



Illinois

2023-2024 Series
General Orders No. 4
October 2024

STATE HEADQUARTERS CLOSURES

The State Headquarters will be closed on October 14th for Columbus Day.

SPAM EMAILS

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

NATIONAL BY-LAWS: POLITICS SEC. 702- POLITICS.

No officer or member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall in any manner use the Veterans of Foreign Wars for partisan politics and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any meetings nor shall any nominations, recommendations or endorsements for political office be made, provided this shall not apply to discussion of policies of any organization that seeks to alter our present form of government by force, violence or other unlawful means.

Participation in activities supporting or opposing legislation or administration of laws for veteran's welfare or relating to other matters pertaining to the purposes of the organization shall be permitted. Such participation shall be consistent with the legislative and welfare programs and policies approved by the National Convention.

No Post, County Council, District or Department shall participate in a labor dispute, either on behalf of labor or management. No member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall wear the VFW uniform or VFW cap in any plant or picket line or meeting of employees where a labor dispute arises.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SMOKING, AND VAPING DURING POST MEETINGS

Below is an extract from the National VFW General Orders for October 2023 regarding Alcoholic Beverages, Smoking, and Vaping during Post Meetings.

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to the Commander-in-Chief's decision in response to questions raised concerning alcoholic beverages and smoking/vaping in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting as set forth below:

It is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting. Accordingly, the presence, dispensation, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are unacceptable and are prohibited.

It is the intent of the Commander-in-Chief's decision, regarding this response, to include Post, County Council, District and Department meetings, whereas it is held to be objectionable. Please refer to section 1001 (25) of the National Manual of Procedure.

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."

ATTN: DISTRICT OFFICERS

District Meetings are meant to be a school of instruction. District Commanders must make sure instruction is taking place at their meetings. Training is very important to the success of our organization; without it we lose members and Posts. The national web site, www.vfw.org, contains a great wealth of information that can be used in schools of instruction. Use these materials and more to cause your attendees at District Meetings to leave the meeting knowing more than they did when they arrived. Department representatives are available, from time to time, to provide training at District Meetings or at Schools of Instruction called outside of the normal District Meeting Schedule. Should more than one District decide to join together for a school of instruction a Department Representative is almost sure to attend if invited.

RED, WHITE AND BLUE VETERANS SERVICE SUPPORTER PROGRAM

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

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

The Commander's Leadership Manual for 24-25 has the requirements for Teacher of the Year and the Public Safety Awards. The Public Safety Awards only include these 5 awards: Law Enforcement, Firefighter, EMT/Paramedic, Emergency Dispatcher, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technician.

Attached to the General Orders is an extract from the Commander's Leadership Manual on Teacher of the Year and Public Safety Awards

For a Post to achieve All State Honors they must submit a Teacher of the Year nomination OR they must submit a Public Safety Award nomination.

For a District to achieve All State Honors they must submit a Teacher of the Year nomination AND they must submit a Public Safety Award nomination.

Here are the published deadlines for submission of these awards

Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award

October 31, 2024	Entries to the Post
November 15, 2024	Completion of Post judging
December 15, 2024	Completion of District judging
December 22, 2024	District Winners due to State HQ
December 29, 2024	District participation reports due to State HQ
January 10, 2025	Completion of Department judging
January 15, 2025	Department winners to National
January 31, 2025	Department participation reports due to National

Public Servant Recognition

January 1, 2025	Deadline to submit nominations for Public Safety to State HQ
February 1, 2025	Deadline for State to submit nominations for Public Safety to National

POST QUARTERMASTERS

The Online Membership System (OMS)- available on www.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. 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, 2024.***

QUARTERLY REPORT OF AUDIT

Sec. 218 (1) 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.

These are the Quarters for the audits, March, June, September and December.

Audits are due 30 days after the Quarter to State Headquarters. 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 7-9, 2025 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 9, 2025 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 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, 2024

Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs for the observance of Veterans Day, November 11, 2024 - 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 www.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 21, 2024 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 \$56,657 was donated by Illinois posts, districts, and the State HQ. Commander Bridges presented a check for \$5,282 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. 3rd Street, Riverton, Illinois 62561. Any items can be sent via e-mail to barb.wilson2@outlook.com. Pictures should be sent as a JPEG attachment. This is your newspaper, and we want your news items and pictures. 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) for possible inclusion on our state Facebook page and on the website slider.

