



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Illinois

2023-2024 Series
General Orders No. 11
May 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**

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

Section 222- Delegates, District Convention and 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. **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.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO DEPARTMENT PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

All Department Program Chairmen are reminded that most Programs ended officially as of April 30, 2023 and you are therefore requested to type up your Program Award Winners; we must have your Award Winners in State Headquarters by no later than Monday, **May 15, 2023** to enable us to order and prepare your Convention Awards in a timely manner. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

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 and 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.**

IMPORTANT - REPORT OF ELECTION FORM

Per section 213 of the National By-laws, Posts that have not submitted a properly completed Post Election Report by June 1 are in arrears and shall be deprived of all representation in District, Department and National conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustments of such deficiencies. Posts that have registered delegates for the Department and National Conventions will not receive credentials until the Post has satisfied their arrearage.

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS; CHAIRMEN AND COMMITTEES

- (a) The **elect**ed 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 Office 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 other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the District or as may be required by District Bylaws.

Please refer to Section 417 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure regarding the **Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office** of District Officers which states in part that the elected District Officers shall be nominated and elected annually at the District Convention. An officer elected and assuming the duties of his office shall continue to hold office for the period for which elected and until his successor assumes the duties of the office unless the office is declared vacant under the provisions of Sections 416 and 420 of the National By-Laws. An officer or committee member must remain in good standing in a Post in the District, otherwise he forfeits the office and the office shall be vacated.

DISTRICT ELECTION REPORTS

All District Quartermasters have received a 2023-2024 Report of Election form for the District and they are asked to please submit them as soon as the District election has been held. It is very important that the names, addresses, Post numbers, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are up-to-date. Commanders-elect who may receive mail at a Post Office Box should also include their street address for shipping purposes.

CREDENTIALS – CONVENTION

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

- (a) Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing. Delegates and alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure.
- (b) Delegates elected under this section shall not be considered instructed and may exercise full authority in the duty to be performed.
- (c) Each Post will pay, in accordance with its Department Bylaws, a delegate registration fee for each and every delegate to which the Post shall be entitled
- (d) Each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of \$25, which shall entitle the Post to a packet of onvention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a \$10 delegate fee.

2023-2024 OFFICERS-ELECT

District and Post Officers elected or appointed for the 2023-2024 term are reminded that they *will not take office until the Installation of the State Commander on Saturday, June 10, 2023* You are also reminded that the nomination of officers will be held on Friday afternoon, June 9, 2023 with the election and installation of officers taking place on Saturday afternoon, June 10, 2023. ***DELEGATE REGISTRATION CLOSSES AT 12:00 p.m. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10th. REGISTER EARLY!!***

FINAL EXPENSE VOUCHER

Reminder for all Officers who have Expense Accounts – the final date for submitting expense voucher for the 2022-2023 term is **Thursday, June 1, 2023**. Expense vouchers must be within budget limitations and must be marked FINAL. **Expense Vouchers received after that date will not be honored.**

PROGRAM DIRECTORS REPORTS – STATE CONVENTION

All program directors – please have your reports printed so that you will be able to pass it to the Court Reporter when you finish giving your report to the Convention floor. Please provide a duplicate copy of your report to the State Headquarters and please make sure your name is on your report. **Please remember to keep your reports short and to the point.**

Reminder – the State Convention is also the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Please be sure to have your correct name and title on your report since our Court Reporter will not be familiar with your face. Your cooperation in this matter will eliminate the chances of errors in the report and will help Department by having information available for the news media, etc.

DEPARTMENT ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICERS AND DISTRICT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDERS

All newly elected and appointed Department Officers and District Junior Vice Commanders for the 2023-2024 term of office are reminded that according to our National By-Laws all Officers listed above are required to submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant prior to being installed into their respective offices during the State Convention. If you have a question on whether or not you have ever submitted your DD-214 or Proof of Eligibility to the Department, please contact the State Adjutant prior to the convening of the State Convention in June.

DISTRICT CAUCUS DURING STATE CONVENTION

Each District will be responsible for establishing their own District Caucus and it will be their responsibility to contact and invite candidates to address their caucus.

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 are on the state website www.vfwil.org under news on events page. A tentative agenda is attached.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

At State Convention this year, we will have breakout sessions which will be an opportunity to learn about the duties and responsibilities of Post Officers and Post Activities that will assist a Post.

