



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

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## Illinois

2023-2024 Series  
**General Orders No. 5**  
November 2023

### **STATE HEADQUARTERS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

The State Headquarters will be closed on the following days:

November 10<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day

November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving

### **STAFF CHANGES**

Derek Giffin has resigned as the Department Service Officer and taken a position with the Department of Veteran Affairs. We want to thank him for his 13 years of service and wish him good luck in his future endeavors. As a result, you will see some changes in the Chicago Office.

Russ Meredith and Charles Johnson will be handling the outreach locations that were covered by Derek. They will also divide up the client files that Derek was working in order to keep claims moving forward. A new outreach schedule will be published in the near future. Russ and Charles will continue to work the disability claims

Grabiela Selgado will be assisting veterans with educational benefits, employment assistance, healthcare, funeral and cemetery benefits, request for records, and any other assistance not related to disability claims.

HQ is currently working to fill VSO position vacancies. We will be interviewing for the vacancy in the Marion, IL area in the near future. The VSO position in Chicago will be moved over near Rockford in order to provide coverage for the underserved area between Rockford and Rock Island. Applications are being accepted and should be sent to [vwil@vwil.org](mailto:vwil@vwil.org). The position of Department Service Officer will be discussed by the Veterans Service Committee and the Council of Administration before an announcement is made.

## 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.

## 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... "

Hard copies can be purchased from state Headquarters for \$10 plus shipping.

## SECTION 709-CONTROL OF UNITS

**Post Officers:** Please review Section 709, Control of Units, in the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure in its entirety. You are not authorized to sell or transfer property, borrow against the assets of the VFW Post without the full knowledge and consent of the Post membership thirty (30) days prior to the sale, purchase, transfer or encumbrance. You must advise all members of the meeting where there will be a discussion of such action. You must notify Department Headquarters of the outcome of this meeting at which time the State Commander will either approve or disapprove the action. Only then will they authorize the Post to continue with the sale, purchase, transfer or encumbrance. You are reminded that you have a fiduciary responsibility in the

position you have been elected to. Any deviations from said By-Laws will nullify the transaction and any officers violating these By-Laws will be subject to removal.

### **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FORM 990**

The deadline for filing the Federal IRS Form 990 is November 15<sup>th</sup> and the IRS can levy a \$10.00 per day penalty for every day the 990 Form is late. The forms are available on the IRS's website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). It is the responsibility of the Post Commander and Quartermaster to make sure this form is prepared and submitted on time to the IRS.

### **AG-990 STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Any Post that has applied for a Bingo License, Las Vegas Night License and Gaming License or a Pull Tab License will probably be receiving an AG-990 Form from the State of Illinois Attorney General's office for filing and if you have one of the above licenses, you are required to file this form unless your Post as received an exemption from the Attorney General's Office.

### **IRS FORM 990-T**

VFW Posts that have unrelated business income must file an IRS Form 990-T. The 990-T must be filed by November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year and this form is available on the IRS's website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). It is the responsibility of the Post Commander and Quartermaster to make sure this form is prepared and submitted on time to the IRS.

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

The February Council of Administration Meeting and 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet will be held February 9-11, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield, Illinois 62703. To reserve a reservation for February, you may call the hotel

directly at (217) 529-7777 and give them our group code: **V4W**. Or you may reserve a room online - go to our website at [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org), under News, go to the Events page, click on the link for "VOD and February Council Meeting Room Reservations". The room rate is \$94 a night plus tax.

### **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY BANQUET**

The State of Illinois VFW will be celebrating its 78th Annual Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Banquet on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL. Tickets are available for \$45 per person. Tickets may be ordered online by making a donation at <http://vfwil.org/> - and allocating the funds to the *Voice of Democracy Banquet*. You may also call State Headquarters (217) 529-6688.

District Prime Tables will once again be available for \$450; 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.***

**Special Thank You to Humana for being a major sponsor of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Banquet.**

**Other sponsorships are still available on a first come first serve basis**

14<sup>th</sup> Place - \$300 Sponsored by 15<sup>th</sup> District

15<sup>th</sup> Place - \$300 Sponsored by 11<sup>th</sup> District

16<sup>th</sup> Place - \$300 Sponsored by Dave Edwards

17<sup>th</sup> Place - \$300 Sponsored by Post 11463

Ice Cream Social for kids - \$300

Pizza Party for kids - \$300 Sponsored by Dave Edwards

Lunch for kids - \$300

Tours for kids - \$400

Book Bags for kids - \$400

Please contact State HQ if your District or Post wishes to sponsor any of these events.

## Voice of Democracy Ad Book

If you would like to place an ad in the Voice of Democracy ad book the form is included in the back of these general orders. The costs of the ads are as follows:

Full Page \$200

½ Page is \$125

¼ Page is \$75

Please make sure to fill out the form and mail ad copy and any photos your Post/District wants included in the ad to State Headquarters at 3300 Constitution Dr., Springfield, IL 62711 or send via email to: [barb.wilson2@outlook.com](mailto:barb.wilson2@outlook.com) (Please cc [vwil@vwil.org](mailto:vwil@vwil.org)). Also please make sure to enclose the appropriate payment, you can send a check with your ad or you may pay for your ad through the donate now button located on the state website: [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org). The deadline for submission is December 15, 2023 and books will be distributed at the State Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Banquet in February.