2024-2025 COMMANDER'S CALLS

Here is the remaining Commanders' Calls that State Commander Maurice Bridges will be holding.

April 12, 2025

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

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

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

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

NEW CENTURY RAFFLE

The New Century Raffle has officially started and will run through June 30, 2025. The tickets are just \$10.00 each. Each ticket entitles you to participate in a weekly drawing of \$100 from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Drawings will be held each Friday beginning July 1, 2024, with each week's winning ticket being returned to the barrel for the future drawings. This means each ticket has multiple chances to win. The seller of each ticket also has a chance to win \$10.00. If seller prints their name on ticket, they will receive \$10.00. If the seller does not sign the ticket, the \$10.00 will be automatically donated and split between Department's Unmet Needs Program and Children's National Home. Winners will be announced each month in the General Orders and posted on <http://vfwil.org> web site.

WEEKLY WINNER

<u>Date of Drawing</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Seller</u>
9/6/2024	David Suess	No Seller Listed
9/13/2024	Glenna Mann	Ralph Mann
9/20/2024	Thomas Popiel	No Seller Listed
9/27/2024	Abby Chavez	Robert Chavez

CHARTER CANCELLATION

Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt has approved the cancellation of the Charter for Sons of America Post 7191 effective September 17, 2024. Please update your records accordingly.

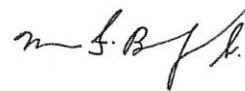
By Order of:



Joseph H. Bartley

State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Official



Maurice Bridges

State Commander

PROGRAM REPORT
SCOUT OF THE YEAR
OCTOBER 2024

Purpose: Annually the VFW honors Scouts who have been the recipient of one of the following awards, Eagle Award, Venture Summit Award, Sea Scout Quartermaster Award and for Girl Scouts Gold Award.

Guidelines: The VFW State will recognize the Scouting America first place winner and the Girl Scout first place winner and received an invitation to the State Convention. Each will receive a \$300.00 cash award. Only the top winner will be forwarded to National.

The Posts should appoint a scouting liaison to maintain contact with the local scouting units and if the opportunity presents itself become a Chartering Organization for a scouting unit.

Procedures:

1. A post may only sponsor one Scout of the Year applicant. If more applications are received the post may refer the applicant to other VFW Posts. The post should review the applicant's package, to ensure the applicant has followed the guidelines on the application. The following deadlines must be followed:
 - Student Entry to Post – 1 March
 - Post/District Entry to State Headquarters – 1 April
 - State Winner to National – 1 May
 - District entrants should be submitted to the district Scouting Chair between 1 March and 31 March for judging.

2. To obtain additional information on the Scout of the Year Program and to obtain the application go to <https://vfw.org/community/youth-and-education>

R Milton

State Scouting Chair

Hi Comrade,

We hope your PP/VOD/TOY programs are underway but, if not, there is still time to contact your local schools and any local youth groups to get participation in these contests, which are great opportunities for the youth in your communities and can bring your post very favorable recognition.

State Youth Activities John Davin and are attaching the timeline and the information that needs to accompany your entries here, so that it will be easy to copy and have on hand. Additional information is available in the Commanders Leadership Manual: [4YouthPrograms.pdf \(vfwil.org\)](#)

Thanks for all you do for VFW and the youth of our great nation!

Deadlines Voice of Democracy Contest:

- October 31, 2024 - Student entries to post
- November 15, 2024 - Post judging complete; check on your District's due date.
- December 15, 2024 - District judging complete
- December 20, 2024 - District winners due to the State Headquarters

February 11, 2025- State Voice of Democracy Awards Banquet, Springfield

Post winners advanced to District must contain the following items:

1. Recorded speech (only flash drive or emailed)
2. Typed copy of the speech
3. Entry form with all necessary signatures
4. Two glossy head-and-shoulders color photographs of your winner are acceptable, but a good quality digital photo is much preferred. Photos taken by a smart phone are acceptable and can be easily emailed.
5. Introductory questionnaire

(Comrades, email is the preferred method of submitting entries. A flash drive with all information is also perfectly acceptable.)

