



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Illinois

*2021-2022 Series
General Orders No. 7
January 2022*

CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS

Items sent via USPS to Department Headquarters can now be mailed to our physical address:

VFW Department of Illinois
3300 Constitution Drive,
Springfield, IL 62711

Please update your records accordingly.

STATE CONVENTION

The Wyndham Springfield City Centre Hotel, located at 700 East Adams Street in Springfield, will be the Convention Headquarters for the VFW. The Auxiliary Headquarters is the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield a Double Tree by Hilton Hotel; this hotel is located at 701 East Adams Street in Springfield.

Information on reserving your room for the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel or the Wyndham City Centre Hotel will be in upcoming General Orders.

NEW/REINSTATED MEMBERSHIP GRANT INITIATIVE FOR VFW POSTS

Starting January 1, 2022, every VFW Post that signs up and submits full membership dues* for each member will receive a grant from National based on the type of membership submitted while funds are available.

Member Type	Rebate Amount
New to the VFW Life member and/or any **Reinstated annual to Life with full Life member payment.	\$30.00
New to the VFW Life member and/or any **Reinstated annual to Life Installment Payment	\$20.00
New to the VFW Annual member	\$20.00
**Reinstated Annual member	\$10.00

*Full membership dues include the per capita for National, Department and the Post.

**Reinstated definition - Anyone that has been a member before, and their dues have been expired for 2 years and 1 day or more is classified as a Reinstated member.

Members submitted prior to January 1st are not eligible for this program.

Current Annual members defined as any member whose dues have not been expired more than two years are not eligible for the grant.

Members at Large are not part of this program.

ALL-STATE POST AWARDS

The 2021-2022 Membership Program is designed to recognize exceptional leadership and teamwork, not only in Membership but in overall Post/District development and VFW Programs. If a Post qualifies to be "All State" all Post members will be recognized for this achievement because they are a team.

The 2021-2022 All-State Post Criteria is as follows:

- Membership greater than 100%
- Posts must be 100% reported on the x-sheet
- Posts must be in compliance with all questions on the National and Department Inspection Sheets. (For Example: A Post that not incorporated shall not be eligible until proof is provided that they are in compliance.)
- Posts must order a minimum of 1,000 Poppies
- Posts must have representation at all properly called District Conventions or Meetings.
- Posts must have representation at all of their respective Regional Commanders Calls. (A roll-call will be taken.)
- Posts must make a \$50 donation to the Service Office Support Program (SOS). This is separate from the Red, White and Blue Program donations.
- New Posts need a minimum of 50 members to achieve All-State status.

The All-State Program runs through **June 15, 2022**. To receive All-State Awards at the State Convention, the deadline for completion of All-State Criteria is **April 30, 2022**. There will be no limits on the number of Posts that can achieve All-State status.

All-State Post Commanders will receive an All-State Post Commander cap and distinguished service lapel pin. All-State Post Quartermasters may purchase an All-State Post Quartermaster cap and will receive a distinguished service lapel pin. All-State Post Members may purchase an All-State Post Member cap.

ALL-STATE DISTRICT CRITERIA

- Membership greater than 100%
- Districts must have 100% of Posts inspected, and the inspections must be cleared by the state inspector.
- Districts must hold a minimum of one School of Instruction and submit a report to State Headquarters.
- Districts must submit 1 of each of the following to Department Headquarters for judging:
 - Teacher of the Year
 - Police officer of the Year
 - Firefighter of the Year
- Districts must forward a record of the Roll Call of Officers and Posts of each District Meeting to State Headquarters.

POST COMMANDER & QUARTERMASTER AWARD

Posts recruiting 5% of their Prior Year Membership (as reported on Memstats) in new and reinstated members with a minimum of six by January 15, 2022 – the Post Commander and Quartermaster will receive a special embroidered State Commander's Jacket. *(Partial numbers will be rounded up to the next whole number)*. Jacket size forms will be sent to qualifying Post Commanders and Quartermasters and must be received at State Headquarters no later than February 15, 2022.

ALL AMERICAN POST CRITERIA

- Membership greater than 100%
- Posts must meet all of the following Program Participation Criteria:
 - Voice of Democracy- minimum of one entry advanced to District judging. Overseas Posts can donate \$75 to National in lieu of entry.
 - Patriots Pen- minimum of one entry advanced to District judging. --Overseas Posts can donate \$75 to National in lieu of entry.
- Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to Veterans and Military Support Program Services. Minimum of \$100
- Partner twice with two separate organizations like Team RWB, Operation Ramp it Up, Operation Gratitude, Team Rubicon, Merging Vets & Players and other VSOs to include our friends at Sport Clips and Burger King. (Submit both online reports through the Dashboard.)
- Create Post social media site or actively maintain existing site
- 5 new action corps signups. To sign up: text "VFW" to 50457 to sign up 5 previously unsubscribed members or VFW Supporters.
- Have a 10% increase in total impact in Community Service

(\$ donated + Hours= Total Impact) **Baseline has been established within the KPI tools for Community Service.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

February 11-12, 2022
Crowne Plaza,
3300 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62703.

