



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Illinois

2022-2023 Series
General Orders No. 9
March 2023

CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS

The PO Box has been closed and mail will only be forwarded for a short period of time. Please update all your records so mail is sent to our physical address.

All correspondence sent to Department Headquarters via USPS should now be mailed to our physical address. Please update your records to reflect the information listed below.

VFW Department of Illinois
3300 Constitution Drive
Springfield, IL 62711

Headquarters Staff Changes

Susie Lynch, Springfield office resigned

Heather Etter will start at State HQ on March 13 as Administrative Operations
Greg Strong resigned as Marion VSO but will stay on staff until April 30 working on Mondays and Fridays in Marion

Craig Koch was hired as part time VSO. He will be working 3 days a week in Metro St Louis area. He will work out of Post 805 in O'Fallon but will do outreach in Metro St Louis area. He starts on March 6.

Change to All-State Post Requirements

The All-State Award Program for Posts in the 2022-2023 Commander's Leadership Manual required Post to submit a nomination packet for Teacher of the Year to qualify and did not allow a donation in lieu of nomination packet.

State Commander Edwards is allowing a 30 day period whereby a Post may make a donation to the State Teacher of the Year Program in order to receive credit on the State Dashboard. For Post with less than 100 members \$100 donation, For Post with 100 or more members \$200 donation. You can upload donation through the donate here button on vfwil.org or you can mail a check to State HQ. You only have the Month of March 2023 to be able to make a donation and get credit on the State Dashboard. Donation MUST be received before close of business on March 31, 2023. Donations received after March 31st WILL NOT receive credit on the State Dashboard.

NOTE: This change only applies to the State Dashboard. Donations to the Teacher of the Year Program WILL NOT get you credit on the National (All-American) Dashboard.

REMINDER – QUARTERLY AUDITS

Quarterly audits must be signed by the Trustees and Commander prior to submission to the Department. Audits not bearing the required signatures will not be accepted.

SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

Pursuant to Section 214 – “Solicitation of Funds” found in the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, fundraising may only be held for sanctioned purposes. This means no member shall use his/her title, position or office in connection with solicitation of funds for any non-VFW related purpose. Violation of this provision may lead to penalties which may include removal from office.

2023 ILLINOIS STATE CONVENTION RAFFLE

The 2023 Convention Raffle Tickets are in the mail!! This year’s mailing consists of two sheets of tickets and each sheet has five (5) Convention Raffle Tickets for \$20.00 and two Purple Heart Tickets for \$10.00. The drawing will be held at the VFW State Convention on Saturday, June 10, 2023, in Springfield, Illinois. Grand Prize is \$10,000.00. Second Prize is \$3,000.00, Third Prize is \$2,000.00 and Fourth through Tenth Prize is \$500.00 each. Purple Heart Grand Prize is \$2,000. Please contact this State Headquarters for additional tickets.

ALL-STATE POST AWARDS

The 2022-2023 All-State Program is designed to recognize exceptional leadership and teamwork, not only in Membership but in 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 All State Team of Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters will be made up of Posts who achieve:

- *Membership greater than 102%*
- *Post must hold 2 membership drives/events and submit report to Program Reporting Dashboard*
- *Posts must be 100% reported on the Department Programs Reporting Dashboard*
- *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 5 poppies per member with a minimum of 1,000 Poppies*
- *Post must have a nomination from Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year Awards. Donations as stated in the Commander's Leadership Manual or as stated above will be accepted if Post does not have a nomination.*
- *Post must have representation at all properly called District conventions and meetings*
- *Posts must have representation at all of their respective Regional Commander Calls (A roll-call will be taken)*
- *Posts must make a \$50 donation to the Service Office Support Program (SOS). This is separate from the Red, White and Blue Program donations.*
- *New Posts need to attain 50 members to become All-State*

The All-State Program runs through June 15, 2023. To receive All-State Awards at the State Convention, the deadline for completion of All-State Criteria is April 30, 2023.

All-State Post Commanders will receive an All-State Post Commanders Cap and Distinguished Service lapel pin.

All-State Post Quartermasters have the option to purchase an All-State Post Quartermaster Cap and will receive a Distinguished Service lapel pin

All-State Post Members have the option to purchase an All-State Team Member cap.