Deadlines Patriot's Pen Contest:

- October 31, 2024 – Student entries essays must be in the hands of the Post Chairman
- November 15, 2024 – Post judging completed
- November 15, 2024 – Post winning entries to District Chairman
- December 15, 2024 – District judging completed
- December 20, 2024 – District winning entry to Department PP Chairman

The winner's package must include the following:

1. Typed copy of the speech
2. Entry form with all necessary signatures
3. A glossy 3x5 head-and-shoulder, color photograph of your winner is acceptable but a digital photo is much preferred. Photos taken by a smart phone are acceptable and can easily be emailed.
4. Patriot's Pen Introductory questionnaire

(Email is the preferred method of submitting entries! A flash drive with all information is also perfectly acceptable.)

Deadlines Smart/Maher VFW Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award:

- October 31, 2024 - Teacher Nominations to Post
- November 15, 2024 - Completion of Post Judging
- Completion of District judging by
- December 15, 2024 – Completion of District Judging
- December 20, 2024 _District TOY Winner to Department (preferably before)

Post entries to District must include:

1. Winner's original entry form and essay of 350 words or less
2. Winner's official Post Teacher Entry Form with signatures at Post level
3. One page resume (no more than two sides)
4. Up to 5 pages, (including resume), of additional information such as news articles, references, and a head and shoulders color photograph, etc.
5. A good quality head and shoulders color photograph (Digital photos preferred)

Youth Activities Program

"PATRIOT'S PEN"

2024-2025 Theme: "My Voice in America's Democracy"

By now you should have reviewed the Commander's Leadership Manual on **Youth Activities Program** (page 74).

Review the following:

1. Program Overview
2. Key Information for post
3. Rules
4. Deadlines:

October 31, 2024- Student essays must be in the hands of the Post Chairman

November 15, 2024- Post judging completed

November 22, 2024 - Post winning entries to District Chairman

December 15, 2024- District judging completed

January 1, 2025 - Department judging completed

February 8, 2025- State Patriot's Pen Awards Banquet, Springfield

Don't forget to inform your judges about what the program is about. Give them a copy of Patriot's Pen Rubric judging from. Which can be found on vfwil.org site.

Any concerns or question feel free to contact our Headquarters or myself.

John Davin
Youth Activities Chairman
630 632-9878

Michella Ramlow
Assistant Youth Activities Chairman
217 480-0057

VFW National Citizenship Education Award

Smart/Maher

National Headquarters mailed the brochures out directly to Schools...but post need to contact the schools or school district regarding the program. You can print the form by visiting vfw.org.

Deadlines are as follows:

Teacher of Nominations to Post	October 31, 2024
Completion of Past Judging	November 15, 2024
Completion of District Judging	December 15, 2024
Completion of Department Judging	January 10, 2024

District participation reports due to Department Chairman- January 1, 2025. When sending your report send to vfwil.org, with cc to bigjohndavin@hotmail.com and doc_ramlow@yahoo.com (Michelle Ramlow).

District Chairman must send the following for Judging:

Winner's original entry form and essay of 350 words

Winner's official teacher entry form with signatures at Post and District level.

One page resume (no more than two sides)

Up to 5 (five) pages (both sides) of additional documentation (i.e. News articles, supervisor's recommendations.)

Good quality head and shoulders photograph (Digital photos are preferred. Color copies or low-grade computer printouts will not be accepted).

The categories are:

Kindergarten through 5th grade

6th through 8th grade

9th through 12th grade.

John Davin

Michelle Ramlow

Youth Activities Chairman

Assistant Youth Activities Chairman

63 632-9878

217 480-0057

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

(Please note Deadlines)

This Program recognizes teachers who care about America. VFW annually recognizes the Nation's top classroom Elementary, Junior High (Middle Schools) and High School teachers who teach Citizenship Education topics regularly and who promote American History, traditions and institutions. Nominations are submitted by fellow teachers, supervisors and other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

National Headquarters mails these brochures out directly to the Schools but....Posts still need to contact the schools regarding this Program.

