

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

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## Illinois

2023-2024 Series  
**General Orders No. 9**  
March 2024

### **STATE CONVENTION**

The State Convention will be held on June 6-9, 2024. The hotels for the State Convention are:

President Abe Lincoln Double Tree Hotel  
701 E Adams  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Phone number (217) 544-8800

Wyndham City Center  
700 E Adams  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Phone Number (217) 789-1530

The VFW meetings will be held in the BOS Center at 1 Convention Center Plaza Springfield, IL 62701, which is located conveniently adjacent to both hotels. The VFW Auxiliary meetings will be held in the President Abe 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](http://vfwil.org) web page under "Events".

### **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](http://www.vfwil.org). The registration fee is \$20.00 until **May 31, 2024**, and is \$22.00 after **May 31, 2024**. 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 BOS Convention Center.

**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, 2024 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.

### **2024 CONVENTION RAFFLE AND PURPLE HEART TICKETS**

Tickets for the 2024 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 the following: \$10,000 grand prize, \$3,000 second prize, \$2,000 third prize, \$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 contact VFW Department Headquarters.

### **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.

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

A Resolution was passed by the U.S. Senate which designates March 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Ronald Hill Memorial Post 2245 in our 5<sup>th</sup> District, we would like to congratulate Ava Wiemer as this year's State first place Patriot's Pen winner! Ava is an 8<sup>th</sup> Grader at St. Mary School in Buffalo Grove, IL. She received a \$1,000 cash award and a specially engraved plaque at this year's 78th annual Voice of Democracy Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois. As one of 54 finalists worldwide, Ava will compete at the National level for individual awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

### **2023/2024 STATE PATRIOT'S PEN WINNERS**

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

Recipient: Ava Wiemer, District 5

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Gaye Hines Memorial - \$500.00**

Recipient: Katelyn Davin, District 12

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: William Glenn Britt Memorial - \$400.00**

Recipient: Braelynn Gossage, District 7

**4<sup>rd</sup> Place: Raymond L. Moreland Memorial - \$300.00**

Recipient: Luke Martinez, District 4

### **STATE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CHAMPION**

Congratulations to Riley Malone on being selected as the 2023-2024 State Voice of Democracy Champion. Riley is a 12th grade student at Elmwood High School. She was sponsored by Archie Miles Post 4724 and its Auxiliary located in Elmwood, Illinois in our 9<sup>th</sup> District. She received the \$2,500 first place award and a specially engraved plaque at this year's 78th annual Voice of Democracy Ceremony. As one of 54 finalists worldwide, Riley will travel to Washington, D.C. and compete at the National level for the first-place prize of a \$30,000 college scholarship.

## **2023/2024 STATE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNERS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: John H. Emery Youth, Pageantry and Patriotism Fund - \$2,500.00**

Recipient: Riley Malone, District 9

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: George R. Cramer & Ray R. Soden Scholarship Award - \$1,500.00**

Recipient: Sam Matznick, District 3

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Terry L. McKinney Memorial Award - \$1,250.00**

Recipient: Elizabeth McConkie, District 19

**4<sup>th</sup> Place: Dale & Catherine Clifton Award - \$1,000.00**

Recipient: Reagan Kaner, District 7

**5<sup>th</sup> Place: Johnson Phelps Post 5220 Auxiliary Award - \$750.00**

Recipient: Samantha Thum, District 8

**6<sup>th</sup> Place: Edward Jarnell & Joseph Ross Award - \$600.00**

Recipient: Ellen Wiker, District 10

**7<sup>th</sup> Place: William Glenn Britt Memorial Award - \$550.00**

Recipient: Benjamin Koch, District 4

**8<sup>th</sup> Place: Dick Cosner Memorial Award - \$500.00**

Recipient: Claire Deterding, District 14

**9<sup>th</sup> Place: Vern & Lorraine Umphery, Post 6863 & Auxiliary Award - \$450.00**

Recipient: Benjamin James, District 16

**10<sup>th</sup> Place: Robert C. Holysz Post 2200 Award - \$400.00**

Recipient: Sahana Subramanyan, District 5

**11<sup>th</sup> Place: Grant-Parkholme Post 9115 Award - \$375.00**

Recipient: Anya Campbell, District 6

**12<sup>th</sup> Place: West End Post 2004 Memorial Award - \$350.00**

Recipient: Giada Roti, District 18

**13<sup>th</sup> Place: Chester Spears Memorial Award - \$325.00**

Recipient: Sarah Wright, District 12

**Runner-Up Awards - \$300**

Recipients: Claire Osborn, District 11

John Voss, District 15

Jack Patterson, District 13

Gunner Cline, District 17

## **COMMANDERS SPRING MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE**

We are behind on our recruiting goals for this time in the program year. Recruiting is a grassroots effort from the members to ask people to join the VFW or to reinstate their membership in the VFW. We still have a chance to reach our recruiting goals for the year but it is going to take some serious effort. Every

member is asked to get at least one new or reinstated member. We have seen some that have far exceeded that goal and are doing much more. Every member is a recruiter.

