



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

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**Illinois**

2023-2024 Series  
**General Orders No. 12**  
June 2024

**STATE HEADQUARTERS CLOSURE**

State Headquarters will be closed on June 19<sup>th</sup> in observation of Juneteenth.

**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.

**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 convention 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.

### **2024-2025 OFFICERS-ELECT**

District and Post Officers elected or appointed for the 2024-2025 term are reminded that *they will not take office until the Installation of the State Commander on Saturday, June 8, 2024.* You are also reminded that the nomination of officers will be held on Friday afternoon, June 7, 2024 with the election and installation of officers taking place on Saturday afternoon, June 8, 2024. ***DELEGATE REGISTRATION CLOSSES AT 10:00 a.m. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 8th. REGISTER EARLY!!***

### **PROGRAM DIRECTORS REPORTS – STATE CONVENTION**

***All program directors*** – please have your reports printed so that you will be able to pass it to the State Adjutant 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. 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 2024-2025 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.

## **RUN TO THE END**

The Department of is making a push for the end of the Year. Our membership challenge will begin on May 1<sup>st</sup> and run through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

We have Posts in 11 Divisions based on strength. The challenge is that the top post in each division showing the highest membership percentage increase through May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, will receive a \$250 check to the post.

## **STATE CONVENTION**

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

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

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

The VFW meetings will be held in the BOS Center at 1 Convention Center Plaza Springfield, IL 62701, which is located conveniently adjacent to both hotels. The VFW Auxiliary meetings will be held in the President Abe Lincoln Double Tree Hotel.

## ATTENTION TO EVERYONE PLANNING TO ATTEND STATE CONVENTION

There are detours and traffic pattern changes around the hotels and convention center.

Springfield is part of the high speed rail project. All of the trains in Springfield will eventually be using the tracks on the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor. Several streets between 9<sup>th</sup> St and 11<sup>th</sup> St are currently closed while they build new underpasses, overpasses, and crossings.

If you come into Springfield using Clear Lake Rd, you will have to detour to Carpenter St or Cook St to get around the construction sites.

If you are coming from the North, you can exit on Sangamon Ave (Exit 100) go to Peoria Rd/9<sup>th</sup> St and go south to convention center and hotels.

If you are coming from the South, you can exit on South Grand (Exit 96) go to 9<sup>th</sup> St and then North to convention center and hotels.

The other MAJOR change is the change to traffic patterns in downtown Springfield.

For the last 50+ years Springfield has been known for all of its one way streets in downtown Springfield. **Starting May 5, 2024, many of those streets will be changed from one way to two way traffic. This includes Adams Street which is the street between the 2 hotels and convention center.**

This change will be as confusing for local residents as it will be for visitors so stay alert for drivers that may be confused.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE - CREDENTIALS

Post Commanders and Quartermasters are reminded that they will not receive their credentials for the State Convention unless they have:

- Report of Election of Officers Submitted
- All Quarterly Audits Properly Completed - Including March 31, 2023
- Post Bonds Properly Submitted to State Headquarters

° All Debt to the State Covered (*Including: poppies, etc...*)

**NOTE:** All delegates will pick up their credentials in Room B 11 A/B of the BOS beginning at 1:00pm on Thursday, June 6, 2024.

### **HOSPITALITY ROOM**

This year the joint hospitality rooms have been moved to President Abe Lincoln Double Tree Hotel, 701 E Adams St, Springfield, IL. This hotel is directly across the street from the Wyndham City Center.

The joint hospitality room will be in the Freeport Room and the Governor Yates Room on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**According to the City Fire Code and the hotel rules, there can be NO heating devices or heating elements in the hospitality room. This includes electric hot plates, crock pots, roasters, and definitely nothing that is gas or propane.**

You can have a hot box or thermal insulated container if you want to bring in hot foods in order to keep them warm but nothing that has to be plugged in to keep temperature.

### **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.

## PAST DISTRICT COMMANDER'S ASSOCIATION

The Past District Commander's Association is meeting during the State Convention; there will be a luncheon for the Past District Commanders Association on Friday, June 7, 2024 from 1200-1300 hours. Cost of the luncheon is \$20. Anyone that is a currently serving as District Commander (term ending June 2024) 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

## 2024 DISTRICT COMMANDER-ELECT CONFERENCE

Once District Elections are held, an invitation will be sent to newly-elected District Commanders for 2024-2025 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 6th, 2024 at 8a.m. The agenda is attached.