## POST RELIEF FUND

Section 704 of the Manual of Procedure outlines the various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be used.

***Aid, assistance, relief, and comfort of needy or disabled veterans or members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and the surviving spouses and orphans of deceased veterans. Maintenance and expansion of the VFW National Home for Children and other facilities devoted exclusively to the benefit and welfare of the dependents, surviving spouses, and orphans of disabled, needy or deceased veterans or members of the Armed Forces. Necessary expenses in providing entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the Armed Forces Veterans rehabilitation, welfare and service work. To perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the Armed Forces, and to comfort their survivors. To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs.***

Relief funds may be invested in approved securities but shall not be loaned to the Post or other units, or transferred from the relief fund in any manner or under any guise, except that relief funds may be transferred to the general fund for remission of dues of sick, needy or disabled members

**The Trustee Report of Audit MUST show a Relief Fund!**

### **FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMANDER**

Your attention is drawn to Section 218 of the National By-Laws. Among the duties of a Post Commander, the Commander shall:

Assure that the office of the Quartermaster is bonded according to Section 703 of the By-Laws

Assure that all dues and other monies due the National Headquarters and Department are forwarded promptly together with accurate reports and returns pertaining thereto.

Assure that all reports are correctly prepared and promptly forwarded, that all the business of the Post is handled with dispatch and that all necessary licenses and permits are obtained for proper operation. Ensure that a properly completed Report of Election of Officers for the ensuing year is submitted to Department and National Headquarters by June 1.

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.

### **RESPONSIBILITY OF TRUSTEES**

Each VFW Post shall have **three elected trustees** who will, at least monthly, review the Monthly Report of Receipts and Expenditures of the Post Quartermaster. Within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, they should properly audit the books and records of the Post Quartermaster and submit a Post Trustee's report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. Please see Sec. 218 of the

National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure for complete information on the duties of Post Officers. **PLEASE NOTE:** Before the Department Headquarters accepts an audit, it must be signed by the trustees. You may mail or fax the form to HQ, or you may scan the signed form and email it to HQ, at [vfwil@vfwil.org](mailto:vfwil@vfwil.org).

### **VETERANS DAY-NOVEMBER 11TH**

All V.F.W. Posts are urged to make plans to observe Veterans Day on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. *Patriotic Speeches can be found on National Headquarters' website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).*

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING**

***When you are reporting on your activities, please remember*** - The money that should be reported are the dollars donated or expended in the performance of the community service hours reported. **Posts should not report any figure derived from the value of hours worked.**

### **POST MEMBERSHIP AWARD**

- Post membership percentage must be at 98% by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The Post will receive a special engraved plaque
- Post reaching 100% by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024: The Posts will receive a \$200 Visa Gift Card for a post membership celebration meal recognizing the post efforts.

### **REMINDER**

***If you pay for poppies, tickets, bonds or program donations using a credit card via our State web page, don't forget to indicate what you are paying for and your Post Number.***

## **ACTION CORPS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

All members with an active email address on file with National Headquarters has automatically been subscribed to the Action Corps Weekly newsletter. If you are not subscribed and would like to be-- directions to do so are as follows.

Go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

Scroll to bottom of homepage where the black banner is. The word "Advocacy" will be in the banner in white lettering.

Click on "Grassroots Efforts" under Advocacy.

The next page that pops up is the VFW Action Corps Weekly page. There will be a link on that page to sign up via email.

## **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>
10/6/2023	Tom Mcgowan	No Seller Listed
10/13/2023	Cathy McKee	Barb McKee
10/20/2023	George Kirschner	No Seller Listed
10/27/2023	Paul Barclay	Paul Barclay



## **VETERAN OF THE MONTH**

Congratulations to Any Frisby of Collinsville Post 5691-12 on being selected as the October 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.

This year, National VFW has created a Veteran of the Year Award and each State is required to submit a nomination. The Illinois VFW will nominate our Veteran of the Year to National for the National award. The criteria that National is using for their Veteran of the Year Award is as follows:

The program is currently called "VFW Member of the Year Award". The criteria for the VFW Member of the Year Award is as follows:

**Criteria:** This award recognizes exceptional performance as a member of The VFW. Examples of service that would be considered in judging the nominee include the following:

1. Nominee presents themselves in a professional and helpful manner within the Organization and within the Community.
2. Nominee shows an active interest in their Department by attending meetings and showing a willingness to consider leadership roles.
3. Nominee participates in activities and events within the Department to help raise awareness of the Organization in the Community.
4. Nominee has shown a willingness to work together with other VFW, Auxiliary, and Riders Members in a spirit of cooperation to accomplish the same goals.
5. Nominee volunteers for and participates in activities and events that address the needs of target groups and individuals in the Community.

6. Nominee has demonstrated actions which contribute to improving the quality of life for those we are intended to serve, whether they are children or adults, and whether they are homeless, hospitalized, handicapped, in need of a job or education.