### **RECRUITER CHALLENGE.**

We are going to reward the top recruiter for this spring membership challenge.

This membership challenge will run from Feb 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024. The VFW member that recruits the most new or reinstated members during the contest period will receive a specially engraved Henry 22lr Golden Boy Rifle.

The Top Recruiter must be listed as the recruiter on a minimum of 10 applications for new or reinstated members to qualify for the rifle. (Must have FOID card to claim rifle)

If the Top Recruiter has less than 10 new or reinstated members, then they will receive \$300 cash prize.

Every VFW Member that recruits at least 1 new or reinstated member will be placed into a random drawing for other prizes.

### **ILLINOIS VFW PUBLICATION CONTEST**

Editors of Post and District publications are invited to send in a copy of 1 issue published during the 2023 year for the Illinois VFW Publications Contest. Please provide the contact information for the Editor, as well as how often the newsletter is published. If you want to send a hard copy - mail to Barbara Wilson, Editor, 802 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Riverton, Illinois 62561. You can also e-mail a copy to [bwilson@vfwil.org](mailto:bwilson@vfwil.org).

### **DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISING**

As a reminder - **Golden Rule Publishing ad salespersons** are out in our communities throughout Illinois selling advertising for the book. They contact local businesses in your communities to solicit advertising for our three program books throughout the year. **Please let the businesses in your community, Post members and employees know this is a legitimate solicitation on behalf of the Illinois VFW.**

## **MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Members wishing to receive correspondence from the VFW at both the state and National level, please make sure your contact information is up to date. You can do so by logging in to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

## **ILLINOIS VETERAN'S LOBBY DAY**

This year, the IL VFW has invited other IL veterans' service organizations to join us for a Veteran's Lobby Day at the State Capitol in Springfield, IL on March 13, 2024. Any VFW member that wishes to participate is asked to plan on being in Springfield that day. The day will start out with a meeting of all the participants for coffee and donuts at Post 755 ( 2211 Old Jacksonville Rd., Springfield, IL 62704. This will be a chance for everyone to discuss the planned visits for the day and the talking points that will be discussed with members of the IL General Assembly. At 9:30 we will then break up into teams and visit the offices of the State Representatives and State Senators to talk about the veteran's issues in IL. The day will conclude at approximately 5 p.m. with a social hour 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 veteran's issue with the Members of Congress and we plan to use the concept to let our State Legislators know what veteran's issues we think our important for IL and for our members. Plan to attend and make our first Veteran's Lobby Day a success.

## **DEPARTMENT BY-LAW CHANGES**

Resolutions having effect on the By-Laws of the Department must be submitted in **proper form** and received by State Headquarters by no later than **April 30, 2024\*\*** so that the resolutions can be circulated to all Posts within the proper time prior to the State Convention. Resolutions affecting the Department By-Laws received after that date cannot be considered at the convention. **If you have questions regarding proper form please contact State Headquarters.**

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.**

### **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." Elsewhere, community service is further defined as "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 important record of your Post's activities in your community. We are receiving fewer and fewer entries each year for judging; ask for volunteers in your Post to assemble this important part of your Post's history. Please contact 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 and your record book must be at State Headquarters by **May 2, 2024**, for judging on **May 6, 2024**

### **DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AD BOOK**

The Program Book Order Form for the 105th 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 [vwil@vwil.org](mailto:vwil@vwil.org).

Ads must be received in State Headquarters no later than **April 15, 2024**. ***PAYMENT FOR ADS MUST BE REMITTED AT TIME OF PLACEMENT!***

## **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.



**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.

Per Section 416: District Officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to District Adjutant. Additionally District Commander, District SR. Vice, and the District JR. Vice shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant.

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.

### **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 he has 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.

### **NATIONAL BY-LAW CHANGES REGARDING THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Officers at all levels should take note of Part 216 and 416 of the National By-Laws regarding the election of officers. Please also take the time to review your Post/District By-Laws.

Section 416 - Elected and Appointed officers; Chairmen and Committees.

(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.

Section 216 - Elected and Appointed officers; Chairmen and Committees.

