

Department of South Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars

Commander's Guidebook 2025-2026

"All The Way"



Todd Haviland

2025-2026 State Commander



Table Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| General Order G26-001 – Assumption Of Command | 4 |
| General Order G26-002 – Department Officers | 5 |
| 2025-2026 Council of Administration | 5 |
| National / State Chairman | 7 |
| General Order: G26-003 – Appointments | 8 |
| 2025-2026 Program Chairman | 8 |
| 2025-2026 Veterans Service Office | 10 |
| 2025-2026 Auxiliary VFW Department Officers | 11 |
| Department of SC – Past State Commanders | 12 |
| 2025-2026 State Commanders’ Schedule | 15 |
| Membership Program | 17 |
| “ALL THE WAY” | 17 |
| Membership Mission | 17 |
| Introduction | 17 |
| Membership Goals | 17 |
| Membership Objectives | 17 |
| Legacy Membership | 18 |
| Membership and Other Awards | 18 |
| Early Bird Award | 18 |
| Recruiting Awards Individual Awards | 18 |
| Top Recruiter | 18 |
| Membership Incentives by Quarter: | 19 |
| Golden Pen Award | 19 |
| All-State Post Requirements | 20 |
| The Post Commander | 20 |
| Membership 101% | 20 |
| Post Inspections | 20 |
| Officer Bond(s) | 20 |
| Trustee Audit Reports Due | 21 |
| Buddy Poppies | 21 |
| Make Donations | 21 |
| Community Service Reports | 21 |
| Legislative Reports | 21 |


| | |
|--|-----------|
| Awards Submitted | 22 |
| All-State District Requirements | 23 |
| The District Commander..... | 23 |
| Membership 101%..... | 23 |
| Districts Must Have Held the Following Meetings: | 23 |
| Post Inspections..... | 23 |
| Officer Bond(s)..... | 23 |
| Trustee Audit Reports Due..... | 24 |
| Make Donations..... | 24 |
| Awards Submitted | 24 |
| Employer of the Year | 24 |
| Department of South Carolina Awards | 25 |
| Public Servant Awards | 25 |
| Life Saving Awards | 26 |
| Youth Cadet Awards..... | 27 |
| Social Media Award Most Outstanding District and Post Social Media | 28 |
| Samuel U. Roach Award Most Outstanding Post and District Commander..... | 29 |
| Melvin L. “Mel” Emore Award Most Outstanding Post and District Quartermaster..... | 30 |
| James W. Cothran Award Most Outstanding Veterans of Foreign Wars Post..... | 31 |
| Louis Thornton Award Most Outstanding Veterans of Foreign Wars Member | 32 |
| Clyde Lindsay Award Most Outstanding Post Community Service Award..... | 33 |
| J. Francis Carlisle Award Most Outstanding Post Chaplain-of-the-Year | 34 |
| Department of South Carolina Districts and Posts | 35 |

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
210 GLASSMASTER ROAD, LEXINGTON, SC 29072
803-808-0317

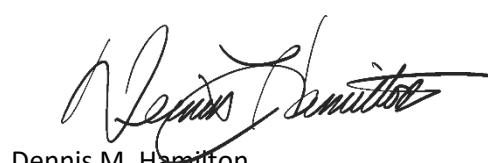
General Order G26-001 – Assumption Of Command

AUTHORITY: SECTION 516 – 518, VFW MANUAL OF PROCEDURES AND VFW NATIONAL BYLAWS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The undersigned hereby assumes command of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Carolina



Todd A. Haviland
State Commander
2025-2026



Dennis M. Hamilton
State Adjutant/Quartermaster
2025-2026

“All The Way”

Comrades,

I am both honored and humbled you have faith in me to be your State Commander for 2025-2026. “All the Way” is my motto. It worked as a paratrooper, and I want to bring that attitude and enthusiasm to the Department and hit the ground running.

Membership, Community Service and Fundraising are my priorities. We need to hit 101% ...Being in the community will help with recruitment.

We’re going to work together this year to make sure we are helping veterans, their families and the community.

Let’s make this a stellar year.

All the Way!!!

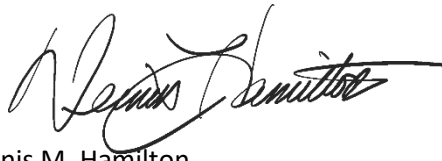
Todd Haviland
State Commander
2025-2026

General Order G26-002 – Department Officers

THE FOLLOWING VFW DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICERS HAVE BEEN DULY ELECTED OR APPOINTED AT THE 2025 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION, JUNE 22, 2025, IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA. THESE OFFICERS WILL BE ACCORDED RECOGNITION AND COURTESY DUE OF THEM.



