



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Illinois

**2023-2024 Series
General Orders No. 4
October 2023**

STATE HEADQUARTERS CLOSURES

The State Headquarters will be closed on the following days: October 9th for Columbus Day and October 19th and 20th for Big Ten Conference.

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.

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."

BUDDY POPPY CHANGES

National is introducing the NEW tin tab poppies. This is a punched aluminum poppy with a bend over tab. See the attached picture.

National will allow us to start ordering the new tin tab poppies effective Oct 1. They will continue to stock and ship the old poppies as well.

Good news is that the tin tab poppies are half the price as the regular poppies. Tin tab poppies are \$70 per 500 or \$140 per 1,000 plus shipping. In an effort to hold down the cost of shipping, State HQ has started ordering poppies in bulk and stocking them at State HQ. Posts ordering poppies will be charged actual shipping charges, not the rates being charged by National. This should also speed up the amount of time to get poppies shipped to the Post. State HQ has the traditional poppies in stock and will have the NEW tin tab poppies in stock shortly

According to Lynn Rolf from National Programs, both types of poppies will count for dashboard credit. This year, you have to order 3 poppies per member to receive credit on the National Dashboard.

We have updated the Poppy Order Form to show both types of poppies. Posts and Districts can order either poppy or both types. The new order form has been uploaded to vfwil.org web site and is attached to this month's General Orders.

Below is an email from QM Garduno regarding the NEW tin tab poppies.

Comrades,

I'd like to add just a bit of additional information because I'm sure you will receive questions from your Posts and membership just as we've already started to get them here at National Headquarters. In setting up the manufacturing process of these tin-tabs, we found two primary vendors who could produce the specifications we were looking for, who could satisfy the quantities we need, and of course offer them at a reasonable price. The first one we approached was American Solutions for Business based out of Glenwood, MN. The

other is Ketchum Manufacturing Inc. from Brockville, Ontario. Well, it turns out the tabs from American Solutions are manufactured in China.

We fully realize this can be a sore topic for some of our members, but these are the facts.

1. We are not resourced to dig into everything we purchase to determine the origins of where things are produced or where materials come from, just as our Departments are not resourced to do this either.
2. We decided at the 124th Convention in Phoenix to focus on serving Veterans and leave geopolitical activities like trade and importation to our elected officials.
3. The tin tabs from Canada are a tad bit better quality and the color is brighter, so moving forward we intend to stick with this company. This decision is based on product quality and not because of the manufacturing origin.
4. Lynn Rolf, Director of Programs, has a good video posted on his personal social media page and the VFW Post Discussion Group that effectively reviews how the tin-tab correlates with our programs.
5. Our limited experience thus far shows that the public is accepting of tin-tabs and donations when used have increased.
6. The legacy buddy poppy is still an available option, as is the tin-tab, and there's no plan to replace it. Both options count towards satisfying program requirements.

Marc Garduno

Quartermaster General

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, 2022.***

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.

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 9-12, 2024 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 10, 2024 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, 2023

Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs for the observance of Veterans Day, November 11, 2023 - 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 23, 2023 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 \$85,000 was donated by Illinois posts, districts, and the State HQ. Commander Nila presented a check for \$5,830 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.

2023-2024 Commander's Calls

Here are the 3 remaining Commanders' Calls that State Commander Brett Nila will be holding

October 7, 2023

Dow Stepp Memorial Post 5975
112 N. 5th St.
Marshall, IL 62441

October 8, 2023

Kahokian Memorial Post 5691
1234 Vandalia St.
Collinsville, IL 62234

April 13, 2024

LaFore Lock Post 755
2211 Old Jacksonville Rd.
Springfield, IL 62704

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 2023-2024.

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>
9/1/2023	Robert Umland	Robert Umland
9/8/2023	John Stallings	John Stallings

9/15/2023

James Quinn

No Seller Listed

9/22/2023

Thomas Marion

Tom Power

9/29/23

Richard Sleboda

No Seller Listed

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Nick Nichols of Monticello Post 5346-11 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.

