

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Illinois

2023-2024 Series
General Orders No. 2
August 2024

SPAM EMAILS

If you receive an email from a Department Officer with a suspicious request, check the actual email address of the sender. Keep in mind that a Department Officer will not ask you send them money or gift cards. Scammers are very skilled at making an email appear that it came from someone else.

ALL POST COMMANDERS

Your attention is directed to the provisions of our National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, Section 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations – which states in part under Commander's Duties and Obligations – *"Assure that the Commander or their representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings and County Council meetings (if applicable)."* Each State Commander is mandated to uphold the National By-Laws and this is just one small section that is being closely scrutinized by the National Organization. We appreciate the fact that Post Commanders may not always be available when District Meetings are scheduled; he/she can appoint any of his members to attend in his/her place.

SECTION 703 - BONDS

Please refer to Section 703 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure regarding the bonding of officers. We quote in part from Section 703: *"Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these By-Laws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, he may be accountable."*

The bonds that are purchased through State HQ expire **August 31, 2024.**

SECTION 709 - CONTROL OF UNITS

We have had a few inquiries from VFW Posts considering the sale of their Post Homes and or purchasing Real Estate Property. Please be reminded that Section 709 - Control of Units in the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure must be followed in its entirety.

"In addition to other legal requirements under existing local laws or Department By-Laws, no Post, County Council, District, or any holding company or corporation subordinate thereto, shall purchase, sell or otherwise transfer title or any interest in any real estate unless written notice of such proposal has first been given to each member of said unit ten (10) days prior to such regular or special meeting at which the proposal is to be considered, and then only by two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval of those members present and voting at such regular or special meeting. In addition, at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting, notice shall be provided to the Department Commander who shall review any sale, purchase, transfer or encumbrance to determine whether such transaction serves the purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as prescribed in the Congressional Charter. Failure to comply with these provisions shall nullify said transaction."

REGULARLY HELD POST MEETINGS

"Sec. 203 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.

Regular Meetings. Posts shall hold at least one regular meeting each month. Failure to comply can result in immediate revocation of the Post Charter notwithstanding the provisions of Section 211 of the Manual of Procedure."

Posts **MUST** meet each month. Those that do not comply with this by-law are subject to adverse action. Post and District Commanders are expected to ensure compliance.

MEETING MINUTES

Keeping properly formatted meeting minutes is one of the most important duties you have to your post or district. There have been recent incidents of post meetings being held and important decisions, such as the membership approving to sell property, not being recorded in the minutes. If it is not recorded, it did not happen. Meeting minutes must include the following.

- You need to include the date, time and type of meeting
- Meeting location

- Officers/members present
- Any subject brought to the meeting floor for a vote
 - The result of that vote
- Anything brought to the meeting floor for a discussion

Meeting minutes do not need to be a transcript-- just a summary. Your minutes need to be legible, and your minutes need to be read and approved at the next regular meeting.

For further information on how to properly record meeting minutes please refer to [Roberts Rules of Order \(Newly Revised\)](#) Section 48, paragraphs 1 through 8.

POST PURCHASES AND EXPENDITURES

We have a few inquiries from members and officers regarding the procedures for approval of purchases and expenditures in a Post. Specifically, they inquired about purchases or donations that were made without approval of membership prior to disbursement of funds.

Please refer to Section 218 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures.

Sec 218(a)(1)f states that one of the duties of the Commander is "Approve all disbursements of funds properly authorized by the Post by use of voucher or payment order"

Sec 218(a)(5)c states that one of the duties of the Quartermaster is "Disburse funds as properly authorized by the Post using acceptable banking practices."

In both instances, it is very clear that Post expenditures can only be made after they are properly authorized by the Post, which means approval of the membership.

Please review the procedures that you are following to ensure all your expenditures and disbursement of funds are in compliance with National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures.

DEPARTMENT PURCHASES

"ARTICLE XII-Control of Department Purchases"

No Department Officer, appointive or elective, or Department Committee Chairman or Department Committee member, is authorized to purchase goods or enter into any agreement, expressed or implied, written or oral, providing for or involving the expenditure of Department funds without prior written authorization based on a requisition bearing the signature of the Department Adjutant and the Department Quartermaster."