Todd A. Haviland
State Commander



Dennis M. Hamilton
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

2025-2026 Council of Administration



STATE COMMANDER
Todd A Haviland
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D7 P06444



STATE SR VICE COMMANDER
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STATE JR VICE COMMANDER
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D2 P06740



STATE ADJ/QUARTERMASTER
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STATE CHIEF-OF-STAFF
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STATE CHAPLAIN
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D4 P09273



STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE

Betty Hilliard

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D1 P03433



STATE SURGEON

Curtis Peterson

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STATE IMMEDIATE PSC

Janet Chisolm-Richard

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STATE INSPECTOR

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DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

Chris Manning

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D1 P09509



DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

Ginger Graham

502-442-1029

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DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

John Burris

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D4 P09273



DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER

Kenneth Obriot

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D5 P12136



DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER

Richard Parker

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D6 P12345



DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER
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D7 P06500



DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER
Cottie Allen
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National / State Chairman



**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
ADMINISTRATION**
Edwin A. "Ted" Tufts, II
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**NATIONAL AND STATE
LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN**
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legislative@vfwsc.org
D2 P08738



**STATE
VMS CHAIRMAN**
Darren Wiseman
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General Order: G26-003 – Appointments

2025-2026 Program Chairman



**ASST.
ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER**
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D0 P08346



AWARDS CHAIR
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**CONFERENCE/CONVENTION
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HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN
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PARLIAMENTARIAN

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Charles Holloway

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PATRIOTS PEN CHAIR

Kevin Joy

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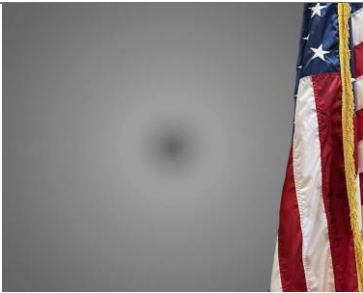
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CHAIR

Kevin Joy

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| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  <p>WEBMASTER Edwin A. "Ted" Tufts, II 843-442-2767 c141lm96@outlook.com D1 P03433</p> | | |
|---|--|--|

2025-2026 Veterans Service Office

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  <p>DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER John Johnson 803-647-2442 john.johnson34@va.gov D2 P08738</p> |  <p>CLAIMS CONSULTANT Nicole Johnson 803-647-2442 nicole.johnson9@va.gov D2 P08738</p> |  <p>ASSISTANT SERVICE OFFICER Jerri Williams 803-647-2442 jerri.williams2@va.gov</p> |
|---|--|---|

2025-2026 Auxiliary VFW Department Officers



PRESIDENT
Marietta Hill
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CHAPLAIN
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SECRETARY
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SR VICE PRESIDENT
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JR VICE PRESIDENT
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GUARD
Raina Bryant
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CHIEF OF STAFF
Donna Marie King
donnamarieking1959@gmail.com

Department of SC – Past State Commanders

| Year | Past State Commander | * Award | * Deceased |
|----------------|--|---------------|------------|
| 1935-1937..... | A. W. HAMILTON | | *** |
| 1937-1938..... | J. W. BRADFORD | | *** |
| 1938-1939..... | EUGENE E. PETIT | | *** |
| 1939-1940..... | CHARLES A. ARMSTRONG | | *** |
| 1940-1942..... | LANDON E. CARTER..... | | *** |
| 1942-1943..... | W. H. BALLENTINE | | *** |
| 1943-1944..... | J. A. BAGNAL | | *** |
| 1944-1945..... | J. D. MORRISON..... | | *** |
| 1945-1946..... | JOHN C. MCCUE | | *** |
| 1946-1947..... | THEO E. BOONE..... | | *** |
| 1947-1948..... | JOHN C. WILLIAMS | | *** |
| 1948-1949..... | WENDELL M. LEVI | | *** |
| 1949-1950..... | JAMES W. COTHRAN..... | | *** |
| 1950-1951..... | RUFUS W. GOSNELL..... | | *** |
| 1951-1952..... | JAMES R. MANN | | *** |
| 1952-1953..... | ROBERT P. GRIFFIN | | *** |
| 1952-1953..... | JAMES W. COTHRAN PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER IN CHIEF..... | | *** |
| 1953-1954..... | ROBERT O. PURDY | | *** |
| 1954-1955..... | WILLIAM B. WORTHY | | *** |
| 1955-1956..... | ROBERT E. MOSELEY | | *** |
| 1956-1957..... | EDGAR L. MORRIS | | *** |
| 1957-1959..... | BERNARD D. DUSENBURY | | *** |
| 1959-1960..... | JAMES B. SMOAK..... | | *** |
| 1960-1961..... | CARL E. CUMMINGS | | *** |
| 1961-1962..... | DAVID S. TAYLOR | | *** |
| 1962-1963..... | WILLIAM C. BROWN..... | | *** |
| 1963-1964..... | ARNOLD C. MUIR | | *** |
| 1964-1965..... | SPECIAL ORDER 153 - JANUARY 9, 1991, PER/SECTION 719 OF THE NATIONAL BY-LAWS ... | | |
| 1965-1966..... | LEON M. TAYLOR | | *** |
| 1966-1967..... | H. W. WILLIAMS | | *** |
| 1967-1968..... | ZACK PACE | | *** |
| 1968-1969..... | JAMES J. RAMAN | | *** |
| 1969-1970..... | LAURIE L. LANE..... | AA | *** |
| 1970-1971..... | BILLIE P. RANDALL | | *** |
| 1971-1972..... | J. DAN TRUETT, Jr..... | AA | *** |
| 1972-1973..... | J. NORMAN PORTER..... | | *** |
| 1973-1974..... | W. C. THOMAS..... | | *** |
| 1974-1975..... | THOMAS H. BURNS | AA | *** |
| 1975-1976..... | GARY LITTLEFIELD | AA | *** |
| 1976-1977..... | F. W. WYCOFF, Jr. | AA | *** |
| 1977-1978..... | M. FRANK EDWARDS..... | CC AA..... | *** |
| 1978-1979..... | R. L. "BOB" HIGHT, JR. | AA | *** |