**PLEASE NOTE:** District Commanders-Elect should be present during Council of Administration Meeting, June 6th, 2024. Please dress in a *coat, tie and cap* to have your photograph taken. Also, they **must** be present Saturday, June 8th, 2024 during the installation of officers!

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

## COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

On Saturday, June 8, 2024 join the newly installed IL VFW State Commander and IL VFW Auxiliary State President for the Commander and President's Reception. Reception will be in BOS Center Room B 11 C/D.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

This year at State Convention, we have expanded the breakout sessions and seminars that we are offering to attendees. All of this training will be held in BOS Center on Thursday, June 6, 2024 and Friday, June 7, 2024. The tentative schedule is below. Some of this training is specifically for VFW members but some of the training is applicable for both VFW and Auxiliary Members. The classes are annotated to show the audience for the training. Anyone (VFW or Auxiliary) can attend any of the training.

*\*Schedule with room numbers is attached.*

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE & TRIBUTE TO GOLD STAR PARENTS & FAMILY**

### **MEMBERS**

The Memorial Service held during our State Convention will be held in Room B 11 C/D of the BOS Center on Thursday June 6, 2024 beginning at 6:00 pm with State Chaplain Reverend Gary Holmes presiding.

## **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. 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 homeless veteran's shelters.

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 *B-11 A/B* of the BOS Center 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, Vince Long, Post 1756-10

Jeff Britt, Post 6865-14

Rick Frank, Post 1461-6

Bill Regan, Post 7452-19

### **STATE PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Room B-10 of the BOS Center 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 B-11 A/B of the BOS Center starting on Thursday, June 6, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 pm, and continuing on Friday, June 7, 2024 from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm.

All poppy displays must be picked up from B-11 A/B before 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

### **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 B-11 A/B of the BOS Center starting on Thursday, June 6, 2024 from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm The Supply Sales Booth will continue on Friday from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm and Saturday from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm.

### **DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE**

The Distinguished Guest Committee Members will use the VIP Room in the BOS Center as their base of operations for our distinguished guests.

#### ***Distinguished Guest Committee:***

Brad Gould, Post 630-7

John Davin, Post 5917-18

J.D. Spindler, Post 4549-17

## OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO STATE CONVENTION

The officers below are assigned to be present at the Council of Administration Meeting in B-7 of the BOS Center on Thursday, June 6, 2024. They should also be in attendance for the Joint Opening Session on Friday, June 7, 2024 at 8:00 am in B-11 C/D and all business sessions on Friday and Saturday.

### Credentials Committee:

*Chairman:* 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, Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

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

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

## STATE PROGRAM AWARDS

### SMART/MAHER VFW CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARDS

The first place winner in each of the three categories received \$100 cash and a specially engraved plaque awarded to them at ceremonies held at their schools. A specially engraved plaque will also be presented to the winning Teacher's School. This year's Department winners are:

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>School</i>
Jill Metzger	K-5	Pleasant Lane School
Katie Sommer	6-8	Spencer Crossing Intermediate School
Paula West	9-12	Richland County High School

### **\*BLOOD DONOR AWARDS**

A monetary award of \$50 will be awarded to the Post who donates the most pints of blood in each of the following membership categories...

Category I - Up to 150 Member Category - Randolph County Post 2698, District 14

Category II - 151-300 Member Category- Roscoe Post 2955, District 6

Category III - 301 and Up Member Category- Montgomery Memorial Post 7452, District 19

### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES RECORDBOOKS AWARD**

The top Community Activities Record Book in each Membership Category will receive a \$50 monetary award at the State Convention...

Category I - Up to 150 Members - Bloomingdale Post 7539, District 19

Category II - 151 to 300 Members - John Hugo Kaiser Post 1461, District 6

Category III - 301 Members and up - Benjamin O. Davis Post 311, District 16

### **HOSPITAL/VAVS AWARDS**

The Districts who achieve 100% in Post participation in the Hospital/VAVS Program by April 30, 2023 will be awarded \$50.00 CASH to be used in the continuation of the Hospital VAVS Program...