All persons assigned or called-in to report during the February Council of Administration will receive two complimentary room nights from State Headquarters. It is their responsibility to cover any additional expenses – such as additional nights and incidentals, etc. Those called-in are expected to be in attendance for all meetings and to purchase a banquet ticket for the Voice of Democracy Banquet on Saturday, February 12, 2022. ***All Program Directors are requested to have written program reports for the Council Meeting.*** Submit by January 24, 2022, to Headquarters for printing.

FEBRUARY HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

ATTENTION: The special room rate of \$94.00/night + 13% tax will be available until **January 12th** or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first. You may call Department Headquarters or the hotel at (217) 544-8800 to book your reservation. Make sure to mention the group code: ***VOD.***

LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE

The Lincoln Pilgrimage will take place at Lincoln's Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery at 2:00 p.m. All District Commanders are required to attend.

PAST DISTRICT COMMANDER'S LUNCHEON

The Past District Commander's Luncheon will be held after the Council of Administration Meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Saturday, February 12th at a time to be announced later. The tickets are \$25.00 each and will be available on Friday and Saturday prior to the luncheon.

PUBLICATION CONTEST

Editors of Post and District publications are invited to send in a copy of one issue published during 2021 for the Illinois VFW Publications Contest. Please provide the contact information for the Editor, as well as how often the newsletter is published. If you want to send a hard copy – mail to Barbara Wilson, Editor, 802 N. 3rd St., Riverton, Illinois 62561. You can also e-mail a copy to bwilson@vfwil.org.

VFW WEB PAGE (www.vfwil.org)

We urge everyone to make it a daily habit to visit our VFW State web page at www.vfwil.org.

- By clicking on the “Donation” link, you can pay for poppies and make your donation to Programs such as the Commander’s Special Project, Homeless Veterans, MAP, SOS and National Home.
- Submit your Bond application or poppy order on-line
- See what is going on in your Post, District, State or National by clicking “News & Events”.
- See the current issue of the *Illinois VFW News* and the Commander’s Leadership Manual.

DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISING

As a reminder – **Golden Rule Publishing ad salespersons** are out in our communities throughout Illinois selling advertising for the book. They contact local businesses in your communities to solicit advertising for our three program books throughout the year. **Please let the businesses in your community, Post members and employees know this is a legitimate solicitation on behalf of the Illinois VFW.** Inquiries regarding this Advertising Campaign should be directed to Jim Alyea at 800-433-4680 or the VFW State Headquarters.

BUDDY POPPIES

All Posts are urged to promote the use and distribution of Buddy Poppies. These poppies are assembled by hospitalized veterans and all money collected from poppies is to be placed in the Post Relief Fund to aid and assist needy veterans. **ORDER YOUR POPPIES NOW FOR YOUR MEMORIAL DAY DISTRIBUTION!** Please order your poppies 8-10 weeks in advance of your sale to insure you receive them on time.

TRUSTEES REPORT OF AUDIT REQUIREMENT

Per Section 218 of the National Manual of Procedure – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations, the **Post Commander** must assure that the **Post Trustees** have examined the books and records of the Post and prepared the Post Trustees Quarterly Report of Audit no later than the end of the month following the last day of each quarterly period. **Failure on the part of the Commander to strictly enforce Section 218 of the National Manual of Procedure may release the Bonding Company of all liability in case of theft or misuse of funds and subject the Post to suspension.** The **duties** of the **Post Quartermaster** include providing the **Post Trustees** with all records, files and statements required or necessary for the preparation of the Post Trustees Quarterly Report of Audit.

INSPECTION

Attention is directed to the importance of CONSTANT INSPECTION!! District Commanders will exert every effort to have each Post in their District inspected at least once annually. Posts Commanders will insist on Quarterly audits of records and books by Post Trustees, subject to penalties outlined in Section 213 of the National By-Laws. Post Quartermasters are reminded that they are to be bonded in **AN AMOUNT AT LEAST EQUAL TO THEIR LIQUID ASSETS.** It is important that the District Inspector contact the Post well in advance of their official inspection advising the Quartermaster when they will inspect the Post and what items they will need to conduct the Inspection. Each District will be compensated at the rate of \$10.00 per Post Inspection at the time the District becomes 100% inspected **and approved by the Department Inspector.**

POST INSURANCE-ADDITIONAL INSURED

According to VFW By-Laws, each Post is required to maintain adequate liability insurance and **they also require National and Department be listed as “additional insureds” on the Post policy.** *Posts must have their Insurance Agent send a copy of the Insurance Certificate to both National and Department Headquarters. Posts that do not own property do not have to comply with this request.*

X SHEET DONATIONS

All Posts must donate a minimum of \$50.00 each to VFW State Headquarters for the Military Assistance Program (MAP), Homeless Veterans, Commander's Special Project and National Home to receive credit on the State "X" sheet. On-line donations are encouraged but **don't forget to indicate your Post Number.**

MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Members wishing to receive correspondence from the VFW at both the state and National level, please make sure your contact information is up to date. You can do so by logging in to www.vfw.org.

