



**IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES**

## Calendar of Events

### 2024

July 4, 2024	Independence Day.
July 27-Aug. 1, 2024	National Convention, Louisville, KY
August 16-18, 2024	Council of Administration Meeting, Fairview Heights, IL
August 17, 2024	State Commander's Homecoming Banquet, Fairview Heights, IL
September 11, 2024	Patriot Day
September 20, 2024	Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Recognition Day
September 14, 2024	Commander's Call - Centralia, IL
September 15, 2024	Commander's Call - Caseyville, IL
September 21, 2024	Illinois Day at the National Home (Eaton Rapids, Michigan)
September 28, 2024	Commander's Call – East Peoria, IL
September 29, 2024	Commander's Call – Brookfield, IL
October 18-20, 2024	Big 10 Conference Indianapolis, IN
November 11, 2024	Veterans Day
December 7, 2024	Pearl Harbor Day

### 2025

February 7-9, 2025	Council of Administration meeting in Springfield, Illinois
February 8, 2025	State Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Banquet in Springfield, IL
February 28-March 4, 2025	Voice of Democracy, Washington DC
March 1-5, 2025	National Legislative Conference, Washington DC
April 12, 2025	Commander's Call – Springfield/Decatur, IL
May 1, 2025	Loyalty Day
May 3, 2025	VFW Day of Service
May 26, 2025	Memorial Day
June 5, 2025	District Commander-Elect Training, Springfield, IL
June 5-8, 2025	State Convention, Springfield, IL
June 14, 2025	Flag Day
June 28, 2025	VFW National Home 100th Anniversary Celebration, Eaton Rapids, MI
August 9-14, 2025	National Convention, Columbus, OH

### 2026

Feb 6-8, 2026	State VOD Banquet and Council of Administration Springfield, IL
June 11-14, 2026	State Convention, Springfield, IL
August 15-20, 2026	National Convention, Salt Lake City, UT

### 2027

Feb 5-7, 2027	State VOD Banquet and Council of Administration Springfield, IL
June 10-13, 2027	State Convention, TBD
July 31-August 5, 2027	National Convention, Milwaukee, WI

## Deadline Dates to Remember for 2024-2025

July 31, 2024	Audits for quarter ending June 30 due to State HQ
August 1, 2024	Deadline to submit articles for Illinois VFW News
August 1, 2024	Deadline to make Hotel Reservations for Council of Administration and Commander's Homecoming
August 9, 2024	Deadline to order Commander's Homecoming dinner tickets
August 31, 2024	Quartermaster bonds issued through State HQ expire
August 31, 2024	Fall Program book ads due to State HQ
October 15, 2024	Deadline to submit articles for Illinois VFW News*
October 31, 2024	Audits for quarter ending September 30 due to State HQ
January 10, 2025	Deadline to make Hotel Reservations for Council of Administration and Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen
January 31, 2025	Audits for quarter ending December 31, 2024 due to State HQ
January 31, 2025	Deadline to order VOD/PP Banquet dinner tickets
February 1, 2025	Deadline to submit articles for Illinois VFW News
April 1, 2025	Deadline to submit articles for Illinois VFW News*
April 15, 2025	Ads for Convention Book due to State HQ
April 30, 2025	Post Election Reports due.
April 30, 2025	Audits for the quarter ending March 31, 2025 due to State HQ
April 30, 2025	Any proposed By Law Changes for IL VFW By Laws due to State Adjutant
May 17, 2025	Deadline to make Hotel Reservations for State Convention
May 31, 2025	Any proposed Resolutions for consideration at State Convention due to State Adjutant
June 1, 2025	District election reports due to State HQ

## **VFW PROGRAMS DEADLINE DATES**

NOTE: Updated for the 2024-2025 VFW Program Year

### **Membership**

December 31, 2024	Post membership at 98% to receive plaque
February 1, 2025	District Membership at 98% to receive \$500 cash award
February 28, 2025	Post membership at 100% to receive gift card for member meal
April 1, 2025	District Commanders with 100% in membership receive \$500 cash award
April 30, 2025	Deadline to determine winner of Cramer-Soden Award
April 30, 2025	Deadline to complete All-State Post Criteria to receive award at State Convention
April 30, 2025	Post with largest increase of Legacy Life Memberships (minimum 4) receives \$100 gift certificate to VFW Store
April 30, 2025	Deadline for Districts to have completed all Post Inspections and Inspections approved by State Inspector
June 1, 2025	100 new or reinstated members to receive \$500 to attend 2025 National Convention
June 15, 2025	Deadline to qualify for All State Post/District
June 30, 2025	Deadline to qualify for All American Post/District