ALL-STATE DISTRICT CRITERIA

The All-State Program runs through June 15, 2023. To receive All-State Awards at the State Convention, the deadline for completion of All State Criteria is April 30, 2023. All-State District Commanders will receive an All-State District Commander's Cap and a Distinguished Service Lapel Pin. There will be no limits to the number of Districts that can achieve All-State status. The criteria is as follows:

- *Membership greater than 100%*
- *Districts must have 100% of Posts inspected and the inspections must be cleared by the State inspector by April 30, 2023*
- *Districts must hold a minimum of one School of Instruction and submit a report to State Headquarters*
- *District must ensure at least 4 Posts hold a membership drive/event and submit report to Program Reporting Dashboard*
- *Districts must submit 1 of each of the following to Department Headquarters for*

judging:

- Patriots Pen
- Voice of Democracy
- Teacher of the Year
- Police Officer of the Year
- Firefighter of the year
- District must forward a record of the Roll Call of Officers and Posts of each District meeting to State Headquarters

ALL AMERICAN POST LEADERSHIP CRITERIA

- Membership greater than 100%
- Must conduct two Membership Recruiting events and submit reports through the All-American Dashboard
- Post Election Report must be submitted to National
- Meet all of the following Program Participation Criteria:
 - Voice of Democracy - Minimum of one entry advanced to District judging
 - Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging
 - Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to Veterans & Military Support Programs Services (Minimum of \$100)
 - Teacher of the Year award - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging
 - Submit a community service report to their department for submission to All-American Dashboard NLT Jun 30, 2023
 - Buddy Poppy – Purchase five per member in the Post

ALL AMERICAN DISTRICT CRITERIA

- Membership greater than 100%
- Must conduct two Membership Recruiting events and submit reports through the All-American Dashboard
- District Election Report must be submitted to National
- Meet all of the following Program Participation Criteria:
 - Voice of Democracy - Minimum of one entry advanced to District judging
 - Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging
 - Teacher of the Year award - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging

CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT

Under the State of Illinois General Not for Profit Corporation Act, the **ANNUAL REPORT** must be properly executed and filed in the Office of the Secretary of State prior to the first day of the corporation's anniversary month each year (the 19th District charter date is 4/4/—so the District QM must have this report submitted prior to April 1st). If filing on time, a \$10 filing fee only is required by statute. If filed later, a statutory \$3 penalty fee must be added. Annual Reports are mailed to the "registered agent" of record. If you do not receive your annual report renewal, you can contact the Secretary of State at (217)782-7808 or on line at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. (Login, then go to

publications, business, and form C 54-Not for Profit Report). NOTE: filing fee is \$10 by mail and online reporting is \$35.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AD BOOK

The Program Book Order Form for the 104th Annual State Convention is included in these General Orders. Full Page Ads are \$200, Half Page Ads are \$100 and Quarter Page Ads are \$75. Ads on the Inside Front or Back Cover are \$300 and outside back cover is \$350. (Contact Headquarters Office for availability of Cover Pages) Please mail your ad form, picture (*if applicable*) and payment to 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, 2023**.
PAYMENT FOR ADS MUST BE REMITTED AT TIME OF PLACEMENT!

STATE CONVENTION

The Wyndham Springfield City Centre Hotel, located at 700 East Adams Street in Springfield, will be the State Convention Headquarters for the VFW. The Auxiliary Headquarters is the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel; this hotel is located across the street at 701 East Adams Street in Springfield.

State Headquarters IS NOT taking hotel reservations for State Convention. If you are on the Direct Bill and you have returned your form to State Headquarters, then State Headquarters will make those reservations.

All other attendees are responsible to make their own reservations direct with the hotel. The cost is \$95.00/night for a standard room.

Wyndham Springfield City Centre Hotel

700 East Adams Street, Springfield

Phone 217-789-1530

President Abraham Lincoln Springfield a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel

701 East Adams Street, Springfield.

Phone 217-544-8800

Tell them you are with VFW State Convention when making reservations

The links and codes for the hotels will be published on the state website when they're available.

Tentative Agenda is attached.

STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Included in these General Orders is the Advance Registration Form for the State

Convention. Delegates can also be registered online by going to www.vfwil.org. The registration fee is \$15.00 until **June 2nd, 2023**, and is \$17.00 after **June 2nd, 2023**. Letters of registration confirmation will be mailed to registrants after the proper registration fee has been paid. Registrants will be required to present this confirmation when they check in at the convention registration desk at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre Hotel.

REMINDER: Delegates ***will not*** be allowed to vote until such issues have been resolved if the Post is in arrears for supplies, poppies or any sort of financial obligation to the Department. The Post must be bonded, inspected, have an election report on file with Department and National Headquarters for the ensuing year, and all audits **including** the March 31, 2023 audit must be submitted and approved.

Delegate strength to the convention is based on one delegate and one alternate delegate per thirty members or fraction thereof.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Sec. 413 - Arrearages, Deficiencies and Omissions.

The Commander of the District in arrears for financial obligations to Department or National, for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, or failing to have the office of the Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the District is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed District Trustees Report of Audit, District Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation at the Department Convention. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

A properly completed District Election Report shall be submitted to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention. There is a blank election report at the end of these orders.

