

## Membership Report 2022 Convention

### Membership Numbers

Please note that some of the below numbers may not look like what we are used to seeing in terms of membership numbers. The immense amount of staff time devoted to planning a successful Convention, in addition to existing staff workloads and the loss of a core staff member, has reduced staff capacity—through that we have still devoted a lot of time and energy to the database transition, and will continue to do so after the conclusion of the Convention.

The combination of merging two complicated databases into one, some inaccurate data from the past, and the lapse in reporting due to the actual technical side of the database transition have made it difficult to get a true count at the moment, but we are focused on taking the time during our transition to get accurate data and putting systems in place for the future rather than rushing through the process.

#### Total Membership

	New Database Aug 2022	Old Database Aug 2021
Active	2,362*	3,232
Dropped	1,215	-
Lapsed	514	2,172
Grand Total	4,092	5,404

\*as we solve additional quirks in the new database we can get more accurate numbers.

**Chapters and Independent Members** are two ways we identify members. Any member actively on a chapter roster is considered a chapter member. Members who are at-large are considered “Independent Members.” **684 VFP members are considered independent** (that number might increase as our data becomes more reliable) and not organized under a chapter construct. For almost 2 years, VFP has been holding Independent Member meetings monthly to share information and support members that do not have a large VFP community nearby. This year we’ll begin having regional meetings so that both chapter members and independent members are able to hear what is going on and organize with other members in their region. 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 members on the ground to the national organization, or else vital information is sometimes not shared with other chapter members. Since 2019, the national office has had contact with 64 chapters—either through sending reports for our newsletter or through the chapter survey that was initiated by Nick Mottern this year. 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 112 VFP chapters** including **7 international chapters** that operate as their own national organizations. The UK Chapter has disbanded and might be reforming as a handful of separate chapters.

### **Era of Service**

We will soon send out a survey to members to update their interests in campaigns, workshops, and project organizing. We will also ask for some demographic information that will include the era of service if the member is a veteran. We will soon be able to get a more accurate understanding of the generational breakdown of our members and track the data through the months and years. The current eras are based around major US conflict dates but sometimes extend beyond the official dates of the conflict.

WWII (1941 - 1949)

Korean (1950 - 1963)

Vietnam (1964 - 1975)

Cold War (1976 - 1989)

Gulf War (1990 - 2001)

GWOT / Post 9-11 (2001 - 2021)

Post 2022 (Post 2022)

**VFP has 386 Associate Members.** Which make up (16% of our total membership). 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.