Department of SC – Past State Commanders – Continued

| Year | Past State Commander | * Award | * Deceased |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1979-1980..... | HARRY M. FARRIS | | *** |
| 1980-1981..... | KENNETH L. HARTMAN | AA | *** |
| 1981-1982..... | LEE D. FINLEY..... | | *** |
| 1982-1983..... | F. D. WILLIAMSON | AA | *** |
| 1983-1984..... | HENRY S. ALLEN | CC, AA | *** |
| 1984-1985..... | WILLIAM J. JOLIN..... | A.A | *** |
| 1985-1986..... | THOMAS E. MORRIS..... | | *** |
| 1986-1987..... | GEORGE A. BOPP..... | AA | *** |
| 1987-1988..... | WILLIAM M. CHAPMAN | AA | *** |
| 1988-1989..... | NED L. JOHNSON | AA | *** |
| 1989-1990..... | GEORGE M. PULLIE..... | CC AA | *** |
| 1990-1991..... | JOHNNIE C. ROBINSON | AA | *** |
| 1991-1992..... | CARL A. ROBINSON, Sr..... | AA | *** |
| 1992-1993..... | JOHN A. BUCK | AA | *** |
| 1993-1994..... | TEO RIVAS..... | | *** |
| 1994-1995..... | KEITH HARPER | | *** |
| 1995-1996..... | BILL LARK..... | AA, TC | *** |
| 1996-1997..... | ARTHUR D. MANN..... | | *** |
| 1997-1998..... | JOHN D. PATTY..... | | |
| 1998-1999..... | ROBERT A. "OLLIE" OLSEN | | *** |
| 1999-2000..... | GERALD T. POTHIER..... | AA | *** |
| 2000-2001..... | L.D. "LYN" DIMERY..... | DAA, TC | |
| 2001-2002..... | MELVIN L. "MEL" EMORE | | *** |
| 2002-2003..... | M. HUGH GUNTER, Jr. | AA | |
| 2003-2004..... | RICHARD N. BELL..... | | |
| 2004-2005..... | HENRY T. BOZARD | | *** |
| 2005-2006..... | WILLIAM "BILL" DICKEY | | |
| 2006-2007..... | JOHN DAVID MELLERT..... | AA | *** |
| 2007-2008..... | JOHNNY L. WILSON | AA | |
| 2007-2008..... | JIMMY LEE WALLACE VA | AA | |
| 2008-2009..... | FRANK M. FOGNER..... | DAA | |
| 2009-2010..... | ALBERT LANDSPERGER..... | | |
| 2010-2011..... | RONALD P. BULLOCK | AA | *** |
| 2011-2012..... | WILLIAM D. CAMPBELL | | |
| 2012-2013..... | AUGUSTUS SINGLETON | AA, TC | |
| 2012-2013..... | MARGO SHERIDAN VA | AA | *** |
| 2013-2014..... | RODNEY J. BURNE | | |
| 2014-2015..... | DENTIST B HARVIN | AA | |
| 2015-2016..... | BETTY JEAN HILLIARD..... | | |
| 2016-2017..... | WILLIAM "BILL" HAVLIN | AA | |
| 2017-2018..... | HARRY MCFADDEN..... | | |
| 2018-2019..... | JOHN L. SULLIVAN, Jr. | AA | |
| 2019-2020..... | ROBERT W. HOLSCLAW | AA | |

Department of SC – Past State Commanders – Continued

| Year | Past State Commander | * Award | * Deceased |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 2020-2021..... | EDWIN A. "TED" TUFTS II | AA | |
| 2021-2022..... | DWIGHT M. HORA..... | AA | |
| 2022-2023..... | EDWARD STEFANAK, JR. | AA, TC | |
| 2023-2024..... | JAMES FOX | AA, TC | |
| 2024-2025..... | JANET CHISOLM-RICHARD | | |

* LEGEND

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| *** | DECEASED |
| AA..... | ALL AMERICAN |
| CC..... | CO-CAPTAIN |
| DAA | DISTINGUISHED ALL AMERICAN |
| TC | TRIPLE CROWN |

2025-2026 State Commanders' Schedule

DATE..... EVENT LOCATION

JUNE 2025

June 19–22..... State Convention DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia, SC
June 24 @ 6:00pm CoA Budget Approval Meeting Zoom
June 28..... VFW National Home 100th Anniversary Celebration..... Eaton Rapids, MI