Sec. 212 - Defunct Posts

Any Post with less than ten (10) members, or while under suspension the Post fails to establish a meeting quorum or elect the required officers, its charter shall be revoked and declared defunct with the issuance of a special order by the Commander-in-Chief.

Disposition of Property. In all cases of surrender, revocation or forfeiture of a charter, title to all real and personal property shall immediately pass to the Department who shall take possession and control for disposition as directed by the Department Council of Administration for the purposes set forth in the Congressional Charter. In addition, the books and records of the Post shall be recovered by the Department.

In case of surrender or forfeiture of a charter, the Department Council of Administration in the case of trust funds or trust property, or both, shall carry out the intent and purpose of such trust to the extent of such funds or property, or both.

Sec. 213 - Arrearages, Deficiencies and Omissions.

Any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to

have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council and District meetings; County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

Sec. 218 (K) - Duties of Commander (Attendance at District Meetings)

Assure that the Commander or their representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings and County Council meetings (if applicable).

NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Part 222 of the Manual of Procedure

Please note the recent changes in Part 222 of the Manual of Procedure. Delegates to the District, Department and National Convention shall be elected in April.

Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31st.

Delegates shall not be recognized at the National Convention unless they personally register their completed delegate card with the National Credentials Committee.

Posts instituted after delegate strength has been determined, but prior to convening date of the respective convention or district meeting, shall on the day of institution, elect one delegate and one alternate for each thirty names or fraction thereof according to the number of names listed on the charter application.

124th VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION

Phoenix, Arizona is the host city for the 124th VFW and 109th Auxiliary National Conventions, which will be held **July 22-27, 2023**. Convention housing will open at a later date. Hotel reservations can be booked via the VFW website www.vfw.org . More information will be released as we receive it.

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.

REMINDER – STATE BY-LAW CHANGES

Resolutions having effect on the By-Laws of the Department must be received in State Headquarters by no later than April 30, 2023 so they can be circulated to all Posts within the prescribed time prior to the State Convention. Resolutions affecting Department By-Laws received after that date cannot be considered at this State Convention. ALL RESOLUTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN PROPER FORM. Any Resolutions received that are not in proper form will be returned for correction. NOTE: in order for your resolution to be included in the State Convention Resolutions Book, it must be received at State Headquarters no later than **April 30, 2023**.

NOMINATION, ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Part 216 of the National By-Laws is quoted below for your information and necessary action. Please note paragraph c.

Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

- (a) The Post shall elect the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and three Trustees.
- (b) *The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant and Service Officer.*
- (c) *The Post may elect or the Post Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day and/or Guard if required by Post By-Laws.*
- (d) *The Post Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Post or as may be required by Post By-Laws.*

A number of posts have by-laws that state that Post Officers will be elected in accordance with the National By-Laws or are silent on the election of officers as the National By-Law has precedence. With the change to 216c should review their by-laws and decide if they wish the positions in 216c to be elected or appointed.

Part 416 of the National By-Laws is quoted below for your information and necessary action. Please note paragraph c.

Sec. 416 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

- (a) The elected officers of each District shall consist of a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, and three (3) Trustees.
- (b) *The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Service Officer and Inspector.*

(c) The District may elect or the District Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chief of Staff or Officer of the Day if required by the District By-Laws.

(d) The District Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the District or as may be required by District Bylaws.

Paragraph c allows Districts to choose between election or appointment of the listed officers. Should the District wish to appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chief of Staff or Officer of the Day they need to have this reflected in their by-laws.

Part 417 of the Manual of Procedure

Sec. 417 - Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office. Order of nominations and elections.

The order of nominations and elections shall be Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Surgeon and Trustee(s).

Nomination. A member may be nominated and elected although not present at the meeting. A member making a 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 closing of nominations. Any nominee shall have the opportunity to decline nomination for the office to which they have been nominated before nominations are closed. Nominations shall remain open until the District Convention is ready to vote.

Election. In balloting for District officers, a majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary for election. If there is 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.

Challenging Election Results: 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 Department Commander, mailed no later than three (3) days after the election.

Installation. District officers shall be installed before the adjournment of the meeting at which elected. The installation shall be conducted by a member in good standing who holds or has held an office equal to or higher than District Commander. The District Commander-elect shall select the installing officer. An officer who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause shall be installed at any succeeding regular or special meeting of a unit of the organization, within sixty (60) days of the date of installation. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant.

Term of Office. Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year except that three trustees shall initially be elected for terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3) years and thereafter one (1) trustee shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years. District officers shall take office upon the confirmation of election and installation of the Department Commander by the Department Convention.

INSTALLING OFFICERS:

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed.

Post Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

The District Convention is held for the purpose of electing your officers for the upcoming administrative year. Any member, not a member of the District Convention, (Refer to Section 404 of the National By-Laws) may attend the Convention, however, they shall have no voice in business discussions unless requested by the Commander, and shall have no voting privileges. Those on official business shall be recognized by the Commander for the conduct of business. (Article IV, Sec. 403 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.)

PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIRED FOR ALL ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the District Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to office. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited, the office declared vacant and the eligibility qualifications of such officer shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National By-Laws.

COMMANDERS-ELECT AT ALL LEVELS

Your attention is directed to the fact that the State Commander does NOT ASSIGN a Past Post, District, County Council Commander or a State Officer to be an Installing Officer. This is something that is between you and the Officer you choose.

REMINDER - POST/DISTRICT OFFICER CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS

Please note that changes in Post or District Officers must be reported to State Headquarters immediately. Changes in addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses should also be reported immediately – even if changes are made on the Online Membership System (OMS).

These changes are not always transmitted to State Headquarters; please help us keep our records current.

LOYALTY DAY

Posts and Districts are urged to start planning now for Loyalty Day (May 1, 2023) observances in their community. Go to the VFW Store for Loyalty Day Posters, Award Citations and Brochures and Patriotic Holiday Speeches are available at www.vfw.org.

SPRING POPPY DISTRIBUTION

Commanders on all levels should be organizing their 2023 Memorial Day Poppy Distribution. Promotional material is available from the VFW Store Catalog. Every Post is urged to order and distribute Buddy Poppies; poppies can be ordered and paid for from our website – www.vfwil.org. They are available in multiples of 500. All other accessories such as caps, aprons, cans, etc. can be ordered directly from the VFW Store at National Headquarters. **Poppies are priced at \$130.00 per thousand**; please allow eight to ten weeks when ordering your poppies.

Special Note: If you have ordered your poppies from the State website, please do not send a paper copy of your order form with your check. This will eliminate the possibility of a duplication of your order.

CONVENTION AWARDS AND CITATIONS COMMITTEE:

We are accepting nominees to be considered by our Convention Awards & Citations Committee for our State Convention. Categories for these awards are Outstanding Legislator, Education, Outstanding in Industrial Field, Legal Profession, Athletic Field, Governmental Service, Clergy, News Media, and Outstanding Citizen or Community.

There is no form to fill out...just write down the name, address, sponsoring Post Number, Contact Person and the reason why you feel this individual deserves to be recognized. THE DEADLINE DATE IS MAY 1ST, 2023.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 15TH

Posts within the Department of Illinois are hereby instructed to fly their U.S. Flag at "half-staff" on May 15th, 2023 in observance of **Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15th** as authorized by Public Law 103-122. (See law below):

175. Position and manner of display

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

(A)-(1) (Unchanged)

(iii) The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States, that Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff.

The flag shall be flown at half-staff thirty days from the death of a President or a former President, ten days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death

and the following day for a Member of Congress. **The flag shall be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day, unless that day is also Armed Forces Day.**

VFW DAY OF SERVICE

In 2020 the VFW launched the #stillserving campaign to highlight the countless ways veterans continue to serve in communities across America. This year the VFW is introducing VFW Day of Service.

The inaugural VFW Day of Service kicks off the first Saturday of May-- May 6, 2023-- marking the start of veteran-led community service projects to take place throughout the month. We're asking VFW Posts, members, community advocates and veterans of every stripe to band together to host one community service event on May 6, or at another point during the month, to make a meaningful difference in your community.

Posts can sign up to participate or express an interest in participating by visiting <https://todaysvfw.org/day-of-service/>.

Service projects can be any size. After your project is complete, please send information and pictures on how you participated to State and National Headquarters.

MARCH 25TH ... "MEDAL OF HONOR DAY"

A Resolution was passed by the U.S. Senate which designates March 25th as "National Medal of Honor Day". The day is set aside to acknowledge the more than 3,400 individuals who have received the nation's highest honor. The date of March 25th was chosen to highlight this special day because it was on March 25, 1863, that the first Medals of Honor were presented to six members of Andrews' Raiders. According to the Medal of Honor Society, there are only 83 living individuals who have received the 'Medal of Honor' and the Department of Illinois is proud to be "home" to three of them. They are: Harold Fritz, Post 2078-9, Allen Lynch, Post 4308-5 and Sammy Davis, Post 4549-17. Let's all join in recognizing their dedication and service to our country.