By Order of:

Official

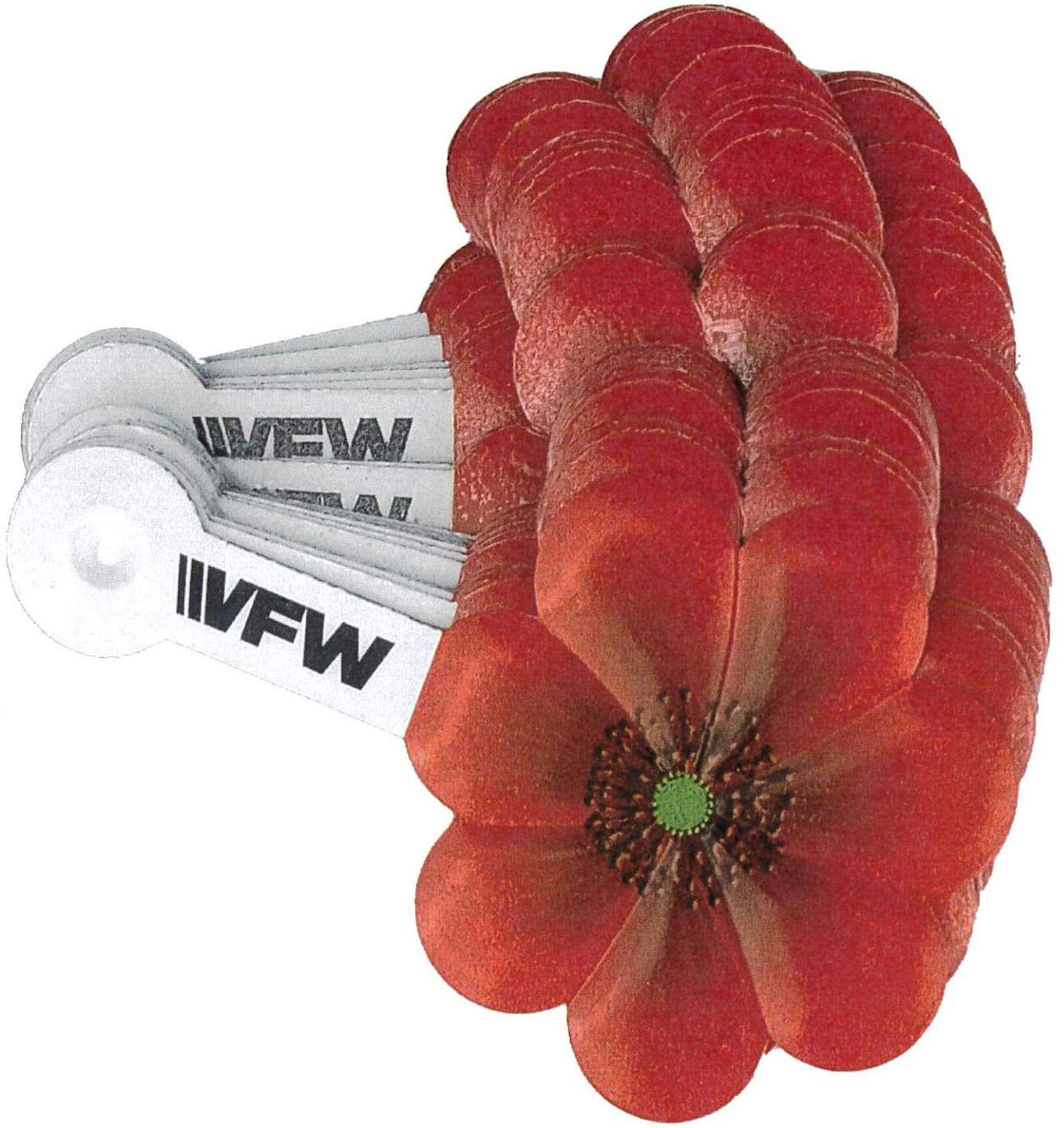


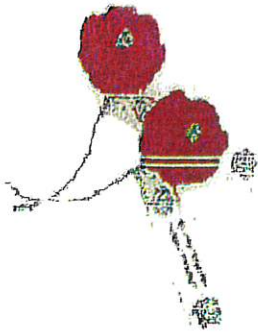
Joseph H. Bartley

Brett Nila

State Adjutant/Quartermaster

State Commander

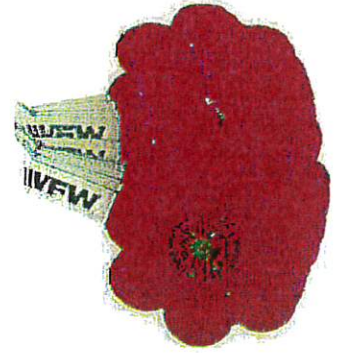




Traditional Poppy

POPPY ORDER FORM

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.
3300 CONSTITUTION DRIVE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711
FAX: 217-546-3415



Metal Poppy

ORDER DATE _____ DATE OF POPPY SALE _____

(Do not leave blank)

POST/AUX NAME _____ NUMBER _____ DISTRICT _____

PLEASE PLACE OUR ORDER FOR THE FOLLOWING:

_____ TRADITIONAL BUDDY POPPIES (\$280.00 PER THOUSAND)\$ _____
_____ METAL BUDDY POPPIES (\$140.00 PER THOUSAND).....\$ _____
(ORDER IN INCREMENTS OF 500 ONLY)

(POPPY CANS, POSTERS, ETC. CAN BE ORDERED DIRECTLY FROM THE VFW STORE AT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS)

SHIP THE ABOVE TO: _____

(Name - PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE) (Title)
(Poppies can only be ordered using a person's name, not the name of the Post or Office)

ADDRESS (UPS Address - **Please no P.O. Box No.**) (City) (Zip Code)

AMOUNT OF ORDER.....\$ _____

SHIPPING AND HANDLING.....\$ _____

AMOUNT INCLUDED WITH ORDER\$ _____

BALANCE DUE.....\$ _____

For Department use only:

Date Received	Date Recorded on X Sheet	Date Ordered	Date Shipped or Picked Up	Date Invoiced	Date Paid

PLEASE ALLOW 8 WEEKS WHEN ORDERING YOUR POPPIES! YOUR POPPY ORDER WILL BE PROCESSED BY STATE HEADQUARTERS THROUGH THE PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT AT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS. ONLY RUSH ORDERS WILL BE SHIPPED FROM STATE HEADQUARTERS IF AVAILABLE.

YOU MAY ALSO ORDER ONLINE AT www.vfwil.org.

Comrades, remember, November is VFW's "Veterans in the Classroom" month. Promoting citizenship education in schools is an important goal for VFW, and there are many programs you can plan and present in schools. Visit this link to learn more about how to go about this and the programs the VFW has. There are many tips and suggestions to help you with this endeavor. <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/the-vfw-in-the-classroom>

Without our nation's veterans, America wouldn't be the great nation it is today. Our youth deserve to learn about our rich history, traditions and the role of our veterans in creating and shaping America. 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. Please review the new rules and eligibility requirements and **complete the 2023 entry form and brochure** to nominate a teacher you know. Teacher nomination entries must be received at a local participating VFW Post by the **Oct. 31 deadline**. <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year>

John Davin and Michelle Ramlow
Youth Activities



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. VFW Post Teacher Award Chairpersons may submit one candidate in each category to their District by Nov. 15. If your Department does not have a District judging, then submit to your **Department Headquarters and/or Department Chairperson by Jan. 1**. The Department may select a single candidate in each category and submit them to **VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1 for national judging**. 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" located 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 Chairperson's Guide 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, 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 of themselves, if available. These items will be forwarded on to the District, if applicable, and/or the Department with the winning teacher entry form.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Office 816.756.3590
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

2023-2024 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023

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

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, 2023. 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

Phone

Best time to call

Alternative Contact

Phone

Best time to call

2023-2024 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023

2023-2024 Official Entry Form Teacher Award Competition *Must Be Completed by All Contestants*

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.

VFW Teacher Nomination Form

Please attach the required documentation.

