



V F W
N A T I O N A L H O M E

Board of Trustees

Board Structure & Responsibilities
Trustee Qualifications, Candidate Elections & Procedures,
National Home Districts, Current Trustees & Terms
Summary of Board Structure and Trustee Responsibilities

January 8, 2026

The National Home welcomes your questions regarding Board elections. They can be directed to the Executive Office by calling (517) 663-7023.

VFW National Home

Board of Trustees Policies & Procedures

POLICY: 1.18

SUBJECT: Board of Trustees candidate qualifications & election procedure policy

DATE: January, 2026

Board of Trustees

Board Structure & Responsibilities

(Governance, Operation and Committees)

The National Home is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. VFW National Home Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws establish a Board of Trustees as the governing body of the corporation.

- The Board of Trustees is a (20) member board.
 - Twelve (12) trustees are elected by the Life Members of the National Home from each of twelve National Home Districts and additionally one Board appointed Secretary/Treasurer.
 - Seven (7) ex-officio trustees serve by virtue of their elected or appointed office.
- Elected Trustees serve six (6) year terms which begin and end in October.
 - Two (2) trustees' terms end each October
 - Two (2) newly-elected trustees are installed each October.
- Annual October Board Meeting:
 - Trustees elect board officers.
 - President
 - Sr. Vice President-elect
 - Jr. Vice President-elect
 - Board Secretary/Treasurer
 - Newly-elected trustees and officers are installed at the Annual Meeting of the Life Membership on the fourth Saturday in October.
 - The Board President appoints a chairman for any of the Board Committees. The Board President and Sr. Vice President are official members of each Committee by virtue of office.
- Board responsibilities include:
 - Overall governance and oversight of the National Home
 - Establishing eligibility requirements for National Home programs
 - Educating and informing constituents in support of the National Home
 - Fundraising for the National Home
- Trustees meet regularly at the National Home to carry out their responsibilities.
- Trustees are the liaison within the Departments they represent and attend various Department functions. Trustees set example for annual giving, encourage contributions to the National Home, actively promote the National Home and its mission to the members of the VFW, VFW Auxiliary and the public, and encourage members of the VFW and VFW Auxiliary to become Life Members of the National Home.

- Trustees' contact information is available through the National Home.
- Trustee qualification criteria and election procedure are outlined in National Home Bylaws which are available by contacting the Home at (517) 663-7023.

Submittal of the on-line packet to apply for the trustee position, along with the biography must be submitted to the Executive Director between **January 1 and on / or before 11:59pm, Eastern Standard Time, April 30th of the year the applicable term expires** for Board of Trustees vacancies. Copies will be forwarded to the National Home Board President, VFW Adjutant General and VFW Auxiliary National Secretary by the Executive Director.

All decisions regarding the election of candidates are final upon a vote of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.

*All VFW & VFW Auxiliary & MOC/MOCA Leadership
can help by encouraging qualified members with the expertise, dedication
and commitment to serve the VFW National Home.*

Board of Trustees

Trustee Qualifications, Candidate Elections and Procedures

Dedicated, hardworking individuals are encouraged to seek election to these esteemed positions to promote awareness, understanding and support of the VFW National Home. Seeking candidates with expertise in leadership, business, budgeting, problem-solving, event management, public speaking, fundraising or social work as well as previous Board member experience are especially encouraged. **It is essential that candidates have access to and are comfortable with doing business via email and other assorted technology. Candidates should have email proficiency, be able to comfortably use a computer and print materials when needed.**

Love and support for the National Home is essential, along with time to devote to required board business, meetings, and National Home & District travel. Elected trustees serve a six (6) year term.

Trustee Qualifications and Candidate Elections:

- Be a member in good standing of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary.
- Be a National Home Life Member for at least one year prior to seeking election; submittal date of the candidate packet.
- Be a resident of the National Home District which he/she represents or reside within a 50-mile commuting distance of the District.
 - 2026 vacancies include:
 - District 5 – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Latin America & Caribbean
 - District 8 – Illinois, Indiana, Missouri & Kentucky
 - 2027 vacancies include:
 - District 3 – Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia & New Jersey
 - District 4 – Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina & Virginia
 - 2028 vacancies include:
 - District 6 – Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi & Tennessee
 - District 10 – New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas & Nebraska
 - 2029 vacancies include:
 - District 9 – North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, Montana & Wyoming
 - District 12 – California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Alaska & Pacific Areas
 - 2030 vacancies include:
 - District 7 – Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin & Minnesota
 - District 11 – Arizona, Colorado, Utah & Nevada
 - 2031 vacancies include:
 - District 1 – Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island
 - District 2 – New York, Vermont, Connecticut, Europe
- Submit a biography of qualifications limited to 400 words. This biography will be what is used to introduce you to the District and will be the document that National Home Life Members see at voting time. Make your 400 words count on why you are the best Trustee candidate. List your experience within your organization and any previous Board experience, as well as job skills that would benefit the National Home.
- Undergo a criminal background check.