There will be 6 breakout sessions for duties and responsibilities of Post Officer on Friday, June 9, 2023 from 1400-1500 hours.

- Commanders and Vice Commanders
- Quartermaster
- Adjutant
- Trustee
- Service Officer
- Chaplain

There will be 6 breakout sessions for Post Activities on Friday, June 9, 2023 from 1500-1600 hours

- Membership
- Fundraising and Grants
- Social Media and Marketing
- Publicity and Newsletters
- VFW Programs
- Audits and Inspections

PAST DISTRICT COMMANDER'S ASSOCIATION

The Past District Commander's Association is starting to meet again. During the State Convention, there will be a luncheon for the Past District Commanders Association on Friday, June 9, 2023 from 1200-1300 hours. Cost of the luncheon is \$20. Anyone that is a currently serving District Commander (term ending June 2023) and anyone that has served as a District Commander in the past is eligible to participate in the luncheon. Tickets can be ordered through State HQ

COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

On Saturday, June 10, 2023 join the newly installed IL VFW State Commander and IL VFW Auxiliary State President in the Illinois/Capitol Room for the Commander and President's Reception. Cost of the reception is \$10. Tickets can be ordered through VFW State HQ.

2023 DISTRICT COMMANDER-ELECT CONFERENCE

Once District Elections are held, an invitation will be sent to newly-elected District Commanders for 2023-2024 year. Department Headquarters will provide rooming accommodations for 4 nights (Wednesday-Sunday) for incoming District Commanders at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre, 700 E. Adams Street in Springfield.

We will be conducting a conference to cover their duties and our goals and expectations for the incoming year. This conference will begin Thursday morning, June 8th, 2023 at 8a.m. The agenda is attached.

PLEASE NOTE: District Commanders-Elect should be present during Council of Administration Meeting, June 8th, 2023. Please dress in a *coat, tie and cap* to have your photograph taken. Also, they **must** be present Saturday, June 10th, 2023 during the installation of officers!

Sunday morning, June 11th, there will be a brief Council of Administration meeting to begin at 9a.m. for the purpose of passing an interim budget until the next meeting in August.

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 will be \$17.00 after **June 2nd 2023**. Letters of registration conformation will be mailed to registrants after the proper registration fee has been paid. Registrants will be required to present this conformation 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 31st, 2023** audit must be submitted and approved. Delegate strength to the convention is based on one delegate and one alternative delegate per thirty members or fraction thereof. Registration will be open in the Prairie Room of the Wyndham Springfield City Centre:

Thursday June 8, 2023	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday June 9, 2023	8:00am - 4:00 pm
Saturday June 10, 2023	8:00 am - 12:00 pm

ATTENTION POST COMMANDERS

Under the Department of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars By-Laws, Article V - Convention Section 8:

“Each Post shall register, in advance or at the Convention, at least one delegate to the Department Convention by payment of the advance registration fee in effect for such Convention, which fee shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials. Post failing to comply with this requirement shall be considered delinquent and in arrears.

CONVENTION EXHIBIT BOOTHS

Please let the businesses in your area know exhibit space is available during our 104th Annual State Convention at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre Hotel. Contact State Headquarters at 217-529-6688 for more information.

HUMANA AND UNITING TO COMBAT HUNGER GRANT

This year at State Convention, we are expanding the vendor and exhibitor area. We have organizations that provide services to veterans. We have organizations that will work with VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to support veterans or to support community activities. One such vendor is Humana. Humana has been a great supporter of the IL VFW and supports many of our activities. Humana is also a National Sponsor of the VFW and is a major supporter of the Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) Program.

At State Convention this year, we are working with Humana to raise awareness about food insecurity but also to promote the UTCH Grant Program and we are inviting everyone to join the fight against

food insecurity.

Bring canned goods or non-perishable food items to the Humana Booth in the vendor/exhibitor area. For every 5 items donated, you will receive 1 raffle ticket and the winner of the raffle will receive a Yeti Cooler. In addition, the winner of the raffle will have the opportunity to complete a UTCH Grant Application and their Post or Auxiliary will be submitted for the grant. The amount of food collected will determine the amount of the grant.

The food we collect will be donated to the Veterans Pantry at Spring Street Renaissance Center, which is a homeless veterans shelter in Springfield, IL.

Join the Fight for Food Insecurity, help homeless veterans, and earn an opportunity to win up to \$1,500 UTCH Grant for your Post or Auxiliary. See the attached flyer.