STATE PATRIOT'S PEN WINNER

Sponsored by Arnold Heath Memorial 5151 in our 4th District, we would like to congratulate Grace Garcia as this year's State first place Patriot's Pen winner! Grace is an 8th Grader at Holy Family Catholic Academy in Inverness. She received a \$1,000 cash award and a specially engraved plaque at this year's 77th annual Voice of

Democracy Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois. As one of 54 finalists worldwide, Grace will compete at the National level for individual awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

2022/2023 STATE PATRIOT'S PEN WINNERS

1st Place – John H. Emery Youth, Pageantry, & Patriotism Fund - \$1,000

Recipient: Grace Garcia, District 4

2nd Place – Gaye Hines Memorial - \$500.00

Recipient: Makayla Korsmeyer, District 12

3rd Place: William Glenn Britt Memorial - \$400.00

Recipient: Connor Allison, District 9

4rd Place: Raymond L. Moreland Memorial - \$300.00

Recipient: Chris Mertz, District 5

STATE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CHAMPION

Congratulations to Andrew Kula on being selected as the 2022-2023 State Voice of Democracy Champion. Andrew is a 12th grade student at Lemont Township High School. He was sponsored by Lemont 22 Honor Post 5819 and its Auxiliary located in Lemont, Illinois in our 19th District. He received the \$2,500 first place award and a specially engraved plaque at this year's 77th annual Voice of Democracy Ceremony. As one of 54 finalists worldwide, Andrew will travel to Washington, D.C. and compete at the National level for the first-place prize of a \$30,000 college scholarship.

2022/2023 STATE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNERS

1st Place: John H. Emery Youth, Pageantry and Patriotism Fund - \$2,500.00

Recipient: Andrew Kula, District 19

2nd Place: George R. Cramer & Ray R. Soden Scholarship Award - \$1,500.00

Recipient: Annalyn Harper, District 7

3rd Place: Terry L. McKinney Memorial Award - \$1,250.00

Recipient: Rylee Giffin, District 9

4th Place: Dale & Catherine Clifton Award - \$1,000.00

Recipient: Abbigayle Miller, District 12

5th Place: Johnson Phelps Post 5220 Auxiliary Award - \$750.00

Recipient: Sarah Restoff, District 13

6th Place: Edward Jarnell & Joseph Ross Award - \$600.00

Recipient: Gabriel Craycraft, District 10

7th Place: William Glenn Britt Memorial Award - \$550.00

Recipient: Colton Throgmorton, District 15

8th Place: Dick Cosner Memorial Award - \$500.00

Recipient: Bailey Ryan, District 8

9th Place: Vern & Lorraine Umphery, Post 6863 & Auxiliary Award - \$450.00

Recipient: Michael Casner, District 16

10th Place: Robert C. Holysz Post 2200 Award - \$400.00

Recipient: Kaitlynn Jones, District 6

11th Place: Grant-Parkholme Post 9115 Award - \$375.00

Recipient: Carson Katzmann, District 18

12th Place: West End Post 2004 Memorial Award - \$350.00

Recipient: Zachary Hartwig, District 3

13th Place: Chester Spears Memorial Award - \$325.00

Recipient: Javien Brooks, District 17

Runner-Up Awards - \$300

Recipients: Gaven Corpin, District 4
Thomas Hanks, District 14
Chloe Ashcraft, District 11
Jennifer Galvin, District 5

POST FUNERAL DETAIL HONOR GUARDS

The 85th National Convention adopted a resolution prohibiting VFW Posts from charging fees for military or other funeral services for veterans and that resolution is held to be in full force and effect. All concerned are reminded that any Post found to be in deliberate violation of this Resolution would be subject to discipline and/or censor.

NEW CENTURY RAFFLE

The New Century Raffle has officially started and will run through June 30, 2023. The tickets are just \$10.00 each. Each ticket entitles you to participate in a weekly drawing of \$100 from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Drawings will be held each Friday beginning July 1, 2022, 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 WINNERS

Date of Drawing	Winner	Seller
2/3/2023	Paul Stenzel	No Seller Listed
2/10/2023	E J Mullen	Les Mullen
2/17/2023	Glenn Koets	No Seller Listed
2/24/2023	Paul Havey	Paul Havey

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Clarence Caraker of Anna Post 3455 on being selected as the February Veteran of the Month!

Thank you to all who submitted nominations for this month, please continue to do so and for those that did not please look for those comrades from your post who stand apart from the rest by serving the community, Veterans and embodying the purposes of our congressional charter: to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead; and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies.

CONSOLIDATION OF POST CHARTER

Commander-in-Chief Timothy Borland has approved the consolidation of Pvt George Harles Post 198 in Chicago and Logan Avondale Post 2978 in Chicago. The consolidated Post is to be known as Logan Avondale Post 2978, Chicago. Please update your records accordingly

By Order of:



Joseph H. Bartley
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Official



Bobby Edwards
State Commander

National Home Playground



Proposed new playground

Dept of Illinois VFW & Auxiliary proposed project
Help the National Home replace the playground
between the Community Center and the Health &
Education buildings.

The current playground is outdated and needs to be
replaced with updated equipment that will provide
years of fun play for the kids living on campus.

Maintenance free playground and rubber mulch

The Auxiliary has supported playgrounds on campus
for years. Maybe the VFW would like to join?