(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 the Post By-Laws.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### Sec. 413 - Arrearaqes, 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 - Arrearaqes, 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 attends all properly called District Conventions or meetings and County Council meetings (if applicable).

### **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, and 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 vote that each Post possesses

### **POST FUNERAL DETAIL HONOR GUARDS**

The 85<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **125th VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Louisville, KY is the host city for the 125th VFW and 110<sup>th</sup> Auxiliary National Conventions, which will be held **July 27-August 1, 2024**. Convention housing will open March 18, 2024. Hotel reservations can be booked via the VFW website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). More information will be released as we receive it.

## **VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING CHANGE**

125th National Convention housing will open, Monday, March 18, 2024. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at [vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention). The convention website will also have general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related information for Louisville, Kentucky – July 27-Aug. 1, 2024, 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.

### **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.

### **Join 2024 VFW Day of Service**

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 4, 2024, 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 ongoing dedication of veterans and service members who continue to serve their communities. VFW Day of Service, led by veterans and in concert with other organizations and civic groups, is open for anyone to participate.

We're urging all members and Posts to visit [VFWDayofService.org](http://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.

### **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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in observance of **Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15<sup>th</sup>** 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

### **ONLINE DONATIONS**

Posts and individuals have the opportunity to make donations to the Veterans of Foreign Wars by going to our state website, <http://www.vfwil.org>. Once on the website, by clicking on "Donation" link and following the instructions. Through that same form, it is also possible to purchase banquet tickets for state events, pay for poppies, and make donations for the dashboard to the Department of Illinois VFW Programs. ***Don't forget to specify what the donation is for under the "allocate funds to" line. Please note, if you are paying for poppies, supplies, or VFW Programs, we need your Post number!***

### **BUDDY POPPY PROGRAM**

Order your poppies now for your Memorial Day distribution or for your Poppy Display. Commanders on all levels should be organizing their 2024 Memorial Day Poppy Distribution. You can order electronically from our webpage - <http://www.vfwil.org>, or fill out the form and mail or fax or just call us. Please keep in mind:

- You can order in increments of 500. Poppies are priced at \$280.00 per 1,000 for Traditional poppies or \$140 for Tin tab poppies
- Your poppies should be ordered 6 to 8 weeks in advance of your

distribution. State Headquarters does have Poppies in stock. A shipping charge will be added to the invoice for orders that are 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; to avoid paying extra for shipping, **do not just put RUSH or ASAP.** *The Cost of shipping for 500 poppies is \$10.35 and for 1000 poppies it is \$11.70.*
- Poppy cans, caps, table covers, vests, aprons, etc. are ordered directly from the VFW Store at National Headquarters.
- **Special Note: If you have ordered your poppies from the State website and didn't pay with a credit/debit card, please do not send a paper copy of your order form if paying with a check. This will eliminate the possibility of a duplication of your order.**

### **NEW CENTURY RAFFLE**

The New Century Raffle has officially started and will run through June 30, 2024. The tickets are just \$10.00 each. Each ticket entitles you to participate in a weekly drawing of \$100 from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Drawings will be held each Friday beginning July 1, 2023, 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>
2/2/2024	Richard Hines	No Seller Listed
2/9/2024	Claire Kehias	George Kehias
2/16/2024	Wayne Melichar	Wayne Melichar
2/23/24	Paul Howard	No Seller Listed

**VETERAN OF THE MONTH**

Congratulations to Valerie Young of East St. Louis Post 3480 on being selected as the January Veteran of the Month. Valerie Young is the current Post Commander of Capt. Horace G. Burke Post 3480. Her leadership and strong communication skills, both inside and outside the VFW are a great example to all. She has led Fundraisers and Membership Drives through the Post that led them to being the first Post in the District to reach 102% in membership. Commander Young is also active on the community and supports neighboring VFWs with their activities. Through these acts, she has been recognized as the January 2024 Veteran of the Month. Thank you to all who submitted nominations for this month; please continue to do so. 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.

By Order of:

Official



Joseph H. Bartley  
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Brett Nila  
State Commander

**105<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION  
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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

POST NO: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register below listed Comrades for the Department Convention being held the week of June 06-09, 2024 in Springfield, Illinois. The registration fee of \$20 per Comrade is enclosed.