SILENT AUCTION

The Annual Silent Auction will be held during the State Convention. Check out your home for items in good condition to donate. Please bring your donated item to the *Rendezvous Room* of the Wyndham Springfield City Centre and make sure to fill out the form given to you. If you have any questions, please contact State Headquarters. District Commanders are asked to donate an item from their District valued at no less than \$75.

RULES OF THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Chairman, Rick Frank (Post 1461-6), Past State Commander

Co-Chairman, Bill Regan (Post 7452-19), Past State Commander

Convention Committee (1 Year), Duane Hisel (Post 4763-10)

Convention Committee (2 Year), Jeff Britt (Post 6865-14)

Convention Committee (3 Year), Maurice Bridges (Post 4183-14)

STATE PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Plaza IV of the Wyndham Springfield City Centre will be the base of operations for State Photographer Dutch DeGroot and Public Relations Director Barbara Wilson.

POPPY DISPLAY COMMITTEE

Chairman: Stephanie Kirksey, Post 6504-14

Roger D. Guebert, Post 7980-14

Thomas Cleland, Post 2955-6

John Lenhardt, Post 6504-14

Matthew Willis, Post 6871-10

POPPY DISPLAYS

Poppy Displays will be accepted in the *Rendezvous Room* of the Wyndham Springfield City Centre starting on Thursday, June 8, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm, and continuing on Friday, June 9, 2023 from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm.

All poppy displays must be picked up from the *Rendezvous Room* before 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

STATE AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Awards will be presented at the time the Program Director makes their final report during the State Convention. Directors must insure their awards are in the stage area prior to making their reports.

SUPPLY SALES BOOTH

The Supply Sales Booth will be set up in the *Prairie Room* of the Wyndham Springfield City Centre starting on Thursday, June 8, 2023 from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm The Supply Sales Booth will continue on Friday and Saturday from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE

The Distinguished Guest Committee Members will use *Room 2 of the Conference Center* of the Wyndham Springfield City Centre as their base of operations for our distinguished guests.

Distinguished Guest Committee:

Brad Gould, Post 630-7

John Davin, Post 5917-18

Bill Wolff, Post 2377-19

OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO STATE CONVENTION

The officers below are assigned to be present at the Council of Administration Meeting in *Plaza III* of the Wyndham Springfield City Centre on Thursday, June 8, 2023. They should also be in attendance for the Joint Opening Session on Friday, June 9, 2023 at 8:00 am in the *Grand Ballroom* and all business sessions on Friday and Saturday.

Credentials Committee:

Chairman: George Doeden, Post 2580-16

Scott Holley, Post 3873-19

Joe Wein, Post 2202-4

Officer of the Day, Sergeant-at-Arms and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms:

Jeff Britt: Post 6865-14, Officer of the day

Raymond Bachewicz: Post 2298-5, Sergeant-At-Arms

Jack Lamont: Post 3851-13, Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

Roy Johnson: Post 5220-3, Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

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 State Headquarters for additional tickets.

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 WINNER

<u>Date of Drawing</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Seller</u>
4/7/2023	Amy Johannsen	Amy Johannsen
4/14/2023	Paul Hymes	No seller listed
4/21/2023	Ed Butler	No Seller Listed
4/28/2023	Jerome Zdancewicz	No Seller Listed

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Gary Holmes of Rockford Post 342 on being selected as the April 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.

2023-2024 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN

The VFW has announced the topics for the 2023-2024 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth essay competitions.

Voice of Democracy -- "What Are The Greatest
Attributes Of Our Democracy?"

Patriot's Pen -- "How Are You Inspired By America?"

Posts are encouraged to start distributing this information to the schools in your area now and rather than waiting until fall. Entry forms can be found on either National Headquarters website vfw.org or on Illinois website vfwil.org.

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.

FIRST COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING & COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING

The first Council of Administration Meeting will be held August 25-27, 2003 at the:

Sheraton Lisle Naperville Hotel,
3000 Warrenville Rd,
Lisle, IL 60532
Phone: (630) 577-6006

Make reservations by **8-11-23**. Special room rate of \$114 + tax.