Board of Trustees

National Home Districts, Current Trustees & Terms

The 12 trustees are elected by the Life Members of the National Home from each of 12 National Home Districts and the 7 ex-officio trustees serve by virtue of their position in accordance with National Home Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Board responsibilities include guidance and oversight of policies and business, establishing eligibility requirements for National Home programs, as well as educating, informing and fundraising for the National Home. For trustee contact information or questions for trustee candidate eligibility criteria and election procedures contact the Home at (517) 663-7023.

All VFW & VFW AUX Leadership can help by encouraging qualified members with the expertise, dedication and commitment to serve as VFW National Home trustees.

District	States Represented	Board Member	Term Limit Expires (Oct.)
1	Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire & Rhode Island	Mike Raymond	2031
2	New York, Vermont, Connecticut & Europe	Judith Barnes	2031
3	Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia & New Jersey	Jodie Hollinger Board Sr. Vice President	2027
4	Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina & Virginia	Sandi Kriebel Board President	2027
5	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Latin America & Caribbean	Jan Owens	2026
6	Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi & Tennessee	Michael Rhew Board Jr. Vice President	2028
7	Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin & Minnesota	Michele Rathke	2030
8	Illinois, Indiana, Missouri & Kentucky	Jerry O. Blake Past Board President	2026
9	North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, Montana & Wyoming	Wendy Dannenfelzer Board Member At Large	2029
10	New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas & Nebraska	Shirlee Frias	2028
11	Arizona, Colorado, Utah & Nevada	Dennis Parizek	2030
12	California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Alaska & Pacific Areas	Mary Anne Kreutz	2029

Board of Trustees

Summary of Board Structure and Trustee Responsibilities

The VFW National Home Board of Trustees is comprised of 12 elected district trustees, one Board appointed Secretary/Treasurer and 7 ex-officio trustees and serves as the governing body of the corporation.

Trustees of the National Home are responsible to; establish governing policy, set example for annual giving, fundraise, develop other resources, strategic planning, provide fiduciary oversight, hire the agency's independent auditor, financial investment advisor, and corporate attorney, recommend necessary Article of Incorporation and Bylaw changes, and promote positive community-agency relationships. Trustees are the liaison within the Departments they represent and promote the National Home and its mission to the members of the VFW and its VFW Auxiliary as well as the Military Order of the Cooties, and to other interested organizations.

Each of the 12 elected trustees represents one of 12 National Home Districts. Trustees are elected to serve a 6-year term by the *National Home Life Members* in the VFW Departments that comprise their National Home District. The 7 ex-officio trustees are; VFW Commander-in-Chief, Adjutant General, Quartermaster General, VFW Auxiliary National President, National Secretary-Treasurer and the MOC Supreme Commander and MOCA Supreme President.

Trustees annually elect a Board President, Sr. Vice President and a Board Secretary-Treasurer.

Members of the Executive Committee are:

- Board President
- Board Sr. Vice President
- Immediate Past Board President (if still a board member)
- Board Jr. Vice President
- Board-Elected Executive Committee Member At Large

The Executive Committee is the board body that conducts necessary business in between board meetings and reviews and acts upon properly initiated employee grievances or resident grievances, if any.

Trustees attend regular board meetings (generally 3 times per year/ virtual or in person) on the National Home campus and will serve on or chair board committees. Board Members will be expected to attend Board Meetings, National Conventions and conferences within their district to represent the VFW National Home.

On-Line submittal of applications will have a hard deadline of April 30th at 11:59pm Eastern Standard Time. You will need to have all information at the same time in order to submit your application of interest. You will need your name, address, phone number, email address, Life member number of the National Home and date of Life member acceptance, membership number of the VFW or the VFW Auxiliary, post or auxiliary dept. #, agreement to undergo a criminal background check, and a headshot or photo, if possible.