JULY 2025

July 9 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
July 19 @ 10:00am Department School of Instruction (SOI)..... HQ 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

AUGUST 2025

August 6 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
August 9-13..... VFW National Convention Columbus, OH

SEPTEMBER 2025

September 5-7 Department Recruiting Event Darlington Raceway
September 10 @ 10:00am.... Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
September 8-11 Fall Legislative Committee (Tentative)..... Washington, DC
September 25-28 Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming Des Moines, IA

OCTOBER 2025

October 2-5..... Department Adjutant/Quartermaster Training Kansas City, MO
October 8 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
October 11 @ 10:00am Council of Administration (CoA)..... HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
October 16-19..... Department Junior Vice Commander Training..... Kansas City, MO
October 25 @ 9:00am Freedom Festival - Trunk or Treat..... HQ 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

NOVEMBER 2025

November 6-9..... Southern Conference Montgomery, TX
November 12 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

DECEMBER 2025

December 7 Pearl Harbor Memorial USS Yorktown Patriots Point, Mt Pleasant, SC
December 10 @ 10:00am.... Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

JANUARY 2026

January 7 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
January 22-25 Mid-Winter Conference Hilton Resort Myrtle Beach, SC

2025-2026 State Commanders Schedule – Continued

DATE..... EVENT LOCATION

FEBRUARY 2026

February 4-10 National Presidents Mid-Year Conference..... TBD
February 28-March 1 Auxiliary Café Event..... Washington, DC
February 28-March 5 Washington Legislative Conference Washington, DC
February 11 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

MARCH 2026

February 28-March 1 (cont).. Auxiliary Café Event..... Washington, DC
February 28-March 5 (cont).. Washington Legislative Conference Washington, DC
March 18 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

APRIL 2026

April 8 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting Zoom
April 11 @ 10:00am Council of Administration (CoA) HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
April 16-19 Department Senior Vice Commander Training Kansas City, MO
April 19-26 Department Cruise / Fundraiser Port Canaveral, FL

MAY 2026

May 12 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

JUNE 2026

June 19–21..... State Convention DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia, SC

JULY 2026

July 24-30..... VFW National Convention Reno, NV

Membership Program

"ALL THE WAY"

Todd Haviland
State Commander
2025-2026

Membership Mission

To recruit, retain and mentor a strong membership base that is all-inclusive regardless of age, race, gender, and religious beliefs.

To grow a membership well versed in the mission of the VFW including grassroots and program knowledge, members that are active at all levels of the organization to include Department activities and local communities.

Introduction

The #1 priority for South Carolina in 2025-2026 is to refocus our posts and members in the areas of active recruiting, and to work towards the goal of retaining and upgrading membership throughout the entire state.

Success starts at the Post level: each post must have a strong membership chairman, as well as a committee that coordinates with the District and Department membership chairmen. Their goals and purpose are to help coordinate recruiting events, while working with Posts to make their membership program successful.

For those who are a Post, District or Department line officer we need to focus on the following:

- Show our members how it should be done, by getting out there and leading by example
- Demonstrate how to recruit and retain members ourselves
- Use all means necessary to reach out to potential new members and retain our current comrades, using modern technology like social media, emails, calling and / or texting.

Membership Goals

1. Continue to build strong membership programs at the Post, District and Department levels, while working with the Department Membership Chairman. We need to work together to reach the goals set for membership with constant communication and participation.
2. Continue to work together and promote all of our VFW Programs. Most importantly, we need to be visible in the community: doing fund raisers; attending local community events; recruiting new members; participating in Buddy Poppy Drives.

Membership Objectives

1. Every member should recruit and mentor one new member.
2. Every Post needs to renew current members with retention being 50% or higher.
3. Increase Life and Legacy Memberships.
4. Increase and improve membership drives throughout the State.
5. Develop new Posts, and / or revitalize existing Posts.

Legacy Membership

Any post reaching 15 new legacy members or increasing their legacy life membership by 15 members in 2025-2026 will be awarded \$250.

Membership and Other Awards

NOTE: Membership Contacts

Mary Azbell
Department Membership Chairman
402-738-0084
scvfwmemteam@gmail.org

Shannon Gaskins
Department Membership Co-Chairman
843-499-7642

Early Bird Award

1. Any post that reaches 101% by 1/1/2026 will receive \$200.
2. Any District that reaches 101% by 4/1/2026 will receive \$300.

Recruiting Awards Individual Awards

5SCVFW Drink Koozie & 1 entry into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member

10State Commander's VFW Coin & 2 entries into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member.

25\$25 gift certificate for the VFW Store & 5 entries into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member or 1 entry into a drawing for a legacy upgrade.

50\$50 gift certificate for the VFW Store & 10 entries into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member or 3 entries into a drawing for a legacy upgrade.

100\$100 gift certificate for the VFW Store & 20 entries into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member or 5 entries into a drawing for a legacy upgrade.

