

MEMBERSHIP

BUILDING NEW HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE

Every Jedi needs a Padawan—who will you bring into the fold?

2025-2026—AUGUST 2025

MARYLAND

The Department of Maryland started the 2025-2026 Year with 10,222 committed members. Our Number 1 Goal this year as a Department is to increase our Membership, which means we must strive to end the 2025-2026 year with more members than we started with.



Thanks to Auxiliaries 5633 and 304 for being the first two Auxiliaries to achieve 100% in Membership. As our goal is to increase our Membership, 5633 and 304 are now challenged to increase their Membership.

Now, who will be next to reach 100%?

By now your Auxiliary Membership Committee should have sent out your Dues Reminders. National provides a dues reminder that can be accessed by your Auxiliary Treasurer in MALTA. This reminder can be merged with your Annual Membership Listing, for a more personalized affect. Or you can use the dues reminders that I have provided for you in the conference material.

Consider paying dues for your senior members or members who are facing personal hardships.

Don't forget to include information about the "*Lightning Speed Early Bird Drawing*" for all Annual Members who pay their dues by August 31st. Five \$50 prizes will be awarded. All Annual Members whose dues are transmitted in MALTA by August 31st will automatically be entered for an opportunity to win.





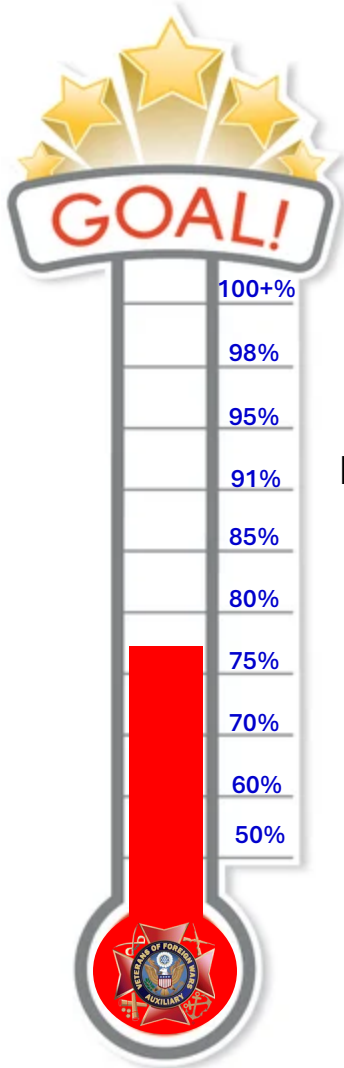
Life Membership Is The Way!

Encourage your Annual Membership to switch to Life Membership. They would never have to worry about paying membership dues again. Just think the money they have paid for their Annual Dues over the years, probably has paid for a Life Membership more than once. Let them know about Award No. 1—The Drawing for Annual Members Who Convert to A Life Membership. Monthly drawing will be conducted and if their name is drawn they will receive back the amount they paid for their Life Membership.

Department and National Membership Awards

Please become familiar with the National and Department Membership Awards being offered and inform your Membership so that they will know what is being offered as well. I am including a copy with this promotion. Please make sure your Membership is informed about Award No. 8 that is to help encourage Annual Members to pay their dues by August 31, 2025.

Our first percentage goal for Auxiliaries is to reach 91% by September 30, 2025. Two Auxiliaries from each Membership Division who achieves 91% by September 30, 2025 will be placed in a drawing to win \$75. Two \$75 prizes will be awarded per Membership Division.



Jackie Kimball

Department Membership Chairman

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To the Winners of Membership Award No. 3

- 1) [Karen Malott, VFW Auxiliary 2462](#)—"Belonging to the Veterans of Foreign War Auxiliary has never been so rewarding. Join the Auxiliary today and support the U.S.A."
- 2) [Catherine Gistedt, VFW Auxiliary 2678](#)—"They gave their service; give your support. Join the VFW Auxiliary."
- 3) [Jennifer Pierson, VFW Auxiliary 3285](#)—"Support veterans, honor their sacrifice, and be a force for good—Join the VFW Auxiliary today."
- 4) [Maria Birmingham, VFW Auxiliary 5471](#)—"Show your patriotism by joining the VFW Auxiliary and supporting our veterans and their families."
- 5) [Cathy Estep, VFW Auxiliary 7687](#)—"Join Our No One Does More for Veterans Team and Show Your Unwavering Support for Our Uncommon Heroes. Help Support Those That Have Done So Much for Us!"



Understanding the Basics of Membership Eligibility

One of the fundamental differences between the VFW Auxiliary and other veterans service organizations (VSOs) is our eligibility requirements. In order for an individual (as outlined on the VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel) to be considered for membership, his/her eligible veteran:

- Must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national;
- Must have honorable service in the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard)
- Must have served in any foreign war, insurrection, or expedition as reflected by **one** of the following:
 1. A VFW-authorized campaign or service medal of the United States.
 2. Receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay, as verified by a copy of a Leave and Earning Statement (LES) issued by the U.S. Armed Forces.
 3. Service in Korea for 30 consecutive/60 non-consecutive days after June 30, 1949.

The eligible veteran and the prospective VFW Auxiliary member must have a familial relationship within two generations; step, half and adopted family members meet the “two generations” standard set forth by the IRS. However, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews of the eligible veteran do not meet the “two generations” standard and are therefore not permitted to join the VFW Auxiliary.

Proof of the veteran’s service to establish eligibility for membership rests with the applicant. The local VFW Auxiliary’s Investigating Committee is responsible for assuring the eligibility of every person accepted for membership. A careful check of eligibility (as outlined in Section 102 of the 2017 VFW Auxiliary Bylaws) at the time a person joins will help to avoid any future concerns.