Price of project

H&E playground project preliminary numbers approx. \$30,000

Includes

Playground set: 2 towers, 2 vinyl roofs, grand stairway, grand gangplank, wobbly bridge, bridge, position beams (4), monkey bars, belt swing, trapeze, ball swing, chain rubber tire (2), slide, and tunnel express

Mulch

Border for mulch

Landscaping fabric

Delivery and installation

At the Council of Administration meeting in February 2023, the IL VFW Auxiliary made a presentation on a playground at the VFW National Home that needed replaced and updated. The Auxiliary asked the VFW to agree to support the playground project as a joint venture with the Auxiliary. The Council of Administration agreed to be a joint sponsor of the project and to encourage our Posts and Districts to organize a fundraiser with the proceeds going to the playground replacement. The purpose of having a fundraiser instead of just asking for donations was to promote the VFW's best kept secret, the National Home in Eaton Rapids, MI.

See how you can be creative to raise funds to support the National Home Playground. Donations can be sent to State HQ, mark for "National Home Playground"

V.F.W. NATIONAL HOME
Mike McGrath Program Chairman
37 Sussex Court
Naperville, Illinois 60540
Phone 630-357 2680
Email mackcav1@sbcglobal.net

Paul Zinck Assistant Program Chairman

COMRADES THE MONTH OF MARCH BEGINS THE 98TH YEAR THAT THE
NATIONAL

HOME HAS BEEN HELPING VETERANS AND FAMILIES, AS THE HOME WELCOMED
ITS FIRST CLIENTS IN MARCH 1925 WHEN NEWLY WIDOWED MRS. POLLETT AND
HER 6 CHILDREN CAME TO LIVE AT AN OLD FRAME FARMHOUSE THAT WOULD
LATER GROW INTO OVER 600 ACRES IN THE SMALL TOWN OF EATON RAPIDS
MICHIGAN. THUS, A GREAT LEGACY OF HONORING THE DEAD BY HELPING THE
LIVING WAS BEGUN AND CONTINUES TODAY.

AS WE NOW COMMEMORATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRAQ WAR AND
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WITHDRAWAL WE ARE THANKFUL
TO

OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR THEIR MANY SACRIFICES AND
HARDSHIPS IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM AND THE NATIONAL HOME CONTINUES
TO HELP AND HONOR THEM AS IT HAS DONE FOR 98 YEARS.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GREAT SUPPORT AND MAY GOD BLESS OUR
NATIONAL HOME.

Community Activities
 Chuck Ingle, Chairman
chuck@roscoevfw.com

Uniting To Combat Hunger

When your VFW Post or Auxiliary raises money for UTCH, your Post may also qualify to receive funding through a **UTCH Matching Grant!** These grant funds can be used by your Post or Auxiliary wherever the need is greatest.

The Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) matching grant cycle **has reopened**. A new application is now available. For more information, please visit www.vfw.org/utch

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST FOOD INSECURITY BY VOLUNTEERING AT YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANK!

VFW 2022-2023 Community Activities, Dept. of IL

District	Commander	Posts Reported	District	Community Activities Chairman
3	Chris Garza	2	17%	
4	Stephen MacInnes	9	75%	Tom Davidson
5	Kevin Cournoyer	9	56%	
6	Ruben Hernandez	9	53%	Rob Bland
7	Adam Lau	4	21%	
8	Arthur Munos	6	38%	Arthur Munos
9	Christopher Rush	2	11%	
10	Larry Carter	6	40%	
11	Rick Hobbs	13	100%	Glen Goodrich
12	Dustin Dixon	17	100%	
13	Don Porter	4	33%	
14	Rod Thompson	14	82%	John Barrett
15	Christopher Maynor	7	58%	
16	Fred Cagle	3	27%	
17	Sean Conner	6	43%	
18	Todd Latham	7	64%	
19	Bob Zeman	18	78%	George Cramer

Total Posts
256

Dashboard Data
 2/27/2023

Accuracy update 17-Jan

Department Percentage
53%

Compiled by
 Chuck Ingle

PROGRAM SUMMARY REPORT

MARCH GENERAL ORDERS

SCOUTING

1 March 2023 the post should start receiving the Scout of the Year applications. The post can scan the packets and forward them to usafret1@att.net. If you are unable to scan them, please mail them to me at 209 Taurus Dr, Shiloh IL 62269.

Looking forward to hearing from our post.

Yours in Scouting and Comradeship

Ron Milton

VFW Dept Scouting Chair

For the 103rd General Assembly, I have reviewed over 300 bills and we have come up with a recommended list of 10 bills, which includes tax credit for caregivers, special license plates for Navy submariners, changes in scholarship act for veterans at the university of Illinois and a bill to avoid closing of cemeteries on holidays and Sundays to allow for visitation.