Nominated Teacher

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Subject and grade taught: _____
Current School: _____
School Address: _____
School Phone: _____

Please sign below and submit this brochure with the recommended materials to your local VFW Post. Visit vfw.org/Find-a-Post for locations.

DO NOT SEND to the VFW National Headquarters.

Person Nominating Teacher

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Date Submitted: _____
Signature: _____

Deadline: Submit to local VFW Post by October 31.

Identify and recognize America's best educators.



Wouldn't you like to see them get the honor they deserve?

Now you can!



For more information, contact your local VFW Post or its Auxiliary or visit our website at www.vfw.org.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
816.756.3390 ext. 6287
tbeauchamp@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

SMART/MAHER
VFW NATIONAL
CITIZENSHIP
EDUCATION
TEACHER
AWARD
Grades K-12

VFW Cares About Education

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.

VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. It offers cash awards, commemorative plaques and all-expense-paid trips to the VFW National Convention for these worthy teachers. The trip provides an opportunity for winners to network with like-minded individuals.

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...

VFW annually recognizes the nation's top classroom elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and traditions effectively.

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 with the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

How Does the Contest Work?

Based on the nominees submitted, VFW chapters, called Posts, will recognize teachers in the following categories, K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Posts then submit these winners' names and required documents to their District-level judging, who will forward their winners to the Department (or state) level. If your Department does not have a District judging, then submit to your Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. After judging, each Department then forwards their winners to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national awards contest.



Recognize teachers who care about America!

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.

Nominate Someone Deserving

Have a teacher in mind? Complete the nomination form and see below for additional recommended documentation, then submit it to your local VFW Post. The investment that a teacher makes in today's youth will be the dividends we will all reap from future leaders.

How are Teachers Nominated?

Fill out the nomination form contained in this brochure, 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 nomination 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.

When is the Deadline?

Nominations must be submitted to your local Post by Oct. 31. Post judging occurs Nov. 1-15.

What are the National Awards?

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Awards include the items below:

- A national \$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 teachers' school.
- Plaques for both the winning teacher and school.
- An all-expense-paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention.

NOTE: (The winner will receive a 1099-MISC as a result of their award and all-expense paid trip.)

Program Bulletin Voice of Democracy October 2023-2024

Comrades, I hope your VOD program is underway. If not, there is still adequate time to reach out to local schools and other youth organizations and individuals in your community. The Commanders Leadership Manual has a great deal of information about the VOD and other youth programs. [5 YouthProgramsPillar.pdf \(vfwil.org\)](#) All Post Commanders and District VOD Chairmen have been email with a timeline and copies of Student Digital Entry Forms that can be used if they choose, in place of or in addition to, the standard paper entry form. This method could reduce the problems of illegibility, unacceptable student pictures, and the use of school email addresses. These problems have notoriously caused unnecessary delays and frustration in the reporting of youth essay contests at all levels.

SCOUT PROGRAM REPORT

October 2023

The Scouting units will be starting their rechartering process soon. Now is the time to contact those units who may be in need of a Chartering Organization and attend your scouting district roundtables.

Here are few stats on the number of VFW Posts that charter scouting units:

- Number of VFW Districts that sponsor scouting units – 10
- Number of VFW Post that sponsor scouting units – 31
- Scouting units sponsored by VFW Posts –
 - Troops – 32 Packs – 29 Crews – 3

R Milton

Scouting Chair



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

This membership year has started strong, and we want to keep that momentum going! To encourage long-term success, Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento has issued a special challenge to all our VFW Posts to increase our Life Membership during October!



Throughout the month of October, the Commander-in-Chief has challenged us to build a stable and strong membership foundation for the future, and one of the best ways to accomplish this is through Life Membership.

The Post in each membership division that has the most New, Reinstated, and Upgraded Life and Life Installment members during October will receive a \$500 cash award plus a CIC Medallion set!

This challenge will count any VFW member who either pays the full amount for a Life membership or who makes the initial \$45 payment and enters into the Automatic Payment Plan to make Installment payments for a Life membership during the month of October 2023.

