

VFW Auxiliary Department of Maryland

Our membership is the core of our organization. We joined to give "Honor to our Veterans."

Mike Maruszak, National Ambassador



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MEMBERSHIP Join Our Alliance-Membership is the Way! 2025-2026—July 2025 MARYLAND

ust as the Force connects all living things, membership is the "Force" that binds us together and strengthens us as an organization in the noble work that we do in supporting our veterans, our military, and their families. Just as the Jedi unite to protect the galaxy. The thousands of members that are part of our alliance impowers and fortifies us to advocate for benefits our veterans and their families deserve, ensure that favorable legislation gets passed to benefit our nation's veterans and the military, as well as their dependents.

Every member of this Department is a Membership Ambassador or in Star Wars talk part of the Department of Maryland's Jedi Force. As a Membership Ambassador, our members should be well versed in who we are and what we do. When someone ask us, what is the VFW Auxiliary, we should be able to share a short, concise, appealing and catchy phrase that will engage the perspective member and attract them into joining. Make it personal...share what sparked your interest and led you to join the VFW Auxiliary.

The VFW Auxiliary is an inclusive organization, we need and welcome everyone who is eligible! We have something for everyone's interest...from Hospital, to Youth programs, to Outreach in our communities just to name a few. Each person who joins us and shares a bit of themselves and their talent is a **WIN—WIN**. A win for them because they get to share their strong suit and a win for us as an organization because we benefit from the talent they are willing to share with us.

LET'S TALK ABOUT RECRUITING...

As I stated earlier each and every VFW Auxiliary Member is an Ambassador, a recruiter, part of the Jedi Academy if you may. As Recruiters we should be taking every opportunity that is availed to us, as an opportunity to promote the VFW Auxiliary to those persons who have not yet joined our organization or are not familiar with what we do. Many of us have family members who have not yet joined. Yes, we can go out



in our local communities and sponsor recruiting events as we should, but we can also start with our own personal universe. We can start at home by reaching out to our own family members who have not yet joined. Sometimes all we have to do is ask. Share in a caring and intimate way why it was important that you joined. For me it was to honor the supreme sacrifice that my father made, when he gave his life for our freedom. I appreciate the power of my voice joined with other voices to affect change that will benefit our veterans and their families. And to those who say I just don't have the personal time for another organization. Let them know that even though you may not have the time now, that their membership adds to our numbers and helps us use the power of our membership to affect the needed change to make the lives of our veterans the military and their families better.

Their MEMBERSHIP says yes, we believe in the VFW Auxiliary's ability to advocate and support the issues that help enhance the lives of our Veterans.

Our National Organization provides us with several tools that we can use in our recruiting efforts. All of them are available in MALTA. Let's take a look at some of the tools that we can use for recruitment:



Please Print Your Name

The Just One card is a great way to engage your Membership in the business of recruiting. The challenge is on, for each Auxiliary Membership Chairman to put the challenge out to your respective Auxiliary Members to recruit at least one new or rejoined Member.

The VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel is a good visual tool, that explains in a concise way, whose service record a perspective applicant can use to join us. Don't forget that eligibility does extend to Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.



https://vfwauxiliary.org/vfw-auxiliary-overview/

This QR Code packs a punch! This is a great tool for connecting with the younger techy demographic. A scan of this QR Code opens a overview of who we are, what we do, our facts sheet as well as a Membership Application. Imagine your business card with this QR Code and the eligibility wheel, along with your contact information. And a one or two sentence

phrase at the bottom of your business card that says something like:

- "VFW Auxiliary...A Wonderful Way to Honor the Veteran You Love!" or
- "Join the VFW Auxiliary today to make a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans, their families, and your community!" or
- "Support our veterans and strengthen our community—become a proud member of the VFW Auxiliary today!" or
- "Honor, serve, and support—join the VFW Auxiliary today and be a force for good in the lives of veterans and their families!"

Or you can come up with your own catchy/appealing one or two sentence phrase.

Not only must we Recruit, but we also need to work on our existing Annual Members, encouraging them to renew their commitment for another year. Or, plant the seed about life membership. Let's get our first Dues Reminder, out as soon as possible. Our Membership year starts July 1, 2025. Try to get your first Dues Reminder out by July 1, 2025. Consider offering a "Lightspeed Early Bird" incentive to your members for paying their dues early. Included in this promotion are different examples of Dues Reminders, so you do not have to use the same one. Feel free to personalize them to suit your needs. Also, there is a reminder that Treasurers can use in MALTA that you can merge with your Membership Roster, making each letter more personal. When sending out your dues reminder include your business card in them if you have one. Electronic copies will be available on the Department website so you can tweak them to suit your Auxiliary's needs.

