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Illinois

2022-2023  
General Orders No. 4  
October 2022

*All Correspondence, invitations, letters, etc addressed to State Commander Bobby Edwards should be mailed to 3300 Constitution Dr, Springfield, IL 62711*

### **STATE PROGRAM BOOKS/ADVERTISEMENT SOLICITATION**

The State of Illinois VFW has a contract with Golden Rule Publishing – which allows representatives to contact individuals and businesses for the purpose of selling advertisement in our State Convention Program Book, Fall Program Book and our Voice of Democracy Program Book. If individuals or businesses contact you to validate this company, please let them know they are an approved solicitor of the State of Illinois VFW. Golden Rule Publishing has been working with us for years. If you have any questions/concerns, please call State Headquarters at (217) 529-6688.

### **DRINKING AND SMOKING**

Section 1001-25 is quoted for your information and necessary action. “25. The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited.”

The attention of all Post Commanders is directed to this section and compliance is expected.

### **POST QUARTERMASTERS**

The Online Membership System (OMS) – available on <http://vfw.org> – is a quick and easy way for you, as a Post Quartermaster, to handle all membership reporting, order new membership cards, update information on your Post members – such as an address change, or report a Post member has passed away. If you are not currently using the OMS, we encourage you to log on and start using the system today. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact State Headquarters at (217) 529-6688 for assistance.

### ***BONDING OF ACCOUNTABLE OFFICERS***

ATTENTION QUARTERMASTERS: *Sec. 703 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States By-Laws* requires each accountable officer to be bonded with an indemnity company in a sum at least equal to the amount of liquid assets for which they may be accountable. Posts that are not properly bonded are subject to disciplinary actions.

If you have yet to submit your bond application, one is available on our State of Illinois Website by going to [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org). Go to “Resources” and click on “Reports & Forms” on the drop down menu. You will find a blank Bond Application on that screen. Complete the application and mail it, along with the payment to Department. ***All bonds not renewed expired on August 31, 2022.***

### ***QUARTERLY REPORT OF AUDIT***

*Sec. 218 (11) b. of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Manual of Procedure*  
*Within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, properly audit the books and records of the Post Quartermaster, Post Adjutant, and any activity, club room, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of the Post and submit a Post Trustee’s Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector.*

Audits are due at the end of September, December, March and June of each fiscal year. Every report must be in accordance with and upon such form as may be prescribed by the Adjutant General. Post Leadership, remember that the audit is the tool used to inform the Post Membership of the financial status of the Post. We owe our members an accurate and timely reporting. A thorough, complete audit can prevent financial problems down the road.

**Those Posts that are delinquent in submitting a Trustee’s Report of Audit are subject to being suspended by the State Commander.**

### **FEBRUARY COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING**

The February Council of Administration Meeting and Voice of Democracy Banquet will be held February 10-12, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield, Illinois 62703. Hotel Reservation information will be published in November General Orders

### **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY BANQUET**

The State of Illinois VFW will be celebrating its Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza. Ticket information will be published in November General Orders

District Tables will once again be available; they are to be ordered by and paid for by the District Commanders who will decide who will be seated at these tables. ***Reminder – these are tables of ten.***

### **PODIUM EDITION**

The new VFW Podium Edition which contains the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, manual of Procedure and Ritual is available online at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) or through the VFW Store. In accordance with Section 218(a)(6)e the Adjutant of each Post is to “maintain a current copy of the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars...”

### **VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2022**

Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs for the observance of Veterans Day, November 11, 2022 – see *Sec. 223 of the Manual of Procedure*. National Headquarters will provide an updated speech on their website in early November. Once signed in on <http://vfw.org>, it can be found under *MY VFW* by clicking on *Patriotic Holiday Speeches*.

## **ILLINOIS DAY AT THE VFW NATIONAL HOME**

Illinois Day was held Saturday, September 24, 2022 at the VFW National Home, located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. A special thank you to all those who took the time to attend this year's activities! Over \$67,000 was donated by Illinois posts, districts, and the State HQ. Commander Edwards presented a check for \$12,610 which represents the monies submitted by Posts and Districts since Convention. Thank you all for contributing.

