quartermaster is eligible for this award. We would like a nominee from each District. This is worth 20 points for All State award, the 5 top Post winners will receive registration for the 2024 State Convention. If questions, contact the Department Commander.

All-State Post Commander and Post Quartermaster Teams:

The following Point System has been devised to determine the outstanding Post Commander and Post Quartermaster in each Category who will comprise the All-State

Teams. There may be up to **Six (6) White Hat Post Commanders (CO) and Six (6) White Hat Post Quartermasters (QM)** awarded. If a Membership Category does not qualify based on the established criteria, there will not be a White Hat awarded in that Category. For the Commander and Quartermaster with the highest point totals after the six Categories an additional **Two (2) At-Large White Hats** will be awarded for a total of up to **Eight (8) CO & QM White Hats** awarded. The Commander receiving the most points will be awarded the **Baker-Simpson Award** and the Quartermaster receiving the most points will be awarded the **William J. Radigan Award**.

All-State Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters Awards & Prizes:








1. All-State White Hat
2. All-State Pin
3. Registration to the Department Convention
4. Room for 3 nights at Department Convention (IAW DEPT SOP)
5. Mileage to and from the Convention from your home (IAW DEPT SOP)
6. Gift (TBD)
7. **Baker-Simpson Award** (Eagle Award) to Outstanding Commander
8. **William J. Radigan Award** (Eagle Award) to Outstanding Quartermaster
9. Captain Pin (Awarded to Outstanding Commander and Quartermaster)

Membership Division:

(Per Membership Category (Page 10) and your Post must be 102% to receive points)

	<u>POINTS</u>
1. Top Five (5) Posts to achieve 102% in membership (200/150/100/75/50 (Top 5 Posts in order)	200
2. Five points per member over Quota up to 40 Members	200

New and reinstate percentage in the “green”:

-  5% = 10 points
-  10% = 20 points
-  15% = 30 points
-  20% = 40 points
-  30% = 50 points
-  50% = 100 points
-  100% = 200 points **September 2023**, will be awarded 200 points.

Post Membership Plans received by **September 2023**, will be awarded 100 additional points.

Maximum Total Points: 900

VFW Programs and Projects Division:
(20 Points or the Points indicated per Program or Project)

Sponsor:

Aid to Others/Hospital
Americanism/Patriotism
VFW Baseball
Citizenship Activities
Community Involvement
EMT (100)
Firefighter (100)
Law Enforcement (100)
Newsletter
Patriots Pen (150)
Safety Activities
Scout of Year
Special Project (100)
Teacher of the Year (50 ea.)
Veterans in the Classroom
VFW Project & Program
Voice of Democracy (150)
Youth Activities
Community Service Program Book (200)
Top Post (20)

20 Programs/Projects

Maximum Total Points: 1290

VFW Donations Division

You shall donate the required amount of funds for your Membership Category (page 10) to receive the points indicated in each category. **Donation period is from Jul 1, 2023, to Mar 1, 2024.** (Donations shall be sent to National Headquarters for VMS – send copy to Department Headquarters).

Donations or Post participation in Department Recruiting/Retention Activities (like State Fair & Sturgis Bike Rally), National Home for Children, Special Olympics should be sent to Department Headquarters.

Membership Category (Page 10) Minimum Donation Requirements for the items below:

Category #1: \$20.00	Category #3: \$40.00	Category #5: \$75.00
Category #2: \$30.00	Category #4: \$50.00	Category #6: \$100.00

	<u>POINTS</u>
• National Home for Children	50
• Recruiting/Retention Activities	50
• VMS (National Program) (Must Donate Additional \$25.00 more than in Your Category to VMS to receive 75 Points)	75
• Special Olympics	25

Maximum Total Points: 200

VFW Reporting Division

Send Programs Reports to Department Headquarters Quarterly. A max of **50 points** will be awarded for each report received during the month following the end of each reporting period (max 200 pts). If the reports are received after the month following the reporting period, a max of **25 points** will be awarded for each report received (max **100 pts**). The final report must be received prior to the May judging date, exact date to be published in the Apr GOs.

