



IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?

***VFW Department Membership Program
2026-2027***

***Frank Persa
State Commander
“If Not You, Then Who?”***

Version Date: July 2026 (Aligned to National Program, 2026- 2027)

2026-2027 Department All-State Membership Goals, Programs, Awards & Recruiting Incentives

The future of the Department of Washington is forged through these powerful actions: to **mentor** the next generation, to **retain** the strength of our current members, and to **recruit** those who will further enrich our ranks. This year, earning the "white hat" isn't just about hitting targets; it's about embodying this vital cycle of growth and leadership. It's a deeply coveted honor, a testament to shaping our very future!

MISSION

The Department of Washington will build a stronger VFW through:

- Aggressive membership growth
- Consistent retention
- Leadership development
- Full participation in VFW core programs
- Helping Veterans and their communities

By earning **All-State** you are completing our mission.

To qualify for **All-State**, Posts will complete **ALL** of the following:

MEMBERSHIP

Posts must:

- Maintain **minimum 80% retention** of prior-year annual members
- Achieve **growth (100% +1 minimum)**

Division	Membership Size	Minimum # of Additional Members
1	501 and Above	100% +1
2	351 - 500	100% +1
3	246 - 350	100% +1
4	190 - 245	100% +1
5	150 - 189	100% +1
6	125 - 149	100% +1
7	105 - 124	100% +1
8	90 - 104	100% +1
9	70 - 89	100% +1
10	50 - 69	100% +1
11	10 - 49	100% +1

Along with the above membership goals, the following are required for all Posts:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE

- Quarterly **Trustee Reports of Audit** submitted each quarter no later than the end of the following month (July 30th, October 30th, January 30th, April 30th)
- Quartermaster properly **bonded by August 31st, 2026**
- Election Report submitted by **June 1, 2027, with all elected positions filled**
- No arrears at any level
- Delegate dues paid by **June 1, 2027**
- Copy of Aprils post minutes with Delegate list voted by membership submitted to Department Adjutant by **May 15, 2027 (email to adj@vfwwa.net)**

TRAINING & LEADERSHIP

Commander or Sr Vice or Jr Vice + Quartermaster must:

- Attend Department or District **School of Instruction**

Commander or Sr Vice or Jr Vice must:

- Attend **Mid-Winter Training**
- Attend all **District Meetings**

Commander / Sr Vice / Jr Vice + Quartermaster must:

- Complete **Washington VFW University training by January 1, 2027:**
 - Officer-required modules
 - Membership & Recruiting module (minimum one member)

CORE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Must be submitted through the **Programs designated dashboard and advanced to District Chair's:**

- **Voice of Democracy**
 - Minimum 1 entry advanced to District Chair through Scholars App by **November 15th 2026**
 - Update All-American dashboard by **January 31st, 2027**
- **Patriot's Pen**
 - Minimum 1 entry advanced to District Chair through Scholars App by **November 15th, 2026**
 - Update All-American dashboard by **January 31st, 2027**
- **Teacher of the Year**
 - Minimum 1 teacher advanced to District Chair by **November 15th, 2026**
 - Update All-American dashboard by **January 31st, 2027**
- **Youth Essay**
 - Minimum 1 entry advanced to District Chair by **November 15th, 2026**
- **Veteran of the Year**
 - Minimum 1 entry advanced to District Chair by **February 28th, 2027**
- **Public Servant Awards**
 - Entry for Public Servant advanced to District Chair by **December 15th, 2026**
 - Submit any two of the following:
 - Law Enforcement/Firefighter/EMT/911 Operator/Bomb Tech of the year

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Submit **15 reports per quarter**:
 - Jul–Sep
 - Oct–Dec
 - Jan–Mar
 - Apr–Jun
- Must:
 - Show **5% growth over previous year**
 - Meet **IRS 990 reporting standards**
 - Be **event-based (no summary reports)**
- Participate in:
 - **VFW Day of Service (May) and register on OMS National Website:**
 - [VFW Day of Service — Join the Movement - Still Serving](#)

BUDDY POPPY PROGRAM

- Purchase **5 per member minimum**
- Minimum **500 total**
- Ordered through Department Website (www.vfwwa.org)

DONATIONS

- \$100 Donation to Heroes in the Ball Park made via Department Zeffy account
- \$100 Donation to A Heroes Promise (Commanders Special Project) made via Department Zeffy Account

ALL-STATE POST AWARDS

- All-State Streamer
- The Post will receive a two-night stay at the Department Convention, including one banquet ticket
- Commander:
 - All-State Pin
 - Cap or \$70 Gift Card
- Quartermaster:
 - Pin
 - Cap or \$70 Gift Card

Captain All State Team

To qualify:

Must meet **ALL All-State criteria**, plus:

- Submit ALL program categories:
 - VOD, Patriot's Pen, Youth Essay
 - Teacher (all 3 levels)
 - Public Servant (minimum 4 categories)
 - Scout, Veteran, Chaplain, Humanitarian, Chaplain
 - Publication
- Donations:
 - Heroes in the Ball Park (\$100 minimum) made via Zeffy
 - Heroes Promise (\$100 minimum) made via Zeffy
 - NVS (\$125 minimum) made via OMS
 - DPAA (\$75 minimum) made via OMS
- Community Service:
 - Full quarterly compliance
 - Verified growth
- Buddy Poppies:
 - Full compliance

One Post Commander will earn the "Captain" of the All-State Team honors based on all criteria being met. If the requirements are not met by a Post, there will be no All-State Captain.

