



Illinois

2024-2025 Series
General Orders No. 8
February 2025

STATE HEADQUARTERS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The State Headquarters will be closed on the following days:

February 14th Lincoln's Birthday

February 17th Presidents Day

CHANGE OF LOCATION, MEETING PLACE, DAY OR TIME

Section 205 of the National By-Laws governs the change of Meeting place and/or time for Posts. Posts must follow the outlined procedures if they want to change their meeting time, date or place.

Sec. 205 - Change of Location, Meeting Place, Day or Time.

A Post may, after at least thirty (30) days written notice to the Department Commander and members of the Post, change its chartered location upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting. Upon recommendation of the Department Commander, an amended Charter will be issued by the Commander-in-Chief. No change may be effected until an amended Charter is issued.

At such time as the Post changes its location from one community to another, any portion of the Post name that relates to the geographical area or community from which it has relocated shall be deleted from its name.

A Post may, after at least fourteen (14) days written notice to the Department Commander and members of the Post, change its meeting place, appointed day or time upon a majority vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting.

SPAM EMAILS

If you receive an email from a department officer with a suspicious request, check the sender's actual email address. Remember that a Department Officer will not ask you to send them money or gift cards. Scammers are skilled at making an email appear to come from someone else.

STATE CONVENTION

The State Convention will be held on June 5-8, 2025. The hotels for the State Convention are:

Presidential Abraham Lincoln Double Tree Hotel
701 E Adams
Springfield, IL 62701

Wyndham City Center
700 E Adams
Springfield, IL 62701

The VFW meetings will be held in the BOS Center at 1 Convention Center Plaza Springfield, IL 62701, conveniently adjacent to both hotels. The VFW Auxiliary meetings will be held in the Presidential Abraham Lincoln Double Tree Hotel. Information on reserving your room for the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel or the Wyndham City Centre Hotel will be in upcoming General Orders and on the vfwil.org web page under "Events".

2025 CONVENTION RAFFLE AND PURPLE HEART TICKETS

Tickets for the 2025 Purple Heart and Convention raffle went out in the December issue of the Illinois VFW newspaper. Included were 2 sheets of 5 tickets (\$20 each) and two Purple Heart tickets (\$5 each). Winners will be randomly selected at our State Convention in June for \$10,000 grand prize, \$3,000 second prize, \$2,000 third prize, and \$500 awarded to fourth through tenth place winners. Purple Heart Raffle: \$2,000 grand prize. If you have any questions or would like to request more tickets, please get in touch with VFW Department Headquarters.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AD BOOK

The Program Book Order Form for the 106th Annual State Convention is included in these General Orders. Full Page Ads are \$200, Half Page Ads are \$125, and Quarter Page Ads are \$75. Ads on the inside front cover are \$350, the inside back cover is \$300, and the outside back cover is \$300. (Contact Headquarters Office for availability of Cover Pages) Please mail your ad form, picture (*if applicable*), and payment to the Editor, State Convention Program Book, 3300 Constitution Ave, Springfield, IL 62711, or e-mail to vfwil@vfwil.org.

Ads must be received in State Headquarters no later than **April 15, 2025**.

PAYMENT FOR ADS MUST BE REMITTED AT TIME OF PLACEMENT!

ALL-STATE POST AWARDS

The 2024-2025 Membership Program is designed to recognize exceptional leadership and teamwork in Membership, overall Post/District development, and VFW Programs. If a Post qualifies to be "All State," all Post members will be recognized for this achievement because they are a team.

The 2024-2025 All-State Post Criteria is as follows:

- Membership greater than 101%
- Posts must hold 1 membership drive/event and submit the report to the Program Reporting Dashboard
- Posts must be 100% reported on the Department Programs Reporting Dashboard.
- Posts must have submitted all 4 quarterly Trustees Audits, which must have been approved.
- Posts must be in compliance with all questions on the National and Department Inspection Sheets (for example, a post that is not incorporated shall not be eligible until proof is provided that they are in compliance)
- Posts must order at least 3 poppies per member with a minimum of 1,000.

- Posts must have one nomination for each of the programs of Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy submitted to the District for judging, or Donations to Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen will be accepted if a Post does not have a nomination. Teacher of the Year or Public Safety, donations to these 2 programs do not receive credit towards All-State Awards.
- Posts must have representations at all properly called District Conventions or meetings.
- Posts must have representation at a minimum of one (1) Commanders Calls.
- Posts must make a \$50 donation to the Service Office Support Program (SOS), which is separate from the Red, White, and Blue Program donations.
- New Posts need a minimum of 35 members to achieve All-State
- The All-State Program runs through **June 15, 2025**. The deadline for completing All-State criteria to receive All-State Awards at the State Convention is April 30, 2025. The number of Posts that can achieve All-State status will be unlimited.

All-State Post Commanders will receive an All-State Commander cap and distinguished service lapel pin. All-State Quartermasters may purchase an All-State Post Quartermaster cap and receive a distinguished service lapel pin. All-State Post Members may purchase an All-State Post Member cap.