## **ILLINOIS VFW NEWS, FACEBOOK, WEB PAGE**

Photographs, news, and calendar items can be mailed to Editor Barbara Wilson 802 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Riverton, Illinois 62561. Any items can be sent via e-mail to [barb.wilson2@outlook.com](mailto:barb.wilson2@outlook.com). Pictures should be sent as a JPEG attachment. This is your newspaper, and we want your news items and pictures. I really would like to start changing out photos on the Department web site more often than once a year. When Posts and Districts have events, consider sending high resolution photos to our Illinois VFW News editor – Barb Wilson ([barb.wilson2@outlook.com](mailto:barb.wilson2@outlook.com)) for possible inclusion on our state Facebook page and on the website slider.

## **NEW CENTURY RAFFLE**

The New Century Raffle has officially started and will run through June 30, 2023. The tickets are just \$10.00 each. Each ticket entitles you to participate in a weekly drawing of \$100 from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Drawings will be held each Friday beginning July 1, 2022, with each week's winning ticket being returned to the barrel for the future drawings. This means each ticket has multiple chances to win. The seller of each ticket also has a chance to win \$10.00. If seller prints their name on ticket, they will receive \$10.00. If the seller does not sign the ticket, the \$10.00 will be automatically donated and split between Department's Unmet Needs Program and Children's National Home. Winners will be announced each month in the General Orders and posted on <http://vfwil.org> web site

## **WEEKLY WINNERS**

Date of Drawing	Winner	Seller
09/02/2022	Shirley Parks	Glenn Parks
09/09/2022	Roy Parran	No seller listed
09/16/2022	Tom Fronczak	No seller listed
09/23/2022	Rick Ellison	No seller listed
09/30/2022	Gerald Mennie	No seller listed

## **2022 COMMANDER'S CALLS**

State Commander Bobby Edwards will be holding 4 Commander's Calls this fall at Posts around Illinois. Only 2 Commander's Call remain

### **Schedule**

#### **October 1, 2022**

Russell E Dunham Memorial Post 1308  
4445 Alby St  
Alton, IL 62002

#### **October 2, 2022**

Theodore Hoffman Post 1769  
2304 S Veterans Dr  
Effingham, IL 62401

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

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

As a reminder, A Post Commander or representative must attend at least one (1) of the scheduled Commander's Calls in order to be eligible for All-State Post for 2022-2023

### **VETERAN OF THE MONTH/QUARTER/YEAR**

Congratulations to George Gandara of Libertyville Post 8741 on being selected as the September 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.

Attached to the General Orders is a new Veteran of the Month Nomination Form and this form will be used for nominations. A copy of the form can also be found on State VFW web site [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org)

September 2022 Veteran of the Month – George Gandara (Post 8741)

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM CHANGES**

Please be advised the top three VFW national Voice of Democracy scholarships have been raised \$5k each, bringing the total national scholarship amount to **\$171,000**.

**1st Place \$35,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship**

**2nd Place \$21,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship**

**3rd Place \$15,000 VFW Scholarship**

OFFICIAL:



JOE BARTLEY  
State Adjutant-Quartermaster

BY ORDER OF:



BOBBY EDWARDS  
State Commander

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES  
NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE  
DSO MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

THIS REPORT IS FOR: Illinois Service Office

REPORT MONTH OF: Aug 2022

<b>1. Office Interviews:</b>	<u>239</u>	<b>8. Appeals Actions</b>	
<b>2. Communications:</b>		a. NOD Filed	<u>0</u>
a. Correspondence Recd	<u>198</u>	b. VA Form 9 Filed	<u>0</u>
b. Correspondence Orig	<u>154</u>	c. DRO:	
c. Emails Received	<u>270</u>	1. Conferences	<u>3</u>
d. Emails Responded to	<u>268</u>	2. Favorable Decisions	<u>0</u>
e. Telephone calls	<u>1179</u>	3. Unfavorable Decisions	<u>0</u>
f. Other	<u>51</u>	d. VA Form 646 Filed	<u>0</u>
<b>3. Claims Filed</b>	<u>59</u>	<b>9. Health Care Assistance</b>	
<b>4. Powers of Attorney Filed</b>	<u>120</u>	a. Enroll 10-10EZ Compl	<u>1</u>
<b>5. File Accessed</b>	<u>59</u>	b. Health Care Ref Asst	<u>0</u>
<b>6. Ratings Cleared</b>	<u>135</u>	c. Hospitalized Vets Visit	<u>0</u>
<b>7. Rating Queries</b>	<u>0</u>	<b>Veterans Assisted through</b>	
		<b>10. outreach</b>	<u>18</u>
		<b>11. New VFW Members</b>	<u>0</u>