7. Nominee encourages members of the Community to support VFW programs and continually encourages others to become members.

8. Nominee must have been submitted for #StillServing campaign recognition

at <https://todaysvfw.org/>

The IL VFW has adopted the criteria from National VFW as the criteria that we will use to select our Veteran of the Month, Veteran of the Quarter, and ultimately our Veteran of the Year. Any veteran that is selected for Veteran of the Month or Veteran of the Quarter is encouraged to submit information for the #StillServing campaign recognition in order to ensure they are qualified for further advancement in the program.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**  
**From State Commander Brett Nila, State Officers and Staff**

By Order of:



Joseph H. Bartley

State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Official



Brett Nila

State Commander



# State Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Banquet Book Ad Form

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
& AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

## FEBRUARY 10, 2024



Please place an "X" in the box of the ad size you are requesting

FULL PAGE \$200.00 •  1/2 PAGE \$125.00 •  1/4 PAGE \$75.00

If wanted, please include a color photo with ad copy.  
Print or type ad copy below, or attach a separate sheet.

PLEASE ENCLOSE PAYMENT IN FULL OR  
PAY VIA CREDIT/DEBIT CARD AT [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org)

**BOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT STATE VOICE OF  
DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET IN FEBRUARY**

Please mail ad copy and any photos your Post/District wants  
included in the ad, along with appropriate payment to:

Editor, 2024 Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Program Book  
3300 Constitution Dr  
Springfield, IL 62711

or send via email to: [barb.wilson2@outlook.com](mailto:barb.wilson2@outlook.com) (please cc [vwil@vwil.org](mailto:vwil@vwil.org))  
Questions? Contact State Headquarters at (217) 529-6688

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS  
DECEMBER 15, 2023**

Comrades,

With Veterans Day on the horizon many of us will be attending ceremonies throughout our state and celebrating all veterans for their service to our grateful nation. Let's remember that we have many comrades and fellow veterans who won't be able to attend these ceremonies because they are in VA hospitals, IDVA veterans' homes, local nursing homes, or even home bound. These next few weeks are a perfect time to visit with these veterans or send them cards letting them know they are not forgotten and thank them for their service. Let them know we are thinking about them. As of October 29, we only have 68 out of 254 posts in this state that have reported anything under the "veterans assistance" category on the department dashboard. That is less than 27% of posts reported under one of the main goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. How can we say we are a veteran's service organization and "no one does more for veterans" if we are letting this goal go unmet? I challenge every member and every post to work on this goal and put veterans' assistance as a high priority. Remember if it doesn't get reported then it's treated as if it never happened. I hope everyone has a memorable Veterans Day full of camaraderie.

Ryan Higginbotham  
State Surgeon  
Department of Illinois

## GENERAL ORDERS/PROGRAM REPORT

NOVEMBER 2023

### SCOUTING

**VFW SCOUTER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** - is our personal VFW award to recognize dedication and work required by a VFW team member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in the VFW. The award consists of a gold and purple square knot which may be worn on the Scout uniform and a certificate. The following link provides information on the requirements.

[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/VFW\\_Scouters\\_Achievement\\_Award.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/VFW_Scouters_Achievement_Award.pdf)

R Milton

State Scouting chair



# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Your Legislative Committee has been very active and we have several Bills in progress as well as suggestions for new bills to be introduced. I shall elaborate when I address the C of A on behalf of your committee.

Of note:

- Enhancing the existing Illinois stature that addresses "Claims Sharks"
- Illinois House Bill HB 4128: Veterans Day
- Veterans burial Honor Guard bill
- Veterans Day Care
- Veterans status for retired Guard & Reserve
- Proposing a VFW License Plate
- Our goal Illinois the #1 friendly state

Comrades keep in mind YOU & YOUR FAMILIES make these suggestions become law and we need to be a strong united team. Get to know your local legislators County, State & Federal. Make sure you become familiar with witness slips <https://vfwil.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=116303> this is a vital tool that only takes a moment to fill out and goes a long ways to get bills introduced.

District and Post Commanders reach out to myself or department for information. Each district should have a District Legislative Officer (DLO) and we shall institute training after 1 January. Post should have a representative or task you Post Service Officer to take on the task. Contact myself for more information [dutch23mp@comcast.net](mailto:dutch23mp@comcast.net) or [service\\_officer@vfw1337.us](mailto:service_officer@vfw1337.us)

Our Department Veterans Assistance Commission Liaison Doug Jameson is doing an outstanding job statewide but I still handle Cook County because I'm familiar with that situation. I can say the VACCC is doing very well and the county at this time is being a willing partner in helping it's growth. A energetic Superintendent in Elizabeth Soto all made possible with a strong involved membership. The VFW has been instrumental in this energy and success. At the last Cook County Veterans Committee meeting 18 Oct not only Our State Commander & myself testify but all three of our Cook County District Commanders Chris Garza 3rd, Kermit Morales 4th, Bill Browne 16th. Anything is possible with unity and purpose of mission.

**Dutch DeGroot** Chair for your Legislative Committee

**Jay Davis**

**Jay Hoffman**

**Doug Jameson**

**Mike Peck**

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[www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org)