Posts will need to follow up as deadlines are as follows:

- Teacher Nominations to Post - October 31, 2024
- Completion of Post Judging - November 15, 2024
- Completion of District Judging - December 15, 2024
- District winners due to State HQ – December 22, 2024
- District Participation Report due to State HQ – December 29, 2024
- Completion of Department Judging - January 10, 2025
- Department winners to National - January 15, 2025
- Department Reports to National - January 31, 2025

District Chairmen must send the following to Department Headquarters for Judging:

- Winner's original entry form and essay of 350 words or less
- Winner's official Post Teacher Entry form with signatures at Post & District Level.
- One page resume (no more than two sides)
- Up to 5 (five) pages (both sides) of additional documentation (i.e. news articles, supervisor's recommendations.)
- Good quality head and shoulders photograph (color copies or low grade computer printouts will not be accepted)

(Note: No entries will be considered for Department Judging if all of the above criteria is not included with the nomination)

State Awards

The first place winner in each of the three categories will receive \$100.00 Cash and a special engraved plaque. A special engraved plaque will also be presented to the winning Teacher's School.

The Categories are:

- Kindergarten through 5th Grade,
- 6th through 8th Grade, and
- 9th through 12th Grade.

National Awards

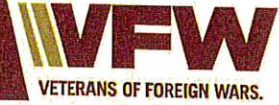
(as shown on our National Headquarters web page, www.vfw.org.)

Included in this Program is the end of the year Post Report Form that the District Chairman is to fill out and submit to the State Youth Activities Program Director no later than December 29, 2024.

With your help and dedication, we can continue to show our "Veterans and Families - We Got You"



2024-2025 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

What is the Teacher Award Program?

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America's youth. VFW and its Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America's educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They're concerned about the perpetuation of America's noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn't you like to see them get the honor they deserve? Now you can.

Why Should I Enter?

VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. The national awards include \$1,000 Smart/Maher award for each of the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses, \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school, commemorative plaques and all-expense-paid trip to the VFW National Convention.

Who is Eligible?

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national VFW winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the official entry form contained on the next page, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed entry form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit vfw.org/FindaPost for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2024. It is the responsibility of the nominator to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Citizenship (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

Innovation (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

Resources (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

Passion (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

*If you have any questions, please call
Tammy Beauchamp, 816.756.3390, ext 6287
or tbeauchamp@vfw.org.*

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: Name, Title

Phone Best time to call

Alternative Contact: Name, Title

Phone Best time to call

**2024-2025 Smart/Maher VFW National
Citizenship Education Teacher Award**



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

**2024-2025 Official Entry Form
Teacher Award Competition**

Please tell us who you are nominating—below in box.

Name: First, M.I., Last	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
() Phone	Email
Grade Level (K-5, 6-8, or 9-12)	
School Name	
School Address	
() School Phone	School Email

Person Nominating Teacher

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this teacher has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Teacher Award Competition.

 Post Commander's/Chairperson's Signature Post #

 VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairperson's Signature (If Applicable)

 Post Address

 City, State, Zip

 VFW Post Email

 No. of teachers participating

 No. of winners advanced to District

 Amt. of Post /Aux. scholarship awards \$

 Amt. of Post /Aux. additional expenses \$ (banquet, pins, etc.)

To Be Completed by the VFW District (If Applicable)

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Teacher Award District Competition and is our entry into the Department judging.

 District Chairperson's Signature Dist #

 Address

 City, State, Zip

() Phone Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Teacher Award Department Competition, is our entry into the National Judging.

 Department Chairperson's Signature

() Daytime Phone Email

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries will begin at the local VFW Post level. Individual nominees may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One Post winner can be submitted for each level, and to District by Nov. 15. If your Department does not have a District judging, then submit to your Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. Otherwise, one District winner, at each level, may advance to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to find your local VFW Post. Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/ContactUs and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at tbeauchamp@vfw.org.



SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD CITATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR SCHOOLS

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program. Effective this year, VFW Post Teacher Award Chairman may submit one candidate to their **Department Headquarters by January 1, unless your state does district judging.** The Department will select a single candidate and submit them to **VFW National Headquarters by February 1 for national judging.** VFW's Department Teacher winners that are received at National Headquarters will receive a VFW National citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the completed "VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form" which is now available on the VFW website. Simply visit vfw.org/#login, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on VFW Training & Support, then click on Community Service & Youth Programs, then look under Additional Resources. The Teacher Entry form, Instruction sheet, Citation request form and Chairman's Manual will be up on the VFW website in the near future.

Who Is Eligible?

1. Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today.
2. All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

Documentation Required for all Candidates:

1. All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available. These items will be forwarded on to the Department with the winning teacher entry form.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

800 W. 34th Street Office 816.756.5390
Kansas City, MO 64111 Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

280 Maryland Ave., NE Office 202.543.2259
Washington, D.C. 20002 Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

MATERIAL FOR THE DISTRICT CONTEST

VFW DISTRICT CHAIRMEN ONLY
DISTRICT REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE
SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD

USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO COMPLETE THE ATTACHED:

The guidelines listed below are intended to help clarify the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award reporting process and to ensure that all participation and expenses incurred by Posts/Auxiliaries are completely and accurately reported for proper credit:

TOTAL POST PARTICIPATION

List Posts in your District that had a declared winner. Please list the participating Posts in numerical order on the report form.

TOTAL AUXILIARY PARTICIPATION

If Post has an Auxiliary, credit their participation by indicating **YES** or **NO**.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Number of schools that had teachers nominated.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING TEACHERS

Number of teachers that actually were nominated.

AWARDS AND MONEY EXPENDED

Total dollar values of awards presented to teacher participants at Post & District level. All additional moneys allocated and expended in conducting their program. (Banquet, gifts, medals, citations, etc.)

Forwarding Smart/Maher VFW Natl Citizenship Education
Teacher Award District Winners to Department

District Chairman: The District winner's materials that should be forwarded to the Department Chairman (immediately after the District judging is completed) are:

1. District winner's original nomination form and essay of 350 words or less signed by person nominating the teacher.
2. District winner's official Post Teacher Entry form w/signatures at Post & District level.
3. One page resume (**no more than two sides**).
4. Up to 5 pages (both sides) of additional documentation (i.e. news articles, supervisor's recommendations.)
5. Good quality head and shoulders photograph (**low grade computer printouts will not be accepted.**)

If you have any questions, please contact VFW Programs (816) 756-3390 x 287
tbeauchamp@vfw.org

VFW DISTRICT CHAIRMEN ONLY

**DISTRICT REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE
SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD**

USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO COMPLETE THE ATTACHED:

The guidelines listed below are intended to help clarify the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award reporting process and to ensure that all participation and expenses incurred by Posts/Auxiliaries are completely and accurately reported for proper credit:

TOTAL POST PARTICIPATION

List Posts in your District that had a declared winner. Please list the participating Posts in numerical order on the report form.

TOTAL AUXILIARY PARTICIPATION

If Post has an Auxiliary, credit their participation by indicating *YES* or *NO*.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Number of schools that had teachers nominated.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING TEACHERS

Number of teachers that actually were nominated.

AWARDS AND MONEY EXPENDED

Total dollar values of awards presented to teacher participants at Post & District level. All additional moneys allocated and expended in conducting their program. (Banquet, gifts, medals, citations, etc.)

**Forwarding Smart/Maher VFW Natl Citizenship Education Teacher Award
District Winners to Department**

District Chairman: The District winner's materials that should be forwarded to the Department Chairman (immediately after the District judging is completed) are:

1. District winner's original nomination form and essay of 350 words or less signed by person nominating the teacher.
2. District winner's official Post Teacher Entry form w/ signatures at Post & District level.
3. One page resume (**no more than two sides**).
4. Up to 5 pages (both sides) of additional documentation (i.e. news articles, supervisor's

MATERIAL FOR THE DISTRICT CONTEST

VFW DISTRICT CHAIRMEN ONLY

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PUBLIC SERVANT RECOGNITION (NATIONAL)

PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATIONS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, EOD TECHNICIANS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHERS, AND FIREFIGHTERS

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement, 911 dispatchers and firefighter personnel to receive VFW Public Servant Awards. Post Safety Chairmen are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to their Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. The Department must select a single candidate for each of the four awards and submit those to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the "VFW Department Public Servant Award Citation Request Form" which is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under "My VFW" in the Training & Support section.

VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Public Servant Citation:

Any individual, who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation's citizens.

VFW National Law Enforcement Public Servant Citation:

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individual employed by private companies or security services.

VFW National Emergency Medical Dispatcher Citation

Any individual who is employed by a 911 Dispatch Center

VFW National Firefighters Public Servant Citation: Any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

EOD Technician

Criteria for these awards – Candidates must have demonstrated:

- 1) Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve.
- 2) Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties.
- 3) Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

Documentation required for all Candidates:

- 1) Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
 - a. Include justification outlining background in field, accomplishments and awards.

Note NEW (not required) One (1) page VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under "My VFW" in the Training & Support section.