**# Awds Recd**

**Totals**

**12. DISABILITY BENEFITS**

a. Compensation	<u>96</u>	<u>2,500,086.96</u>
b. Pension	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**13. DEATH BENEFITS**

a. DIC	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>
b. Pension	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>
c. Burial	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**14. OTHER BENEFITS**

a. VR & E	<u>1</u>	<u>980.49</u>
b. Waivers of Indebt	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**15. C & C Awards**

0      0.00

**16. Lump Sum and Retroactive**

38      385,270.81

**17. TOTALS**

135      2,886,338.26

**18. Miscellaneous Comments:**

## “Working Together Supporting Veterans”



**Desk of the Department Surgeon (Oct. 2022)**

### **Operation VFW Mental Wellness**

### **Mental Illness and Suicide Prevention Training**

#### **SITUATION:**

- In 2020: 45,979 people died by suicide in the United States. That is 1 death every 11 minutes. 12.2 million adults seriously thought about suicide; 3.2 million adults made a plan; 1.2 million adults attempted suicide
- Veterans have an adjusted suicide rate that is 52.3% greater than the non-veteran US adult population. People who have previously served in the military account for about 13.7% of suicides among adults in the United States.
- In 2019, 1.6% of former active-duty service members aged 18-25 years reported making a suicide attempt during the previous 12 months. This was an increase from 0.9% in 2009.
- Veterans can experience different types of mental illnesses or disorders, and they can often occur at the same time. Mental illnesses can occur over a short period of time or be episodic. This means that the mental illness comes and goes with discrete beginnings and ends. Mental illness can also be ongoing or long-lasting.

**MISSION:** To educate and minimize the risk factors associated with mental illness and suicides. All posts and districts that present this training to their comrades can receive credit by selecting “**VFW Mental Wellness**” under “**Veterans Assistance**” on the VFW-IL dashboard.

## EXECUTION:

- Mental illness and suicide are a very dark subject. One which a lot of people feel extremely uncomfortable speaking about it. Just like in the 1950's, 60's, and 70's speaking about breast cancer, until First Lady Betty Ford brought it out in the open. Today, many lives are being saved because we talk about breast cancer. We have walking and running fund raisers that help with awareness, as well as pink t-shirts and media presentations.
- We need to make suicide and mental illness a part of the conversation. We need to talk about the "Signs". Knowing the "Signs" can help save the life of a friend or even a loved one. Veterans' families especially need to know the "Signs". Veterans and active-duty military still have extremely high rates of suicide in all age groups. Veterans struggle with the experiences they had while serving our country. Ageing veterans can be dealing with the loss of a spouse and/or health issues.
- We all have triggers that can affect how we manage everyday stressors. Stressors such as the Afghanistan withdrawal. How this event was handled by our military and our government affected Veterans of all wars. For Vietnam Veterans it reminded them of the fall of Saigon. For all post 9-11 Veterans they wondered what was all the sacrifice for? Families who lost loved ones are affected.
- Another big stressor for many Veterans is the holidays. Those Veterans that are self-isolated are particularly vulnerable. Some dates or anniversaries of trauma are hard but if they fall during the holidays, it may become more than they can bear. We need to constantly check in on our "buddies", and if they need help get them the help they need.
- The National VFW, along with other service groups, and state Veteran agencies, all provide training and resources to Veterans Service Officers (VSO's) to help Veterans directly create a road map and identify resources to give hope for the future. Programs such as Unmet Needs, employment training, and scholarships for education are just a few examples. Getting every Veteran set up at the VA for evaluation of medical and psychological needs is critical. Along with these programs the VSO's can obtain benefits



to help stabilize the Veteran's finances and give each Veteran time to seek support groups. Support can be found at Vet Centers, the VA, and other non-profit groups. Support might be found in another Veteran, perhaps that older vet that has managed to make it through to a productive life.