Please check the June General Orders for more information. The Homecoming Reception for the State Commander will be held at Naperville Post 3873, 908 W. Jackson Ave. Naperville, IL 60540

By Order of:

Official



Joseph H. Bartley
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Bobby Edwards
State Commander

Agenda
District Commander Elect Training
June 8, 2023

08:00-08:15	Welcome and Introductions, Opening Comments	Adj/QM
08:15-08:30	State Commander and State Senior Vice Commander Welcome	Commander and Sr Vice Commander
08:30-08:45	Role of the VFW Auxiliary	State Aux Vice President Lynn Smith
08:45-09:45	Edutainment	Steve McInnes
09:45-10:15	Inspections	Rob Bailey and Clarke Christianson
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:00	Parliamentary Procedures	Rob Bland
11:00-11:30	Duties and Responsibilities of District Commander Review of 2023-2024 Commander's Leadership Manual	SVC Brett Nila
11:30-11:55	MEMSTATS and Membership	John McGlynn and Matt Willis
11:55-12:00	Closing Remarks	Adj/QM

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.

Legislative Report - April 2023

On April 27th the Illinois General Assembly Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees met.

Our five pieces of legislation in the Senate **moved to a second reading on 2 May 2023**.

The Fort Sheridan land transfer bill HB1635. Also moved to a third reading in the Senate.

In the House veterans affairs committee SB 2005, priority housing for homeless veterans was also moved to a second reading in the house, having previously passed the senate.

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU THAT SUBMITTED A WITNESS SLIP (WS) SUPPORTING LEGISLATION!!! If you and your families did not submit a WS, please review the ILGA Website (Link: ilga.gov) and submit. WS's mean a lot and are a very important part of the legislative process.

Below are the specific bill and corresponding Witness Slip numbers.

- **SR0066:** atomic war veterans day, -Proponent 200 / Opponent 0 / No position 1
- **HB0925: VSO State Charter** - politico, national political, Proponent 171 / Opponent 0 / No position 2
- **HB2500:** service dog fee, waiver, -Proponent 172 / Opponent 1 / No position 1
- **HB2856:** vital records, veterans death certificate, - Proponent 170 / Opponent 3 / No position 5
- **HB3295:** dependents fee, waiver, - Proponent 173 / Opponent 2 / No position 1

As the General Assembly comes to a close for this session I urge all members to check out the VFW Illinois legislative page for updates. With only 2 hours notice on Amendment 2 we had to get the Major Veterans Associations in Illinois on board for witness slips. What we need is YOU the veteran to call your Senator and Representatives District Office and inform on veterans issues. They are not veterans, you are their resource. We can not progress without your supporting us, unless I live in their district they don't talk to me without you.

On June 30, the Director of Revenue for state Illinois will issue a report on the impact of the disabled veterans homestead exemption on counties tax levy. Saint Clair county is requesting legislation to recognize those with honorable discharge, who have a VA disability versus those with less than honorable discharge and a VA disability. The county reported that the homestead exemption has had an economic impact on the county budget.

On the Federal side I have had conversation with Director Prince and Rep. Mike Bost staff on the Guard Reserve Retiree Bill for title 38 status. After speaking with them I spoke with Cassandra Alvarez who oversees the per diem paid to State Veteran Homes, and she walked me through

Title 38, Section 17.36 and we added (b) (8) Veterans who have retired from the guard and reserve without active duty and qualify under their states veterans emergency assistance.

I have been told by VA Staffers that this should do it. My thanks to Superintendent Mike Iwanicki of McHenry County, IL who implemented this provision for Guard/ reserve in his county.

My congrats to IVAC chairman Keith Wetherell, Ex Director AmVets and vice chair, Bob Tyler, MOAA Council President on completion of their first meeting of the Illinois veterans advisory Council.

I did make two recommendations at the IVAC meeting one to urge the Director to look at a mobile office, to serve the counties of Southern Illinois who do not have a permanent IDVA office, and urge the Director to have Metros give reduce fares for veterans.

Michael Peck
Director, legislative committee

The Chicago Summer Stand down will be held at the General Jones Armory located at 5200 so. Cottage Grove ave., Chicago, Ill. The set-up date is Thursday, June 15th, starting at 0800 hrs & will continue until we are done. The Stand down date when the Veterans come is Friday, June 16th, starting at 0800 hrs. & will continue until 1600 hrs or until we are done. There will be food, medical services, eye care, V.A. people, hair cuts, clothing, & other resources for the Veterans who come. There will be a table for Women Veterans resources as well. We could use help on both days if anyone has time. If you can only make one day, that's ok. If you can give a couple of hours, that would be a big help. As always, we have jobs for 'EVERYONE'. If you can't be on your feet, we can give you a job sitting down. If you can't lift anything heavy, we will find something for you to hand out. Everyone who volunteers is an asset to the work we do. Lunch will be provided on set-up day. Plus, there will be water, ice tea, coffee, soda & snacks available to munch on all day, each day. Please pass this information on to anyone you know who would want to help. I know this is usually a two day Stand down for our Veterans, but the powers to be (va people) want it this way. Please consider helping out if you have time. You can also go to Chicago standdown & get more information on that website.