>

> I have submitted witness slips on three bills in which we took no position, however we are opposed to house bill 1239 by Rep Meier as it was directing school districts to study the impact of the disabled veterans homestead exemption on their school districts tax base.

>

> A federal bill to give title 38 status to Guard and Reserve retirees seems unlikely at this time as representative, Mike Bost, Chair, House Veterans Affairs committee has recommended that we go back to IDVA and have them fund admission for guard and reserve retirees, who do not have active duty. Illinois is greatly honored to have Rep. Bost from Southern Illinois as chair of Veterans Affairs.

Every post needs to reach out to your state, senator and state representative, they are looking to you for advice on veterans legislation. I know this for a fact is they call me and I asked why they didn't get a call from their post. Please make contact with your legislator and urge that they support our legislative agenda. if anyone has a question on legislation, please contact me I am available.

In August 2002, the VFW with our military veteran coalition partners passed a bill to set aside the last remaining land at Oakridge cemetery for veterans memorial for the Persian Gulf. We did not know then that there would be an Afghan and Iraq war. Since that date, we have revised the memorial, and due to the efforts of the late brigadier general, Lou Myers is named the "hands of freedom" memorial, which is symbolic our efforts to sister allies in the Ukraine.

A drawing of the memorial is being submitted to the Illinois veterans advisory council for endorsement, and we have asked the VFW leadership is to have the VFW foundation receive donations for the memorial. We are awaiting a letter from the Department of natural resources who hold title to the land to give us the go ahead on it and at that time I will chair the fund raiser.

I will be asking each veteran service organizations to make a commitment, as this memorial will continue in perpetuity to represent any, and all conflicts that US forces may be engaged in , It include the names of those who died in Nigeria, Yemen, and Syria.

I remember when we started the Vietnam war Memorial, which was the first at Oakridge cemetery. We did this in reverse order Vietnam, Korea, WWII and then WWI and now the hands of freedom. We debated versus the war on terrorism, but felt this represents what America truly stands for, freedom for all.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

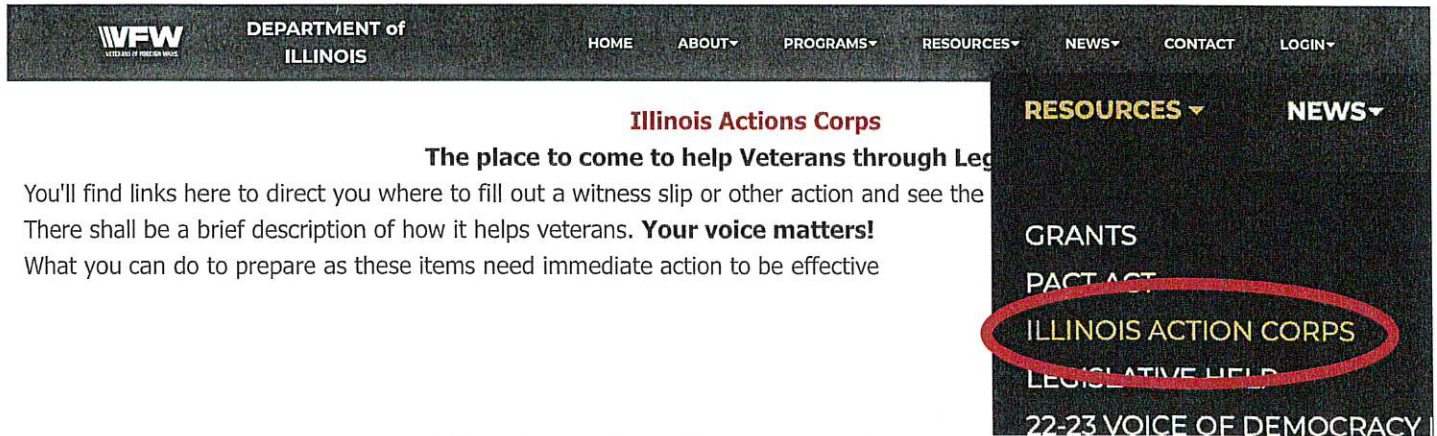
Michael Peck
Chair, VFW legislative committee



Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Illinois Legislative Committee

VFW Illinois Action Corps

- At times we shall ask our members to participate in the legislative process at the state level. The process is either to fill out a witness slip or to call your local State Representative, Senator, or both.
- This only takes a couple on minutes and we urge you to ask family, friends, & everyone you know to do the same. This includes posting on social media, to be effective it **should be accomplished immediately**.