National Membership Ambassador, Mike Maruszak, is asking every Department, District and Auxiliary Officer to ask their VFW counterpart if their spouse and family members are members of the VFW Auxiliary. If they are not members recruit them to join.



LIFE MEMBERSHIP CONVERSION

Our Department will offer reimbursement opportunity to current Annual members who convert their Membership to Life. Just as last year, a drawing will be held once a month during the months of August 2025 thru May 2026. Current Annual Members who convert to Life will be put in a monthly drawing and if their name is drawn, the Department will reimburse them the full cost of their Life Membership. Last year we had over

390 members convert from continuous to life membership. New Annual members are not eligible.

I encourage Auxiliaries to implement their own installment plan, for Auxiliary Members who wish to convert to Life Membership. I would start with the first installment beginning, July 1, 2025 and the last installment ending October 1, 2025. I suggest that your Auxilia-

ry's Life Membership Installment Plan would be for a period of four (4) months. When you send out your Dues Reminder, include the information about the Department reimbursement opportunity if they convert to Life as well as information about the Life Membership Installment plan if your Auxiliary decides to offer this to your Membership. A suggested Installment Plan is included with this Promotion.



REJOINS

Why did these members let their Membership lapse? Were they facing a life altering event? We need to make the effort to reach out to these members. A suggestion would be to pull their original application and look to see who the recruiter was when they originally joined and ask that person to reach out to that member. Let them know that their membership is important to us, and we want them to come back.

$\underline{I}_{\text{NVITE}}...\underline{I}_{\text{NCLUDE}}...\underline{I}_{\text{NVEST}}$

We should **Invite** new members to join our Auxiliary community. **Include** them in meaningful opportunities, and **Invest** in their success to foster growth and connection.

Or in the World of Star Wars; We invite recruits to join the Rebel Alliance, include them in epic battles for the galaxy's future, and invest in their training so they become legendary heroes of the resistance!

INVITE – Extend a warm, intentional invitation to potential members. Use direct outreach, engaging events, and creative campaigns to spark interest. Make joining feel like stepping into an exciting opportunity, whether through personal calls, themed recruitment drives, or social media efforts.

INCLUDE – Once they show interest, make sure they feel welcomed and valued. Offer mentorship, provide meaningful connections, and engage them in activities that showcase their role within the organization. A solid onboarding process ensures new members integrate smoothly and feel like part of our Auxiliary community.

INVEST – Empower members to see their membership as more than participation—it's an investment in a mission, a network, and personal growth. Offer training, recognition programs, and leadership opportunities. When members feel their time and effort yield benefits, they'll remain committed and advocate for others to join.





Department of Maryland

We are the nation's oldest veterans' service organization auxiliary. For more than 100 years, we have been serving veterans, service members and their families in countless ways.

Millions of hours, millions of dollars and millions of tributes.

AMERICANISM

- 15,519 American and/or POW/MIA flags distributed
 - 338 Certificates presented to businesses and citizens for flying the American Flag

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

- 124,209 Approximate number of veterans, service members and/or families assisted
- \$154,752 Total monetary donations and/or value of donations and goods/services provided to veterans, service members and/or their families

SCHOLARSHIPS

\$10,223 Total mamount of scholarships awarded

Available Scholarships

- *Continuing Education Ages 21+
- *Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest –Grades 9-12
- *VFW Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest – Grades 9-12
- *VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Grades 6-8

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

7,234 Hours volunteered with other organizations not affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary

HOSPITAL

- \$37,321 Total spent on all Hospital Program related items and projects
- 10,913 Hours volunteered in VA and non-VA medical facilities

LEGISLATIVE

12,2029 Contacts made by members to legislators regarding veterans' issues

"BUDDY"® POPPY & NATIONAL HOME

- 36,945 "Buddy" Poppies distributed within the Department of Maryland
- 39 Auxiliaries promoted the VFW National Home

YOUTH ACTIVITES

- 6,552 Youth Auxiliaries worked with
- 197 Youth groups Auxiliaries worked with
- 108 Youth groups recognized for supporting veterans

JOIN US

Our organization comprises nearly a half million members from diverse backgrounds who have a common connection: all are relatives of VFW-eligible veterans. *

Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veterans.