District Commanders

Along with the above membership goals, the following are required for all Districts:

- District Quartermasters bonds, election reports, inspections and delegate dues must be current or paid and received at Department Headquarters
- District must complete a School of Instruction by October 31, 2026 (Department Officer must be present)

TRAINING & LEADERSHIP

Commander or Sr Vice or Jr Vice + Quartermaster must:

- Attend Department **School of Instruction**

Commander or Sr Vice or Jr Vice

- Attend **Mid-Winter Training Classes**
- Attend all **Department Council of Administrative Meetings**

Commander / Sr Vice / Jr Vice + Quartermaster must:

- Complete **Washington VFW University training** by **January 1, 2027**:
 - Officer-required modules
 - Membership & Recruiting module (minimum one member)
- Achieve **100% +1 membership**
- Meet **All-American program participation**:
 - VOD due to Department Chairman & advanced in Scholars App by **December 15th, 2026**
 - Submit via Programs Dashboard by **Jan 31st, 2027**, www.vfw.org
 - Patriot's Pen due to Department Chairman & advanced in Scholars App by **December 15th, 2026**
 - Youth Essay due to Department Chairman (all categories 3, 4, 5) by **December 15th, 2026**
 - Scout of the Year due to Department Chairman by **April 1st, 2027**
 - Teacher of the Year due to Department Chairman (all categories k-5, 6-8, 9-12) by **December 15th, 2026**
 - Veteran of the Year due to Department Chairman by **March 15th, 2027**
 - Chaplain of the Year due to Department Chairman by **March 31st, 2027**
 - Submit any four of the following to the Department Chairman:
 - Entry for Law enforcement/Fire fighter/EMT/911 Operator/Bomb Tech of the year by **January 1st, 2027**
 - Submit a Humanitarian of the Year to Department Chairman by **April 15th, 2027**
- Complete:
 - Meet **IRS 990 reporting standards**
 - Submit District Commanders report NLT 30 days after each District Meeting
 - Audit submitted within 30 days of each District Meeting

ALL-STATE DISTRICT AWARDS

- All-State Streamer
- Commander:
 - All-State Pin
 - Cap or \$70 Gift Card
- Quartermaster:
 - Pin
 - Cap or \$70 Gift Card

Captain District All State Team

Must complete:

- Full program participation (ALL categories)
- All required entries advanced
- Leadership program participation
- Full compliance across District

PATH TO ALL-AMERICAN

Posts and Districts that complete All-State requirements **and meet National criteria** will qualify for:

All-American Recognition

Includes:

- National Convention recognition
- All-American Streamer
- Commander awards
- Potential Top 20 / Top 5 National honors

INDIVIDUAL RECRUITER AWARDS

- For the first two (2) new, new life, or reinstated members (verified by National), a recruiter will receive one (1) entry into a raffle drawing to be held at the Mid-Winter Conference and State Convention. Each eligible recruiter will receive only one (1) entry, regardless of the total number of members recruited beyond the initial two (2). Multiple prizes may be awarded at each drawing, and recipients need not be present to win. All tickets will be carried over (except winning tickets) from Mid-Winter to June Convention.
- For the first (15) new, new life or reinstated members (verified by National) a Woobie Woodland Camouflage Smoking Jacket will be awarded.



TOP RECRUITER OF THE YEAR

- Raffles (Mid-Winter & Convention)
- Woobie Jacket at 15 recruits
- Paid hotel (Top recruiter milestones)
- Recruiter of the Year awards

(Excludes Department Line officers and the Department Membership Chairman)

The members who sign up the most new, new life, and reinstated members for the year will have their hotel accommodations paid for at the state convention. Cutoff is June 1, 2027.

(Excludes Department Line officers and the Department Membership Chairman)

RECRUITERS OF THE YEAR

1st place - \$500

2nd place - \$300

3rd place - \$200

ALL Department Line Officers and the Department Membership Chairman shall be excluded from consideration and eligibility for the Recruiters of the year recognition and any associated awards or incentives.

MY MESSAGE TO YOU ALL THIS YEAR

Anyone can hold a position. Not everyone leaves a legacy. This program is not about checking boxes. It is about building Posts that are strong, engaged, and committed to Veterans.

If not you, then who?

Frank Persa
State Commander
Department of Washington
Veterans of Foreign Wars