- Two groups of Veterans that are often overlooked is our National Guard and Reserve units. They only meet once a month. They are sent back home after deployment. Sometimes they were discharged after deployment and are entirely overlooked and fall through the cracks in the system. The VFW needs to make sure our National Guard and Reserve troops know about and understand what is out there for them. Their families need to know what is out there for them. Too often both National Guard, Reserve, and Active-Duty military that wish to remain in the service do not want to ask for help as it is still a stigma, and they feel it will affect their ability to obtain promotions.
- Many VFW Posts have already adopted National Guard and Reserve units. The "Buddy System" is simply checking on and talking with those you served with. Even checking in with the Commanding Officer, the Senior NCO, or the family readiness person to make sure they are using the "Buddy System" can help save lives. You were with them when they had good days and when things did not go so well. Talking, listening, and knowing the "Signs" can help.
- Lowering the number of suicides means making sure Veterans, their family and friends understand the "Signs" and what to do if they see one or more of these signs is particularly important.
  1. Thinking about hurting or killing themselves,
  2. Looking for ways to kill themselves,
  3. Talking about death, dying, or suicide,
  4. Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.,
  5. Hopelessness, feeling like there is no way out,
  6. Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings,
  7. Feeling like there is no reason to live,
  8. Rage or anger,
  9. Engaging in risky activities without thinking,

- 10. Increasing alcohol and drug abuse,
- 11. Withdrawing from family and friends.

- We need to get these out and keep pushing them. Family and friends need to use the **A.C.E.** system:

**A** - Ask directly, “are you thinking about hurting yourself?”

**C** - Care – calmly control the situation. Listen and show concern. Talk to them and let them talk, LISTEN.

**E** - Escort - do not leave this Veteran alone to take care of problems! Get help from a professional. Remove all firearms or other things from this Veteran which could be used to harm himself or herself.

- These are but a few of the things to look for. Veterans are incredibly good at hiding emotions and saying everything is ok. They have learned to push through to complete the mission. It is when things become so overwhelming that we as friends and family need to help. It is critical to step in and provide the support and professional help necessary at this point.
- What can we do? We can get involved, we can educate Veterans and their families to know the “Signs”. At our VFW Post we can hand out the cards from the VA with the signs and the Crisis Line information. We can offer to speak at different civic groups. Veterans are everywhere. Just saving ONE life is a huge accomplishment!
- **CURRENT UPDATE:** The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now: 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

## 988

has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. While some areas may be currently able to connect to the Lifeline by **dialing** or **text 988 (chat at 988lifeline.org)**, this dialing code was available to everyone across the United States starting on **July 16, 2022.**

When people call, text, or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing Lifeline network. These trained counselors will

listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary.

**The previous Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will always remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis.**

The Lifeline's network of over 200 crisis centers has been in operation since 2005 and has been proven to be effective. It's the counselors at these local crisis centers who answer the contacts the Lifeline receives every day. Numerous studies have shown that callers feel less suicidal, less depressed, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful after speaking with a Lifeline counselor.

- **Mental Health Quiz** - There are still many harmful attitudes and misunderstandings around mental illness, which may make people ignore their mental health, fuel stigma, and make it harder to reach out for help. Take the following quiz and see if you can separate the myths from the facts.

1. Poor mental health increases the risk for long-lasting (chronic) physical conditions like
  - A. Heart disease.
  - B. Stroke.
  - C. Cancer.
  - D. All of the above.
2. Mental illnesses are
  - A. Very common.
  - B. Not very common.
  - C. Fairly Common.
3. Suicide is the \_\_\_\_\_ leading cause of death among people ages 15-34 in the United States.
  - A. 24<sup>th</sup>
  - B. 10<sup>th</sup>
  - C. 40<sup>th</sup>
  - D. 2<sup>nd</sup>
4. Mental illness
  - A. Cannot be treated.
  - B. Can be treated.

5. Mental health is:
  - A. More than the absence of mental disorders.
  - B. Only important for some people.
  - C. An important part of overall health and well-being.
  