Yours in V.F.W., Paul J. Bezazian, Homeless Veterans Chairman. Any questions, 1-773-387-7720 or pbezazian@sbcglobal.net

VFW NATIONAL HOME

Mike McGrath
Program Chairman
Department of Illinois
VFW National Home
Address 37 Sussex Court
Naperville, Il 60540
Phone 630-357 2680
Email mackcav1@sbcglobal.net

Paul Zinck
Assistant Chairman

VFW NATIONAL HOME

THE VFW NATIONAL HOME OFFERS FAMILIES OF VETERANS,
ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY AND MEMBERS OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY
OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NATIONAL
HOME COMMUNITY IN EATON RAPIDS MICHIGAN.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL HOME RESIDENTS
ARE AS FOLLOWS.

1. ACTIVELY SERVING MILITARY

Unaccompanied Tour or Deployment, Single or Married with Dependent Children.
Drilling National Guard & Reserve.

2. MILITARY VETERAN

Honorably Discharged, Active, Guard or Reserve Veteran,
Surviving Widow or Widower with Dependent Children.
Parent/Guardian Single or Married with Dependent Children.

3. VFW / AUXILIARY

Parent or Guardian or Applicant has a Parent in the VFW or Auxiliary
in Good Standing or if Deceased, in Good Standing at the Time of Death,
Single or Married with Dependent Children.

THE HELPLINE

PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE HELPLINE WITH QUESTIONS

AT 800-313 4200.

CALLS ARE ANSWERED FROM 8AM to 4:30 PM EASTERN TIME

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY.

COULD THIS HELP SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

Illinois Post and Auxiliary Grant activity, current cycle
Community Support Grant and Uniting To Combat Hunger



Post	Date	City	State	Grant Type	Amount
3523 - Aux	1/3/2023	Carlyle	IL	CSG	\$ 537.00
6632 - Aux	1/13/2023	Red Bud	IL	CSG	\$ 1,500.00
4183	1/20/2023	Belleville	IL	CSG	\$ 1,500.00
4495 - Aux	1/30/2023	Taylorville	IL	CSG	\$ 1,500.00
9153	2/9/2023	Waltonville	IL	CSG	\$ 935.00
9153 - Aux	2/9/2023	Waltonville	IL	CSG	\$ 1,500.00
4549	4/11/2023	Robinson	IL	CSG	\$ 1,500.00
6632	4/19/2023	Red Bud	IL	CSG	\$ 1,500.00
454	11/3/2022	Bloomington	IL	UTCH	\$ 1,380.00
4241	11/10/2022	Mokena	IL	UTCH	\$ 1,500.00
1461	11/14/2022	Belvidere	IL	UTCH	\$ 1,500.00
9153 - Aux	11/15/2022	Waltonville	IL	UTCH	\$ 1,500.00
7682	11/28/2022	Mascoutah	IL	UTCH	\$ 1,000.00
5815	11/29/2022	Lombard	IL	UTCH	\$ 1,500.00
2608 - Aux	11/29/2022	Dwight	IL	UTCH	\$ 500.00
7710	12/5/2022	Belleville	IL	UTCH	\$ 500.00
2876	12/7/2022	Villa Grove	IL	UTCH	\$ 1,500.00
7710	12/12/2022	Belleville	IL	UTCH	\$ 500.00
7710	3/22/2023	Belleville	IL	UTCH	\$ 500.00
1739	4/17/2023	Belleville	IL	UTCH	\$ 500.00

Congratulations to the Posts and Auxiliaries above. And thank you for making use of the VFW Foundation's Grant Programs, for the benefit of your Communities!