*Eligible veteran does not have to be a VFW member.



- Established in 1914, the VFW Auxiliary is the nation's oldest veteran's service organization auxiliary.
- Members of the VFW Auxiliary are the relatives of those who have served in overseas combat.
- There are more than 470,000 members representing all 50 states.
- We serve the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.
- It is our mission to assist the VFW in any way we can. We share a common goal of serving veterans, their families and our communities.
- We are a voice for veterans on Capital Hill; we are instrumental in assisting the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families.
- We are one of the top ten providers of volunteer hours in the VA medical system.
- Every year, members fundraise millions of dollars for charitable projects that benefit veterans and their families.
- We provide millions of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth.
- We spread patriotism and educate our communities and our nation's youth about America's patriotic holidays and the American Flag.
- We spread the word about Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), and promote military and veteran suicide awareness.





Creating a strong **elevator pitch** is all about making a concise, compelling case for why someone should be interested in what you're offering. Here's a structured approach to crafting one:

1. Start with a Hook (The Why)

Capture attention right away—why should they care? A strong opening could be:

- "Did you know the VFW Auxiliary has been supporting veterans and their families for over a century?"
- "Every day, veterans face challenges. The VFW Auxiliary helps them overcome them."

2. Clearly State What You Do (The What)

Explain the mission in simple terms:

 "The VFW Auxiliary is a national organization dedicated to supporting veterans, military families, and local communities through advocacy, service, and volunteer efforts."

3. Highlight the Benefits (The How)

Make it relatable by showing what membership offers:

 "By joining, you become part of a powerful network that makes a real impact while building friendships and leadership skills." "Members gain opportunities for volunteering, community involvement, and supporting programs that directly benefit those who served."

4. Call to Action (The Closing)

Wrap up with an invitation:

• "We'd love for you to be part of our mission. Would you be interested in learning more about membership?"

Final Tips:

- Keep It Under 30 Seconds Short and impactful.
- **Speak with Passion** Authentic enthusiasm makes a difference.
- Adapt for Different Audiences Tailor it for veterans, families, or community leaders.



Here is two examples of my Elevator Pitch...

ELEVATOR PITCH #1

"The VFW Auxiliary is where action meets purpose. We are a dedicated group committed to supporting veterans, their families, and our community through advocacy, service, and meaningful programs. By joining, you become part of a mission-driven network that makes a real impact while building friendships and leadership skills. Whether it's standing up for veterans' rights, organizing events, or volunteering, your membership strengthens the legacy of service. If you believe in honoring those who served, the VFW Auxiliary is the place for you. Let's work together—because when we support veterans, we strengthen America!"

This one is a bit more personal...



ELEVATOR PITCH #2

"I joined the VFW Auxiliary to honor the supreme sacrifice my father made when he gave his life for our freedom. His service and devotion to this country inspire me every day, and being part of this organization allows me to continue his legacy. Through the Auxiliary, my voice is joined with countless others, amplifying our collective impact to create meaningful change for veterans and their families. Together, we advocate, serve, and support those who have given so much. If you believe in honoring our heroes and making a difference, I invite you to stand with us. Because when we unite, our power to help those who served grows stronger."

I challenge you to come up with your own personal elevator pitch. Something short and to the point that will give your audience:

- The WHY
- The WHAT
- The HOW

Recruiting Pointers

1. Personal Invitations Matter

- People respond best to direct, personal invitations rather than generic calls for membership.
- Encourage current members to invite friends, family, and community contacts.
- Use the "Invite, Include, Invest" approach

2. HIGHLIGHT THE BENEFITS

- Showcase the tangible benefits of being a member (networking, community impact, leadership opportunities).
- Talk about the emotional rewards—camaraderie, support for veterans, and making a real difference.
- Offer testimonials from existing members who love being part of the Auxiliary.

3. LEVERAGE EVENTS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Organize open-house events where potential members can see the Auxiliary in action.
- Partner with other organizations for co-hosted events to expand your reach.
- Have an easy sign-up process available at events make joining seamless!

4. USE CREATIVE MARKETING

- Incorporate themes that resonate.
- Design eye-catching flyers, digital campaigns, and social media posts.
- Use compelling slogans and imagery that grab attention.

5. FOLLOW UP AND ENGAGE NEW MEMBERS

- Recruitment isn't just about signing up members—it's about keeping them engaged.
- Assign a mentor or welcome ambassador to new members so they feel included.
- Host special gatherings for new recruits to help them integrate.