RED, WHITE AND BLUE VETERANS SERVICE SUPPORTER PROGRAM

Districts, Posts and Individuals can once again show their support for our Veterans Service programs through our Red, White and Blue Supporter Program. We have established three levels of Sponsorships - Red for those making donations of at least \$1,000; White for those making \$500 donations; and Blue for those making donations of \$250. Individuals, Posts, Districts and Auxiliaries making donations in the above Supporter Levels will receive a beautiful plaque noting their level of support and signs noting donations will be displayed at the Mid-Winter Conference in February and our 106th annual State Convention in June, 2025.

ALL AMERICAN COMMANDERS FOR 2023-2024

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Commanders listed below who have earned "All American" status:

Clyde Rowold 14th District Commander

Aretha Spurlock, Commander, Post 311

Gary Holmes, Commander, Post 342

Joshua Seed, Commander, Post 755

Karen Ridge, Commander, Post 805

Anthony Avers, Commander, Post 976

Robert Wilson, Commander, Post 1117

Les Durov, Commander Post 1337

Steven Hunter, Commander, Post 1197

Douglas Jameson, Commander, Post 1739

Michael Magnosta, Commander, Post 2245

Ruben Hernandez, Commander, Post 2955

Eric Piwowar, Commander, Post 2298

Kenneth Eddy, Commander, Post 2698

Ray Doeksen, Commander, Post 2978

Valerie Young, Commander, Post 3480

Seth Miller, Commander, Post 4183

John Hubbard, Commander, Post 4226

Stephen Baker, Commander, Post 4308

Ben Keefe, Commander 4600

Seth Floyd, Commander, Post 5346

Kenneth Piehl, Commander, Post 5422
David Gladney, Commander, Post 5596
Thomas Zilla, Commander, Post 5815
Clarence Nail, Commander, Post 6632
Clifford Hall, Commander, Post 7539
Brian Beckman, Commander 8739
Jonathan Cooper, Commander, Post 8821
Kyle Blumhorst, Commander, Post 11463

AUGUST COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

The first Council of Administration Meeting will be held August 16-17, 2024 at Four Points by Sheraton St. Louis, 319 Fountains Pkwy., Fairview Heights, IL 62208. Hotel rooms are priced at \$115 plus tax per night. The cut-off date for reserving your room is August 1, 2024. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at (618) 622-9500.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS/PROGRAM CHAIRMANS

Committee members for Committee meetings must be present. All other Officers and Program Chairmen are expected to be in attendance for all Council of Administration meetings. The committees being called into the August Council of Administration will meet on Friday, August 16, 2024 at 1:00 pm and the August Council of Administration Meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. The meetings will take place at Four Points by Sheraton St. Louis. All *Program Chairmen* are expected to be present and to introduce themselves and outline their programs giving instruction on how to accomplish program goals.

PROGRAM CHAIRMEN: If you need a PowerPoint presentation or any visual aid, please contact State Headquarters as soon as possible to have arrangements made. If **you have documentation you would like to handout, please forward them to State Headquarters by Friday, August 2, 2024!**

VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Veterans Service Committee will meet at 1:00pm...

Laurie Emmer, Chairman
Maurice Bridges, State Commander

Eugene Blackwell, State Senior Vice Commander
Robert Bailey, State Junior Vice Commander
Joe Bartley, State Adjutant-Quartermaster
Brett Nila, Past State Commander
Bobby Edwards, Past State Commander
Bobby Welch, Past State Commander

ILLINOIS VFW NEWS COMMITTEE

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

Laurie Emmer, Chairman, Past State Commander
Barbara Wilson, *Illinois VFW News* Editor
Maurice Bridges, State Commander
Joe Bartley, State Adjutant-Quartermaster
Bob Welch, Historian

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Phil Maughan - Chairman
Joe Bartley - Assistant Budget and Finance Chairman

AUGUST COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

The Council of Administration will meet at the Four Points by Sheraton St. Louis on Friday, August 16, 2024 at 3:00 pm. This meeting should adjourn at approximately 5:30 pm, and reconvene on Saturday, August 17th at 8:30 am. The following State Officers and Program Chairmen should be prepared to report on Friday, August 16, 2024.