Top Recruiter

The top recruiter in the Department as of 6/15/2026 will receive 3 hotel nights and their registration fee for the Department Convention.

Membership Incentives by Quarter:

1. **7/15/2025-9/30/2025** Each member that renews or reinstates a member will have their name placed in a drawing for a \$200 VFW Store Gift Card (1 entry per renewal/reinstate)
2. **10/1/2025-12/31/2025** Each post that increases their membership percentage by 2% will be placed in a drawing for \$500
3. **1/1/2026-3/31/2026** Any member that recruits 5 or more new members will have their name placed in a drawing for a \$200 VFW Store Gift Card
4. **4/1/2026-6/15/2026** Any Post that is over 101% will be placed in a drawing for \$500

Membership Notes and Contacts

- Awards given to a Post may be transferred to any member of that Post.
- No more than one stipend will be awarded to an individual for a given event.
- Posts, Districts, and Departments must reach a minimum of 101% membership to qualify for any award.
- Employees and officers of the VFW National Headquarters are excluded from receiving stipends or awards in this program unless otherwise authorized by the State Commander and the Quartermaster.

Membership Trophy

During each Counsel of Administration meeting the membership trophy will go to the district that has the highest membership percentage. It will be determined by the percentages at the end of the last quarter

1. The district with the highest membership percentage on 6/30/2026 will receive a Top District 2025-2026 trophy for the district to commemorate the accomplishment.
2. The District Commander will also receive a plaque to commemorate the accomplishment.
3. The post with the highest membership percentage on 6/30/2024 will receive a Top Post 2025-2026 trophy for the post to commemorate the accomplishment.
4. The Post Commander will also receive a plaque to commemorate the accomplishment.

New Post Development

For each new post created the department will provide \$300 toward necessary materials for that new post.

Golden Pen Award

Posts that have completed all required tasks on the All-American Dashboard, have turned their bonding paperwork and audits in correctly and on time and are at 95% membership by 12/31/2025 will have their Adjutant entered into a drawing for the Golden Pen Award.

The drawing of this award will be at the first staff meeting of 2026. This award is an engraved pen set. It will be presented at the Mid-Winter Conference in January along with a \$100 Gift Certificate to the VFW Store.

All-State Post Requirements

NOTE: Post, District, State Representatives: All Forms, Documents and Records should be submitted as follows where applicable:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records and / or Checks: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

The Post Commander

The Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander or JV Vice Commander must attend the following meetings/events:

- District School of Instruction
- District Meetings
- District Round Table (Only one required)
- District Convention
- Conduct 2 Post membership Drives by 4/30/2026
 - ***Records are kept by District Commanders and turned into the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster each Quarter at aqm@vfwsc.org.***

Membership 101%

1. Must make 101% in membership with 50% retention.
2. Must recruit or retain a minimum of 5 members

Posts that make All State will receive a plaque. The Post Commander and Post Quartermaster will have the option of receiving an All-State Cap and Pin or \$100 each.

Posts who make the above requirement by 6/30/2026 will be awarded at their own Post meeting.

Post Inspections

Post inspections completed by 12/31/2025

Officer Bond(s)

Post Quartermaster/Commander Bond renewed no later than 8/31/2025 to the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster at aqm@vfwsc.org.

All-State Post Requirements – Continued

Trustee Audit Reports Due

Post Trustee Audit Reports turned in correctly and on time to the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster at aqm@vfwsc.org

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|--|
| 1. | 07/30/2025 | (April-May-June, Ending 6/30/2025) |
| 2. | 10/30/2025 | (July-August-September, Ending 9/30/2025) |
| 3. | 01/30/2026 | (October-November-December, Ending 12/31/2025) |
| 4. | 04/30/2026 | (January-February-March, Ending 3/31/2026) |

Buddy Poppies

Buddy Poppies 500 ordered by 1/31/2026.

Make Donations

Make a Donation to the Following Programs. All Donations to be paid to the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster at aqm@vfwsc.org no later than 01-31-2026.

1. VFW Department of SC
 - a. Commander's Special Project (CSP) \$200 minimum (Commander Special Project is VSO)
 - b. National Home (NH) \$75 Minimum
2. VFW National OMS
 - a. Make a Donation to Veterans Military Support (VMS) to National through OMS \$125 Minimum

Community Service Reports

Post must submit reports by 4/30/2026 (VFWSC Login > Members Only)

1. Community Service, 3 per Quarter
2. Americanism, 4
3. Youth Activities, 4
4. Safety, 12
5. Veterans and Military Support (VMS)

Legislative Reports

Must submit 4 legislative reports to the State Legislative Chairman by 4/30/2026.