6. If you know someone with poor mental health, you can help by:
  - A. Reaching out and letting them know help is available.
  - B. Helping them access mental health services.
  - C. Learning and sharing the facts about mental health, especially if you hear something isn't true.
  - D. All of the above.
  
7. People with mental illness are violent.
  - A. True.
  - B. False.
  
8. Half of all mental illness occurs before a person turns \_\_\_\_\_ years old, and three-quarters of mental illness begin before age 24.
  - A. 14
  - B. 18
  - C. 10
  
9. Serious mental illness costs America how much in lost earnings per year?
  - A. \$193.2 billion in lost earning per year.
  - B. \$20 million in lost earning per year.
  - C. \$400 billion in lost earnings per year.
  - D. \$1 billion in lost earnings per year.
  
10. Mental illness is caused by
  - A. Personal weakness.
  - B. Lack of willpower.
  - C. A number of factors including biological factors, stressful or traumatic life events, and long-lasting health conditions such as heart disease or cancer.

### **SERVICE AND SUPPORT:**

- Each Post or District Commander and/or Surgeon or Service Officer at each Post and District should reach out and present the "Signs" at a Post/District meeting. Every Veterans' family needs to know these, and every Veteran should use the "Buddy System", and the A.C.E. systems.

- VA offers Veterans secure virtual tools for mental health care outside the traditional office visit. With the VA Video Connect app, you can access your mental health visits from your home or other preferred location. And you can use other VA Mobile apps to supplement treatment and support your self-care.
- Annie is a VA messaging service that empowers Veterans to take an active role in their care, including their mental health. Messages you receive from Annie could include mental health support, such as tips for reducing stress, setting boundaries, and practicing mindfulness and relaxation techniques.
- The PTSD Coach app provides Veterans with tools to manage their PTSD symptoms. It also provides resources for family members and caregivers looking to support the Veterans in their lives who have PTSD.

**Answer Key:**

1. D - Poor mental health increases the risk for long-lasting (chronic) physical conditions like heart disease, stroke, and cancer.
2. A - About 1 in 5 American adults and 1 in 5 children will experience a mental illness at some point in their lives.
3. D - Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people ages 15-34 in the United States.
4. B - Mental illness can be treated. Research shows that people with mental illness can get better and many recover completely.
5. C - Mental health is an important part of overall health and well-being.
6. D - If you know someone with poor mental health, you can help by reaching out and letting them know help is available, helping them access mental health services, and learning and sharing the facts about mental health, especially if you hear something that isn't true.
7. B - The vast majority of people with mental illness are no more likely to be violent than anyone else. In fact, people with mental illnesses are more likely to be victims of violent crime than the general population
8. A - Half of all mental illness occurs before a person turns 14 years old, and three-quarters of mental illness begin before age 24.
9. A - Serious mental illness costs America \$193.2 billion in lost earnings per year.
10. C - Mental illness is caused by a number of factors including biological factors, stressful or traumatic life events, and long-lasting health conditions such as heart disease or cancer.

**COMMAND AND SIGNAL:** VFW Department of Illinois, 3300 Constitution Drive, P.O. Box 13206, Springfield, IL 62791-3206. Telephone: (217) 529-6688; email at [vwil@vwil.org](mailto:vwil@vwil.org).

Eugene Blackwell  
Department Surgeon



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Department of Illinois

### -Americanism Program-

Just a friendly reminder that the Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award nominations deadline is quickly approaching!

**October 31** - Entries due to the Posts.

**November 15** - Completion of Post judging.

**December 15** - Completion of District judging.

This is crunch time! We need to get into the schools, promote our programs, and promote the Veterans of Foreign Wars! With Veteran's Day right around the corner, many of us will be in the schools organizing Veteran's Day activities. What better time to discuss the Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award, Patriot's Pen, and Voice of Democracy with the school administration!

Also, please remember that to be considered for the All-State award, your Post needs to submit a Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award nominee to the District level. Districts, same thing, a Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award nominee needs to be submitted to Department. Each Post and District can submit one entry from each category. The categories are; Kindergarten through 5th Grade, 6th through 8th Grade, and 9th through 12th Grade. Any questions, please see the Commander's Leadership manual, or contact the State Americanism/Loyalty Day Director, Sean Conner at [seanconner2001@gmail.com](mailto:seanconner2001@gmail.com) or at (217)317-1036.