Remember that when processing a member online for the Installment Plan, they **MUST** check their email and click the link to complete their entry into the Automatic Payment Plan! Without that, their upgrade cannot be processed!

When we talk about the strength of our membership, our Life Members are a solid part of establishing that membership base. When they make a commitment to the VFW for Life, it helps our ranks grow and encourages everyone to join them and









MEET THE CHALLENGE!

This contest will count all members of a Post who make a full one-time payment for Life Membership and/or complete processing for the Automatic Payment Plan for Installment Life Membership between October 1 and October 31, 2023. Applications and payments processed online before close of business will be credited that day, payments and applications made through the mail will be processed when received. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to membership@vfw.org.

Current Stock of Rank Bars for the VFW Membership Badge

\$15.00 each

Available from State Headquarters
or purchase online at: vfwil-state-historian.square.site

	National Council Member	State Commander	State Asst. Adj. State Asst. QM State Deputy Chief of Staff State Deputy Inspector State Historian District Commander	Post Commander
Current				
Past				



The practice of using bars that resembled US Army officer shoulder straps as a symbol of office was common to Veterans organizations that arose after the Civil War and into the late 1930's. The Veterans of Foreign Wars used rank bars in one form or another until 2019 when the VFW Store stopped selling them. The rank bars pictured here are from the 1929 Bylaws. In 1935, the bylaws were changed and called for Officer Titles to be used instead of rank and the only color used was blue. However, the tradition of using this style rank bar in the VFW continued well into the early 1940's.

Open To The Public & All Are Welcome!

Second Annual

VFW LaFore Lock Post 755

Brews & BBQ

Free & Family
Friendly

Post
755

2211 Old
Jacksonville Rd.,
Springfield, IL

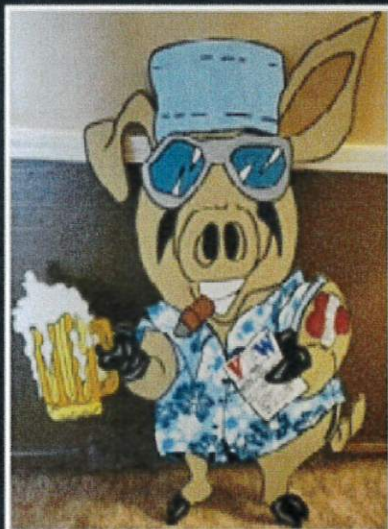


MANNIE D'S
BARBEUQUE

Pig 50/50 Raffle &
Silent Auction Items

SATURDAY * OCTOBER 21ST * START TIME 12:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC FROM:



SAT. OCT. 21
1PM-3PM
VFW
POST 755
SPRINGFIELD
BBQ OUTDOOR PARTY!

VOODOO
EXILES
THE ITONES
EXPERIENCE

DRAGLESS
WHISKEY
8:00pm-11:00pm

Bounce Houses * Face Painting * Pumpkin Painting * Balloon Artist



ANNOUNCING!

Global Green Beret Gathering

Join us as we honor the service and sacrifice of Special Forces of the past 71 years!

CARNIVAL CRUISE

OCTOBER 19TH – 24TH 2024

SAILING FROM TAMPA, FL

Day	Port of Call	Arrival Time	Depart Time
Sat	Tampa, FL		4:00 PM
Sun	Fun Day at Sea		
Mon	Bimini	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Tue	Nassau	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Wed	Fun Day at Sea		
Thu	Tampa, FL	8:00 AM	



Embark on this historic **fully-chartered** Special Forces reunion/convention cruise and experience an inclusive experience featuring world-class dining, Broadway-style entertainment, exciting kids programs, expansive recreation and spa facilities, plus TWO beautiful ports of call in The Bahamas!

Reserve your cabin today and embark on an adventure that will reignite the fire within and create memories that will last a lifetime. Together, let's honor the past, celebrate the present, and embrace the future!

Register at: <https://sfali.org/cruise-pre-registration-page/>



Contact email: Legacy4SFA@gmail.com or www.SFALI.org



Learn more at: <https://www.specialforcesassociation.org/sfacon-2024/>