CREATING A SUCCESSFUL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Section 810A of the Auxiliary Bylaws:

The Auxiliary President shall appoint a committee of not less than five (5) members, including the Treasurer, to contact all members during the year for payment of dues.

- It is recommended that they also contact those who have not paid dues for the preceding years.
- ♦ This Committee shall report on all contacts made and turn any money collected over to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

Creating a **Successful Membership Committee** involves strategic planning, engagement, and a clear mission. Here's how to structure an effective committee for your Auxiliary:

1. Define the Committee's Purpose

- Clearly outline goals: increasing membership, retention, engagement.
- Establish measurable objectives (e.g., recruit 20 new members in a year, improve retention by 15%).

2. Assemble the Right Team

- The President should appoint members with **passion for** growth and strong communication skills.
- Include **diverse perspectives**—longtime members, new recruits.

3. Develop a Recruitment Strategy

- Utilize "Invite, Include, Invest".
- Seek feedback from members—what's working, what's not.
- Identify **target groups** (military families, community leaders, younger professionals).
- Host engaging recruitment events with incentives for early sign-ups.

4. Utilize Creative & Digital Outreach

- Leverage social media campaigns with compelling messaging.
- Use themed promotions.





Dues Reminder Every Auxiliary Can Use 0000 Zero Street Any Town, MD 00000

Friendly Reminder - 2026 VFW Auxiliary Membership Renewal

[Date]

Dear [Member's Name],

As a valued member of the VFW Auxiliary, we deeply appreciate your dedication to our mission of supporting veterans, their families, and our community. We wanted to send you a friendly reminder that your annual dues of [\$Amount] for the 2026 membership year are now due.

Your continued support allows us to carry out important programs and services that make a real difference. Renewing is quick and easy! You can mail your dues payment to [Treasurer's name], Auxiliary Treasurer, [Treasurer's Address]. In addition to cash or check, you can also pay your 2026 Auxiliary dues by credit card. Just contact our Auxiliary Treasurer and [he/she] can help process a credit card payment.

Also for your convenience, this year the Auxiliary is offering a Life Membership Installment Plan. Pay your life membership in four (4) smaller payments instead of a lump sum at one time. On the reverse side is the payment schedule and terms. The first payment is due on July 1. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our Treasurer [Treasurer's Name] at [Treasurer's phone number]. Once your Life Membership is paid you won't have to worry about membership fees in the future. You are paid up for life!

Also, if you convert your Annual Membership to a Life Membership, your name will be placed in a drawing and if your name is drawn the State Organization will give you back the money you paid for your Life Membership. These drawings will be held every month. The sooner you pay your Life Membership the more chances you have in the drawings.

If you have already sent your dues, thank you! If not, we encourage you to renew today to maintain your active membership and benefits. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to reach out.

We appreciate you being part of this great organization, and we look forward to another year of camaraderie and service together.

Yours in Service,

[Auxiliary President's Name]

[Auxiliary Name and Number] LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN

Age	Total Life Member Fee	Four Equal Installment Amount
Through Age 20	\$253.00	\$63.25
21—25	\$242.00	\$60.50
26—30	\$230.00	\$57.50
31—35	\$219.00	\$54.75
36—40	\$213.00	\$53.25
41—45	\$201.00	\$50.25
46—50	\$196.00	\$49.00
51—55	\$184.00	\$46.00
56—60	\$173.00	\$43.25
61—65	\$161.00	\$40.25
66—70	\$150.00	\$37.50
71—75	\$132.00	\$33.00
76—80	\$109.00	\$27.25
81—85	\$86.00	\$21.50
86—90	\$69.00	\$17.25
91 and Over	\$58.00	\$14.50

TERMS

- The Life Membership Installment Plan is for four (4) months, beginning July 1 and ending October 1.
- Life Membership Installments are due on the first day of the month starting with the July 1 Installment.
- If the Life Membership isn't paid in full on October 1, monies paid minus the Auxiliary's annual membership fee will be returned to the Auxiliary Member and the Annual Membership for that member will be transmitted.



Dues Reminder Every Auxiliary Can Use 0000 Zero Street Any Town, MD 00000

FRIENDLY REMINDER WE NEED YOU...PLEASE RENEW YOUR VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

[Date]

Dear [Member's Name],

We hope you received our previous reminder about your VFW Auxiliary membership dues for 2026. As of today, our records show that we have not yet received your renewal.

