

MEMBERSHIP 2025- 2026



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*“We are **“Making sure every Member is included, because they ARE needed”***
to continue the commitment that we have made to every veteran both past and present and to their families. We need many more caring Auxiliary members. Let’s reach 100% membership By January! I know we can make this a reality; it is time for our heroes, and it is time for our organization to soar ahead.

Our National Organization has the **“CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE”** and includes the Membership Program. The Department must be 100% plus by June 30, 2026. Through your hard work and following the Program Goals, we will ensure Department President Kathie will be a proud member of this elite group. On the Department level, we will have our own **“Circle of Excellence”** where we will track our Districts in each Membership Division as they move closer into the “Circle.”

Teamwork is like a jigsaw puzzle. Every piece matter, So does every Member.

PROGRAM GOALS:

Invite, Include and Invest!!

Get yourselves out and begin collecting 2025-2026 dues early, send out those dues' reminders now, contact those members by telephone who did not pay their dues last year. Do not wait until December 31 to begin your membership drive. New members bring new ideas and energy that each Auxiliary can use to regenerate their base. The time to begin your Membership Program for 2025-2026 is **NOW!**

We need to connect to all our members in order to bring the Department of California to 100% in membership, and ensure our Department President, Kathie earns her "Circle."

The VFW Auxiliary started with a small group of women who wanted to serve veterans, and it has grown exponentially and now includes both males and female members. There is only one way to add members: ***ask someone to join***. And once they join, ***ask them to participate***.

There are numerous places and times to ask someone if they want to join the VFW Auxiliary. Your approach will look different depending on who your audience is. In all cases, the potential member should have some knowledge of what the VFW Auxiliary is and what we do before they ever receive an application.

Important tools:

- Fact Sheet, available free from National Headquarters-Under Member Resources
- Business card with contact information (Order yours from the VFW Store, www.vfwauxiliary.org)
- Know the website, www.vfwauxiliary.org

HAVE A PLAN

Every Department and Auxiliary should have a Membership Plan. This plan should include:

- Contacting current members
- Outreach to former members
- Recruiting events for new members

Before a membership year begins, set your calendar for when you plan to do each of these. Make it as easy as possible for them to renew their dues. Plan at least four recruiting events in your community each year.

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Follow Up!

Most likely, the first time you talk to someone new about the organization, that person will not be ready to commit. It's important to ask for their contact information and then follow up within a week.

Ask Them to Participate

The key to keeping members is getting them involved. Call or email a new member within a week with the next meeting date and time, or the next possible event or project. Offer to pick him/her up or invite him/her to get coffee before or after.

Put a team of members in charge of contacting new members or members who haven't been to a meeting recently. These members should be friendly and knowledgeable.

Ways to Encourage Participation:

- Monthly signup sheet for regular events
- Emails and phone calls for special events

Public recognition of current volunteers (Consider posters at your VFW Post Home, if permitted, that spotlight member involvement)

- Be specific about what they will be doing, including the time commitment.
- Find out how that person best communicates, whether by phone, email, Facebook or texting
- Have another member stay with them for the entire length of the activity or event.
- If they say "no" to the first invitation, be sure and ask again!

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY EVENTS

An adult who still has children in the home will want opportunities to do things with his or her family. If he or she can't bring his or her children and spouse to at least some of the events, he or she will be less likely to join or to continue his or her membership. Be sure you plan at least one family-friendly event every three months, or once per quarter.

Adopt a Member

If a member cannot pay their dues because of financial reasons, an Auxiliary or Auxiliary Member can "adopt" a member and pay the dues for them. This shows how we, in local Auxiliaries, can help the entire VFW Auxiliary organization retain membership so let's set out to help reach the become 100% plus one to continue Honoring our Mission to Serve Veterans

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RECRUITING TIP 1

Let a potential member know:
"It is an honor to have a veteran
In your family who makes you
Eligible for the VFW Auxiliary.
Not everyone can join, and your
Veteran's service and sacrifice
Can be honored through
Your membership."

RECRUITING TIP 2

Find out who your Auxiliary
National Recruiter Trainer is
And get the training you need
To grow our organization.