If you have any questions contact Tammy Beauchamp at 816.756.3390 Ext. 6287, e-mail tbeauchamp@vfw.org .



VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form

NOTE: VFW Point of Contact should fill out their section below prior to distributing this form.
This will provide individuals from outside of the VFW with the needed information to submit their packets successfully.

To be filled out by VFW representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #: Sponsoring District #:

Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available)

VFW Post POC

Full Name:

Phone: Email:

Address: (where to mail entry)

City: State: Zip:

Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name:

Phone: Email:

Nominee Information

Choose appropriate citation: (EMT, Firefighter or Law Enforcement)

Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Occupation Title: (if any) (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Employer Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Address of Employer:

City: State: Zip:

Employer Phone: Employer Email: (if available)

Please complete this form and submit to your local VFW Post using the information provided above. Ensure to include all required documentation that is outlined in the instructions sheet provided with this form. All post entries must be received by their Department Headquarters no later than January 1st. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tammy Beauchamp at 816-756-3390 x 6287, e-mail tbeauchamp@vfw.org

VFW Unpaid Appointment Committees Department Listing
09/23/2024

Illinois

National Assistant Inspector General	Robert P. Owen	9763-15
National Assistant Inspector General	Raymond O. Rigsby	7448-5
National Assistant Inspector General	Joshua Seed	755-10
National Assistant Inspector General	Jimmie D Waters	454-7
National Deputy Chief of Staff	Mathius L. Carter	12014-5
National Deputy Chief of Staff	Jonathan L. Cooper	8821-3
National Deputy Chief of Staff	John A. Metzger	2671-15
National Deputy Chief of Staff	Joseph S. Swinford	4168-11
National Special Aide-de-Camp	Dennis R. Jensen	5815-19
National Special Aide-de-Camp	Lawrence R. Miller	11463-10
National Special Aide-de-Camp	Travis A Wheet	454-7
National Special Aide-de-Camp	Barbara R Wilson	3455-15

VFW Unpaid Appointment Committees Department Listing
09/23/2024

Illinois

National Aide-de-Camp	Emile N. Bouvet	10302-10
National Aide-de-Camp	Staci L. Boyer	3873-19
National Aide-de-Camp	Robert L. Brown	5975-17
National Aide-de-Camp	Elvin Cintron	8821-3
National Aide-de-Camp	Rosemary E. Connolly	755-10
National Aide-de-Camp	Donald W. Crop	454-7
National Aide-de-Camp	Ermon Davis	311-16
National Aide-de-Camp	Jeremy D. Deckard	5975-17
National Aide-de-Camp	David R. Draeger	342-6
National Aide-de-Camp	John R. Dudash	2791-16
National Aide-de-Camp	Scott A. Durano	5422-18
National Aide-de-Camp	Jason P. Edwards	5975-17
National Aide-de-Camp	John J. Erwin	5036-19
National Aide-de-Camp	John L. Finnegan	5506-9
National Aide-de-Camp	Victor R. Fischer	5819-19
National Aide-de-Camp	Christopher C. Garza	8821-3
National Aide-de-Camp	Clifford D. Hall	7539-19
National Aide-de-Camp	Steven L. Hunter	1197-19
National Aide-de-Camp	Charles E. Ingle	2955-6
National Aide-de-Camp	Michael P. Isham	1461-6
National Aide-de-Camp	Leonardo M. Jaime	3873-19
National Aide-de-Camp	Scott J. Kirsch	2859-12
National Aide-de-Camp	Bradley M. Lemke	1241-12
National Aide-de-Camp	David R. Long Jr.	454-7
National Aide-de-Camp	Christopher W. Miller	1308-12
National Aide-de-Camp	Iris G. Miller	5117-8
National Aide-de-Camp	Dean E. Moran	2202-4
National Aide-de-Camp	Antonio Munoz IV	5079-3
National Aide-de-Camp	Kevin E. Narup	7448-5
National Aide-de-Camp	Benjamin W. Newborn	9153-13
National Aide-de-Camp	Gregory J. Palmer	5917-18
National Aide-de-Camp	Jill A. Schofield	7682-14
National Aide-de-Camp	Ryan B. Shurtz	9153-13
National Aide-de-Camp	Alonzo J. Skipper	5691-12
National Aide-de-Camp	Robert M. Skudlarek	2377-19
National Aide-de-Camp	Lowell C. Spieker	6190-11
National Aide-de-Camp	Arnold L Taylor	311-16
National Aide-de-Camp	John L. Winterton	8739-6
National Aide-de-Camp	Richard R Zawislak	5036-19