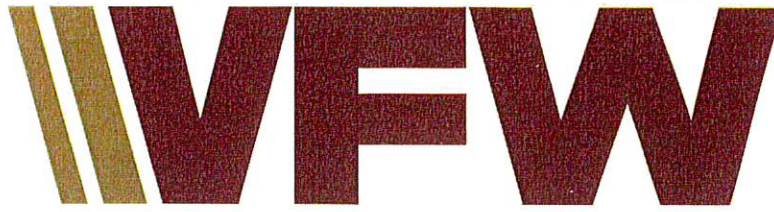
**NOTE: REGISTRATION FEE AFTER FRIDAY, MAY 01, 2024 WILL INCREASE TO \$22.00 PER PERSON, SO REGISTER EARLY!!!**

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY!!!**

NAME	STREET	CITY	ZIP
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____

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

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**

**105th**

**Illinois State Convention Program Book Order Form**

Our Post/District/Auxiliary would like to purchase the ad size selected below in the 105th annual Illinois VFW Convention Program Book.

**2024 will also mark the 100th Convention of the VFW Auxiliary.**

• Full Page - \$200.00 • Half Page - \$125.00 • Quarter Page - \$75.00

PLEASE ENCLOSE PAYMENT IN FULL OR  
PAY VIA CREDIT/DEBIT CARD AT [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org)

**BOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE  
JUNE 2024 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](mailto:bwilson@vfwil.org)

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

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS APRIL 15, 2024**



# 20\_\_ - \_\_ POST ELECTION REPORT

DATE OF ELECTION:

POST #	DISTRICT #	DEPARTMENT	POST NAME	POST DUES AMOUNT Includes National and Department Per Capita	\$
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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 E-MAIL ADDRESS			POST MEETING DAY/TIME		
POST WEBSITE			CHECK ALL THAT APPLY: <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		
POST PHONE #	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					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

JUDGE ADVOCATE (APPOINTED)					
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME		STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

SURGEON (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

Greetings Comrades,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Anthony "Biscuit" Bellin, Chair of the newly created VFW Riders Program for the Department of IL VFW.

I will be a liaison for all the Riders programs in the state and coordinating a state-wide calendar of all events for the Riders.

Goals:

1. To maintain a contact list of all the Riders Programs across Illinois (VFW, Legion, all Veteran focused Riders organizations).

2. To have a central location that all Riders can send events and publish a public calendar.

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=vfwil.riders%40gmail.com&ctz=America%2FChicago>

3. Coordinate requests for Riders to attend events.

4. Assist with Post/District creation of a Riders Organization.

Please pass along my email to your Riders, especially the ones in VFW Riders Organizations or those wanting to join or form a Riders Organization.

However, if you know of any other Riders Organizations that are Veteran focused and support Veterans, please pass along my information and have them reach out to me.

We want to see as many Riders as we can supporting all Veteran groups.

If you would like me to come to a Post meeting to talk about the Riders, let me know as far in advance as you can so I can try and schedule the trip or make arrangements for a Zoom call.

Ride Safe

Anthony "Biscuit" Bellin

BBA-MOB

Chatham-Auburn VFW Post 4763

Taylorville VFW Riders Post 4495

Department of IL

VFW Riders Chairman

**SCOUTING REPORT**  
**PROGRAM SUMMARY**  
**March 2024 GENERAL ORDERS**

**WAYS TO HELP YOUR SCOUT OF THE YEAR CANDIDATE TO SUBMIT A PROFESSIONALLY LOOKING PACKAGE:**

- READ THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR REQUIREMENTS
- REVIEW YOUR SCOUTS PACKAGE
- OFFER GUIDANCE TO THE SCOUT

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- **1 MAR 2024 – APPLICATIONS DUE POST & DISTRICT FOR JUDGING**
- **1 APR 2024 – APPLICATIONS TO STATE**
- **1 MAY 2024 – STATE TO SEND TO NATIONAL**

SUBMIT THE COMPLETED PACKAGE TO RON MILTON EITHER BY MAIL AT 209 TAURUS DR, SHILOH IL 62269, OR EMAIL IT TO [USAFRET1@ATT.NET](mailto:USAFRET1@ATT.NET)

[RON MILTON](#)

[SCOUTING CHAIR](#)



# Women Veterans' Panel and Reception

**March 9, 2024**

**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**Elks Lodge #158**

409 East Lake Shore Drive • Springfield, IL

As part of Women Veterans Recognition month, please join fellow women veterans and those in service to discuss the unique challenges of women in service.

This is an opportunity to share experiences, discuss issues, and build community.