District 11, Rick Hobbs, Commander

### **PUBLICATIONS**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: 1-4 (Post) Chatham-Auburn Memorial Post 4763 Quarterly Newsletter, Duane Hisel & Stephanie Wells, Editors

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 1-4 (Post) Arlington Heights Post 981 Quarterly Newsletter, Mike Kolbuk, Editor

1<sup>st</sup> Place 5 and up (Post) no entries

1<sup>st</sup> Place: 1-4 (District) Got Your Six, VFW District 6 Newsletter, Rob Bland, Editor

### **NATIONAL HOME AWARDS**

The Post with the most dollars donated will receive a beautifully engraved plaque noting their accomplishment...

Judd Kendall Post 3873, District 19

Fox River Post 4660, District 5

Stage Depot Post 976, District 12

These Districts will receive a citation for reporting 100% before April 30, 2022.

District 13, Deana Hiltibidal, Commander

District 14, Clyde Rowold, Commander

### **SAFETY AWARDS**

A special plaque will be presented to the top Post in the following three membership categories who reported the largest amount of hours, dollars and members:

Category I - Up to 150 Members - Prospect Post 1337, District 4

Category II - 151-300 Members - Addison Post 7446, District 19

Category III - 301 and Up Members - Sgt. Charles A. Fricke Post 805, District 14

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES AWARDS**

A \$50 cash award and certificate will be presented to the following Posts who have the most hours, dollars, and number of members participating in the following membership categories...

Category I - Up to 150 Member Category - Arnold Heath Memorial Post 5151, District 4

Category II - 151 - 300 Member Category- Ambraw Post 2244, District 13

Category III - 301 Member and Up Category- Villa Park Post 2801, District 19

An engraved plaque will be presented to the District with the most total hours, donations and members reported....

Laurie Emmer, District 19, Commander

### **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AWARDS**

For sponsoring the State Voice of Democracy Champion, this Post will receive a personalized plaque...

Archie Miles Post 4724, District 9

The school where the State winner attends will receive a \$500.00 award.

Elmwood High School

All Posts who participated in the judging portion of the Voice of Democracy Program will receive a certificate presented at their next District Meeting.

### **PATRIOT'S PEN**

For sponsoring the State Patriot's Pen Winner, this Post will receive a personalized plaque...

Ronald Hill Memorial Post 2245, District 5

### **SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Boy Scout listed below will receive a monetary award of \$300...

Christopher Kenny, Sponsored by Lemont 22 Honor Post 5819-19

### **MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

I would like to congratulate those who qualified for the All-State Team. *Please see the complete listing of our All-State Team Members in this General Orders.*

All-State Team Post Commanders will be presented:

All-State Commander's Cap Distinguished Service Lapel Pin

All-State Team Post Quartermasters will be presented:

Distinguished Service Lapel Pin Quartermasters may purchase an All-State Quartermaster's Cap

**2023-2024 ALL-STATE TEAM OF DISTRICT  
COMMANDERS**

At the District level, there were no Districts who qualified for All-State.

**2023-2024 ALL-STATE TEAM OF POST COMMANDERS  
AND QUARTERMASTERS**

<b><u>POST #</u></b>	<b><u>CMDR.</u></b>	<b><u>QM.</u></b>
<b><u>DISTRICT 6</u></b>		
Post 342 Post 8739	Gary Holmes Brian Beckman	Lana McCants Stanley Asp
<b><u>DISTRICT 10</u></b>		
Post 755 Post 11463	Josh Seed Kyle Blumhorst	Jim Carroll Larry Miller
<b><u>DISTRICT 11</u></b>		
Post 5346 Post 6190	Seth Floyd Stephen Sigler	Gordon Lawrence Lowell Spieker
<b><u>DISTRICT 12</u></b>		
Post 1241	Bradley Lemke	Wayne Bruhn

**DISTRICT 14**

Post 1117	Robert Wilson	John Forister
Post 1739	Douglas Jameson	James Page
Post 3480	Valerie Young	Jeannen Flemings

**DISTRICT 16**

Post 311	Aretha Spurlock	Arnold Taylor
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**POW/MIA PROGRAM AWARD**

The Dennis Nelson Memorial POW-MIA Award will be awarded to the VFW Post that demonstrates the most outstanding POW-MIA Recognition Program within their community. This award is presented to:

St. Charles Memorial Post 5036, District 19

**POPPY AWARDS**

The Post below will be awarded a beautiful plaque for the greatest numerical increase in buddy poppy sales according to the following membership classifications...