Reporting periods for above reports:

- 1st Quarter: May, June & July
- 2nd Quarter: November, December & January
- 3rd Quarter: August, September & October
- 4th Quarter: February, March & April

<u>Memorial Day 2023</u>	50 points (Report on Programs Report NLT Jul 31)
<u>Veterans Day 2023</u>	50 points (Report on Programs Report NLT Dec 31)
<u>Loyalty Day 2023</u>	50 points (Report on Programs Report TBD in April GOs)

Maximum Total Points: 350

Attendance at Council of Administration & District Meetings

POINTS

🔥	Fall Council of Administration (COA)	50
🔥	Legislative Conference	50
🔥	Fall District Meeting	50
🔥	Winter District Meeting	50
🔥	Spring District Meeting	50

Maximum Total Points: 400

Bonus Points:

Each Post Commander and Post Quartermaster who attends any of the



meetings listed above will receive the 50 points per meeting (250 max pts). Additional Post members up to 3 will receive an additional 50 bonus points per meeting (150 max pts). The Post Commander and Post Quartermaster must attend meetings before any bonus points are awarded.

Maximum Total Points: 400

Maximum Total Points for the Program: 3120

All-State District Commanders Team

To be considered for the selection on the All-State District Commanders Team, you must complete the following criteria by the judging date in May of 2023 (to be set; refer to Apr GO's). This contest is open to all District Commanders in the Department of South Dakota and begins **Jul 1, 2023**.

1. **102% in Membership** by judging date.
2. Each Post in your District shall purchase a minimum of **100 Poppies** during the year beginning Jul 1.
3. **Inspection** of each Post must be conducted and forwarded to Department Headquarters by May 1, 2024.
4. **One VOD entry** from District must advance to the Department Chairperson.
5. **One Patriots Pen entry** from District must advance to the Department Chairperson.
6. **One National Citizenship Education Teacher's Award entry** from District must advance to Department Chairperson.
7. **One School of Instruction (SOI)** must be conducted at a District meeting. (A program or contest can be presented by a District, State Chairman or State Officer)
8. **Commander shall attend all COA and your District meetings.** Exceptions will only be granted by the State Commander in advance.
9. **District Membership Plan & an appointed District Membership Captain** must be submitted to the Department Headquarters NLT **Oct 31, 2023**.

A point system has been devised for each of the following Categories. For example: The District with the best percentage of **Membership** will receive 250 points; the second-best percentage of membership will receive 225 points; the third place will receive 200 points; fourth place will receive 175 points; and fifth place will receive 150 points. **New/Reinstate** points will be the same as above for the best percentage of Membership. Points in all other categories will be determined by the **percentage** of Posts who participate in the Program within the District.


The top two qualifying District Commanders receiving the most points will qualify for the All-State District Commanders Team and the Commander receiving the most points will be the Team Captain and will be awarded the **Tice-Gallagher Award**.

All-State District Commanders Awards & Prizes

1. All-State White Hat
2. Registration to the Department Convention
3. Room for 3 nights at the Department Convention (IAW SOP)
4. Mileage to and from the Convention from your home (IAW SOP)
5. Gift (TBD)
6. **Tice-Gallagher Award** to Outstanding District Commander
7. Captain Pin (Awarded to Outstanding District Commander)

Membership

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Membership percentage	250 – 150
New and reinstates percentage in the “green” (Mem Stats in OMS)	250 – 150
Five points per member over quota up to 75 points	75

-  Ten points for every Post in your district (max 120) that sends in a **Membership Plan by Oct 31**. If your District is **100% by Oct 31** you receive an additional **50 points**.

Maximum Total Points: 745

Points in all other categories will be determined by the Percentage of Posts who participate in the Program within the District.

	<u>POINTS</u>
EMT, Firefighter, Law Enforcement	50
National Home Donation	50
Scout of the Year	50
Service & Rehabilitation Obligation	50
VMS (National Donation)	50
Memorial Park Obligation	50
Hospital Fund Obligation	50

Maximum Total Points: 350

Reports and Attendance

District Commander Reports for Book of Reports at COA Meetings:

	<u>POINTS</u>
1. Submitted for Fall Council	25
2. Submitted for Legislative Conference	25

District Commander attendance at COA Meetings:

1. First COA Meeting after Department Convention	25
2. Fall COA Meeting	25
3. Legislative Conference and COA Meeting	25
4. Member participation at Recruiting/Retention Events like State Fair or Sturgis Bike Rally	25

Maximum Total Points: 150

Maximum Total Points for the Program: 1265

Notice:

Membership turn-in on the day of judging before judging time is scheduled with proper verification (copy of applications or renewal notices and copy of payment) is provided; they will be included in the membership totals. Also, all other reports or documents will be accepted before judging time is scheduled for other parts of the contest. This is for all contests and awards for Post Commanders, Post Quartermasters & District Commanders.