R/S

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SD Conner', followed by the letters 'VFW' in a simple, blocky font.

Conner, Sean D.  
Cpl/USMC (2001-2005)  
Americanism/Loyalty Day Director  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Illinois

Chuck Ingle, Chairman  
Community Activities

If we add 24%, each of the next 3 months, we will make goal...

Our goal is to be 90% reported by December 31, 2022.

**We can do it because the Dashboard makes all reporting so much easier!**

<https://vfwil.org/uploads/documents/Resources/ProgramReportingInstructions.pdf>

Please encourage your Posts to "report it when it happens".

Commanders must report on-line or on the Community Activities Report Form by March 15, 2023 in order to qualify for a

**"National Certificate of Recognition"**

Each Post must report in each of the following categories to qualify:

- a. Community Involvement
- b. Cooperation with other organizations
- c. Aid to others or Disaster Relief
- d. School and Church assistance

\* \* \* \* \*

VFW Foundation grants will likely be available by October 6, 2022. The applications and guidelines are still being drafted. Once approved, you'll find them at [www.vfw.org/grants](http://www.vfw.org/grants) and [www.vfw.org/utch](http://www.vfw.org/utch). All of the information you'll need, will be available at these locations next week!

## VFW 2022-2023 Community Activities, Dept. of IL

<u>District</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Posts Reported</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Community Activities Chairman</u>
3	Chris Garza	1	8%	
4	Stephen MacInnes	4	33%	
5	Kevin Cournoyer	2	12%	
6	Ruben Hernandez	4	24%	Rob Bland
7	Adam Lau	1	5%	
8	Arthur Munos	3	19%	Arthur Munos
9	Christopher Rush	0	0%	
10	Anthony Bellin	1	7%	
11	Rick Hobbs	5	38%	
12	Dustin Dixon	4	24%	
13	Don Porter	1	8%	
14	Rod Thompson	6	35%	John Barrett
15	Christopher Maynor	3	25%	
16	Fred Cagle	1	9%	
17	Sean Conner	0	0%	
18	Todd Latham	5	42%	
19	Bob Zeman	8	35%	George Cramer

Total Posts
259

Dashboard Data  
27-09-22

Department Percentage
<b>19%</b>

Compiled by  
Chuck Ingle



## Program Bulletin VOD October 2022

Comrades,

I hope your VOD program is underway. If not, **it is not too late** to make connections with your local schools. They still have time to conduct the programs if they choose to do so.

Reminder of important dates to mark on your calendar:

V.O.D

- **October 31, 2022** – *Local entries must be in hands of Post Chairpersons.*
- **November 15, 2022** - *Local winners must be in the hands of the District Chairperson (District Chairperson may designate another timeline with proper notification of posts)*
- **January 15, 2022** – *District judging is to be completed (**Sooner, if Possible, Please**)*
- **December 20, 2022**- *District winner to Department (**Sooner, if Possible, Please**)*
- **February 11, 2023** – *Department V.O.D. awards banquet Crown Plaza, Springfield*

The following is a list of materials that need to accompany all VOD entries into the district judging in order to meet the deadlines for state judging and to keep district winner's identity secret until their respective district award programs:

- Students recorded speech ( email or flash drive only - no CDs)
- Completed official entry form with all necessary signatures (email preferred)
- A good quality digital, head and shoulders, color photo in the portrait position. (Good quality cell phone pictures are acceptable)
- Student Introductory Questionnaire
- Typed copy of the essay

More information in Commanders Leadership Manual: [5 2022-2023Y](#)

[outhProgramsPillar.pdf \(vfwil.org\)](#) (pages 63-73)

**From:** JOHN DAVIN  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 28, 2022 10:53 PM  
**To:** Illinois VFW  
**Subject:** patriot's pen go

## PATRIOT'S PEN

Hope your Patriot's Pen program is underway. If not it, **it is not too late** to make connections with your local schools.. They have time to conduct the programs (PP/VOD). They still have time to conduct the programs if they choose to do so.

Important Dates to Rember. Mark your Calendar.