Your membership is crucial to our shared mission of supporting veterans and strengthening our community. Your continued Membership is important to us. Each members' commitment provides the strength we need in the fight for better benefits and entitlements for veterans, military and their families.

If you are experiencing a life event that is prohibiting you from paying your dues please contact our Treasurer, [Treasurer's Name], [Treasurer telephone and/or email]. The Auxiliary would be glad to pay this year's dues to enable you remain a member. In addition to cash or check we can also process your 2026 dues by credit card. Again, you can contact our Treasurer and he/she can help you process your credit card payment.

If you have already sent your dues—thank you! If not, please consider renewing today. Keeping your membership active ensures that we can continue our important work of supporting veterans and our communities.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to myself or our Treasurer. We appreciate your continued support and hope to see you involved in our upcoming events! We would love to have you attend our meeting. They are [Include Meeting day, place and time].

Yours in Service,

[[Auxiliary President's Name]
Auxiliary President
[Auxiliary President email and Phone Number]

SUGGESTED LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PLAN

months if you like. Keep in mind you want your members to pay their dues before December 31, 2025. Also This is a suggested example for a Life Membership Installment Plan that you can implement for your Auxiliary. Feel free to tweak it to suit your objective. This is a four month plan. But you could extend to five or six keep in mind the Award opportunities that are being offered by the Department and National organizations.

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Payment Due Date	Age 20	Age 21-25	Age 26-30	Age 31-35	Age 36-40	Age 41-45	Age 46-50	Age 51-55	Age 56-60	Age 61-65	Age 66-70	Age 71-75	Age 76-80	Age 81-85	Age 86-90	Over
Jul 1	\$63.25	\$60.50	\$57.50	\$54.75	\$53.25	\$50.25	\$49.00	\$46.00	\$43.25	\$40.25	\$37.50	\$33.00	\$27.25	\$21.50	\$17.25	\$14.50
Aug 1	\$63.25	\$60.50	\$57.50	\$54.75	\$53.25	\$50.25	\$49.00	\$46.00	\$43.25	\$40.25	\$37.50	\$33.00	\$27.25	\$21.50	\$17.25	\$14.50
Sep 1	\$63.25					\$50.25	\$49,00		\$43.25	\$40.25	\$37.50	\$33.00		\$21.50		\$14.50
Oct 1	\$63.25	\$60.50				\$50.25	\$49.00		843		\$40.25 \$37.50	\$33.00		\$21.50		\$14.50
Total	\$253.00	\$253.00 \$242.00 \$230.00 \$219.00 \$213.00 \$201.00 \$196.00 \$184.00 \$173.00 \$161.00 \$150.00 \$132.00 \$109.00	\$230.00	\$219.00	\$213.00	\$201.00	\$196.00	\$184.00	\$173.00	\$161.00	\$150.00	\$132.00	\$109.00	\$86.00		\$58.00

TERMS

- The Life Membership Installment Plan is for four (4) months, beginning July 1 and ending October 1.
- Life Membership Installments are due on the first day of the month starting with the July 1 Installment.
- If the Life Membership isn't paid in full on October 1, monies paid minus the Auxiliary's Annual Membership fee will be returned and the Annual Membership dues for the Auxiliary Member will be transmitted.



MEMBERSHIP AWARD No. 1 ANNUAL MEMBERS CONVERTING TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP DRAWING SCHEDULE

Month Converted	Drawing Month	COVERING LIFE MEMBERSHIP CONVERSIONS FOR MONTHS
July 2025	August 2025	July 2025
August 2025	September 2025	Jul—Aug 2025
September 2025	October 2025	Jul—Aug—Sep 2025
October 2025	November 2025	Jul—Aug—Sep—Oct 2025
November 2025	December 2025	Jul—Aug—Sep—Oct—Nov 2025
December 2025	January 2026	Jul—Aug—Sep—Oct—Nov—Dec 2025
January 2026	February 2026	Jul—Aug—Sep—Oct—Nov—Dec 2025 Jan 2026
February 2026	March 2026	Jul—Aug—Sep—Oct—Nov—Dec 2025 Jan—Feb 2026
March 2026	April 2026	Jul—Aug—Sep—Oct—Nov—Dec 2025 Jan—Feb—Mar 2026
April 2026	May 2026	Jul—Aug—Sep—Oct—Nov—Dec 2025 Jan—Feb—Mar—Apr 2026

National Membership Program Awards

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES, DEPARTMENTS AND CONFERENCES WILL BASED ON THE PAID TOTAL LISTED ON THE CMR—PAID, CANCELED & DECEASED REPORT IN MALTA.

