

**Department Membership  
Program  
2023-2024**



**Department of Missouri Veterans of  
Foreign Wars**

# **2023-2024 Dept. of MO Membership**

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Without active, passionate members, we will cease to exist. Our membership baseline must always be 100%. In order to realize our goal, we must promote membership on two fronts:

## **Recruitment, and Reinstatement.**

The incentives below are designed to promote membership in these three areas.

### **Benchmark:**

- Any Post commander whose post reaches 100% in their membership by 1/1 will be entered into a drawing to attend the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.
- Any District Commander whose District reaches 100% by 1/1 will be entered into a drawing to attend the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, DC..

### **Reinstatement:**

- The District with the most reinstated members will earn its Commander airfare to the VFW National Convention.

### **Distinguished District Commander:**

- Any District Commander earning All-American status will receive a membership upgrade.
  - ♦ If their membership is continuous, they will be upgraded to Life.
  - ♦ If their membership is Life, they will be upgraded to Bronze Legacy, ect.
  - ♦ If the Commander is already a Gold Legacy Member, they may receive a stipend for \$400.00

# **Methods to Maximize Membership**

Membership simply does not happen. It needs to be worked at and pursued. Below are suggestions for you to consider as your Post works towards its membership goal.

- Call your members. Ask how they are doing and what the VFW can do for them
- Be certain that annual post and district officers are paid up or go life
- Be observant. When you see a man or woman wearing military apparel, ask them about it. If they served, thank them for serving. If they qualify for the VFW, ask them to join.
- Conduct a phone call campaign to reach out to expired members
- Conduct a phone call campaign from the members-at-large list
- Participate in community events – (e.g., parades, street & county fairs, flag ceremonies)
- Schedule and advertise a service officer event
- Promote VFW programs at every opportunity
- Volunteer in schools
- Visit a nearby Veteran's Home or VA Hospital
- Sponsor a local National Guard unit
- Support a local ROTC program
- Sponsor a local sports team
- Sponsor a local youth contest or special event
- Create and fund a scholarship at a local school
- Schedule and advertise a tree planting ceremony
- Conduct and advertise a community blood drive
- Conduct and advertise a community CPR class
- Institute a recycle program
- Participate in an Adopt a Highway program
- Recognize public employees at a Post dinner or other event open to the public
- Support scouting
- Support youth or hunting safety program
- Support a drug awareness program (e.g., DARE)
- Volunteer in your community (e.g., drive for Meals on Wheels, assist an elderly neighbor)
- Donate your hall to a nonprofit organization

# Community Activities Program

Community service is a program sponsored by a VFW Post or Auxiliary that benefits the city, community, other organizations, institutions or individuals not affiliated with the VFW or its Auxiliaries.

Community involvement is essential for a Post to survive and grow. Being active in the community builds a good strong lasting relationship with the people. A Post will grow because of what they do.

The projects that a Post or Auxiliary are involved with will depend upon the needs of the community, the size of the Post or Auxiliary, and their budgets. A Post should consider the needs of the community and select activities that are best suited and will benefit the community the most.

**You have 90 days from the event date to enter on Departments dashboard.**

Guidelines Community Activities:

- Post Commander appoints a Chairman. This person should be one who knows the community's needs and is knowledgeable in the program. Knowledge of the community will be a huge asset in knowing what projects will benefit the community the most and be easiest to complete.
- The Chairman should review "Community and Citizen Chairmen Manual" at [movfw.org](http://movfw.org). Click on "Resources" and scroll down to and click on "forms". The document is at the bottom of the webpage.
- The Chairman selects a few members to be on the committee, 3 to 5 is typically sufficient.
- The Committee members should plan and develop the projects and get other Post members involved. The Committee should not be expected to carry out the project alone. If the Post has an Auxiliary, both organizations should work closely together in planning and carrying out the projects.
- After the project has been planned including the date, time, and location; determine how many workers will be needed. Make sure that all involved have a role.
- Invite the local news media to cover the event. Also, have the Post Public Relation Officer take pictures and write an article for the local newspaper. A little bit of PR often goes a long way in promoting the VFW.
- Have a follow up meeting to analyze the activity, discuss the good points and how to improve on the weak points of the event. At the same meeting start planning your next event.
- Chairmen should be trained to collect the necessary data and submit the on-line activity report for their event.

**If a community activity is to realize success, then TEAMWORK is essential.**

# Reporting: The Basics

## Why Report?

- ◆ It serves as a nonprofit justification.
- ◆ It serves as a proof that we do what we say we do.
- ◆ It serves as a record of past donations for IRS purposes.
- ◆ The Post Activity Reports provide the data to update the National VFW Fact Sheet

## How to report:

- ◆ Go to movfw.org.
- ◆ Click on the "Login" tab on the top of the page.
- ◆ Scroll down and click on "Members Only."
- ◆ Type your Member ID# where indicated.
- ◆ Insert your password: last name.
- ◆ Click on "Login"
- ◆ Click on "Community Service Reporting"
- ◆ For Date of Activity, use the calendar icon. **DO NOT INSERT DATE IN NUMERIC FIGURES!**
- ◆ When inserting dollar amount, use ONLY numeric characters and a decimal point.
- ◆ For the description, answer the following questions as best you can.
  - ◇ What was the name of the event?
  - ◇ Where did the event occur?
  - ◇ Was the event advertised? If so, where?
  - ◇ Who was involved in the event?
- ◆ If the event qualifies for multiple categories, list the money donated only in one category.
- ◆ Insert a good telephone number in case the reviewer needs to follow up. If this information is missing, the report will be rejected.