The Three (3) Awards listed below are selected exclusively by the State Commander. These awards, if selected, will be presented during the State Convention Banquet.

Double Eagle Award

To be considered for selection of the Double Eagle Award the Comrade must be a Past Department Commander or a Department Officer who has been instrumental in providing the Commander with guidance and counsel during his/her term.

Tice/Gallagher/Radigan (TGR) Award

To be considered for the TGR Award the Comrade must be a Life Member, have been a member of the VFW for at least ten (10) years, and active in VFW affairs.

Most Valuable Comrade (MVC) Award

May be awarded to anyone within the Department or Department Auxiliary for Exemplary Dedication and Service to the Department of South Dakota and Veterans

Membership Campaign **2023 – 2024**

The Membership Campaign will start on Jul 1, 2023, and end on May 1, 2024 (this date is used for judging purposes). This will allow time to process each winner for the judging of awards. Then continue until Jun 29, 2024.

Who May Participate:

Campaign is open to all VFW and Auxiliary members. Any VFW member or Auxiliary member that recruits or reinstates one or more VFW members for the South Dakota VFW will receive a beautiful distinctive South Dakota Recruiter pin. A Recruiter shall recruit members only for South Dakota.

Recruiting from another state. If a recruiter should by chance entice a member from another state to transfer his or her membership to a SD VFW Post, this member will be considered the same as a newly recruited member and the recruiter will be eligible for a South Dakota "Recruiter" pin.

How Many Pins May I Receive?

A Recruiter may receive only ONE (1) South Dakota Recruiter Pin, regardless of how many new members he or she may recruit. Each Post Quartermaster is asked to keep in close contact with the Department Membership Chairman who will be receiving the National roster on a weekly/monthly basis. In case a Recruiter's name does not appear on the National roster, a statement by the Post Quartermaster a member did in fact recruit or reinstate a new member will be accepted so a South Dakota Recruiter Pin may be awarded to that Recruiter.

102% Award and Pin for District and Post Commanders & Post Quartermasters



All District and Post Commander & Post Quartermasters who reach 100% plus one in Membership by May 31st will be awarded the "Q" Quota Buster Pin award.

The award will be presented by the State Commander or by a delegated representative of the Department as soon as the District or Post Quota Buster status has been reached or at another appropriate time.

Post 102% Award



Contest is for Posts who reach 102% in Membership that was assigned to them by the Membership Committee for the 2023-2024 Membership Year. Cut-off date for this contest will be based on the members reported for each Post to National Headquarters Direct Dues Department on May 1st. The top 3 Posts (102% + # over 102%) will receive a 2023-2024 Membership Post Quota Buster Plaque. All other Posts that reach 102% and 102% will receive a certificate.

Membership Resources

State of South Dakota VFW website is located at: <https://vfwsd.org> go under resources, then Templates and Forms.

- 🇺🇸 All Forms and Reports required for Quarterly Reports and VFW programs are located on this website
- 🇺🇸 All General Orders, Bylaws, Directory and Resources are also located at this website.

The National Headquarters VFW website is located at: vfw.org. It has a wealth of Resources at your disposal. Many of those are available free of charge to our members.

- 🇺🇸 Membership materials ranging from applications, recruiting brochures, posters, and benefits brochures can be ordered directly from the Membership Department using the Membership Order Form (located under Membership Quick Links once you login.
- 🇺🇸 Resources for Post Development, Membership Campaigns, and Mentorship such as training guides, videos, and webinars are available in the Training & Support section.
- 🇺🇸 Promotional tools such as radio spots, sample advertisements, public service announcements, & media kits are all available through the Media Room.

The VFW National Headquarters staff is ready and trained to answer any questions you may have concerning Membership, VFW programs, or other issues. You can contact our **Member Service Center directly at 1.833.VFW.VETS**, or the **Membership Department at 1.888.JOIN.VFW**.

Please check with our Department Office for assistance before going to National. Let us handle questions/concerns at lowest level first.