ALL-STATE DISTRICT CRITERIA

- Membership greater than 101%
- Districts must have 100% of Posts inspected, and the state inspector must clear the inspections by April 30, 2025.
- Districts must hold a minimum of one School of Instruction and submit a report to State Headquarters.
- The District must hold or participate in one membership drive/event and submit a report to the Programs Reporting Dashboard.
- Districts must submit 1 of each of the following to Department Headquarters for judging:
 - Patriot's Pen
 - Voice of Democracy
 - Teacher of the Year

- Public Safety of the Year
- Districts must forward a record of the Roll Call of Officers and Posts of each District Meeting to State Headquarters.

ALL AMERICAN POST CRITERIA

- Membership greater than 102%
- Post Election Report must be submitted to National.
- Posts must meet all of the following Program Participation Criteria by January 31, 2025:
 - Voice of Democracy- minimum of one entry advanced to District judging.
 - Patriots Pen- minimum of one entry advanced to District judging.
 - Donate to Veterans and Military Support Program Services. Minimum of \$125
 - National Citizenship Education Teachers Award - one entry advanced to Department judging.
 - A Post must submit a community service report quarterly to their department for submission to the All-American Dashboard. The quarters are July-September, October-December, January-March and April-June. One of these community service activities must be for the VFW Day of Service
 - Buddy Poppy - minimum 500 poppies

POST MEMBERSHIP AWARD

- Post membership percentage must be at 98% by December 31st, 2024. The Post will receive a special engraved plaque.
- Post reaching 100% by February 28th, 2025: The Posts will receive a \$150 Visa Gift Card for a post-membership celebration meal recognizing the post efforts.
- Post achieving at least 100% membership by June 30, 2025, will receive a 100% Membership Pennant.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

The February Council of Administration Meeting and 79th Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet will be held February 7-9, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield, Illinois 62703. To reserve a room for February, you may

call the hotel directly at (217) 529-777, or you may reserve a room online—go to our website at www.vfwil.org, under News, go to the Events page, and click on the link for “**VOD and February Council Meeting Room Reservations**”.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings will begin on Friday, February 7, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. All meetings will run consecutively, beginning with the Veterans Service Committee at 1:00 p.m. The Illinois VFW News Committee, Budget & Finance Committee, and Foundation Committee will follow.

Members of the Veterans Service Committee are as follows:

Laurie Emmer, Past State Commander, Chairman
Brett Nila, Past State Commander
Bobby Edwards, Past State Commander
Bobby Welch, Past State Commander
Maurice Bridges, Commander
Eugene Blackwell, State Sr. Vice Commander
Robert Bailey, State Jr. Vice Commander
Scott Swinford, State Adjutant-Quartermaster

The Illinois VFW News Committee will meet following the Veterans Service Committee...

Laurie Emmer, Past State Commander - Chairman
Barbara Wilson, Illinois VFW News Editor
Robert Welch, State Historian
Maurice Bridges, State Commander
Scott Swinford, State Adjutant-Quartermaster
Brett Nila, Past State Commander

The Budget & Finance Committee will meet after the *Illinois VFW News*

Committee... Phil Maughan, Past State Commander, Chairman
Scott Swinford, State Adjutant-Quartermaster, Assistant Chairman

The Foundation Committee will meet after the Budget and Finance Committee...

Todd Latham, President
Brett Nila, Vice President
Barbara Wilson, Secretary
Scott Swinford, Treasurer
Board of Directors
Maurice Bridges
Eugene Blackwell
Rob Bailey

Convention Committee

Rick Frank
William Regan
Russ Rieke
Duane Hisel
Jeff Britt
Chuck Ingle
Lowell Spieker

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

The Council of Administration will meet on Friday, February 7, 2025, and Saturday, February 8, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza Springfield. The meeting will begin on Friday at 3:00 pm until approximately 5:00 pm. It will be reconvened at 8:15 am on Saturday.

All officers and directors are expected to attend all sessions of the Council of Administration. Past Department Commanders who are receiving Department paid rooms are highly encouraged to attend all sessions of the Council of Administration

All Program Chairman will forward their written reports to State Headquarters by Friday, January 24, 2025, so it can be added to the book of reports to be passed out at the meeting. All Program Chairman are expected to be present to highlight any changes or important information contained within your written report when called upon. Please mail, fax (217-546-3415) or e-mail (vfwil@vfwil.org) your reports to this office.

ASSIGNED TO THE COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

In addition to the Top 3 Chairs and the 17 District Commanders, the following State Officers and Program Chairmen are called to be at Council of Administration Meeting...