Matt Claussen, National Council Member
Nancy O'Connell, State Chief of Staff
Cathy Stubbs, State Inspector
Ryan Higginbotham, State Surgeon
Jay Hoffman, State Judge Advocate
Gary Holmes, State Chaplain
Dustin Dixon, State Membership Chairman
Evamarie Duff, State All-State Program Chairman
Barbara Wilson, State Marketing/Public Relations Chairman
Georges Sanon, State Student Veterans Liaisons
Robert Bland, State Blood Donor Chairman
Stephanie Kirksey, State Buddy Poppy Chairman
Steve Eller, State Community Activities Chairman

Paul Bezazian, State Homeless Veterans Chairman
Larry Miller, State Legislative Chairman
Kyna Simpson, State National Home Chairman
Clarence Caraker, State POW/MIA Chairman
Bobby Welch, State Veterans and Military Support Programs Chairman
Laurie Emmer, *Illinois VFW News* Committee Chairman
Barbara Wilson - *Illinois VFW News* Editor
Glen Goodrich, State Safety Chairman
Dave Darte, State Voice of Democracy Chairman
John Davin, State Youth Activities Chairman
Ron Milton, State Scouting Chairman
Doug Jameson, VAC Liaison
Brett Nila, Veterans Service Chairman
Phil Maughan, Budget & Finance Committee Chairman

AUGUST COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

These additional State Officers will also be called into the Council of Administration Meeting...

Sean Conner, State Service Office Chairman
Duane Hisel, Emblem and Supply
Jeff Britt., State Officer of the Day

STATE COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING

The Homecoming Dinner for Commander Maurice Bridges will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2024 at Four Points by Sheraton St. Louis, in conjunction with our First Council of Administration Meeting. *Please look for the flyer on the state website for more information.*

You may purchase your tickets through State Headquarters by calling (217) 529-6688 or making a donation on <http://www.vfwil.org>. Tickets are \$55 each.

ILLINOIS DAY AT THE VFW NATIONAL HOME

"Illinois Day" at the National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, has been set for Saturday, September 21, 2024. We hope to have a large turn-out and would appreciate having a head count of the number of VFW and Auxiliary Members from each Post who will be in attendance. Please see attachment in the back for more information.

ILLINOIS VFW NEWS

Photographs, news, and calendar items can be mailed to Editor Barbara Wilson 802 N. 3rd Street, Riverton, Illinois 62561. Any items can be sent via e-mail to barb.wilson2@outlook.com. Pictures should be sent as a JPEG attachment. This is your newspaper, and we want your news items and pictures.

2024-2025 COMMANDER'S CALLS

State Commander Maurice Bridges will be holding 5 Commander's Calls this fall at Posts around Illinois

Schedule

September 14, 2024

Centralia Post 2055
1826 S. Pine St.
Centralia, IL 62801

September 15, 2024

Caseyville Post 1117
415 N. Long St.
Caseyville, IL 62232

September 28, 2024

East Peoria Post 2078
1507 E. Meadow Ave.
East Peoria, IL 61611

September 29, 2024

Joshua W. Harris Brookfield Memorial Post 2868
8844 Ogden Ave.
Brookfield, IL 60513

April 12, 2025

Oren L. Davis
Post 99,
3920 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Decatur, IL 62526

All Commanders' Calls are scheduled for 10 am to 2 pm on the dates and locations above

ALL Veterans of Foreign Wars officers and members are invited to attend and meet with the State Commander and other State Officers and Chairmen of the IL VFW

As a reminder, A Post Commander or representative must attend at least one (1) of the scheduled Commander's Calls in order to be eligible for All-State Post for 2024-2025 year.


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 participate in 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 the 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 seller prints their name on ticket, they will receive \$10.00. If the seller does not sign the ticket, the \$10.00 will be automatically donated and split between Department's Unmet Needs Program and Children's National Home. Winners will be announced each month in the General Orders and posted on <http://vfwil.org> web site.

WEEKLY WINNER

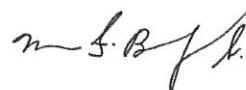
<u>Date of Drawing</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Seller</u>
7/5/2024		
7/12/2024	John Hill	No Seller Listed
7/19/2024	Stanley Hayes	Stanley Hayes
7/26/2024	Arthur Stine	Arthur Stine

OFFICIAL:



JOE BARTLEY
State Adjutant-Quartermaster

BY ORDER OF:



MAURICE BRIDGES SR.
State Commander

PROGRAM SUMMARY

SCOUT OF THE YEAR

SCHOOLS ARE BACK IN SESSION AND THE SCOUTING UNITS ARE PLANNING THEIR PROGRAMS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCOUTING YEAR. THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY THOSE POTENTIAL SCOUTS THAT WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM.