Awards for Members

- 1. **5 Member Recruiter Pin**. Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a **5 Member Recruiter Pin**. Pin mailed directly to the recruiter.
- 2. **5 Member Recruiter Drawing**. Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will be entered into the **5 Member Recruiter Drawing** to receive a \$100 Visa Gift Card.
- 3. "National Membership Achievement" Recruiter Award. Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a "National Membership Achievement" Recruiter Award. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.
- 4. "National Membership Achievement" Recruiter Drawing. Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will be entered in the "National Membership Achievement" Recruiter Drawing to receive a \$400 Visa Gift Card. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.

New and/or rejoined members must be recruited to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026. The Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2026.

VFW recruiters, must complete the VFW Members Only recruiter form to be received at National Headquarters by June 10, 2026.

Membership Award winners **No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4** will be announced and the awards will be presented at the 2026 National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. If the award winner is not in attendance, the award will be mailed directly to winner from National Headquarters after National Convention.

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. \$50 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2026.

Department Membership Awards & Recognition

AWARD NO.

DESCRIPTION

Drawing for Annual Members Who Convert to A Life Membership
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.

2 Recruiter of the Month

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.

3 Month of June 2025

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.

4 Month of July 2025

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.

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.

- 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.
- 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

10 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.

11 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.

12 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.

13 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.



2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP YEAR Award No. 2 Official Nomination Form RECRUITER OF THE MONTH

Each Month from September 2025 to March 2026, one VFW Auxiliary Member, out 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.

BASIC INFORMATION	
Nominee's Name	Auxiliary Number
Nominee's Auxiliary Position	
Nominator's Name	Auxiliary Number
Nominator's Phone & Email	
RECRUITMENT PERFORMANCE	
How many new members has the Nominee Recr	uited for the 2025-2026 Year?
How many new members has the Nominee Recr	uited?
What strategies did the nominee use to successf	ully recruit members?
IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT	
How has the nominee gone above and beyond in	promoting membership growth?
Did the nominee engage in creative or unique out	reach methods? Yes I No I If yes, describ
them	
How has the nominee contributed to retaining cu	rrent members or welcoming new one?

2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP YEAR Award No. 2 Official Nomination Form RECRUITER OF THE MONTH—PAGE 2

LEADERSHIP & DEDICATION

What qualities make this nominee an Outstanding Recruiter?
How has the nominee demonstrated leadership in membership efforts?
Is there anything else you'd like to highlight about this nominee's recruitment work?

2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP YEAR Award No. 3 Official Entry Form

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.

Membership Number	Auxiliary Number	
Member's Name		
Member's Mailing Address		

2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP YEAR Award No. 4 Official Entry Form

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**.

Membership Number	Auxiliary Number
Member's Name	
Member's Mailing Address	
Pitch	
T TCOTT	



Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary Award No. 5 & 6—5 Member Recruiter Award Official Entry Form—For VFW Members Only

Award No. 5: 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.

Award No. 6: **\$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**.

Part 1 —- VFW Member Recru	iter's Information	
VFW Membership Number:		
Member's Name:		
Member's Address:		
Telephone:	Email:	
Part II -— New and/or Rejoin A	uxiliary Members	
Membership Number	Member's Name	
2. Membership Number	Member's Name	
3. Membership Number	Member's Name	
4. Membership Number	Member's Name	
5. Membership Number	Member's Name	
attest that the recruiting information is true	and correct.	
Signature of Auxiliary Treasure	er	
Auxiliary Number	Date	



Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary Award No. 7—Adopt A Member Official Entry Form

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 <u>separate</u> Official Entry Form must be completed. 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.

Part 1 — Member's Information Who Adopted An VFW Auxiliary Member

	on this <u>haspisa</u> full through and y hombor	
Membership Number:		
Member's Name:		
Member's Address:		
Telephone:	Email:	
Part II -— Auxiliary Member W	'ho has Been Adopted	
Membership Number	Name	
I attest that the information is true and corr	rect.	
Signature of Auxiliary Treasur	rer	
Auxiliary Number	Date	



Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary Award No. 13—Recruiter Award Recruiting VFW Auxiliary Member Aged 16 to 35 Official Entry Form

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 aged 16 to 35 recruited a separate Official Entry Form must be completed. 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.