- Gary Holmes, State Chaplain
- Nancy O'Connell, State Chief of Staff
- Ryan Higginbotham, State Surgeon
- Cathy Stubbs, State Inspector
- Scott Swinford, State Adjutant-Quartermaster
- Jay Hoffman, State Judge Advocate
- Matthew Claussen, National Council Member

- Eric Morales, State Membership Chairman
- Georges Sanon, State Student Veterans Liaison
- Rob Bland, State Blood Donor Chairman
- Steve Eller, State Community Activities Chairman
- Paul Bezazian, State Homeless Veterans Chairman
- Larry Miller , State Legislative Chairman
- Kyna Simpson, State National Home Chairman
- Evamarie Duff, State All-State Chairman
- Barbara Wilson, State Public Relations Chairman
- Robert Welch, State Veterans and Military Support Programs Chairman
- Stephanie Kirksey, State Poppy Chairman
- Clarence Caraker, State POW/MIA Chairman
- Glen Goodrich, State Safety Chairman
- Robert Welch, State Historian
- John Jakoby, State VFW/MOC Coordinator
- Dave Darte, State Voice of Democracy Chairman
- Kyna Simpson, Assistant Voice of Democracy Director
- John Davin, State Youth Activities Chairman
- PSC Laurie Emmer, Veterans Service Committee Chairman
- PSC Laurie Emmer, Illinois VFW News Committee Chairman
- Ray Bachawicz, State Sergeant-at-Arms
- Jeff Britt, State Officer of the Day
- Ron Milton, State Scouting Chairman
- Josh Seed, State Assistant Quartermaster
- Michelle Ramlow, State Assistant Youth Activities Chairman
- Anthony Bellin, VFW Rider

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & PATRIOT'S PEN WINNERS' TRIP TO SPRINGFIELD

Each student will receive accommodation for two nights at the Crowne Plaza, 3300 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62703. If the student would like to stay longer than two nights or would like to book additional rooms, the district should assist in making these arrangements and help cover the costs. District Commanders or Chairmen may call

State Headquarters to have these arrangements made.

Upon the students' arrival on Friday, February 7, 2025, State Headquarters will host a pizza party! The following morning, the students will meet in the lobby at 8:45 am for the Land of Lincoln Tour. The tour will make the following stops: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, Stabb Funeral Home, Lincoln's Tomb, and the Illinois State Military Museum. Only Students and assigned personnel will be allowed on the bus. Following the 79th Annual State of Illinois Voice of Democracy Banquet, the students will be invited to enjoy an ice cream bar arranged by State Headquarters.

LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE

The Lincoln Pilgrimage will occur at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2025, at Lincoln's Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

PATRIOTS PEN WINNERS

The four finalists for Department Patriot's Pen are listed below.

Georgia Roscoe, District 5, Post 2245

Lynnly Guedet, District 6, Post 2955

Emma Meyer, District 12, Post 5694

Elanna Oberg, District 17, Post 2876

VOD AND PATRIOTS PEN BANQUET

The doors will open for the 79th annual Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Banquet at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year category winners have been chosen. The winners will be notified and invited to the State Convention in June 2025. The category winners are...

- Grade K-5: Tim Smiddy, sponsored by Post 1241, District 12
- Grade 6-8: Dale Gibson, sponsored by Post 5422, District 18
- Grade 9-12: LeVonne Cescolini-Boyer, sponsored by Post 7446, District 19

Tim Smiddy was the overall winner, and his entry was forwarded to National for judging.

PUBLIC SAFETY WINNER'S

- The 2024-2025 Public Safety winners have been chosen. The winners will be notified and invited to the State Convention in June 2025. The winners are...
- Law Enforcement: Rick Thompson, sponsored by Post 1299, District 12
- Firefighter: Mike Lowe, sponsored by 1461, District 6
- Dispatcher: Marissa Lovatto, sponsored by Post 5691, District 12
- EMT: Gregory Hunter, sponsored by Post 8739

PUBLICATION CONTEST

Editors of Post and District publications are invited to send in a copy of 1 issue published during the 2024 year for the Illinois VFW Publications Contest. Please provide the contact information for the editor and the frequency at which the newsletter is published. If you want to send a hard copy - mail it to Barbara Wilson, Editor, 802 N. 3rd St., Riverton, Illinois 62561. You can also e-mail a copy to bwilson@vfwil.org. The deadline to submit nominations is February 28, 2025.

MEMBERSHIP

Quartermasters are encouraged to go to the Online Membership System (OMS) and click on the reports listing members 30 and 60 days from expiration. All officers are encouraged to make every effort to contact these members and ask them if they are ready to renew their membership or become Life Members before their expiration date. Remember that the Post Relief Fund can help pay the dues of a member who wishes to remain a member but is financially unable to pay his/her dues.

SECTION 219 – RELIEF FUND

Section 219 of the National by-laws is quoted below:

A relief fund will be established and maintained by the Posts. In this fund shall be credited the net proceeds of the distribution of Buddy Poppies and such other monies as may be solicited or donated for veteran's relief purposes. Expenditures from the relief fund shall be as prescribed in Section 219 of the Manual of Procedure.

Any audit submitted to Department Headquarters that does not indicate the

Post is maintaining a Relief Fund will be rejected and returned for correction.