Email responses from legislators, or automatic replies from legislators to Scott Craig II - legislative@vfwsc.org

All-State Post Requirements – Continued

Awards Submitted

- **Post Member of the Year** - Post to submit Post Member of the Year (does not hold officer position) no later than 4/30/2026.
- **Patriots Pen** - Must submit one Patriots Pen winner to the district awards chairman no later than 11/15/2025
*District Chairman will use **Scholars App** interface to Promote winner to the Department PP Chair.*
<https://scholarsapp.com/>
- **Voice of Democracy** - Must submit one Voice of Democracy winner to the district awards chairman no later than 11/15/2025
*District Chairman will use **Scholars App** interface to Promote winner to the Department VOD Chair.*
<https://scholarsapp.com/>
- **Teacher of the Year** - Must submit one of the following Smart/Maher Teachers Citizen Education Award to the district awards chairman no later than 11/15/2025 (Elementary K-5, Middle School 6-8, High School 9-12).

All-State District Requirements

NOTE: Post, District, State Representatives: All Forms, Documents and Records should be submitted as follows where applicable:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records and / or Checks: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

The District Commander

The District Commander, District Senior Vice Commander or District Junior Vice Commander **must** attend the following meetings:

1. Department Budget Approval
2. Department School of Instruction
3. Department CoA Meetings
4. Department Convention

Membership 101%

Districts that meet All State requirements by 04/30/2026 will receive All State honors at the State Convention.

Districts who meet all the above requirements by 6/30/2026 will be awarded at the Department SOL.

The District Commander and Quartermaster will have the option of receiving All State Cap and Pin or \$100 gift certificate to the VFW store

Districts Must Have Held the Following Meetings:

1. District School of Instruction
2. District Meetings
3. Two District Membership drives
4. One District Roundtable

Post Inspections

All Post inspections completed by 12/31/2025

Officer Bond(s)

The Quartermaster/Commander Bond renewed by 8/31/2025

All-State District Requirements – Continued

Trustee Audit Reports Due

District Trustee Audit Reports turned in correctly and on time

1. **07/30/2025** (April-May-June, Ending 6/30/2025)
2. **10/30/2025** (July-August-September, Ending 9/30/2025)
3. **01/30/2026** (October-November-December, Ending 12/31/2025)
4. **04/30/2026** (January-February-March, Ending 3/31/2026)

Make Donations

Make a Donation to the Following Programs. All Donations to be paid to the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster at aqm@vfwsc.org no later than 01-31-2026.

1. VFW Department of SC
 - a. Commander's Special Project (CSP) \$200 minimum is the Veterans Service Office (VSO)
 - b. National Home (NH) \$75 Minimum

Awards Submitted

- **Patriots Pen** - District Patriots Pen Winner no later than 12/15/2025 using the Scholars App interface to Promote to your winner to the Department. <https://scholarsapp.com/>
- **Voice of Democracy** - District Voice of Democracy Winner no later than 12/15/2025 using the Scholars App interface to Promote to your winner to the Department. <https://scholarsapp.com/>
- **Teacher of the Year** - District Teacher of the Year winner no later than 12/15/2025 Districts are encouraged to submit one Teacher of the Year winner in each of the three categories (Elementary K-5, Middle 6-8 and High School 9-12)

Employer of the Year

Submit Employer of the Year (No Government Businesses) no later than 4/30/2026

Department of South Carolina Awards

Public Servant Awards

to include

1. EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN
2. LAW ENFORCEMENT
3. FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Candidates Must Have Demonstrated:

- Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve.
- Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties.
- Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

Documentation required for all Candidates:

Nomination letter containing the Candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.

- One (1) page resume of the candidate's overall background.
- One (1) page resume of the candidate's background in his/her field.
- One (1) page listing of the candidate's accomplishment and awards in his/her field.
- One (1) Photograph (preferably a head shot) of the Candidate.

First place winners in all categories will be presented to the Post Commander at the Mid-Winter Conference.

Awards should be presented at a venue chosen by the award recipient and outside the VFW Post to maximize public exposure of award.

Post Safety Chairman should send the above information to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nominations Are Due No Later Than 12/15/2025

Life Saving Awards

YOUTH LIFE SAVING, LINE OF DUTY LIFE SAVING, VALOR LIFE SAVING AWARD

CRITERIA:

- Documentation of the event such as newspaper clippings, etc.
- Name of the individual receiving the award.
- Date of presentation to be held.
- Name and address of the Post Commander or Auxiliary President who will be presenting the award.

1. YOUTH LIFE SAVING AWARD

- The age group for this award is seventeen (17) and under.
- To honor individuals who without regard for their own comfort and whose actions resulted in the saving of another human life.

2. LINE OF DUTY LIFE SAVING AWARD

- To honor individuals who in the execution of their assigned duties have acted resulting in the saving of another human life.

3. VALOR LIFE SAVING AWARD

- The age group for this award is eighteen (18) and over.
- This award honors civilians who acted resulting in the saving of another human life and have placed their own safety at risk.

1st Place awards in all three categories will be presented to the Post Commander at the Mid-Winter Conference.

The Post will present the award at a venue chosen by the award recipient and outside the VFW to maximize public exposure of these awards such as at a city council meeting etc. are highly encouraged.