Chuck Ingle, Program Chairman
 Community Activities
chuck@roscoevfw.com



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

VFW 2022-2023 Community Activities, Dept. of IL

District	Commander	Posts Reported	District	Community Activities Chairman
3	Chris Garza	4	36%	
4	Stephen MacInnes	10	83%	Tom Davidson
5	Kevin Cournoyer	11	69%	
6	Ruben Hernandez	10	59%	Rob Bland
7	Adam Lau	5	26%	
8	Arthur Munos	6	38%	Arthur Munos
9	Christopher Rush	2	11%	
10	Larry Carter	7	47%	
11	Rick Hobbs	13	100%	Glen Goodrich
12	Dustin Dixon	17	100%	
13	Don Porter	5	42%	
14	Rod Thompson	16	94%	John Barrett
15	Christopher Maynor	8	67%	
16	Fred Cagle	5	45%	
17	Sean Conner	6	43%	
18	Todd Latham	9	82%	
19	Bob Zeman	21	91%	George Cramer

Total Posts
255

Dashboard Data
4/27/2023

Accuracy
update 19-Apr

Department Percentage
61%

Compiled by
Chuck Ingle

Charles E. Ingle • State Community Activities Chairman
Department of Illinois
chuck@roscoevfw.com • 815 979-7152

SCOUT OF THE YEAR

The 2022 – 2023 Scout of the Year applications have been received and scored by an independent group of scouters and VFW members. This year we received eight applications, down from fourteen from last year. This year's Department Scout of the Year selectees are:

- Zachery Walker Troop 338 Prairie du Rocher
 Sponsored by Post 6632 Red Bud District 14**

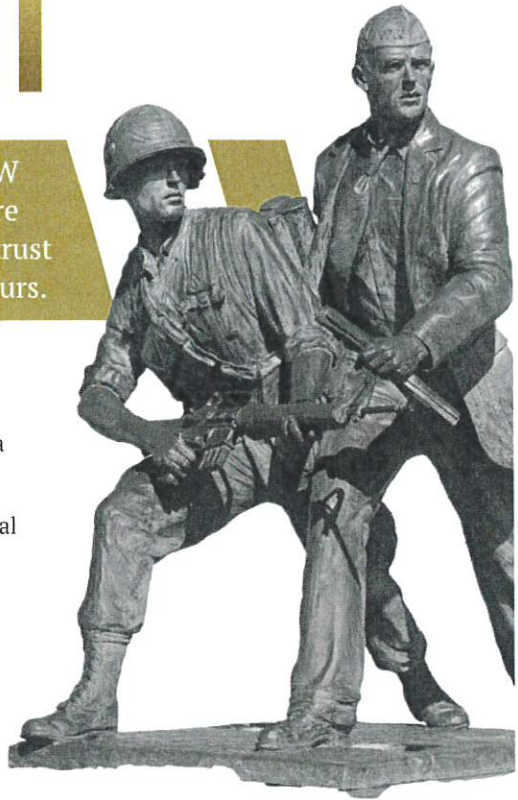
- Katherine Lowrie Troop 42133 Glen Ellyn
 Sponsored by Post 2164 Wheaton District 19**

Ron Milton

Scout of the Year Chair



FACT SHEET



As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.

THE VFW'S VITAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- Educate** separating service members about their well-earned VA benefits through private benefits counseling sessions with a VFW Service Officer.
- Provide** training to VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services.
- Help** cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.
- Deliver** morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.

2,300+

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

\$11.55 million

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 2,567 veterans and service members through VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" since January 2014.

\$11.2 billion

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits.

69

Number of VFW-SVA Fellows (student veterans) who have traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for veterans' rights.

19

Number of times the VFW has testified before Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

\$2.7 million+

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

\$12.9 million+

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 45% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

3.4 million+

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events since 2005.

Updated March 2023



The VFW by the numbers

1.5 million

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

5,771

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



1899

Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



Improving life in America

3.9 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

\$35.9 million

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.



Helping struggling military families

11,432

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through *VFW Unmet Needs* since 2004.

\$5,848,090

Amount of grants provided through *VFW Unmet Needs* covering housing for struggling military families since 2004.

4,024

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs since 2004.



Cutting red tape

115,000

Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2022.

Nearly 13,500

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2022 resulting in more than \$64 million in disability compensation.

20+

Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.



Inspiring patriotism in young people

24,500+

Number of high school students who competed in the 2022-23 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

64,300+

Number of students who competed in the 2022-23 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.

Updated March 2023



JOIN THE VFW

Learn more about the VFW at [vfw.org](https://www.vfw.org).