Category I - Up to 150 Members - Col. Thomas G. Lawler Post 342, District 6

Category II - 151-300 Members - Kahokian Memorial Post 5691, District 12

Category III - 301 and Up Members - Bremen Post 2791, District 3

**THROUGH CHANNELS**

Post Commanders, County Council Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all Resolutions or communications relative to FEDERAL LEGISLATION OR TO THE POLICY OR PROCEDURE OF THE U.S. VETERANS ADMINISTRATION OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY to the State Headquarters for endorsement and referral to the Adjutant General.

## **2024 ILLINOIS STATE CONVENTION RAFFLE**

*The 2024 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 8, 2024, 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.

## **125th VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION**

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

## **FIRST COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING & COMMANDER'S**

### **HOMECOMING**

The first Council of Administration Meeting will be held August 16-17, 2024.

Commanders Homecoming August 16-17, 2024.

### **Hotel Information**

Four Points by Sheraton  
319 Fountains Parkway  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
(618) 622-9500

Room cost is \$115.00 + tax. Room block is **IL VFW**, cut off for room reservations is **July 15, 2024**.

Homecoming Banquet tickets are \$55 per person. Order through State Headquarters. Cut off for banquet reservations is **August 7, 2024**.



## NEW CENTURY RAFFLE

The New Century Raffle has officially started and will run through June 30, 2024. The tickets are just \$10.00 each. Each ticket entitles you to participate in a weekly drawing of \$100 from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Drawings will be held each Friday beginning July 1, 2023, with each week's winning ticket being returned to the barrel for the future drawings. This means each ticket has multiple chances to win. The seller of each ticket also has a chance to win \$10.00. If seller prints their name on ticket, they will receive \$10.00. If the seller does not sign the ticket, the \$10.00 will be automatically donated and split between Department's Unmet Needs Program and Children's National Home. Winners will be announced each month in the General Orders and posted on <http://vfwil.org> web site.

### **WEEKLY WINNER**

<u>Date of Drawing</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Seller</u>
5/3/24	Carl Dennis	No Seller Listed
5/10/24	Danny Heustis	No Seller Listed
5/17/24	Kathy Konishi	Kathy Konishi
5/24/24	Ralph Miller	No Seller Listed
5/31/24	William Sherry	William Sherry

## VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Walter Ladd of East St. Louis Post 3480 on being selected as the April Veteran of the Month. Comrade Walter Ladd has been a very instrumental figure for VFW Post 3480. He is always readily to assist the Post by staying informed with Post events and volunteering at those events. He recently supported the Post by volunteering at their first blood drive, where he gave blood for the first time. Comrade Ladd stands out in the Post with his eagerness to serve and is very supportive with the accomplishments of his fellow Comrades within the Post. Comrade Ladd will only continue to serve the Post and will take his first Officer position in the 2024-25 year as Post Chaplain. Through these acts, Comrade Walter Ladd is being recognized as the April 2024 Veteran of the Month. Thank you to all who submitted nominations for this month; please continue to do so. For those that did not, please look for those comrades

from your post who stand apart from the rest by serving the community, Veterans and embodying the purposes of our congressional charter: to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead; and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United states from all her enemies.

### POST CONSOLIDATIONS

Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento has approved the consolidation of Posts 468 in Aurora and 7452 in Montgomery, to be known as Montgomery Memorial Post 7452 in Montgomery, Illinois. Please update your records accordingly.

By Order of:

Official



Joseph H. Bartley  
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Brett Nila  
State Commander

**Agenda for  
State Convention  
BOS Center  
June 6-9, 2024**

Wednesday, June 5

Set up State HQ Remote Office, Registration Area, Emblem and Supply  
No VFW Events Scheduled

**Pre-Convention Activities**

Thursday, June 6

0800-1200 District Commander Elect Training (BOS B-7)  
1200-1300 Membership Challenge Luncheon (By Invite Only) (BOS B-2)  
1300-1700 Registration Open (BOS B11A-B)  
1300-1700 Exhibitor/Vendor Booths open (BOS B11A-B)  
1300-1700 Emblem and Supply Open (BOS B-4)  
1300-1700 Silent Auction Open (BOS B11A-B)  
1300-1700 Poppy Display Open (BOS B-4)  
1330-1500 Committee Meetings (BOS B-7)  
1500-1630 Council of Administration (BOS B-7)  
1400-1630 Breakout Sessions (BOS B-1, B-2, B-3, B-6, B-8, BOS 11C-D)  
1630-1700 Foundation Meeting (BOS B-7)  
1800-1900 Memorial Service (BOS B11C-D)  
TBD Hospitality Room Open (PAL Freeport and Governor Yates Rooms)