The Post Safety Chairman or Commander should send the above information to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, PHOTOS) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nominations Due No Later Than 12/15/2025

Youth Cadet Awards

1. NAVAL SEA CADETS
2. CIVIL AIR PATROL CADETS
3. JROTC

CRITERIA:

Cadet awards may be initiated by the local VFW Post or directly by the cadet's unit. In either case, documentation should come from the unit as follows:

- Naval Sea Cadets: from the unit commanding officer in a letter with copy to NSCCHQ.
- Civil Air Patrol Cadets: from the candidate's squadron by submitting a CAPF-120.

CRITERIA FOR CIVIL AIR PATROL AND NAVAL SEA CADETS

- Good academic standing
- Satisfactory progress in the cadet program
- Outstanding achievement in community service and/or the cadet program
- Outstanding leadership in the cadet program
- High moral character
- Exceptional professionalism in appearance and actions (Officer Award)
- Outstanding military bearing and conduct in and out of uniform (NCO Award)
- Involvement in patriotic programs, drill team, color guard, etc.
- Demonstrated potential and willingness to assume higher levels of responsibility

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR JROTC

- Positive attitude toward the ROTC program
- For JROTC, must be enrolled as a 10th - 12th grade JROTC student
- Must maintain a "B" average in ROTC curriculum and a "C" average in all remaining subjects with no failing grades in the previous semester
- Active in at least one other student extracurricular activity (music, athletics, government, etc.)

A plaque and \$100.00 cash award will be presented to the Department winner.

The Post should send all the above information to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nominations Due No Later Than 12/15/2025

Social Media Award

Most Outstanding District and Post Social Media

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT MUST HAVE STRONG EMPHASIS PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING:

CRITERIA

1. A strong emphasis on membership is important:
 - a. e.g. dues reminders to members, application for membership requirements
 - b. Contacts for a potential new member to call.
2. District/Post Newsletter:
 - a. It is important to post current newsletters on your social media.
 - b. Post monthly calendar to promote participation. Emphasize special projects and patriotic events.
3. Post descriptions of National, Department, District, Post programs and events:
 - a. Explanation of VFW, District, Post programs and their importance.
 - b. Due dates, to who and where to submit applications.
4. Community Service events.
 - a. Descriptions of the event with dates.
 - b. Pictures with captions tell a story and help to explain the event.
5. Special Events
 - a. Memorial Day, Veterans Day, VFW events with pictures.
6. Contact information - Your Social Media page is the way to get the word out about your District and Post. Current contact information attracts members and guests to your site.
 - a. Post meeting times.
 - b. Post address and business hours.
 - c. A picture of the Post Home – Showing where we live is useful to attract potential new members to the District or your Post.

The Department Webmaster will be the sole judge for this award, no letters of recommendation are required.

Content updated with current information will be a strong indicator for judging.

This award is separated into two categories, District and Post. One award will be presented in each category. The award will be presented at a conference or regular Council of Administration meeting.

Social Media submissions are based on the calendar year January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Samuel U. Roach Award

Most Outstanding Post and District Commander

CRITERIA

MUST BY ACTION, VISION, PLANNING UP DOWN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND:

Inspire the members of the Post or District to succeed in the following programs:

1. **Community Service Reporting:** Must have Community Service reports sent to the Community Service Chairman
2. **Americanism Reporting:** Must have Americanism reports sent to the Community Service Chairman.
3. **Safety Reporting:** Must have Safety reports sent to the Community Service Chairman.
4. **Youth Activity Reporting:** Must have Youth Activity reports sent to the Community Service Chairman.
5. Must attain at least 100% plus two (2) in Post/District membership.
6. **Post:** Must order Buddy Poppies
7. **District:** All Posts must have ordered Buddy Poppies.
8. **Post:** Must have submitted a "Voice of Democracy," "Patriot's Pen" and a National Citizenship Education.
9. **District:** Must have submitted a "Voice of Democracy," "Patriot's Pen" and a SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD. Teacher entry to the Department for judging.
10. Teacher entry to the District for judging.
11. Must have shown teamwork throughout the Post- not doing everything yourself.
12. Must be Inspected prior to 12/31/2025.

Letters of recommendation may be submitted by any officer (both elected and appointed) or a member in good standing to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nomination is Due No Later Than 4/1/2026

Melvin L. “Mel” Emore Award

Most Outstanding Post and District Quartermaster

CRITERIA

WHO, BY EXEMPLIFYING THE OUTSTANDING SPIRIT, LOVE AND ENTHUSIASM OF PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER/DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER EMORE:

1. **Post:** Sent to the Department Quartermaster all Trustees Reports of Audits no later than 30 days after end of quarter.
2. **Post:** That all duties have been performed according to ARTICLE II, Section 218, (a) Officers, (5) Quartermaster.
3. **District:** All duties have been performed according to ARTICLE IV, Section 418, (a) Officers, (5) Quartermaster.
4. **District:** Sent into the Department Quartermaster all Trustees Reports of Audits no later than 30 days after the District Meeting/Convention.
5. **Post and District:** Quartermasters must verify if the Quartermaster from the previous year complied with the National By-Laws/Manual of Procedure Section 222 - Delegates, District Conventions & Meetings, Department & National Conventions.
6. **Post and District:** Current VFW year Department Governance Policies must be on file with the Post or District Adjutant or the Adjutant/Quartermaster.

