Official newsletter for SC VFW District 1

November 2026

District 1 Posts & Auxiliaries –

We Want to Hear From You!

Your Post. Your Auxiliary. Your Stories. Our District!

We encourage all District 1 VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to participate in our District Newsletter!

This newsletter is a wonderful opportunity to share what is happening throughout our District. Whether your Post or Auxiliary is hosting a fundraiser, supporting veterans, welcoming new members, participating in community service, recognizing outstanding members, or celebrating a special achievement, we want to hear about it!

Every Post and Auxiliary has a story worth sharing. Your activities and accomplishments may inspire another group to try something new, become more involved, or discover new ways to serve our veterans and communities.

Don't think your news is too small to share! A photograph, a short story, an upcoming event, or a few words about your members' accomplishments can make a difference.

Let's make this newsletter a reflection of ALL District 1 Posts and Auxiliaries—not just a few.

Your participation matters. Your stories matter. Let's make District 1 shine!

Please submit your news, photographs, announcements, and accomplishments for inclusion in upcoming newsletters.

Together, we are stronger!

vfwdistrict1newsletter@gmail.com

SC District 1 (Comrades)

as of Monday, November 16, 2026

Post	Current	Prior	Percentage	City	State
445	284	338	84.02%	CHARLESTON	SC
3137	1679	1762	95.29%	ISLE OF PALMS	SC
3433	668	757	88.24%	SUMMERVILLE	SC
5091	63	74	85.14%	NORTH CHARLESTON	SC
7723	29	36	80.56%	ST STEPHEN	SC
8760	598	644	92.86%	BEAUFORT	SC
9509	295	353	83.57%	MONCKS CORNER	SC
10256	242	291	83.16%	GOOSE CREEK	SC
10624	104	134	77.61%	MOUNT PLEASANT	SC
12102	68	78	87.18%	WALTERBORO	SC
	4030	**4467**	**90.21%**		

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Over the last quarter, many Posts have engaged meaningfully with their communities through events such as Trunk or Treat, Veterans Day ceremonies, and participation in Veterans Day parades. VFW District 1 will continue to be inspired by this service, and we will never forget the approximately 81,000 Americans who remain missing and unaccounted for. We will not stop working to bring them home.

For 127 years, the VFW's mission has remained unchanged. Day after day, VFW Posts and Auxiliaries demonstrate that those who have served their country continue to serve their communities. We will continue to advocate in Washington and across the country for the benefits, health care, and rights that veterans have earned, and we will stand shoulder to shoulder with every generation of those who have served.

As a reminder, please review the VFWSC Commander's Book for upcoming Department Award Letters. Some are due to the Department no later than December 15, 2026. Please be sure to submit your letters if you wish to achieve All-State status.

I wish everyone a happy holiday season. Please travel safely and take care while gathering with family and friends.

Respectfully,
Chris Manning
VFW District 1 Commander

Post Meeting Dates:

Post 445	2nd Thursday, 6:00 pm
Pot 3137	3rd Monday, 6:30 pm
Post 3433	1st Tuesday, 7:30 pm
Post 5091	3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm
Post 7723	1st Tuesday, 6:00 pm
Post 8760	3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm
Post 9509	3rd Monday, 7:00 pm
Post 10256	1st Thursday, 7:00 pm
Post 10624	2nd Thursday, 7:00 pm
Post 12102	3rd Tuesday, 6:30 pm

