

Membership Report 2021 Convention

Membership Numbers at first appear stagnant. Since last year we have had a net loss of about 15 members. Out of the 100 pre-9/11 era veterans that we are missing from our membership rolls we know of around 70 members that have passed away since the last convention. Over the last 6 months we have added almost 50 post-9/11 era veterans. Not including immediately lapsed members, our **current membership total is 3,232**.

Lapsed Members are another way to measure organizational health. VFP has approximately **2,172 lapsed members**. Which means they are not taken completely off the rolls immediately. After 13 months they are declared “inactive”. There is a flux of members who renew their dues and others who lapse on any given month. Last month we saw a very low number of lapsed members (73) compared to some months where we see over 100. If individual chapters reached out to and encouraged local lapsed members to renew we could sustain membership totals above 5,000 with little effort.

Chapters and Independent Members are two ways we identify members. Any member actively on a chapter roster is a chapter member. Members who are at-large are considered “independent members.” **1,366 VFP members are considered independent** and not organized under a chapter construct. We have started to hold Independent Member meetings monthly to share information and support members that do not have a large VFP community nearby. Chapters organize as VFP has always, autonomously in cooperation with the national office and other members. We rely on Chapter Contacts to help disseminate information and connect to the national organization, or else vital information is sometimes not shared with other chapter members. As chapters struggle to find new members and to keep engagement high we have noticed the need for additional support to make sure chapters remain healthy and functional. **There are currently 113 VFP chapters** including **8 international chapters** that operate as their own national organizations.

Post-9-11 Veterans are the future of VFP. If the organization has a legacy that continues into the next generation it is vital young members are nurtured, developed as leaders and appreciated for their talents and perspectives. Without creating an organization that is inviting to younger veterans, VFP will not last another 10 years. VFP currently has **382 post-9-11 veterans**. Jules Vaquera, the Membership Coordinator, has started a listening project to call each post-9-11 veteran member to hear what concerns and interests each has to better shape campaigns and organizing that will encourage their participation.

VFP has 735 Associate Members. These hard-working activists are the backbone of many chapters and projects. They are not auxiliary members and take active roles in many leadership roles throughout VFP. Thank you for your support and applying your energy and skills to the VFP mission.

Membership Committee is organizing to help solve some of the new member outreach and chapter health needs. We look forward to getting input from other members and cooperating with chapter leaders to grow the organization.