Part 1 — Recruiter's In	nformation		
Membership Number:			
VFW Member □	VFW Auxiliary Mer	mber 🗆	
Member's Name:			
Member's Address:			
Telephone:	Email:		
Part II -— Auxiliary Mer	mber Aged 16 to 35		
Membership Number			
Name			
I attest that the information is true	e and correct.		
Signature of Auxiliary 1	「reasurer		
Auxiliary Number		Date	



Understanding the Basics of Membership Eligibility

ne 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 <u>one</u> 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.

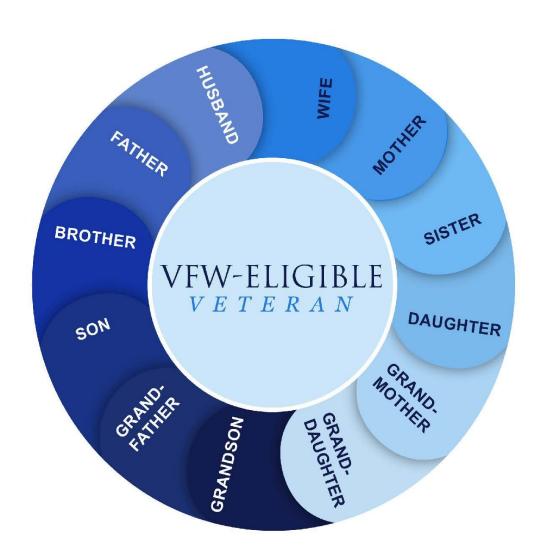
Information on a veteran's service record can be obtained by contacting the National Archives and Records Administration at:

Phone: 1.866.272.6272

Online: <u>www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/</u>

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.

VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



^{*}Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.



How to Ensure a Membership Application is Complete

One of the most critical steps in considering a new member for the VFW Auxiliary is the careful review of the prospective member's application details by a three-member Investigating Committee appointed by the Auxiliary President (as outlined in Section 102 of the 2025 VFW Auxiliary Bylaws and Ritual).

As an exclusive veterans' service organization, the VFW Auxiliary must ensure that every prospective member's eligibility has been thoroughly vetted by an Investigating Committee before any action can be taken on the application. According to Page 2 of the VFW Auxiliary Booklet of Instructions, "it is the duty of the Investigating Committee to see that the applications are filled out completely before they are presented to the body for consideration." The following fields are to be completed on each application:

- Recruited by
- Auxiliary Name and Number
- Kind of Membership (annual, life, etc.)
- State
- Name (spelled correctly)
- · Date of Birth
- Address
- Gender
- · City, State, Zip
- Phone
- E-mail

- Post Affiliated or Non Affiliated
- Relationship
- Veteran (name)
- Post Number (if applicable)
- Name of campaign ribbons or medals
- Foreign Service dates
- Foreign Location
- Applicant's signature and date
- Signatures of the Investigating Committee (at least 2)
- Signature line following the Obligation

In addition to the prospective member's application, it is the responsibility of the Investigating Committee to review proof of honorable service of the eligible veteran, unless he/she is a member of the VFW Post to which the applicant is applying for membership.

Proof of the veteran's honorable service in any foreign war, insurrection or expedition (as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces) may be determined through careful examination of a Separation Document (DD214) with a VFW-authorized campaign or service medal of

the United States; 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; or service in Korea for 30 consecutive/60 non-consecutive days after June 30, 1949.

Performance reports, travel orders, medical orders, medals reports, morning reports, assignment listings, buddy affidavits, and letters from a foreign war zone may also be reviewed if a DD214 is not available. For veterans pre-1946, a report of their discharge listing the medals and decorations that were earned is acceptable proof.

For soldiers currently on active duty, they will not have a DD214. In those cases, the appropriate orders showing overseas deployment to a qualifying area, or awarding of an authorized campaign medal, or a LES showing Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger pay will suffice to prove eligibility.

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

An incomplete application could delay your membership start date.

Applicant completes sections A, B, C or D and F. Auxiliaries/Departments complete section E.