Illinois Actions Corps

The place to come to help Veterans through Leg

You'll find links here to direct you where to fill out a witness slip or other action and see the There shall be a brief description of how it helps veterans. **Your voice matters!** What you can do to prepare as these items need immediate action to be effective

A Simple Action Gets Amazing Results

- You'll be given an email or see a social media post with a short explanation and linking you to our web page www.vfwil.org/RESOURCES/ILLINOIS ACTION CORPS
- The page shall have the action we are asking what to do and how to do it.
- **PASS THE INFORMATION ON TO ALL YOU KNOW**

Other Help

- www.vfwil.org/PROGRAMS/LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
- www.vfwil.org/RESOURCES/LEGISLATIVE HELP
- www.vfwil.org/NEWS/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Please Pass on to all you know this form can be downloaded

If viewing a PDF you can click directly on these links

www.vfwil.org/RESOURCES/ILLINOIS ACTION CORPS

Questions/help?

Contact Dutch DeGroot

service_officer@vfw1337.us

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

www.vfwil.org

104th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
VETERANS OF THE FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES

To: Department Adjutant-Quartermaster
Department of Illinois V.F.W.
3300 Constitution Drive,
Springfield, IL 62711

POST NO: _____

Please register the below listed Comrades for the Department Convention being held June 8-11, 2023 in Springfield, Illinois. The registration fee of \$15.00 per comrade is enclosed.

NOTE: REGISTRATION FEE AFTER JUNE 2, 2023 WILL INCREASE TO \$17.00 PER PERSON. SO REGISTER EARLY!!!

	Name	Street	City	Zipcode
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____	_____	_____
15.	_____	_____	_____	_____

This form may be photo-copied for additional names if needed.



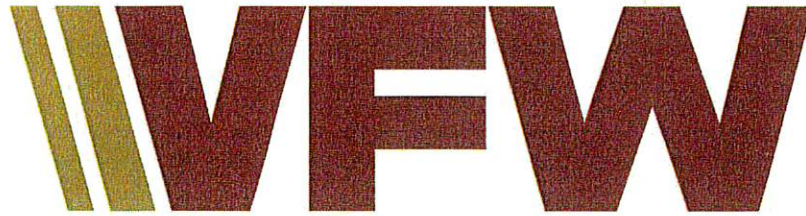
2023-24 POST ELECTION REPORT

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

DATE OF ELECTION:

POST #	DISTRICT #	DEPARTMENT	POST NAME	POST DUES AMOUNT Includes National and Department Per Capita	\$
POST MEETING LOCATION (PHYSICAL ADDRESS)			POST MAILING ADDRESS		
BUILDING NAME (IF NOT POST NAME)			STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
STREET ADDRESS			ADDRESS LINE 2		
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
POST EMAIL ADDRESS			POST MEETING DAY/TIME		
POST WEBSITE		CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:			
POST PHONE #		<input type="checkbox"/> OWN <input type="checkbox"/> RENT <input type="checkbox"/> NO POST HOME <input type="checkbox"/> CANTEEN/CLUBROOM <input type="checkbox"/> PROVIDE HALL RENTALS <input type="checkbox"/> PROVIDE MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS			
FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION # (EIN)					
COMMANDER					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
QUARTERMASTER					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
CHAPLAIN (APPOINTED)					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
1 YEAR TRUSTEE					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
2 YEAR TRUSTEE					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
3 YEAR TRUSTEE					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
ADJUTANT (APPOINTED)					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
SERVICE OFFICER (APPOINTED)					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
JUDGE ADVOCATE (IF REQUIRED BY POST BYLAWS) <input type="checkbox"/> ELECTED <input type="checkbox"/> APPOINTED					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
SURGEON (IF REQUIRED BY POST BYLAWS) <input type="checkbox"/> ELECTED <input type="checkbox"/> APPOINTED					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

STATE OF ILLINOIS



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

104th

Illinois State Convention Program Book Order Form

Our Post/District/Auxiliary would like to purchase the ad size selected

below in the 104th Annual Illinois VFW Convention Program Book

o Full Page - \$200.00 • o Half Page - \$125.00 • o 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 2023 STATE CONVENTION**

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

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

or send via email to: bwilson@vfwil.org

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

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS APRIL 15, 2023

ILLINOIS VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

35TH ANNUAL VIGIL



SAVE THE DATE: MAY 5, 6 & 7, 2023
OAKRIDGE CEMETERY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

<http://illinoisvvmav.com>

Facebook: Vietnam Veterans Annual Vigil

FRIENDSHIP-REMEMBRANCE-HONOR HONORING VETERANS OF ALL WARS & CONFLICTS

Dedication Ceremony	Guest Speakers
24 Hr. Vigil	Wreath Laying
POW-MIA Ceremony	Tomb Guard
Table Ceremony	Live Music
Honor Ceremony	

Join Us To Pay Tribute To All Veterans At The War Memorials In The Cemetery

**WORLD WAR I
KOREAN
PURPLE HEART**

**WORLD WAR II
VIETNAM
MIDDLE EASTERN CONFLICTS**

Questions & Information: Go to Website or Facebook