TOP OF ILLINOIS VETERAN'S STAND DOWN

DATE: Friday, 25 October 2024

**WHERE: SecondFirst Church
318 N. Church Street
Rockford, IL 61101**

TIME: 9 AM - 12 PM

**Bring a copy of your DD 214, VA ID card,
or other proof of your service to receive
Veterans only services**

AVAILABLE SERVICES INCLUDE:

**Sack Lunch, Clothing Distribution
Vet Center/V.A. & IDVA Help**

Fellowship and much more

**Plan on coming by and enjoy the company of fellow veterans and
caring people who appreciate the sacrifice you were willing to
make when you were on active military duty.**

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Contact: Ron Sodko usmc3030@yahoo.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/693002347434269>

VHA INNOVATION EXPERIENCE (iEX) HEADS TO CHICAGO!

Veterans Health Administration's Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning (VHA OHIL) invites you to the **2024 VHA Innovation Experience (iEX) Conference**, held **October 29-30 in Chicago, IL.**

iEX is the annual flagship conference for OHIL, showcasing employee driven innovations, collaborations, and the journey of innovation - ultimately highlighting VA's commitment to delivering upon our mission of serving all who served.

iEX is open to anyone and provides Veterans, industry leaders, and the public an opportunity to experience and celebrate how innovation, collaboration, and technology are forging the future of Veteran health care.

REGISTER NOW

The 2024 VHA iEX will take place in-person October 29-30, at the **InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel** in Chicago, IL.

Scan the QR code for information on registration, agenda highlights, and more! Seats are limited, so secure yours by registering to attend VHA iEX in-person today. Email ix@va.gov with questions.



THE EXPERIENCE

iEX 2024 has a power-packed, two-day agenda focused on Innovators, Collaborate for Change!, which includes keynote speakers and expert panels led by VA change-makers and innovation visionaries. Register to secure your seat for:

- Government Panel
- Innovate Illinois Panel
- 10th VHA Shark Tank Competition
- Breakout tracks

Join fellow visionaries in shaping the future of health care and explore ways VA is improving care for all who served, now and into the future.



Project Based Voucher Waitlist Opening

Otto Square Veteran's Housing

The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) will be re-opening its site-based wait lists to **veterans only** for one- and two-bedroom project-based voucher (PBV) units for Otto Square Veteran's Housing located at 1440 Otto Blvd. in Chicago Heights IL 60411. Otto Square is an 82 unit new construction community designed with the purpose of providing quality, affordable housing for our country's veterans.

The PBV Program is a rental assistance program where the resident pays 30% of his/her income towards the rent. To be eligible for the PBV units, the applicant's household income may not exceed the very low income limit (**50% AMI**), which is as follows:

\$39,250 for a 1 person household

\$44,850 for a 2 person household

\$50,450 for a 3 person household

\$56,050 for a 4 person household

The maximum occupancy standard is 2 people per bedroom. Families are assigned a unit size based on the HACC's subsidy standards. Families with more than 4 people will not qualify.

Applications will be available beginning on **Monday, October 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** To apply, applicants need to log onto the HACC's website at www.thehacc.org. Scroll down and click "**Open Wait List**" on the HACC's home page. Select the desired property and then click "Apply to Wait List." The wait list will close at **4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 2024.**

Applications must be submitted electronically through the website. At this time, **only applications submitted by veterans will be added to the wait list**; the order of placement on the wait list will be based on a randomized computer-generated lottery system. Applications from non-veterans will not be added to the wait list.

To identify as a veteran, make sure to check the "US Military Veteran" box on the "Waiting List Preferences" page of the application. For verification of veteran status, veteran applicants MUST submit a copy of their DD214 at the time of application. It must be submitted to pbvwaitlist@thehacc.org with "Otto Veteran Verification" in the subject line. Applications submitted without the DD214 will not be added to the wait list. Veteran applicants who are currently on the HACC's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program wait list will receive a preference.

If you need assistance or require a reasonable accommodation, please send an email to pbvwaitlist@thehacc.org, with *Otto WL Reasonable Accommodation* as the subject.