COME CELEBRATE

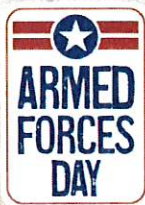
ARMED FORCES WEEK

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAYS

FREE SANDWICH for all active duty service members and veterans.
Thanks For Your Service.

ARMY	MON, 5/15
MARINE CORPS	TUE, 5/16
NAVY	WED, 5/17
AIR FORCE & SPACE FORCE	THU, 5/18
COAST GUARD	FRI, 5/19

AN INVITATION FOR ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY & VETERANS



**LUNCH WITH
THE HEROES**

11:00AM-2:00PM

SAT, 5/20

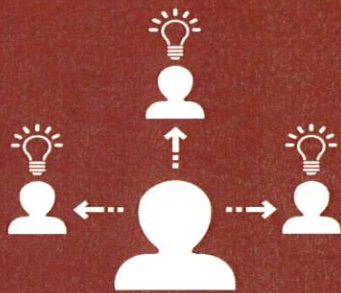
Join us for a **FREE SANDWICH** and be sure to arrive
before Noon for our live National Anthem.

MISSION BBQ
The American Way.





**GET
INVOLVED.**



**RAISE
AWARENESS.**



**FIGHT
HUNGER.**

**JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST FOOD INSECURITY BY
PARTICIPATING IN OUR FOOD DRIVE AT STATE
CONVENTION JUNE 8-10, 2023!**

**Bring canned goods or non-perishable food items to
the Humana Booth. For every 5 items donated, you
will receive 1 raffle ticket. Winner of the raffle will
receive a Yeti Cooler and their Post/Auxiliary will be
submitted for Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant**

**Food will be donated to Veterans Pantry at Spring Street Renaissance Center
(Homeless Veterans Shelter)**





Taylorville VFW Riders

Annual PTSD Awareness Run

JULY 8TH, 2023

\$15 per person

Registration is from
10am-11:45am at
Taylorville VFW
Kickstands up
at 12:00pm

ALL VEHICLES WELCOME!

- WHISKEY BILLS – PANA
- BOONDOCKS – RAMSEY
- BERNARDINI'S – NOKOMIS
- THE OTHER BAR – MORRISONVILLE
- VFW POST 4495 – TAYLORVILLE

GOLF CART RAFFLE!



**BATTERY Specialists
+
GOLF CARS**

**AFTER PARTY INCLUDES
DINNER, DRINKS
SILENT AUCTION
RAFFLES
LIVE AUCTION**

**50/50
RAFFLE**

WALL OF GUNS
\$10/ticket for a chance to
win all 3 guns!!!

- Springfield M1 Grand
- Rock Island 1911
- Keltech KS7 12 Gauge



Live DJ!
SIX SHOOTER
KARAOKE



T-shirts available for purchase!

PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL VETERANS

Wreaths Across America Benefit Run

Sponsored by Stonington American Legion Auxiliary & Taylorville VFW Auxiliary

Saturday, August 5th 2023

Sign Ups-Stonington American Legion 257, Stonington, IL

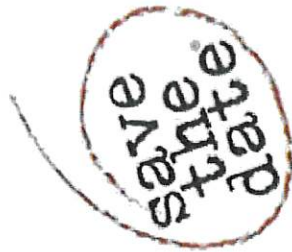
Ride Ends-Taylorville VFW 4495, Taylorville, IL

Followed by End Party with DJ Ryan Barton

Live & Silent Auctions

All Wheels Welcome

100% Proceeds to Wreaths Across America



For additional information or donation information

Please contact Beth Kuntzman-bkuntz8@yahoo.com or Stacey Ethridge-Mise 2002@yahoo.com

COTTAGE HILLS VFW 7678



★ ★ ★ 1ST ANNUAL ★ ★ ★
**VETERAN MEMORIAL
WALL FESTIVAL**
SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

Come together as veterans and a community to honor and remember
our brothers and sisters

ADMISSION IS FREE



**121 S. WILLIAMS ST
COTTAGE HILLS, IL 62018**

FEATURING:

Global War on Terrorism Memorial Wall
Local Bands
Military Vehicles/Aircraft Display

Food Trucks
Veteran Service Organizations

Timeline of Events:

0900-0950: Staging at Gordon Moore Park, Alton, IL.

0955: National anthem/salute the flag

1000: Step off and escort the wall to Cottage Hills VFW Post 7678

1030-1230: Set up the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Wall

1200-1600: Food trucks and vendors/Veteran Service Organizations available

1700-2200: Enjoy local bands