TRUSTEES REPORT OF AUDITS

Per Section 218 of the National Manual of Procedure - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations, the ***Post Commander*** must assure that the ***Post Trustees*** have examined the books and records of the Post and prepared the Post Trustees Quarterly Report of Audit no later than the end of the month following the last day of each quarterly period. **Failure on the part of the Commander to strictly enforce Section 218 of the National Manual of Procedure may release the Bonding Company of all liability in case of theft or misuse of funds and subject the Post to suspension.** The ***duties*** of the ***Post Quartermaster*** include providing the ***Post Trustees*** with all records, files, and statements required or necessary for the preparation of the Post Trustees Quarterly Report of Audit.

INSPECTION

Attention is directed to the importance of CONSTANT INSPECTION!! District Commanders will exert every effort to have each Post in their District inspected at least once annually. Post Quartermasters are reminded to be bonded in **AN AMOUNT AT LEAST EQUAL TO THEIR LIQUID ASSETS.** The District Inspector must contact the Post well before their official inspection, advising the Quartermaster when they will inspect the Post and what items they will need to conduct the Inspection. Each District will be compensated \$10.00 per Post Inspection when the District becomes 100% inspected **and approved by the Department Inspector before April 30, 2025.**

POST INSURANCE-ADDITIONAL INSURED

According to VFW Bylaws, each Post is required to maintain adequate liability insurance. They also require that National and Department **be listed as "additional insureds" on the Post policy.** *Posts must have their Insurance Agent send a copy of the Insurance Certificate to both National and Department Headquarters. Posts that do not own property do not have to comply with this request.*

PROGRAM DONATIONS FOR DASHBOARD CREDIT

All Posts must donate at least \$50.00 each to VFW State Headquarters for the Military Assistance Program (MAP), Homeless Veterans, Commander's Special Project, Service Office Support, and National Home to receive credit on the State Dashboard. Online donations are encouraged, but **don't forget to indicate your Post Number.**

MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Members wishing to receive correspondence from the VFW at both the state and National levels, please make sure their contact information is up to date by logging in to www.vfw.org.

LOBBY DAY 2025

This year, the IL AMVETS is organizing and hosting the Illinois Veteran's Lobby Day in Springfield, IL, on March 19, 2025. Again, we invite other IL veteran service organizations to join us as we lobby state legislators on various veteran issues. Anyone who wishes to participate should plan on being in Springfield that day. The day will start at 8 am with a meeting of all the participants for coffee and donuts at VFW Post 755, 2211 Old Jacksonville Rd, Springfield, IL 62704. This will be an opportunity for everyone to discuss the planned visits for the day and the talking points to discuss with members of the IL General Assembly. A detailed schedule of the day and the scheduled visits will be handed out at the meeting. At 9:30, we will break up into teams and visit the offices of the State Representatives and the State Senators to talk about the veteran's issues in IL. The day will conclude at approximately 5 pm when we gather at Boone's Saloon, 301 W Edwards St, Springfield, IL (1 block from the State Capitol) for social hour and to discuss the day's results. All the talking points and bill info will be provided, so no lobby experience is necessary. This has been successfully done at the federal level to discuss veterans' issues, and the state lobby day last year was instrumental in helping to get some bills signed into law. Our State Legislators must know what veteran's issues are essential for IL and our members. Please plan to attend and make our IL Veteran's Lobby Day successful.

Join VFW Day of Service 2025

The VFW's third annual VFW Day of Service – a dedicated day of service led by VFW members throughout the country and the world – kicks off the first Saturday on May 3, 2025, and marks the start of veteran-led community service projects to take place throughout the month.

The VFW Day of Service is an outgrowth of the organization's #StillServing campaign, launched in 2020, to recognize the dedication of veterans and service members who continue to serve their communities. The VFW Day of Service, led by veterans and in concert with other organizations and civic groups, is open to anyone to participate. We're urging all members and Posts to visit VFWDayofService.org to register their event on the interactive Day of Service map and receive a special participation decal or find a local event to join and see what other veterans around the country are doing to make a difference.

DEPARTMENT BYLAW CHANGES

Resolutions affecting the Bylaws of the Department must be submitted in proper form and received by State Headquarters by no later than May 15, 2025, so that the resolutions can be circulated to all Posts within the proper time prior to the State Convention. Resolutions concerning the Department By-Laws received after that date cannot be considered at the convention. **If you have questions regarding the proper form, please contact State Headquarters.**

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES RECORD BOOK

Community service, as defined by the National Community Service Trust Act, "encompasses any human act serving the common good in the interest of the community." Community service is "a service that is performed for the benefit of the public or its institutions."

Annually, we ask all VFW Posts to submit record books detailing their Community Service Projects. We encourage Posts to gather pictures, newspaper clippings, letters, receipts, etc., and compile this vital record of their activities in their community. We receive fewer and fewer entries each year for judging; ask for volunteers in your Post to assemble this critical part of your Post's history. Please

get in touch with State Headquarters if you have any questions.