CALENDAR

December 2026

7 – PEARL HARBOR DAY Remembrance Ceremony aboard USS Yorktown, 11:00

January 2027

22–24 – Mid-Winter Conference, Myrtle Beach

February 2027

13 – District 1 Meeting, 10:00 am @ Post 3433

District 1 Officers 2026 - 2027

Commander:	Chris Manning, ph.: 843-291-7542	C.manning1967@gmail.com
Sr. Vice:	Marc Jacob, ph.: 843-860-1186	chiefjake74@gmail.com
Jr. Vice:	Shannon Gaskins, ph.: 843-499-7642	shannongaskinsvfw@gmail.com
Adjutant:	Betty Hilliard	
Quartermaster:	Michael Goad	
Chaplain:	Chuck Blankin, ph.: 843-642-0334	cpblankin@gmail.com
State Honor Guard:	Cpt. Brian Jacobsen, ph.: 843-814-8759	brian.jacobsen@twc.com
Auxiliary President:	Cliff Weaver, ph.: 843-893-6288	ncliffweaver@gmail.com
Sr. Vice:	Michele Jones, ph.: 843-835-3564	michelejones12102@gmail.com
Jr. Vice:	Angela Gaskins, ph.: 843-343-2409	angelagaskins843@gmail.com
Secretary:	Kelly Wiggins, ph.: 843-323-0586	kellywiggins71@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Sandra Rowland, ph.: 843-870-3048	sandyrowl@gmail.com
District Newsletter:	Beate & David Lies, ph.: 574-850-5916	vfwdistrict1newsletter @gmail.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: 15th of August, November, February & May



District 1 members took part in touring the Michelin Plant in Lexington on Veterans Day

Post 3137 & Auxiliary, I.o.P.



The VFW Post 3137 Auxiliary hosted the U S Coast Guard Base – Charleston on October 9 for the third annual cornhole tournament. Sixty “Coasties” enjoyed a spirited tournament of cornhole, with bragging rights.



The 15th annual 9/11 Heroes Run was held on September 12, 2026, on Daniel Island. The Run supports the Travis Manion Foundation.
Forty-five members of the Post & Auxiliary participated in the Heroes Run.

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on September 11



Post 12102 & Auxiliary, Colleton County



On October 26 & 27 the “Freedom Truck” was parked in Walterboro. Members of the Post & Auxiliary arranged for an impromptu Membership Drive. Several Veterans pulled off the road just to visit the booth before checking out the truck. A few showed interests in joining.





Veterans Day Picnic

at the Victory House

For the third year in a row the Auxiliary sponsored a picnic for the residents of the Veterans’ Victory House in Walterboro. Every veteran was given tickets for a chance to win a host of prizes.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken were on the grill with lots of fixin’s for everyone to enjoy.



NEW VETERANS PARK IN COLLETON COUNTY

On 11 November 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Post 12102 and Auxiliary attended the dedication ceremony for the newly built Veterans Park at the Lowcountry Regional Airport in Walterboro. In attendance were dignitaries from the State, Colleton County and the City of Walterboro. The park will be available to the community for events such as weddings or concerts.















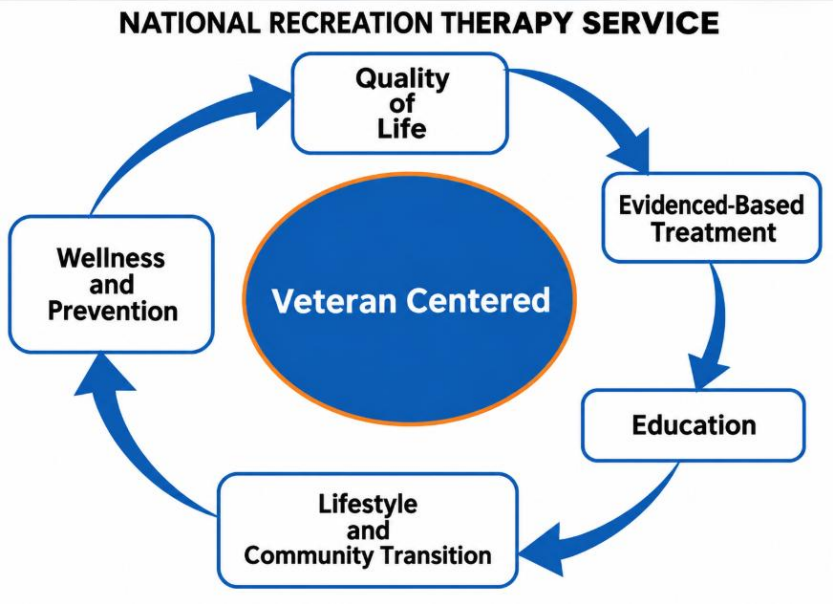




Recreation Therapy/Creative Arts services

. . . Changing Lives through Recreation Therapy and Creative Arts Therapies

The Recreation Therapy Service is responsible for national policies related to Recreation Therapy and the Creative Arts Therapies (art, dance, drama, and music). The Service collaborates and cooperates with other services within the VHA and community partner organizations. These efforts promote and ensure an exceptional level of care and high-quality services for all Veterans as reflected in the I-CARE Core Values. The service coordinates programs and services for VHA Recreation Therapists and Creative Arts Therapists to enhance and improve their knowledge, skill, and ability. Through these efforts, the Service reaffirms the mission.



