

To: Mike Maruszak, National Membership Ambassador, Jeanette D. Garcia, Department President, Louise A. Salas, Department Secretary, Betty Decker, Tech Chairman

From: Dominique C. Garcia, Department Membership Chairman

Welcome to the 2025-2026 Year!

Congratulations to our very own Betty Decker on being the Western Conference Membership Coach!

It's a New Year, that means its time to start collecting dues from annual members, maybe see if they would like to convert to Life and recruiting new members. Remember Membership Never stops!

One thing to remember, any annual members you signed up for June was for the 2024-2025 year. Now July 1 starts the 2025-2026 year, and they owe again for their membership.

Start writing and sending out Dues Notices to all members, keep in mind that some of our older members enjoy receiving a mailed dues notice or even a phone call. Try to get your Dues notices out by the end of August.

Try to do incentives for the members to get them to pay and/or convert to Life Members. One year my auxiliary gave away a life membership to one member who paid by October 31<sup>st</sup>. We just kept track of the annual members who paid and then entered their name into a lotto and picked one. We have also done a restaurant gift card give away.

Be sure to include new members in meetings, events, and being involved. Invite them to a meeting, sit with them and show them the ropes. Let them know the ritual, the dos and don'ts and how the meeting goes.

Angel Dues- your auxiliary can Vote to do Angel Dues. Just vote on it during the meeting and have it in the minutes. You can request that the membership card be sent to your Auxiliary Treasurer, and they can send it to the members with a nice note.

Recruiting- we have the QR Code keychains available through the VFW Store. They lead to the Fact Sheet, Membership Application and brochure. Also, keep paper applications on you in case a potential member prefers a paper application. Start with your post comrades, see if they have any family members they can sign up.

County and State Fairs are coming up see if you can set up a booth/table and do a membership drive and have information on all the programs we do.

I would like to throw a challenge out there-Member Initiation Challenge

Member Initiation can be found on page 78 of your Bylaws Book, though it isn't mandatory or required it would be nice to preform it for our new members, along with that if your Auxiliary is able purchase them a membership pin and bylaws book. The challenge is to hold a member initiation either during your meeting or another time, go through the Member Initiation, take pictures and send them to me.

There are many Awards for members, Auxiliaries, and Department this year. I will outline those at the training and in my other promotionals.

We would love to be 100% by December 31<sup>st</sup> but let's aim for 98%

If you have any questions or need anything, please reach out to me- Phone 505-974-0018  
Email- dcgarcia.1121@gmail.com

Let's have a great year, bring in more members and bring back the older members.

Reminders:

- All Line Officers Dues (on any level) need to be paid by December 31<sup>st</sup>
- Any new members from the beginning of the year to now need to pay their 2025-2026 dues

Thank you,

Dominique C Garcia  
Department Membership Chairman