When the Community Activity Record Books are submitted for judging, they must have the official entry form attached to the inside front cover. The Official Entry Form is in the Commander's Leadership Manual, and at the end of these orders, your record book must be at State Headquarters by May 2, 2025, for judging on May 5, 2025

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF POST OFFICERS

Section 217 of the Constitution, By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, states that prior to the opening of nominations, the Post shall decide which form of election shall be used, unless the Post By-Laws specify the manner of election.

Any nominee shall have the opportunity to decline nomination for the office to which they have been nominated before nominations are closed. A member making the nomination of an absentee for any office shall have presented to the Adjutant, in writing, the consent of the member being nominated prior to the opening of nominations. Nominations of Post Officers shall open in March and remain open until the Post is ready to vote, provided, however, that when a poll system is used, nominations must be closed at the meeting prior to the election to allow the Adjutant to prepare a printed ballot.

Post officers shall be elected in April. Balloting for Post Officers may be conducted by open vote or written secret ballot (handwritten or printed) at a regular Post Meeting, or, if required by Post By-laws or authorized by Post vote prior to the opening of nominations, by a poll system and preprinted ballot. **Absentee ballots and proxy votes are prohibited.**

A majority vote of all votes cast, except where otherwise designated, shall be necessary to elect. If there be no election on the first ballot, the name of the comrade receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive ballots until an election is made.

If irregularities are claimed with respect to the election to any office, such challenge must be made in a writing containing specific details concerning the irregularities, signed by the challenger, and forwarded to the District Commander, mailed no later than three (3) days after the election.

Complete details regarding the election of Post, District, County Council and

Department Officers are available in the 2024 Podium Edition of the National Constitution, By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Every Post is urged to purchase a copy of the [Podium Edition](#) from the [VFW Store](#) for a nominal fee.

VOTING AT DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Each member of a District Convention or District meeting are those persons as defined in Section 404 of the By-Laws, except delegates elected by the Posts, present at a District Convention or meeting shall be entitled to one vote. An individual possessing more than one qualification for membership in the District Convention or meeting shall have no more than one vote. The delegate or delegates of a Post present at a District Convention or meeting shall be entitled to vote the full delegate strength to which the Post is entitled. Should there be a division among the delegates representing the Post, each delegate present shall cast his pro rata share of the total voting strength of the Post. For the purpose of this Section (Section 421-Voting), a Post Commander shall be considered a delegate. A roll call vote may be required and entered upon the record at the call of any three officers or delegates representing three different Posts.

This means that District Elections are determined not by the number of individuals present and voting but by the amount of weighted votes that each Post possesses

126th VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION

Columbus, OH, is the host city for the 126th VFW and 111th Auxiliary National Conventions, which will be held August 9- 13, 2025. Convention housing will open on March 17, 2025. We will release more information as we receive it.

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING

126th National Convention housing will open on Monday, March 17, 2025. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at vfw.org/convention. The convention website will also have general convention information, including the registration form and links to other convention-related information for Columbus, OH – August 9-13, 2025, and a tentative agenda.

NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention Registration Fee of \$25 - which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Please note each additional delegate attending the National Convention will have to pay an additional \$10 delegate fee. Information on delegate registration will be available at a later date.

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION AND COMMANDERS HOMECOMING

The August Council of Administration and Commanders Homecoming in Tinley Park is scheduled for August 22-24, 2025. Please save the date, there will be more information in upcoming General Orders.

2026 ILLINOIS VFW CALENDAR

The Council of Administration voted in August to allow the State Headquarters to proceed with a 2026 calendar raffle as part of the Marketing Program. The raffle will begin on Jan. 1, 2026, and run daily through Dec. 31, 2026. The calendars will not be numbered to ensure the prizes are given away rather than to determine if the “winning” calendar has been sold. Each calendar will cost \$20. Only 5,000 calendars will be sold. State Headquarters has created a prize structure and incentive package for Posts selling the calendars. Approximately \$21,500 in prizes will be awarded.

Below is the prize structure

Prize Structure

Prize Amount	# of Prizes	Total Prizes
a. 1000	7	\$7,000
b. \$500	7	\$3,500
c. \$250	2	\$500
d. 100	8	\$800
e. \$50	46	\$2,300
f. \$25	295	\$7,375
Total Prizes	365	\$21,475

Honoring Day

- A. New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Hannukah, Christmas
- B. Army Bday, Navy Bday, Air Force Bday, USMC Bday, USCG Bday, USSF Bday, NG Bday
- C. VFW Anniversary, VFW Auxiliary Anniversary
- D. Loyalty Day, Halloween, St. Patricks Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, Valentine Day, MLK Day
- E. All other Sundays
- F. All other days

Incentive Program: To help State Headquarters sell the calendars, we have developed an incentive program in which each Post selling the calendars would receive \$2 for each calendar sold.

Sponsorship Programs: We have several sponsorships for posts, Auxiliary, and members.

Sponsor a Day—We have two levels of “Sponsor a Day” sponsorships. For Posts with 100 or fewer members, a day could be sponsored for a donation of \$25. For Posts with 101 or more members, a day could be sponsored for \$50.