**Convention Activities**

Friday, June 7

**0800-1000 JOINT OPENING CEREMONY (BOS B11C-D)**  
0800-1700 Registration Open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1700 Exhibitor/Vendor Booths open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1700 Emblem and Supply Open (BOS B-4)  
0800-1700 Silent Auction Open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1700 Poppy Display Open (BOS B-4)  
**1000-1200 BUSINESS SESSION (BOS B11C-D)**  
Rules of Convention, Credentials, Legislative  
Guest Speaker  
Program Reports  
1200-1300 Past District Commander's Association Luncheon (BOS B-2)  
**1300-1400 BUSINESS SESSION (BOS B11C-D)**  
Program Reports  
1<sup>st</sup> Nominations  
1400-1630 Breakout Sessions (BOS B-1, B-2, B-6, B-7, B-8, BOS 11C-D)  
1800-1930 Patriotic Rally (BOS B11C-D)  
TBD Hospitality Room Open (PAL Freeport and Governor Yates Rooms)

Saturday, June 8

- 0700-0745 Prayer Breakfast (BOS B-2)  
**0800-1200 BUSINESS SESSION (BOS B11C-D)**  
Guests from other Veterans Groups  
VA Hospitals  
State Veterans Homes  
Buddy Poppy Report  
National Home Report and Silver March  
other Program Reports  
0800-1000 Registration Open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1200 Exhibitor/Vendor Booths open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1200 Emblem and Supply Open (BOS B-4)  
0800-1100 Silent Auction Open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1100 Poppy Display Open (BOS B-4)  
1200-1300 Past State Commander's Luncheon (BOS B-2)  
1300-1500 **BUSINESS SESSION (BOS B11C-D)**  
By-Laws and Resolutions  
Credentials  
Convention Raffle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Nominations  
Election  
**1500-1600 JOINT INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS (BOS B11C-D)**  
1800-2000 Commander and President's Reception (BOS B11C-D)  
*Entertainment by Tim Chandler Trio and Friends*  
TBD Hospitality Room Open (PAL Freeport and Governor Yates Rooms)

**Post Convention Activities**

Sunday, June 9

- 0900-0930 Council of Administration (PAL Governor Bond Room)

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS/SEMINARS AT STATE CONVENTION

This year at State Convention, we have expanded the breakout sessions and seminars that we are offering to attendees. All of this training will be held in BOS Center on Thursday, June 6, 2024 and Friday, June 7, 2024. The tentative schedule is below. Some of this training is specifically for VFW members but some of the training is applicable for both VFW and Auxiliary Members. The classes are annotated to show the audience for the training. Anyone (VFW or Auxiliary) can attend any of the training.

June 6, 2024

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Membership Events (VFW and Aux) BOS B-8  
Fundraising Ideas (VFW and Aux) BOS B-6  
State Benefit Programs for Veterans (VFW) BOS B11C/D  
How to Get Federal Surplus Property (VFW) BOS B-2  
Veterans Assistance Resources and Illinois Joining Forces (VFW) BOS B-1  
How to Attract Younger Members (VFW and Aux) BOS B-3

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Post Service Officer Training (VFW) BOS B-6  
How VA Assumable Loan works for Estate Planning - passing your benefits to your children (VFW and Aux) BOS B-8  
Supporting Women Veterans (VFW) BOS B-11C/D  
Onboarding New Members (VFW and Aux) BOS B-2  
Working with National Guard and Reserve Units (VFW and Aux) BOS B-1  
Tricare and Medicare – How do they work together (VFW) BOS B-3

June 7, 2024

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Recognizing Signs of Suicide and Suicide Prevention (VFW and Aux) BOS B-8  
Veterans Consumer Rights (VFW) BOS B-7  
Publicity and Newsletters (VFW and Aux) BOS B-6  
Duties and Responsibilities of Post Officers (VFW) BOS B-11C/D  
Chaplain Training (VFW) BOS B-2  
PACT Act (VFW and Aux) BOS B-1