State Commander Bobby Welch, officers and staff would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

OFFICIAL:



W. DAVE STOUT
State Adjutant-Quartermaster

BY ORDER OF:



ROBERT WELCH
State Commander

Program Information, January 2022

Community Activities
Chuck Ingle, Director
chuck@roscoevfw.com

Home Depot completes 2021 Community Impact Grant cycle

The Home Depot has ended its 2021 Community Impact Grant on Dec. 31, 2021. VFW members received up to \$5,000 to fund repairs or construction projects at their Post building.

Watch for the appearance of the new [2022 Home Depot Grant Guide](#) on www.vfw.org/grants. Home Depot Community Impact Grant applications must be submitted online, and will not be accepted by any other means. These grants are expected to resume in early February. We hope to provide confirmation of this, at the upcoming C of A meeting.

VFW Foundation Post Grants

From building local playgrounds and organizing clothing drives, to military support events and disaster relief efforts, we take great pride in our long history of service to communities across the globe.

VFW Foundation leadership and staff are proud to assist VFW and VFW Auxiliary members with service projects that increase their members' impact upon their communities. The VFW Foundation has budgeted \$500,000 in grant funding to support and encourage VFW Post and Auxiliary community service projects throughout the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The current grant cycle application period will close on July 31, 2022, or when all funding has been disbursed.

Both a VFW Post and its Auxiliary may receive funding during the grant cycle. Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to apply early, as funding is often exhausted by early spring.

Grant funding is dependent on availability, and the applications will be removed from the website once all available funds have been exhausted.

For complete details on eligibility, restrictions, and application procedures for the various grants, consult www.vfw.org/grants

By New Year's Eve, 159 Illinois Posts had reported for Community Activities X-Sheet credit, bringing the Department number to 60%! The total percentage is expected show a significant increase by April 30th. And with 3 Districts currently at 100%, District 17 shows the potential to join the trio, yet this term.

VFW 2021-2022 Community Activities, Dept. of IL

<u>District</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Posts Reported</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Community Activities Chairman</u>
3	Richard Luemen	3	23%	Israel Becerra
4	Stephen MacInnes	8	62%	Richard Wojewnik
5	Dwane Lungren	12	67%	Daniel Pearson
6	Ruben Hernandez	8	47%	Gary Holmes
7	Adam Lau	10	50%	Robert Sable
8	Arthur Munos	6	38%	Mark W. Sowers
9	Christopher Rush	6	32%	
10	Anthony Bellin	8	50%	Joseph H. Bartley
11	Rick Hobbs	13	100%	Glen Goodrich
12	Dustin Dixon	17	100%	
13	Christopher Hatcher	6	50%	Elmer McDuffee
14	Ronald Milton	17	100%	Terry Grime
15	William Hatfield	3	23%	Gary Fravel
16	Fred Cagle	3	27%	
17	Sean Conner	10	71%	Dan R. Swaner
18	Todd Latham	8	67%	Alejandro Gutierrez
19	Robert Bailey	21	88%	George R. Cramer

◆ Assistant State Chairman

Total Posts
265

X-Sheet Data
28-12-21

Department Percentage
60%

Compiled by
Chuck Ingle

Michael McGrath, Director, National Home Program
37 Sussex Court
Naperville, IL 60540
630-357 2680
Email: Mackcav1@sbcglobal.net

Paul Zinck, Assistant Director

Santa arrives at the National Home

Santa's annual visit to the National Home was well enjoyed. We hope you'll enjoy the photos on Flickr. <https://flic.kr/p/2mR8VRK>

And a Happy New Year

Comrades, as the New Year begins, we thank everyone for the thoughtfulness and generosity shown to the families at the National Home. We extend a cordial welcome to our new Executive Director, Michael Wilson who takes office on January 3rd.

Helpline

The National Home Helpline (800) 313-4200 is available for military and veteran families during the holidays and throughout the year.

No Government Funding

We are reminded that the National Home receives no government funding and so, our contributions are very important.

Congratulations 100%

Congratulations to District 12, Dustin Dixon Commander, and District 14, Ronald Milton, Commander for being 100% reported on the X-sheets.

Report... Report... Report...

Comrades, the program year ends on April 30, and we're reminded that 100% program participation is required for Department and National awards. The National Home requirement is still only \$50. National Home Life memberships are available for \$50 and can be a great way to thank your hard-working Post and District volunteers.

Please Reach Out

Do call or email if you have any questions. We are glad to help you.

Illinois VFW, No one Does More for Veterans.