Mission

The Mission of the Recreation Therapy Service, a direct-care interdisciplinary service, is to improve and enrich bio-psycho-social functioning through active therapy and/or meaningful therapeutic activities to maintain or improve functional independence and life quality. The intended outcome of the state of art evidence-based clinical interventions is independence in life activities based upon patient/residents' needs and goals.

Vision

"Utilizes a wide range of therapeutic activities to restore the bio-psycho-social functional capabilities of Veterans with injuries, chronic illnesses, and other disabling conditions." The Recreation / Creative Arts Therapy program is designed to promote rehabilitation and wellness, and to provide disabled Veterans a continuum of care that adds a special value to their lives.

Philosophy

The service embraces a philosophy of health promotion and disease prevention facilitated by qualified clinicians to enhance physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and leisure development that support each Veteran's self-directed, self-determined, and fully independent participation in their chosen life pursuits.

Services

Recreation Therapy/Creative Arts services are provided throughout the VHA healthcare system. Services are provided for individuals and groups in acute, residential, outpatient, home based, and telehealth settings. Recreation Therapy, also known as therapeutic recreation, is a systematic process that utilizes recreation treatment and other therapeutic interventions based upon the assessed; needs of Veterans with illnesses and/or disabling conditions. The purpose of the recreation therapy process is to improve or maintain physical, cognitive, social, emotional and spiritual functioning to facilitate full participation in life.

Therapeutic Interventions

Recreation Therapy: is individualized to each person, their past, present and future interests and lifestyle. The recreation therapist has a unique perspective regarding the social, cognitive, physical, and leisure needs of the Veteran. Recreation therapists weave the concept of healthy living into treatment to improve functioning and enhance independence and successful involvement in all aspects of life.

Creative Arts Therapy: is the clinical process of expressing, communicating, and exchanging conscious and unconscious thoughts and feelings through the arts as interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved creative arts therapy program. Creative Arts Therapy is the use of arts - visual arts, dance, music, drama, and other media - materials, methods, modalities, and techniques through the creative process for therapeutic purposes.

· **Art Therapy:** Is the therapeutic use of art making, within a professional relationship, by people who experience illness, trauma, or challenges in living, and by people who seek personal development.

· **Dance Therapy:** Is the psychotherapeutic use of movement and dance for emotional, cognitive, social, behavioral and physical conditions.

· **Drama Therapy: I**s the intentional use of theatre techniques to facilitate personal growth and promote health, thus treating individuals with a range of mental health, cognitive and developmental disorders.

· **Music Therapy:** Is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed

an approved music therapy program. The therapist uses music and all its facets-physical, emotional, mental, social, aesthetic, and spiritual-to help Veterans to improve or maintain their health.

Aquatic Therapy: Aquatic Therapy is the use of water for resistance instead of utilizing manual weights. The goal is to rehabilitate patients after injury or those with chronic illnesses, by avoiding the potentially detrimental impact that manual weights place on joints. Aquatic Therapy utilizes a series of exercises and activities designed to take advantage of the unique healing benefits of water. The buoyancy provided by water lessens the pressure on muscles and joints, assists with movement and reduces swelling caused by gravity. Without the pull of gravity working against them, patients can exercise more comfortably, increasing their levels of strength, tolerance, flexibility and endurance with less pain and muscle stress.

Contact Katie Megregian, Katie.megregian@va.gov and Casey Clapp, Casey.Clapp@va.gov

Elsewhere in District 1



Post 3433 held a Veterans' Day Golf Tournament.



Comrades and Auxiliary members of Post 445 visited Stiles Point Elementary School on Tuesday, November 10th to speak with a second-grade class about Veterans Day, the American flag, and the meaning of service.



Post 10256 participated in the Red, White and Blue Festival on Saturday, the 14th of November.