Letters of recommendation may be submitted by any officer (both elected and appointed) or a member in good standing to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

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622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nomination is Due No Later Than 4/1/2026

James W. Cothran Award

Most Outstanding Veterans of Foreign Wars Post

HONORING OUR DEPARTMENT'S ONLY PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JAMES "JIMMY" W. COTHRAN

CRITERIA

1. Post Commander, or Senior Vice Commander, or Junior Vice Commander must attend District Training Session and attend all regular scheduled or special District meetings.
2. The post must have a Post Appointed Service Officer.
3. Post must meet the membership quotas as established in the ALL-STATE program.
4. At least one (1) entry sent to the District for judging of "Voice of Democracy," "Patriot's Pen," and Citizenship Education Teacher Award.
5. Must have ordered Buddy Poppies.
6. Trustees Reports of Audits must have been submitted to the Department Adjutant / Quartermaster no later than 30 days after the quarter's end.
7. Post must have been inspected prior to 12/31/2025.
8. Post must have sent in a donation to the Department Quartermaster for our VFW Service Office to help with the cost of supplies.

Letters of recommendation may be submitted by any officer (both elected and appointed) or a member in good standing to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nomination is Due No Later Than 4/1/2026

Louis Thornton Award

Most Outstanding Veterans of Foreign Wars Member

WHO BEST EXEMPLIFIES THE SPIRIT, LOVE AND ENTHUSIASM OF PAST STATE SERGEANT-OF-ARMS LOUIS THORNTON.

CRITERIA

1. Must be active in recruiting new members or bringing back past members to be re-instated in the Post.
2. Must actively participate in Community Service, Americanism, Safety and Youth Activities both in the Post and in the Community.
3. Must be present at Post sponsored programs such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day, POW/MIA day and any other patriotic events that are held in both the Post and the community.
4. The conduct of the member in the Post and the community must exemplify a positive image which adds to the prestige of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
5. The member, who by example, motivates others to become more involved in Post and community activities.
6. Members must attend Post meetings, District meetings and at least one (1) Council of Administration meeting.
7. Must have attended either a District or Department a School of Instruction.

Letters of recommendation may be submitted by any officer (both elected and appointed) or a member in good standing to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

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622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nomination is Due No Later Than 4/1/2026

Clyde Lindsay Award

Most Outstanding Post Community Service Award

POST WINNER WILL RECEIVE A \$599.00 STIPEND TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

CRITERIA

1. Post must submit a written summary with pictures, news clippings etc. of how the Post interacted with their community from May 1st to April 1st.
2. Post must have actively participated in Community Service, Americanism, Safety and Youth Activities in the Community.
3. Post must have sponsored a Community Flag Disposal Program open to the public.
4. Some type of communication must have been distributed, whether by flyers, the local newspaper, or on a collection box for U.S. flags.
5. Post must have placed flags or wreaths at a cemetery remembering deceased veterans.
6. The post must have donated at least one (1) flag to an institution (school etc.).
7. Post must have submitted at least one entry of "Voice of Democracy," "Patriot's Pen" and National Citizenship Education Teacher to the District for judging.
8. Post must have representation at either a District or Department School of Instruction.
9. Post must have had representation at all District meetings and functions.

Letter(s) of recommendation and written summary may be submitted by any member in good standing at the Post or District levels and must be submitted to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, PHOTOS) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

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622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nomination is Due No Later Than 4/1/2026

J. Francis Carlisle Award

Most Outstanding Post Chaplain-of-the-Year

AWARDED TO PROVIDE RECOGNITION TO A POST CHAPLAIN WHO PROVIDES EXEMPLARY SERVICE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS.

CRITERIA

1. Chaplain must be the chairman of the Post "Visiting Veterans" committee.
2. Chaplain must visit and comfort the sick, disabled, or shut-in veterans of the Post and Community.
3. Chaplain must provide spiritual guidance to veterans or a family member (s) of a veteran in need.
4. Chaplain must be the Chairman of any memorial service including Memorial Day.
5. Chaplain, if able, must attend all Post meetings.

The Department Chaplain will judge this award basing his/her decision on the overall services, as stated above, to veterans and their families.

Nomination letters can be submitted by any member in good standing at the Post or District levels to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nomination is Due No Later Than 4/1/2026

Department of South Carolina Districts and Posts

VFW Members can access the District and Post Locations and Officers for the current Term in the “**Members Only**” section of the VFW Department of SC website.

<https://vfwsc.org/>

Login > Members Only > Post Officers for 2025-2026 Term

Linked Files:

- District and Post Officers for 2025-2026 Term
- Post Information Records for 2025-2026 Term

NOTICE: The information in this document and any attachments are for the sole use of the intended recipient and may contain privileged and confidential information. The disclosure, copying or distribution of this message or attachment(s) to non-VFW members or use is strictly prohibited.