3:00 to 4:30 pm

Post Service Officer Training (VFW) BOS B-6  
Overview of Military Veterans Rights Bureau and Military Veterans Assistance Overview (VFW) BOS B-7  
Obtaining and Using VA Housing Loan (VFW) BOS B-8  
Role of the District, Duties and Responsibilities of District Officers (VFW) BOS B-11C/D  
The Role of Auxiliary, Cooties, and Riders Groups (VFW and Aux) BOS B-2  
How to Input Program Reporting (VFW) BOS B-1

CONFIRMED VENDORS/EXHIBITORS

June 6 1 pm to 5 pm

June 7 8 am to 5 pm

June 8 8 am to 2 pm

**VFW Entities**

IL VFW – Veterans Service Officers  
IL VFW – Emblem and Supply  
IL VFW – State Historian  
VFW National Home  
IL VFW – Riders and Motorcycle Raffle

**Government Agencies**

IL Department of Corrections  
Sangamon County VAC  
IL National Guard Casualty Ops  
IL National Guard Survivor Outreach  
IL State Treasurer  
Chez Veterans Center at U of I  
IL Department of Veterans Affairs  
IL Department of Natural Resources (2  
tables)  
Chicago VA Public Contact Team  
VA Illiana  
Camp Butler National Cemetery  
IL Attorney General's Office

**Commercial**

Greco Graphics  
Lancaster Bingo  
American Income Life  
Home Instead  
Humana  
Aetna Better Health of IL  
T-Mobile Accessibility (2 Tables)

**Not for Profits**

Fifth Street Renaissance (CSP 25)  
Gold Star Mission  
Family Guidance Center  
Fox Valley Patriotic Organization  
Springfield Cares Soldier Mailing  
Gateway Foundation (FRI Only)  
Rosecrance Behavioral Health  
Project Die Hard (PSP 24)  
Military Women's Memorial  
Friends of Fisher House Illinois  
Featherfist (CSP 25)  
Orders and Medals Society of America  
Convention of States Action  
Eagles Nest of St Clair County (CSP 25)  
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network  
Road Home at Rush  
Military Order of Foreign Wars  
Sons of the Union Veterans of Civil War  
VA Housing Education  
Military One Source  
Heroes of the Metro East  
American Red Cross  
Wreaths Across America  
Veterans Path to Hope (CSP 25)

CSP 25 is Commander's Special Project for  
24-25

PSP 24 is President's Special Project for 23-  
24

TENTATIVE AGENDA  
District Commander Elect Training  
June 6, 2024

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 Cindy Watters
08:45-09:15	Communication with your District Comrades and Post Commanders	Jay Hoffman, Past District Commanders Assoc
09:15-09:45	Legislative Committee/Action Alert/Witness Slips	Legislative Team
09:45-10:15	Inspections	Rob Bailey and Cathy Stubbs
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 2024-2025 Commander's Leadership Manual	SVC Maurice Bridges
11:30-11:55	MEMSTATS and Membership	Dustin Dixon
11:55-12:00	Closing Remarks	Adj/QM

GENERAL ORDERS

PROGRAM SUMMARY

SCOUTING REPORT

JUNE 2024

THE 2023-2024 SCOUTING PROGRAM HAS CLOSED.

THE STATE SCOUT OF THE YEAR IS CHRISTOPHER KENNY OF SCOUTING AMERICA'S TROOP 49, LEMONT IL. HE WAS SPONSORED BY LEMONT VFW POST 5819 AND IS MEMBER OF THE PATHWAYS TO ADVENTURE COUNCIL. HE WILL BE PRESENTED HIS AWARD DURING THE CONVENTION.

THIS YEAR THE STATE HAD 12 ENTRIES; THIS WAS A 34% INCREASE FROM LAST YEAR

THERE WERE NO SELECTEES FROM GIRL SCOUT TROOPS.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR FUTURE APPLICANTS:

- READ THE REQUIREMENTS ON THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR APPLICATION
- THE SPONSORING VFW POST LOOK OVER THE APPLICATION AND ASSIST THE SCOUT IN MAKING SURE THE APPLICANT HAS FOLLOWED THE RULES
- KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL SCOUTING UNITS AND PROMOTE THE PROGRAM.

RON MILTON

STATE SCOUTING CHAIR