Patriot's Pen

October 31, 2022 - Student entries essays must be in the hands of the Post Chairman

November 15, 2022 - Post judging completed.

November 22, 2022 - Post winning entries to District Chairman

December 15, 2022 - District judging completed

December 20, 2022 - District winning entry to Department PP Chairman

January 1, 2023 - Department judging completed

The following is a list of materials that need to accompany all PP entries into the district judging in order to meet the requirements for state judging in order to keep district winner's identity secret until their respective district awards

1. Typed copy of the speech (300 to 400 words)
2. Entry form with all necessary information and signatures
3. Two glossy 3x5 head and shoulder color photographs of your winner is acceptable but digital photo is much preferred. Photos taken by a smart phone are acceptable
4. Patriot's Pen Introductory questionnaire

More information in State Commanders Leadership Manual 2022-2023

John Davin

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

NATIONAL HOME BULLETIN

Mike McGrath  
Department Of Illinois  
VFWNHC Program Chairman  
37 Sussex Court  
Naperville, Il. 60540  
(630) 357-2680  
mackcav1@sbcglobal.net

Paul Zinck  
Assistant Program Chairman

\*\* ILLINOIS DAY 2022 \*\*

A MOST SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED AND MADE "ILLINOIS DAY 2022" SUCH A GREAT SUCCESS. WE ESPECIALLY NOTED THAT SOME OF OUR COMRADES AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS CAME FROM LONG DISTANCES AND PLEASE KNOW THAT YOUR EFFORTS ARE WELL RECEIVED AND MUCH APPRECIATED. YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY TRULY DEMONSTRATES TO THE KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES AT THE HOME HOW MUCH WE CARE ABOUT THEM. IT IS ALSO OUR HOPE THAT YOU ENJOYED THE VISIT AND TOOK HOME A GREAT SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AS WELL

\*\* THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY \*\*

A COMBINED TOTAL OF OVER \$79000 WAS RAISED ON THE SILVER MARCH WITH ILLINOIS PROVIDING OVER \$67000.

\*\* CONGRATULATIONS 100%\*\*

CONGRATULATIONS TO COMMANDER DONALD PORTER AND DISTRICT 13

AS THE FIRST DISTRICT TO REACH 100% FOR THE NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM.

\*\* HELP LINE 800 313 4200 \*\*

THE HELP LINE IS A NATIONAL HOME RESOURCE DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR  
MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES ... COULD THIS HELP SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

\*\* AND DO REACH OUT \*\*

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND ARE GLAD TO HELP. SO, IF YOU HAVE  
QUESTIONS

DO CALL OR EMAIL AS WE ARE "WORKING TOGETHER SUPPORTING VETERANS."

MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE AND "GOD BLESS OUR NATIONAL HOME."

**From:** Michael Peck  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2022 1:28 PM  
**To:** vfwil@vfwil.org  
**Cc:** John Murray; John DeGroot; Jerry Field  
**Subject:** Legislative News

For distribution with the VFW October general orders.

The Illinois veterans advisory council met on September 14. This was the first in person meeting we've had in two years. Director Prince announced that the office of Veterans accountability was now operational and the Chicago veterans home was fully staffed and the waiting list is now being used.

Work at the Quincy veterans home is progressing with over \$325 million in improvements.

Chairman Peck announced the election of Elizabeth Soto as the new superintendent for the Veterans assistance commission of Cook County.

The veterans cash lottery now stands at 1.5 million with two more grants being approved one for the Midwest Veterans Closet for \$97,000.

Chairman Peck urged IDVA and the AG Office to put out a news release urging veterans and their families affected by the Camp Lejeune Water Contamination to seek guidance from a certified Veterans Service Officer before filing a suite.

The issue on county coroners not determining if the deceased was a veteran before Signing off on the cause of death was raised and a motion for the Director of Veterans Affairs to write a letter to the president of the Illinois Association County Coroners.

The council approved a resolution to support the transfer of 4.7 acres from the Lake County Forest Preserve to the Fort Sheridan national Cemetery.

The council approved the appointment of Bill Wolff as chairman for the nominating committee for the December election for Chair and Vice chair with Vincent Long and Al Reynolds as members.

The next meeting of the council is December 14.

Sent from my iPhone