USE THE BELOW LINK TO GET INFORMATION TO THE SCOUT UNITS.

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scout-of-the-year>

ALSO, YOU CAN USE THE OPPORTUNITY WHEN CONTACTING YOUR SCOUT UNITS TO PROMOTE THE VOD/PP PROGRAMS.

LET'S HAVE A SUCCESSFUL 2024-2025 YEAR

R MILTON

STATE SCOUTING CHAIR

USAFRET1@ATT.NET

ILLINOIS DAY 2024

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL ILLINOIS DAY VISIT TO THE NATIONAL HOME ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21.

DETAILS WILL BE FORTHCOMING AS WE'RE PLANNING A SPECIAL DAY AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THE HOME'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY!

LOCATION

VFW NATIONAL HOME
3573 WAVERLY ROAD
EATON RAPIDS MI 48827
800 424-8360

WE WILL BEGIN WITH A VISIT TO THE LOCAL CEMETERY (NATIONAL HOME SECTION) AT 9AM LOCAL TIME. (*REMEMBER MICHIGAN IS IN THE EASTERN TIME ZONE.)

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BEGIN AT 10AM WITH LUNCH AT NOON. THE PROGRAM FOLLOWS WITH THE SILVER MARCH AND DEPARTURE IS AT APPROXIMATELY 2PM

THE NATIONAL HOME HAS A BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS OF OVER 600 ACRES, WITH A MUSEUM, GIFT SHOP, AND MONTANA FARMSTED. AND THERE WILL BE GAMES, POPCORN AND ICE CREAM IN THE GYM.

WELCOMING DINNER

FOR THOSE COMRADES WHO COME IN ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, WE WILL HAVE A WELCOMING DINNER AT THE NEARBY "MAPLE CITY" VFW POST 2046 ... 695 LANSING ST, CHARLOTTE MI ... 517 543-1719. COLD BEVERAGES AND CAMARADERIE AT 5PM WITH DINNER AT 6. VERY ENJOYABLE!

ACCOMODATIONS

FOR THOSE STAYING OVERNITE ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20, PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS AND BLOCKS OF ROOMS HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE FOR US.

CALL AND MENTION YOU ARE WITH THE ILLINOIS VFW.

COMFORT INN
1302 PACKARD HWY, CHARLOTTE MI.
517 543-7307

HOLIDAY INN
500 MEIJER ST, CHARLOTTE MI
517 541-5000

AMERICA'S BEST VALUE INN
828 E. SHEPARD ST, CHARLOTTE MI
517 543-8288

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT OUR
AUGUST C OF A MEETING AND WE'D APPRECIATE A HEAD-COUNT
SO AS TO ORDER ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE

THANK YOU ALL AND HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

ILLINOIS VFW, NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!

Safety

What makes a good program? You have to work it and believe in it. Department, Districts, Posts and mostly the Membership that's working it must all work together; Together to accomplish the goals that helps and saves lives of our citizens' and Veterans to give them a safer quality of life.

The Safety Program has been around for awhile and there's no reason for any Post not getting at least one "X" on the Dashboard. There are six ways to do this...Highway, Pedestrian, Recreational, Home/Fire, Drug Awareness, and Recognition/Other. Take any of them, just do one.

The easiest one, I think, is Home/Fire. Get some batteries from Ace Hardware. Stores might donate them to you, if not keep your receipt for post records. Some local Fire Departments are going out checking smoke and co2 detectors join up with them while you are there. See where they use their grills some have them too close to the house and have started house fires.

Lastly take some Membership Applications, do two programs at the same.

Report! Report! Report! If you have any problems writing it up, call me I'm on page 41. Cell number: 217-820-2038. I'll be glad to put it in for you.

Who will be the first District to accomplish this first goal?



Send a Song to Your Service Member or Loved Ones

Request a Song, and a Musician in the 144th Army Band will play it for your recipient!

You can choose either

1

A personalized picture slideshow with the requested song in the background

2

A video of the Army Musician playing the requested song



LINK TO FORM: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CCMUSICREQUESTFORM](https://tinyurl.com/ccmusicrequestform)



FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL ARMYCOMBATCHORDS@GMAIL.COM

WATCH US ON YOUTUBE: [HTTPS://YOUTUBE.COM/@COMBATCHORDS](https://youtube.com/@COMBATCHORDS)

SCAN ME!



QR CODE TO
REQUEST FORM