Information on a veteran’s service record can be obtained by contacting the National Archives and Records Administration at:

- Phone: 1.866.272.6272
- Online: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/

If you have membership questions or need more information, please contact the Department Treasurer and Membership Chairman, Jackie Kimball at 410-749-9511 or by Email at jackie.kimball@comcast.net.

Department Membership Awards & Recognition

AWARD NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	<p>Drawing for Annual Members Who Convert to A Life Membership</p> <p>Current Annual Members who convert to Life Membership, from July 1, 2025 thru April 30, 2026, will be placed in a monthly drawing. If their name is drawn, the full cost of their Life Membership will be reimbursed by the Department. Names that aren't drawn in the drawing will remain for subsequent monthly drawings throughout the year.</p>
2	<p>Recruiter of the Month</p> <p>Each Month from September 2025 to March 2026, one VFW Auxiliary Member, out of the names nominated, will be chosen as Recruiter of the Month. The Recruiter can be nominated by any Auxiliary Member using the Official Entry Form. Recruiters of the Month will be recognized in the monthly Membership Promotion and one Recruiter of the Month will be selected as Recruiter of the Year and announced at the 2026 Department Convention.</p>
3	<p>Month of June 2025</p> <p>Award for VFW Auxiliary Members: A contest will be held for VFW Auxiliary Members who submit to the Department Membership Chairman, by June 15, 2025, a catchy/appealing one or two sentence slogan inviting someone to join the VFW Auxiliary. Entries must be submitted on the Official Entry Form. Five prizes will be awarded. The winners will be announced and the prizes awarded at the School of Instruction. Only one entry per member. Entries that are not legible will be disqualified.</p>
4	<p>Month of July 2025</p> <p>Award for VFW Auxiliary Members: A contest will be held for members who submit to the Department Membership Chairman by July 31, 2025, an Elevator Pitch to use in recruiting for Membership in the VFW Auxiliary. One entry per member. Submissions must be completed on the Official Entry Form. The Top five entries will be awarded. The top five winners will be announced and the prizes will be awarded at the Department President's Homecoming. Entries that are not legible will be disqualified.</p>

AWARD NO.

DESCRIPTION

- 5** **AWARD FOR MEMBERS (VFW AND AUXILIARY)**
5 Member Recruiter Key Chain: Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five(5) new and/or rejoin members to the VFW Auxiliary, from July 1, 2025 to May 15, 2026, will receive a **5 Member Recruiter Key Chain**. **VFW Members must complete the Official Entry Form to qualify.**
- 6** **Drawing for Members (VFW and Auxiliary)**
\$100 Recruiter Drawing: Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoin members to the VFW Auxiliary, from July 1, 2025 to May 15, 2026, will be entered into the five Member Recruiter Drawing to receive \$100. Drawing will be held at the 2026 Department Convention. **VFW Members must complete the Official Entry Form to qualify for the drawing.**
- 7** **Award for Members (VFW and Auxiliary)—Adopt A Member**
Adopt A Member: Any VFW and VFW Auxiliary Member who Adopts A Member (pays a VFW Auxiliary Member's dues) from July 1, 2025 to May 15, 2026 will be placed in a drawing for \$100. For every single VFW Auxiliary Member who has been adopted a separate Official Entry Form must be completed. **The Entry Form must be completed and to the Department Membership Chairman by May 22, 2026.** The Drawing will be held at the 2026 Department Convention.
- 8** **Month of August 2025—Award for Annual Members**
"Lightning Speed Early Bird Drawing": All Annual VFW Auxiliary Members who pay their dues by August 31, 2025 will be put in the "Lightning Speed Early Bird Drawing" for \$50. Five-\$50 Drawings will be held. The Drawings will be at the September 2025 Council of Administration Meeting. Dues must be transmitted in MALTA by August 31, 2025 and verified on the National (CMR) Paid—Cancelled & Deceased Report on September 1, 2025.
- 9** **MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2025**
91%+ Award: Auxiliaries who reach 91% or more in Paid Membership by September 30, 2025 will be placed in a drawing to win \$75. Two (2) \$75 drawings per Membership Division. 91%+ Award based on paid Membership on the National (CMR) Paid—Cancelled & Deceased Report on October 1, 2025.

AWARD NO.

DESCRIPTION

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MONTH OF OCTOBER 2025

95% Award: Auxiliaries who reach 95% or more in Paid Membership by October 31, 2025 will be placed in a drawing to win \$150. Two (2) \$150 drawings per Membership Division. This Drawing will be held at the Department Christmas Conference. This Drawing is based on the November 1, 2025 National (CMR) Paid—Cancelled & Deceased Report.

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MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2025

98%+ Award based on paid Membership as of November 30, 2025. Auxiliaries who are 98%+ in Membership, in each Membership Division will be placed in a Drawing for \$150. Two (2) \$150 Drawings per Membership Division. Percentages will be based on the December 1, 2025 National (CMR) Paid—Cancelled & Deceased Report.

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MONTH OF DECEMBER 2025

100%+ Award based on paid Membership on December 31, 2025. Auxiliaries who are 100%+ in Membership, in each Membership Division will be placed in a Drawing for \$150. Two (2) \$150 Drawings per Membership Division. Percentages will be based on the January 1, 2026 National (CMR) Paid—Cancelled & Deceased Report.

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Month of May 2026

Award for Members: Any VFW and VFW Auxiliary Member who recruits at least one new VFW Auxiliary Member age 16 to 35, from July 1, 2025 to May 15, 2026 will be placed in a drawing for \$100. Official Entry Form must be completed to enter the Drawing. For each VFW Auxiliary Member age 16 to 35 recruited a separate Official Entry Form must be completed. **The Entry Form must be completed and to the Department Membership Chairman by May 22, 2026.** The Drawing will be held at the 2026 Department Convention.