Dept. California Membership Chairman

- Rachel Luke 1(619) 750-3627-Email: Rachel.luke69@gmail.com

Team Member- Ellie Mello 1 (619) 993-3641-Email: compassrealty1996@gmail.com

Team Member- Sheri Carrington 1 (806) 822-7287-Email: calichiefstaff2526@yahoo.com

Team Member-Dept. Treasurer, Julie Vaught 1 (916) 818-8595-Email: vfwauxca2@gmail.com

Team Member-Dept .Secretary, Mary Anne Kreutz 1(916) 818-8852-Email: vfwauxca1@gmail.com

Headquarters Membership Administration
9136 Elk Grove Blvd., Suite 101
Elk Grove, CA 95624
1 (916) 509-8724

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MEMBERSHIP DIVISIONS

Groups

- I
- II
- III
- IV
- V
- VI

Divisions

- 12, 14, 15 (399 or less)
- 2, 8, 10 (400-499)
- 9, 11, 16 (500-799)
- 6, 7 (800-999)
- 4, 5, 13 (1000-1899)
- 1, 3, 17 (1900 and higher)

District Medallion winners are the ***Districts*** in each ***Group*** with the highest percentage of paid annual and life members at the time of each Council of Administration Meeting. The medallion winners at the Department Convention in June of 2025 are welcome to keep their medallions as a memento of their District's accomplishments.

AUXILIARY DIVISIONS

Based on the Membership as of June 30, 2025

Division	Number of Members
1	10-40
2	41-55
3	56-75
4	76-100
5	101-125
6	126-175
7	176-270
8	271-325
9	326+

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DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Member Awards

For signing up three new members. You will receive the department membership special pin.

For every member after the first two, your name will be entered into a drawing for cash prizes at the **Department Convention. You must fill out the Membership Award Form correctly to be entered into the drawing.**

Auxiliary members who collect 20 new or rejoin members by March 31, 2026, will be appointed as **Aide-de-Camp to the Department President**. They will receive a \$25.00 check and certificate at the Department Convention in June 2026. **The auxiliary treasurer must sign and submit the request form titled Department Aide-de-Camp Award, and the form must be received in the Department office no later than April 15, 2026.**

Department President Kathie realizes how hard **Auxiliary Treasurers** work. There will be a special drawing just for Auxiliary Treasurers at the Department Convention in June 2026.

VPW Members are eligible for the above listed awards.

Auxiliary/District Awards:

Legacy Award: The Past Department President Dorothy Fisher Membership Legacy Award will be presented to the Outstanding Auxiliary Membership Chairman, for the most effective membership program in the Department. A written description of activities used to recruit new members and retain current members must be received by the Department Membership Chairman, **no later than April 15, 2026**. The winner will receive a certificate and a check for \$25.00.

Auxiliary Awards: The following Auxiliary awards are based on June 30, 2025, membership totals, including new, continuous and Life Members:

Auxiliaries will receive **\$25.00** from the Department when they reach 100% in membership.

Auxiliaries who reach **100% by December 31, 2025**, will be entered into a drawing for three \$100.00 Gift Card to the VPW National Store.

Special Event: District Presidents who attain 95% membership by December 31, 2025, will be eligible to attend the Special Event at the Department Convention in June 2026.

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NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP & LEADERSHIP AWARDS



Members Award

1. **Five Member Pin** to each VFW and VFW Auxiliary members who recruit five (5) new and /or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026* Official form required: available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Due to National Headquarters by June 10, 2026. Pin will be mailed directly to the members.
2. **National President Coin** to each VFW and VFW Auxiliary members who recruits ten (10) new and /or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026* Official form required: available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Due to National Headquarters by June 10, 2026. Pin will be mailed directly to the members.
3. **National Membership Achievement Award for each** VFW and VFW Auxiliary members who recruits twenty (20) new and /or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026* Official form required: available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Due to National Headquarters by June 10, 2026. The award will be presented at the 2026 National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, or mailed to the member.
4. **Special VFW Auxiliary Member Drawing** each VFW and VFW Auxiliary members who recruits five (5) new and /or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026*. For every five (5) new and /or rejoined members recruited, your name will be entered in a drawing for one of three \$100.00 VFW store gift certificates. Official form must be completed, postmarked and mailed to National Headquarters, or emailed to info@vfwauxiliary.org by June 10, 2026. Award will be presented at the 2026 National Convention in Baltimore Maryland or mailed directly to the member.