## Some Advice:

- ◆ Do not enter fundraisers as community service. However, enter donations received from a fundraiser when assisting veterans and their families.
- ◆ Reports submitted 90 days after the event will not be considered. The reporting year ends on April 30.

Reporting events is NEVER about bragging. Reporting is always about showing that we do what we say we do as an organization. Nothing more, nothing less.



# WHO DO I CONTACT FOR 2023-2024

## **Dashboard Reporting:**

Community Service, Quincy Myrick, [jrvicedr@movfw.org](mailto:jrvicedr@movfw.org).....573-200-0428

VOD/PP Program, Scott Huffman, [vodchrn@movfw.org](mailto:vodchrn@movfw.org), [ppenyouthchrn@movfw.org](mailto:ppenyouthchrn@movfw.org),  
.....417-683-1904

***Mail entries to:*** Scott Huffman  
RR 1 Box 360  
Ava, MO 65608

Americanism, Teacher of the Year, Jerry Youngblood, [americanismchrn@movfw.org](mailto:americanismchrn@movfw.org)  
.....816-520-2174

***Mail Entries to:*** Jerry Youngblood  
416 NW Fox Hollow Ln  
Blue Springs, MO 64015

Legislative, Troy Williams..... ~~573-636-2434~~  
Mike Schroeder.....573-694-9744

Recruiting, Joe Wolfgeher.....417-619-0731

National Home, Marilynn Archuleta..... .660-473-3223

*Rick DePant 573 647 6647*  
VSIO, Jr Vice Commander, ~~Quincy Myrick.....573-200-0428~~

Buddy Poppy Events, Jeff Heise.....573-225-0771

# Missouri's Veterans Service Officer Program

The VFW's mission is to serve all veterans and to advocate on behalf of all veterans.

The Service Officer Program realizes the VFW's mission every day by working directly with veterans to process referrals so that qualified veterans get the benefits they have earned.

This is Missouri's program. Therefore, it's our duty to care for it.

While some of the program's funding comes from the Missouri Veterans Commission, the program desperately needs funding annually from VFW posts within the Department. It is post and individual donations that directly impact a service officer's capacity to assist qualified veterans to get their benefits.

Here are four steps posts can take to support the program:

- ♦ Budget for a \$3 per member donation and mail check to Department
- ♦ Contact the Department Headquarters and become a sustain member of the Service Officer program
- ♦ Distribute Buddy poppies and donate the proceeds to the Service Officer Program
- ♦ Schedule and Advertise multiple events that include a post service officer to take Veterans referrals.

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits is **\$11.2 Billion!**

**The impact these successful claims have had on veterans and their families is difficult to even express, but it's why the program exists.**

Their work is your donation in action. Please support this program generously and often.

**Ric DePontee**  
**Sr. Vice Commander**

**Charles Williams**  
**Commander**

**Quincy Myrick**  
**Jr. Vice Commander**

# Chaplain Duties

One of the biggest assists to having a post with a positive attitude and sticking together as comrades is having an active chaplain. The chaplain can do the things that add a personal touch to the membership of the VFW.

It is important that the chaplain at any level be someone that cares to do more for the VFW than simply reading the prayers at the meeting. The chaplain needs to be involved in activities and with comrades in need outside of the normal post activities. It is important we as leaders encourage active members to become our chaplains.

The **post chaplain** is one person that can easily ask the comrade how they are doing and get an answer that can lead to help for the comrade if needed. With other officers, the comrade may not be as comfortable.

Post Chaplains should be involved with:

- Hospital visits
- Hospice visits
- Funerals and Memorials
- Performing ceremonies and rituals
- Assisting comrades to find service officer assistance
- Consoling the families
- Providing counsel for the commander

Sending:

- get well cards
- thinking of you cards
- sympathy cards
- other greetings

The **district chaplain** is responsible for not only district meetings prayers but for counsel of the line officers of the district (includes post commanders and most importantly the TRAINING OF THE POST CHAPLAINS. Offering training to new chaplains, answering questions, and offering assistance to the post chaplains is a large part of the job.

Any chaplain can find the resources to use for training under REFERENCES and TRAINING on the website: <https://movfw.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=76106>

The website works well as a side presentation for doing training with your subordinate Chaplains or assistant chaplains.

This on-line reference is available whenever the chaplain is connected to the web. Otherwise, this information is available to be downloaded and printed for ease of access.