In consideration of the sponsorship, the sponsor would be allowed to submit a photo or a tidbit of historical information for that day, which would be included. The photo or information would not have to be about that day. Example: A Post could sponsor their anniversary day, including a photo of their post, the Post’s namesake, or information about their post namesake.

Sponsor a Week – For \$250, the entire week (Sunday-Saturday) could be sponsored. In consideration of the sponsorship, the sponsor could place three photos and four tidbits of historical information.

Sponsor a Month – For \$1,000, the entire month can be sponsored. In consideration of the sponsorship, the sponsor would be allowed to include a display photo (the main photo for that calendar month) as well as additional photos and informational tidbits throughout the month (to be placed on unsponsored days).

Calendars will be printed and available at the Illinois VFW State Convention in June.

If your post (or members) is interested in sponsoring a day, week, or month, please let

State Headquarters know. We'll work with the sponsors to ensure their photos and/or information is included on their sponsored area(s).

BUDDY POPPY PROGRAM

Order your poppies now for your Memorial Day distribution or for your Poppy Display. You can order electronically from our webpage - <http://www.vfwil.org>, using the "Donate Now button" or fill out the form and mail or fax or just call us.

Please keep in mind:

- You can order in increments of 500. Traditional poppies are priced at \$280 for 1000 or \$140 for 1000 tin tab poppies.
- Your poppies should be ordered 6 to 8 weeks before your distribution. State Headquarters does have Poppies in stock. A shipping charge will be added to the invoice for orders shipped from this office. **Please order early!**
- Poppies must be ordered using a name. Your order will be shipped to the *name* of the person who ordered them, but not to "VFW Post ___" or just "Commander" or "Quartermaster".
- **Please include a street address.** Poppies are shipped via UPS or Fedex and cannot be delivered to a Post Office Box.
- Poppies can be paid for by check or by credit card. **Please submit payment with your order or pay promptly when invoiced.**
- Be sure to put an actual sale date on your order.
- Poppy cans, caps, table covers, vests, aprons, etc. are ordered directly from the [VFW Store](#) at National Headquarters.

NEW CENTURY RAFFLE

The New Century Raffle has officially started and will run through June 30, 2025. The tickets are just \$10.00 each. Each ticket entitles you to a weekly drawing of \$100 from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Drawings will be held each Friday beginning July 1, 2024, with each week's winning ticket being returned to the barrel for future drawings. This means each ticket has multiple chances to win. The seller of each ticket also has a chance to win \$10.00. If the seller prints their name on the ticket, they will receive \$10.00. If the seller does not sign the ticket, the \$10.00 will be automatically donated and split between the Department's Unmet Needs Program and Children's National Home. Winners will be announced monthly in the General Orders and posted on <http://vfwil.org> website.

WEEKLY WINNER

<u>Date of Drawing</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Seller</u>
01/03/25	William Covington	William Covington
01/10/25	John Walker	No Seller Listed
01/17/25	Paul Augsburg	Paul Augsburg
01/24/25	Gary Nelson	No Seller Listed
01/31/25	Kenneth Stoklosa	No Seller Listed

CHARTER CANCELLATION

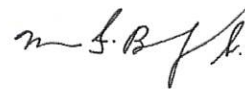
Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphart has approved the cancellation of the Charter for Buddy Egnew Post 4826. Please update your records accordingly.

By Order of:

Official:



Joseph "Scott" Swinford
Maurice Bridges
State Adjutant/Quartermaster



State Commander

February Council of Administration and 79th Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet

Tentative Agenda (May be subject to change.)

Crowne Plaza Springfield
3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield, IL 62703

February 07-08, 2025

Friday, February 07, 2025

Dress Code for Friday will be Coat & Tie.

11:00 AM	Foundation Meeting <i>Lincoln Boardroom</i>
1:00 PM	Various Committee Meetings <i>Plaza F</i>
2:00 PM	VFW Sales Open <i>West Plaza Lobby</i>
3:00 PM	Council of Administration Meeting <i>Plaza F</i>
4:00 PM	VFW Sales Close <i>West Plaza Lobby</i>

Saturday, February 08, 2025

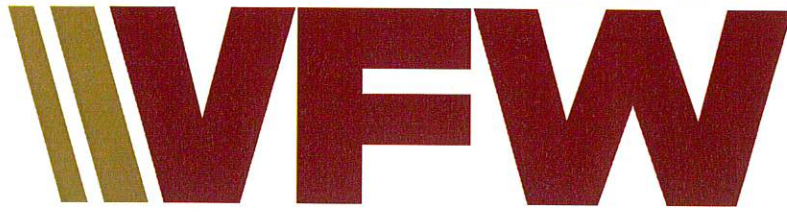
Dress Code for Saturday Morning/Afternoon will be Coat & Tie.