Please RSVP at [WomenVeterans@illinois.gov](mailto:WomenVeterans@illinois.gov)

## Panelists

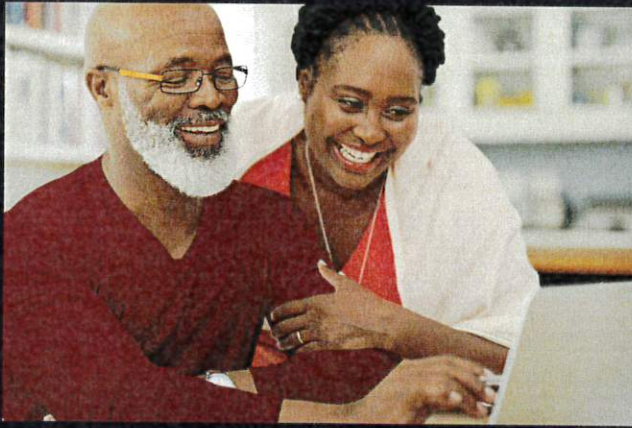
**Margo Watson**

Women Veterans' Coordinator/ Senior Program Manager

**Kimberly Yantis**

Central Region Supervisor





**Captain James A. Lovell  
Federal Health Care Center**

# *The Federal Electronic Health Record is coming to Lovell FHCC on March 9th*



VA Beneficiaries



To learn more, visit one of the below links or scan the QR codes to the left. Then select Programs on the left-side menu and select "EHRM."

**VA Beneficiaries:**

<https://www.va.gov/lovell-federal-health-care-va/>

**TRICARE Beneficiaries:**

<https://www.va.gov/lovell-federal-health-care-tricare/>

TRICARE Beneficiaries



# How can patients prepare for the Federal Electronic Health Record?

## » Refill and renew prescriptions early:

### **Veteran beneficiaries can request prescription:**

- Renewals via AudioCare through March 3 at 224-610-3897
- Renewals through the My HealtheVet until midnight CT on March 4
- Refills through My HealtheVet until midnight CT on March 6
- Refills via AudioCare through March 7 at 224-610-3897

### **TRICARE beneficiaries can request prescription:**

- Renewals via AudioCare through March 3 at 800-552-8569.
- Refills via AudioCare through March 7 at 800-552-8569.
- Refills through the TRICARE Online patient portal through March 6.

**What happens to prescriptions after the launch of the new health record?** Prescription refills and renewals will be available via AudioCare for all beneficiaries again on March 9. Veteran beneficiaries will have access to renew and refill on the new My VA Health patient portal on March 9. TRICARE renewal and refill on the new MHS Genesis patient portal will be available at a later date.

## » Confirm your contact information (Veteran beneficiaries)

Review your your contact information, including physical and email addresses, is up to date in your VA profile at VA.gov. To make updates, log in to your VA Profile.

## » Update your legal name, if it has changed (all beneficiaries)

### **All beneficiaries:**

If you have updated your legal name, please visit our website for instructions on how to submit documentation. Click on Programs, then EHRM, or scan the QR code to the right.



## » Upgrade your MyHealthe Vet Account (Veteran beneficiaries)

The patient portal for Veteran beneficiaries will be changing from MyHealthe Vet to My VA Health. To access My VA Health, you will need one of the following types of accounts:

- Verified Login.gov account
- Verified ID.me account
- Premium Department of Defense Self-Service (DS) Logon account
- Premium My HealtheVet account.

Visit our website for instructions. Click on Programs, then EHRM, or scan the QR code to the right.





# **SERVICE ACADEMY DAY**

**HOSTED BY THE OFFICES OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN  
DARIN LAHOOD & ERIC SORENSEN**



**Monday, March 18, 2024**

**Peoria Air National Guard, 182d Airlift Wing**

**2416 S. Falcon Blvd**

**Peoria, IL 61607**

**Doors open at 5:30 P.M.**

**Program begins at 6:00 P.M.**

If you are interested in applying to any of the following  
US Service Academies, you should attend this meeting.

**United States Military Academy**

**United States Naval Academy**

**United States Air Force Academy**

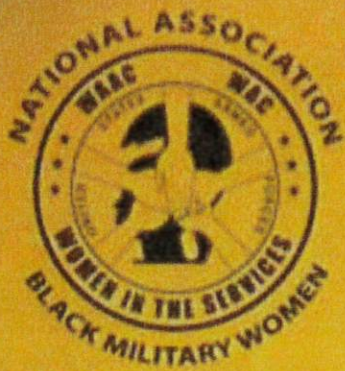
**United States Merchant Marine Academy**

**United States Coast Guard Academy**

**RSVP REQUIRED no later than March 15, 2024**

**182.aw.recruiting@us.af.mil**





# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN

(Formerly known as "Black WAAC, WAC, Women in Services")

PRESENTS

## The NABMW's 23<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Convention

*"Invisible to Visible Warriors: Living the Dream"*



**SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2024**

at the

**THE EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL BY HILTON,  
Chicago Downtown  
600 N State Street, Chicago, IL 60654**