Recruited/Recommend	ded by:				Recr	uiter Membe	er ID	
Auxiliary No.	City			State	Mem	nber ID (If alre	ady a member)	
Annual Membersh	nip Rej	oin						
Life Membership	Trai	nsfer						
Member at Large	in Departme	nt of		Membe	r at Large - '	VFW Auxilia	ry National Head	quarters
(If not a transfer, skip	to B.) —							
LIFE MEMBER T	RANSFER	Previous Au	xiliary					
ANNUAL TRANS	SFER F	Previous Auxilia	iry			Paying	Nonpaying	3
ANNUAL TRANS	SFER CONV	ERTING TO L	IFE (Fill out	Life Membership i	nformation belo	w.) Previous	Auxiliary	
THESE FIELDS RE	QUIRED —							
Name							Date of Birth	
Address							Femal	le Male
City		State	ZIP	Pho	ine		Email	
POST-AFFILIATE	ED (*Must be a	current member of	the VFW Po	st affiliated with the	Auxiliary to wh	ich you are app	lying.)	
Relationship		to Eligible Ve	teran*			VFW Me	embership ID	
THESE FIELDS RE			enter menos	of contact of Section 14.	01 ACOS SERIO - 55-05 - 5	0 8000	0 R 2	
NON-AFFILIATED				V Post affiliated wi	h the Auxiliary t			
Relationship		to Eligible Veter	an*			VFW Post	(If applicable)	
Name of campaign	ribbons or m							
Dates of Service:		to			Location	n e		
Investigating Committee	e Signature	S						
1 X		2 X	(3 X		
							2000 0 0 20 0	٥
Per Section 102 of the			ted Ac		ting Date	do of my own fr	Obligated Date	
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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

Brochure Order Form

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters is pleased to offer the following brochures to our members at no charge. **Please allow two weeks for delivery.**





Membership Brochure (includes application)



Fact Sheet



Patriotic Art & 3-Dimensional Art Brochure



Quantity

Please indicate the quantity requested below. Order quantity is not to exceed 50 copies of each.*

*Please contact National Headquarters should you need larger quantities for a recruiting event.

Auxiliary Membership Brochure (includes application) Auxiliary Fact Sheet Young American Creative Patriotic Art Brochure & 3-Dimensional (2 sided)					
	MAIL BROCHURES TO:				
First and Last Name					
Address					
City	State	ZIP			
Daytime Phone ()	Email				
Auxiliary Number	Member Number				

Submit order forms to:

Brochure

VFW Auxiliary, Attn: Brochure Orders, 406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111 or email to info@vfwauxiliary.org with "Brochure Order" in the subject line.

Note: VFW program brochures (including "Buddy® Poppy", Teacher of the Year, Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy) can be ordered from the VFW Store at www.vfwstore.org or by calling 1.833.VFW.VETS.



JOIN THE VFW AUXILIARY THE FORCE NEEDS YOU!

Across the galaxy, Heroes step forward to defend those who fought for freedom.

The VFW Auxiliary is your chance to stand with them!

WHY BECOME A MEMBER?

- To Defend the Legacy Support veterans and military families.
- Join the Rebel Alliance Become part of a powerful community committed to service.
- Lead the Charge Play a vital role in strengthening programs that honor and assist those who served.

YOUR MISSION, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT

- ◆ ADVOCATE FOR VETERANS' RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING.
- SUPPORT COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

 ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL SERVICE WHILE ENJOYING CAMARADERIE AND PURPOSE.
- ENLIST TODAY MEMBERSHIP DETAILS
- Sign Up Now to keep our forces strong!
- Dues: [\$Amount] Your support fuels our mission.
- SPECIAL MEMBER PRIVILEGES GAIN ACCESS TO UNIQUE EVENTS, LEADERSHIP OP-PORTUNITIES, AND AN INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY!

Join Us – And May the Auxiliary Be With You! Scan the QR Code For More Info



Contact: [Your Name] | [Your Position] | [Your Contact Info]

Join the VFW Auxiliary Our Force Needs You!

THE VFW AUXILIARY STANDS AS A BEACON OF HOPE, SUPPORTING VETERANS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES. WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL AND JOIN OUR RANKS?

Why Join?

- Defend our Heroes Support those who served.
- Unite for a Cause Join a fellowship dedicated to service.
- Lead the Charge Make a difference in our mission.

Mission Objectives:

- Advocate for veterans and military families.
- Serve through local and national initiatives.
- Build friendships with like-minded defenders of freedom.

Membership Enrollment Now Open!

Sign Up Today – Help Us Strengthen the Galaxy!

Dues: [\$Amount] - Your support fuels the mission.

JOIN US—BECAUSE IN THE FIGHT FOR VETERANS' RIGHTS, THE FORCE IS STRONGEST WHEN WE STAND TOGETHER.



Contact: [Your Name] | [Your Position] | [Your Contact Info]

May the Auxiliary Be With You!