7:00 AM	Church Service <i>Plaza C</i>
8:00 AM	VFW Sales Open <i>West Plaza Lobby</i>
8:15 AM	Council of Administration Meeting <i>Plaza F</i>
12:00 PM	VFW Sales Close <i>West Plaza Lobby</i>
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	<i>Past District Commander's Luncheon, Cost: \$12 Post 755, 2211 Old Jacksonville Rd., Springfield, IL 62704</i>
3:00 PM	Lincoln's Pilgrimage <i>The Lincoln Tomb & War Memorials Site 1500 Monument Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702</i>

Dress Code for Saturday Evening will be a coat & tie or evening dress.

5:30 PM	Doors Open for 79th Annual Voice of Democracy <i>The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. Emerald, Diamond, Sapphire Rooms</i>
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STATE OF ILLINOIS



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

106th

Illinois State Convention Program Book Order Form

Our Post/District/Auxiliary would like to purchase the ad size selected below in the 106th annual Illinois VFW Convention Program Book.

The only ads in color will be inside and back cover ads

- Inside Front Cover - \$350.00
- Back Cover - \$300.00
- Half Page - \$125.00
- Inside Back Cover - \$300.00
- Full Page - \$200.00
- Quarter Page - \$75.00

PLEASE ENCLOSE PAYMENT IN FULL OR
PAY VIA CREDIT/DEBIT CARD AT www.vfwil.org

BOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE JUNE 2025 STATE CONVENTION

Mail ad copy and any photos your Post/District wants included in the ad, along with appropriate payment to:

Ad copy must accompany order form

*Editor, State Convention Program Book
3300 Constitution Dr.
Springfield, IL 62711*

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS APRIL 15, 2025

Questions? Contact State Headquarters at (217) 529-6688

Illinois Veterans Lobby Day



Wednesday, March 19th, 2025
at 8:00 AM

Meet at VFW 755,
2211 Old Jacksonville Rd.
Springfield, Illinois

- 8 AM Join us on March 19th at 8 AM to learn about important legislative issues facing veterans. This will be an opportunity for everyone to learn about the legislative talking points and plan their visits for the day.
- 9:30 AM Participants will be grouped into teams and visit the offices of the Illinois Representatives and Senators.
- 5 PM Meet at Boone's Saloon (301 W. Edwards) for a social hour and to discuss the day's results.



Community Activities Record Book Entry Form

1. This Form must be filled out and attached to the inside cover of the Community Activities Record Book that your Post enters in the Department Community Activities Record Book Contest.
2. All Record Books submitted for Department Judging will be returned to the Post Commander following judging.
3. The Post Commander must sign this form.
4. Your book must be in State Headquarters by May 2, 2025 for judging on May 5, 2025.

Post # _____ City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Total Projects	Total Hours	Total Funds
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Since 5/1/24 _____ Volunteered _____ Used/Donated \$ _____

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN:

Post Chairperson _____ Auxiliary Chairperson _____

JUDGES, NOTE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Page # _____, Project Name _____

Page # _____, Project Name _____

Page # _____, Project Name _____

Page # _____, Project Name _____

Post Commander Signature _____

Post Commander's Name (print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____



The Department of Illinois
Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary



P R E S E N T T H E

2024-2025 DEPARTMENT JOINT PROJECT



BACKPACKS *for* HOMELESS VETERANS



TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

ALL VFW Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to participate
in one of the following ways:

CREATE A BACKPACK

*Some Suggested items:
Backpack, Personal care items,
Underwear, Socks, T-shirts,
Non-perishable food (w/ pull-tab lids)*

**FULL BACKPACKS WILL BE
COLLECTED AT THE FEBRUARY
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
MEETING IN SPRINGFIELD**

MAKE A DONATION

**Earmark donations:
"Backpacks for the Homeless"**

AUXILIARY MEMBERS send to:
Department Treasurer
Linda Lorenz

VFW MEMBERS pay online at:
vfwil.org or send check to
Department Headquarters

C of A Feb 2025

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES REPORT

Hello Comrades,

The report of community service activities requires some additional emphasis. Overall, the state has 60% of our posts reporting any community activities. A breakdown by district is as follows

Dist 3: 67%

Dist 4: 50%

Dist 5: 57%

Dist 6: 94%

Dist 7: 50%

Dist 8: 14%

Dist 9: 58%

Dist 10: 47%

Dist 11: 85%

Dist 12: 41%

Dist 13: 58%

Dist 14: 100%

Dist 15: 45%

Dist 16: 50%

Dist 17: 36%

Dist 18: 82%

Dist 19: 77%

I can only "ASSUME" several posts have completed some sort of activities but have yet to submit a report to update the dashboard. It's time for some District leadership intervention to ensure posts are both doing and reporting community activities. If any post needs assistance they can contact me, Steve Eller VIA phone: 618 567 9296 or VIA Email: SPE9296@YAHOO.COM.AU. Lets get 100% reported by the end of February.