### **Public Relations/Marketing**

February 28, 2025	Deadline to submit nominations for State Publication Contest to State HQ
April 30, 2025	Deadline to submit nomination for New Media Professional of the Year to State HQ

### **Community Service**

March 15, 2025	Deadline to submit Community Activities Report to State HQ in order to qualify for National Certificate of Recognition
April 1, 2025	Deadline to submit nomination of Volunteer of the Year to State HQ
April 30, 2025	Department Community Service Report (Department to National)
May 2, 2025	Deadline for Post to submit Community Activities Recordbook to State HQ for judging

### **Americanism Program**

April 30, 2025	Deadline to submit reports for Americanism Program to State HQ
April 30, 2025	Deadline to submit reports for POW-MIA Program to State HQ

### **Safety Program**

April 30, 2025	Deadline to submit reports for Safety Program to State HQ
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### **Public Servant Recognition**

January 1, 2025	Deadline to submit nominations for Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, Paramedic, Dispatcher of the Year to State HQ
February 1, 2025	Deadline for State to submit Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, Paramedic, Dispatcher of the Year to National
April 30, 2025	Deadline to submit nominations for Outstanding Legislator, Outstanding Patriotism, Government Service, Clergy, Citizen, News Media, Employer, JROTC Cadet of the Year and Life Saving Award to State HQ

**Veteran's Assistance**

April 30, 2025	Deadline to submit donation (\$50 min.) for MAP Program to State HQ
April 30, 2025	Deadline to submit donation (\$50 min.) for Homeless Veteran donation to State HQ
April 30, 2025	Deadline to submit donation (\$50 min.) for National Home to State HQ
April 30, 2025	Deadline to qualify for National Home Awards
April 30, 2025	Deadline to submit reports for Hospital/VAVS Program to State HQ
April 30, 2025	Deadline to order Buddy Poppies
June 30, 2025	Deadline to submit donation (\$100 min.) for VMS Program to National HQ

**Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen**

October 31	Student entries to the Post
November 15	Completion of Post judging
December 1	Sponsorship money due at State HQ for Posts or Districts wishing to sponsor VOD/PP Scholarships, Pizza Party, or Ice Cream Social
December 15	Completion of District judging December 22 District winners entry due to State HQ
December 29	District participation reports due to Department Chairmen
January 10	Completion of Department judging
January 15	Department winners due to National
January 31	Department reports due to National
April 30	Deadline to submit donation for VOD/PP to State HQ for Posts that had no nomination for VOD/PP

**Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award**

October 31	Entries to the Post
November 15	Completion of Post judging
December 15	Completion of District judging
December 22	District Winners due to State HQ
December 29	District participation reports due to State HQ
January 10	Completion of Department judging
January 15	Department winners to National
January 31	Department participation reports due to National

**Scout of the Year**

March 1	Scout entries to the Post
April 1	Post entries to Department Scouting Chairman or Department HQs
May 1	Department entry to National from Department Scouting Chairman or State HQs

**Legislative Advocacy**

May 31	Resolutions to be considered at State Convention due to State HQ
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**Poppy Display Contest**

April 30	Deadline for Convention Awards for Poppies
May 29	District judging of Poppy displays completed
June 8	District winners' Poppy Displays delivered to State Convention
June 30	Department sends State winners list to National HQ

**Illinois Specific Programs**

- April 30, 2025      Deadline to submit reports for Blood Donor Program to State HQ
- April 30, 2025      Deadline to submit donation (\$50 minimum) for Commander's Special Project to State HQ
- April 30, 2025      Deadline to submit donation (\$50 minimum) for Service Office Support to State HQ

"Required deadline (by VFW National Headquarters.) All other deadlines are suggested, and can be internally set at the discretion of the VFW Department leadership. Post Chairperson, be sure to communicate with your District Chairperson to find out their official deadlines, and District Chairperson need to communicate with their Department Chairperson to find out their deadlines.

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## OUR VFW STATE HEADQUARTERS



Our State Headquarters is located at 3300 Constitution Drive in Springfield. If you are ever in the area, please stop by to say hello.

Our dedicated staff is there daily to help make your year easier and to answer questions that might arise throughout your term of office. Our State Adjutant, Joe Bartley is always available via e-mail or telephone and makes serving veterans his top priority.

All communications to State Commander Maurice Bridges shall be mailed to our State Headquarters, 3300 Constitution Drive, Springfield, IL 62711.

Correspondence dealing with VFW procedures shall be directed to the State Adjutant at State Headquarters.

All money due to State shall be made payable to the State of Illinois, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and shall be transmitted to the State Quartermaster.

Poppies: All correspondence having to do with Poppies should be directed to the State Quartermaster.

### **STATE HEADQUARTERS**

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Springfield, Illinois 62711

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