

## 2024-2025 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

### **VFW Member of the Year Award:**

**Purpose:** This award is to recognize a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who has exemplified in their actions and accomplishments, the true spirit of our organization in serving the needs of their Post and Community, and who has dedicated themselves in a professional manner to addressing the Pillars of our Organization and is leading from the front.

**Eligibility:** This award is intended to recognize a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who has been a member a minimum of one full membership year and has been nominated for their activities during the award Year according to the program guidelines. Award candidates holding any of the following elected or appointed offices during the award year, are not eligible. (Specifically - Commander, QM, Adjutant, Service Officer or Chaplain) In addition, Past State Commanders and Past National Council members are ineligible for nomination.)

**Type of Recognition:** The nominator's Post will receive ten (10) All State points for their first nomination and five (5) All State points for each additional nomination submitted. If a Post nominates two (2) or more members for this award, a Post winner must be selected, the Post Commander will write "Post Winner" on the nomination form of the nominee selected as the Post winner and the Post will receive an additional ten (10) All State points. If a Post only submits one nominee for this award, no additional All State points will be awarded for the Post winner. Post Commanders will submit all nominations to their District Commander.

District Commanders will write "District Winner" on the nomination form of the nominee selected as District Winner. Fifteen (15) All State points will be awarded to the Post of the member selected as District Winner.

All nomination forms, including those not selected for awards, must be delivered to the Department Community Service Director NLT 28 March 2025. One nominee will be selected as the Department of Michigan Member of the Year and will be submitted to National no later than 28 April 2025 for consideration of National recognition. The Post of the member selected as the Department winner will receive an additional twenty (20) All State points. An additional twenty five (25) All State points will be awarded to that Post if a National award is received.

The Department winner will receive a citation from the Department Commander at the 2025 Department Convention. The National award winner will receive a National Cap with title of Member of the Year & citation presented at National Convention by the Commander-in-Chief. The award winner will additionally receive full room and travel for the duration of the National Convention for the award presentation. Each Department winner will also receive a citation from the Commander-In-Chief.

**Criteria:** This award recognizes exceptional performance as a member of the VFW. Examples of service that would be considered in judging the nominee include the following:

- Nominee presents themselves in a professional and helpful manner within the Organization and within the Community.

- Nominee shows an active interest in their Department by attending meetings and showing a willingness to consider leadership roles.
- Nominee participates in activities and events within the Department to help raise awareness of the Organization in the Community.
- Nominee has shown a willingness to work together with other VFW, Auxiliary, and Riders Members in a spirit of cooperation to accomplish the same goals.
- Nominee volunteers for and participates in activities and events that address the needs of target groups and individuals in the Community.
- Nominee has demonstrated actions which contribute to improving the quality of life for those we are intended to serve, whether they are children or adults, and whether they are homeless, hospitalized, handicapped, in need of a job or education.
- Nominee encourages members of the Community to support VFW programs and continually encourages others to become members.
- Nominee must have been submitted for #StillServing campaign recognition at <https://todaysvfw.org/>

**Process:** Any VFW member in good standing may be nominated by the Department Commander as the Department VFW Member of The Year candidate using the Member of The Year Nomination Form. Nominations may be made by another VFW member, a Post Commander or a District Commander. Any additional instructions and nomination forms will be uploaded to this webpage as soon as they are available from National Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department Adjutant at 517-485-9456 or [adjutant@vfwmi.vet](mailto:adjutant@vfwmi.vet).

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