The deadline for Community Activities RecordBooks is rapidly approaching (2 May 25), Please do not procrastinate. Books arriving after 2 May will not be eligible. The following information is

directly out of the Commanders Leadership Manual. Please pass the word to all posts within your district. Last year we only had 2 submissions. It would be fantastic to see that number jump to 10 or more. Let's get our post the recognition they deserve for their hard work.

Community Activities Recordbooks Award

The top Community Activities Recordbook in each Membership Category will receive a \$50.00 Cash Award at the 2025 State Convention.

Membership Category 1 - Up to 150 members

Membership Category 2 - 151 to 300 members

Membership Category 3 - 301 members and up

RULES FOR THE RECORDBOOKS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Community Service Projects completed between May 1, 2024 and April 30, 2025.
2. Book size should be no larger than 12 x 16 inches and no thicker than 3 inches. You may use as many volumes as necessary.
3. Book to be separated into
4 Sections, A- B - C & D describing each project. Show money spent, and volunteer hours for each project. Also, show total of dollars spent and hours used at the end of each Section
4. Clippings or photographs should show dates and captions from newspapers and any other information
5. Checks and Photostats should show what the money was spent for, also, total number of volunteer hours for each project.
6. Your book must be in State Headquarters by **May 2, 2025 for judging on May 5, 2025.**
7. The Community Activities Record Book Entry Form must be filled out and attached to the inside cover of the record book.
8. Pages must be numbered. By reporting your out-of-pocket expenses, volunteers and hours for each project, we can continue to show Veterans and Their Families – We Got You.

Leadership Manual Community Activities Record Book Entry Form

1. This Form must be filled out and attached to the inside cover of the Community Activities Record Book that your Post enters in the Department Community Activities Record Book Contest.

2. All Record Books submitted for Department Judging will be returned to the Post Commander following judging.

3. The Post Commander must sign this form.

4. Your book must be in State Headquarters by May 2, 2025 for judging on May 5, 2025. Post # _____ City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____ Total Projects Total Hours Total Funds Since 5/1/24 _____ Volunteered _____ Used/Donated \$ _____ COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN: Post Chairperson _____

Auxiliary Chairperson _____

JUDGES, NOTE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Page # _____, Project Name _____

_____ Page # _____,

Project Name _____

Page # _____, Project Name _____

_____ Page # _____,

Project Name _____

Post Commander Signature _____

_____ Post Commander's Name
(print) _____ Address: _____

_____ City: _____

_____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Add as many projects as you need. The more the merrier!

Deadline Dates National VFW Post Special Project Program Deadline is April 30, 2025

“VFW Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year” Award Deadline must be in Department Headquarters by April 1,

2025 NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CONTEST

- Department selects Posts based on their own criteria and National guidelines
- Number of Awards based on Department size:
 - Up to 200 Posts 1 selection
 - 201 to 400 Posts 2 selections
- Department selection due to National by May 1.
- Award presented to Post Commander at National Convention
- Each Post Commander receives \$599.00 to assist with Convention expenses
- National Award Plaque
- Post Recognition Street Sign

Commanders and Comrades,

We are preparing to launch another outbound calling campaign later today for our Planned Giving initiative. The goal of these calls is to follow up on a recent Planned Giving mailing that recipients should have received, and to gauge whether they have already included the VFW in their estate plans or have an interest in doing so.

As some of you may recall, our December calling campaign raised concerns among members, with some mistakenly believing the calls were part of a scam. In response, we have made minor adjustments to the calling script to provide greater clarity and assurance to those being contacted.

The campaign will be utilizing the following phone numbers, and the caller ID will display "VFW":

- 816-897-3387
- 816-897-2194

I'm sharing this information in case you hear concerns or see posts on social media regarding a potential scam. Please feel free to share these details to help address any confusion.

Please share within your respective areas of operation.

Thanks

Dan West

Adjutant General

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

406 W. 34th Street

Kansas City, Missouri 64111

816.968.1110

www.vfw.org

Join at www.vfw.org/join/eligibility



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

ILLINOIS



Prepare for VA's secure sign-in changes

Note: We're moving to a simpler and more modern sign-in experience. We'll remove the My HealthVet option after **January 31, 2025**, and the DS Logon option after **September 30, 2025**.

In 2025, you'll have 2 secure sign-in account options (Login.gov and ID.me) for all VA websites and apps. We'll remove the My HealthVet option after January 31, 2025, and the DS Logon option after September 30, 2025. You'll still be able to use your My HealthVet health portal—you'll just need to sign in to it with a Login.gov or ID.me account.

Create a Login.gov or ID.me account now

We encourage you to create a Login.gov or ID.me account now. If you already have one of these accounts but haven't yet used it, start now so you have time to get used to it before the change. With Login.gov or ID.me, you'll have access to all the same information and services you use today.

My HealthVet sign-in option Available through January 31, 2025

You'll still be able to use the **My HealthVet** website after this date. You'll just need to start signing in with a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account.

Reprinted from VA Web Pages: 14Jan25, C. Ingle

Charles E. Ingle • State Deputy Inspector
Roscoe Post 2955 • District 6 • Department of Illinois
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