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Packed Parachute Award
\$10.00 to each Auxiliary that reaches 95% in Membership by November 30, 2025*.
\$20.00 to each Auxiliary that reaches 98% in Membership by March 31, 2026*
\$50.00 to each Auxiliary that reaches 101% in Membership by June 30, 2026

Awards for Department Chairmen

1. Citation to each Department chairman for participation in this Program
2. \$100.00 VFW store gift certificate to one Department Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for most outstanding training and promotion of the Membership Program.

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3. Outstanding Performance Award in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on criteria listed on page 5 and for the promotion of the program goals on page 41.

Awards for Department

1. Department Award #1: \$400.00 to the Department for 95% Plus in Membership by November 30, 2025*
2. Department Award #2: \$400.00 to the Department for 95% Plus in Membership by March 31, 2026*
3. Department Award #3: \$200.00 to the Department for 101% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2026*
4. 100% Plus Membership Pin will be given to the Department President, Treasurer and Membership Chairman when the Department reaches 100% plus in Membership*.
5. Conference VS Conference
 - A. \$50.00 to each Department within the Conference with the highest total percentage by January 4, 2026*.
 - B. \$50.00 to each Department within the Conference with the highest total percentage by May 31, 2026*.

Auxiliary Treasurer _____ Phone # _____

ALL-STATE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT CRITERIA

To qualify for All-State Auxiliary President Award, the following criteria **must** be met.

1. The Auxiliary must be 100% in Membership by March 31, 2026.
2. The Auxiliary must be represented by at least the Auxiliary President, Senior Vice President, or Junior Vice President at all District meetings and Schools of Instruction. It is recommended that your program chairman attend these meetings as often as possible.
3. All Auxiliary audits must be current.
4. The Auxiliary must have 100% participation and reporting in Americanism, Hospital, Legislative, Scholarships, Veterans & Family Support, and Youth Activities.
5. The Auxiliary must hold at least 10 business meetings per year. Monthly business meetings are encouraged. A quorum of five members is required at each meeting. (Section 210 and 212 in the National By-Laws.
6. All quotas must be paid by December 31, 2025.
7. Your application for All-State Auxiliary President must be received by the Department Membership Chairman by April 15, 2026.

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ALL-STATE DISTRICT PRESIDENT CRITERIA

To qualify for All-State District President award, the following criteria **must** be met.

1. District must be 100% in Membership by March 31, 2026.
2. The District President must attend at least two (2) Council of Administration meetings.
3. The District must attain 100% participation in all National Programs.
4. All Auxiliary and District audits must be current.
5. All inspections of Auxiliaries in your District must be completed and reported to the Department office by January 10, 2026.
6. You must hold at least (2) District Meetings in the 2025-2026 year. (See section 504 of the National By-Laws).
7. The District President's report must be received by the Department Membership Chairman by April 15, 2026.

All-State Auxiliary and All-State District Presidents will receive a citation of accomplishment and a name badge, which identifies the individual as an All-State President.

Application for Auxiliary All-State President

Auxiliary Name _____ # _____ District# _____

Auxiliary President's Name (Please print)

1. When did your auxiliary reach 100% in membership? _____

2. The Auxiliary was represented by the (circle one or more) President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President at all District meetings and Schools of Instructions.

Signature of District President to verify _____

Date _____

3. Did your auxiliary participation and report on all National Programs?

Please enter the month at least one report was sent from your Auxiliary to the Department chairman in the following programs:

Americanism _____

Hospital _____

Legislative _____

Veterans & Family Support _____

Scholarships _____

Youth Activities _____

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4. Were all audits up to date as of the date of this report? _____

5. List the dates of all Auxiliary meetings held (with a quorum) _____

6. Were all quotas paid by December 31, 2025? _____

Your application must be received by the Department Membership Chairman by April 15, 2026.

All information will be verified by Department records.

Auxiliary President Signature _____ Date _____

Address: _____

Application for District All-State President

District President's Name (Please Print) _____

District # _____

1. When did your district reach 100%? _____

2. Did you attend at least two (2) Council of Administration meetings? Please list dates.

3. Did your District attain 100% participation and reporting in all National Programs?

4. Were all Auxiliary and District audits up to date, as of the date of this report?

5. Were all Auxiliaries inspected and reported to the Department Office by January 10, 2026?

6. Did you hold at least two (2) District meetings in the 2025-2026 year?

Please list dates _____

Your application must be received by the **Department Membership Chairman** by April 15, 2026. All information will be verified by Department Records.

Date _____

District President's Signature _____

Address _____

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