



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Illinois

2024-2025 Series
General Orders No. 5
November 2024

STATE HEADQUARTERS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The State Headquarters will be closed on the following days:

November 11th Veterans Day

November 28th and 29th Thanksgiving

STAFF CHANGES

Joe B̄artley has resigned as the State Adjutant Quartermaster effective October 31, 2024 and has taken a position with the IL AMVETS. We want to thank him for his service to the IL VFW and wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

State Commander Bridges is accepting nominees to fill the vacancy of State Quartermaster. Deadline for submission of nominations to fill position has been extended until November 15, 2025.

Nominations should be submitted to vwil@vwil.org and mbridges@vwil.com

If you should have any questions about the position of State Quartermaster, please call

State HQ at (217) 529-6688

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.

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 15th 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. 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 has 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 15th of each year and this form is available on the IRS's website at 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 79th Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet will be held February 7-9, 2025 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, under News, go to the Events page, click on the link for "VOD and February Council Meeting Room Reservations". The room rate is \$109 a night plus tax.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY BANQUET

The State of Illinois VFW will be celebrating its 79th Annual Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Banquet on Saturday, February 9, 2025 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL. Tickets are available for \$50 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 \$500; 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.

Sponsorships are still available on a first come first serve basis

4th place PP- 300.00 Sponsored by 15th District

14th Place - \$300 Sponsored by 15th District

15th Place - \$300

16th Place - \$300

17th Place - \$300

Ice Cream Social for kids - \$300

Pizza Party for kids - \$300 In Memory of Sharon L. Edwards, donated by David J 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 (Please cc vfwil@vfwil.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. The deadline for submission is December 15, 2024 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.

VETERANS DAY-NOVEMBER 11TH

All V.F.W. Posts are urged to make plans to observe Veterans Day on Monday, November 11th, 2024. *Patriotic Speeches can be found on National Headquarters' website at www.vfw.org.*

POST MEMBERSHIP AWARD

- Post membership percentage must be at 98% by December 31st, 2024. The Post will receive a special engraved plaque
- Post reaching 100% by February 28th, 2024: The Posts will receive a \$150 Visa Gift Card for a post membership celebration meal recognizing the post efforts.
- Post achieving at least 100% membership by June 30, 2025 will receive a 100% Membership Pennant

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.

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, 2025. The tickets are just \$10.00 each. Each ticket entitles you to participate in a weekly drawing of \$100 from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Drawings will be held

each Friday beginning July 1, 2024, with each week's winning ticket being returned to the barrel for the future drawings. This means each ticket has multiple chances to win. The seller of each ticket also has a chance to win \$10.00. If seller prints their name on ticket, they will receive \$10.00. If the seller does not sign the ticket, the \$10.00 will be automatically donated and split between Department's Unmet Needs Program and Children's National Home. Winners will be announced each month in the General Orders and posted on <http://vfwil.org> web site.

WEEKLY WINNER

<u>Date of Drawing</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Seller</u>
10/4/2024	Evelyn Kinney	Evelyn Kinney
10/11/2024	Myron Renth	No Seller Listed
10/18/2024	Gerald Mennie	Gerald Mennie
10/25/2024	Caroline Puccini	No Seller Listed


Happy Thanksgiving!
From State Commander Maurice Bridges, State Officers and Staff

By Order of:

Official



Joseph H. Bartley
 State Adjutant/Quartermaster



Maurice Bridges
 State Commander

PROGRAM SUMMARY

SCOUT OF THE YEAR

NOVEMBER 2024

MEMORIAL DAY IS JUST A FEW DAYS AWAY AND THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE YOUR LOCAL GIRL/BOY SCOUTING UNITS TO YOUR POST/DISTRICT CEREMONIES AND TALK TO THOSE LEADERS ABOUT THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM.

HAVE APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE SCOUTS AND LEADERS ALONG WITH INSTRUCTIONS AND POINT OF CONTACT INFORMATION.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT USAFRET1@ATT.NET.

RON MILTON

STATE SCOUTING CHAIR

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



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
& AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS



FEBRUARY 8, 2025

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

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | INSIDE FRONT COVER \$350.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | FULL PAGE \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | INSIDE BACK COVER \$300.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1/2 PAGE \$125.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | BACK COVER \$350.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 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

**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, 2025 Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Program Book
3300 Constitution Dr
Springfield, IL 62711

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

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION
IS DECEMBER 13, 2024**



PLEASE JOIN
ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE
ALEXI GIANNOULIAS

FOR AN

VETERANS DAY RESOURCE FAIR

MOBILE DMV, BUSINESS SERVICES AND MORE!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

SALVATION ARMY KROC COMMUNITY CENTER
1250 W 119TH ST
CHICAGO, IL

TO SIGN UP FOR MOBILE DMV, PLEASE EMAIL
MULLMANN@ILSOS.GOV





The Department of Illinois
Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary



P R E S E N T T H E

2024-2025 DEPARTMENT JOINT PROJECT



BACKPACKS *for* HOMELESS VETERANS



TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

ALL VFW Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to participate
in one of the following ways:

CREATE A BACKPACK

Some Suggested items:

*Backpack, Personal care items,
Underwear, Socks, T-shirts,
Non-perishable food (w/ pull-tab lids)*

**FULL BACKPACKS WILL BE
COLLECTED AT THE FEBRUARY
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
MEETING IN SPRINGFIELD**

MAKE A DONATION

Earmark donations:

“Backpacks for the Homeless”

AUXILIARY MEMBERS send to:

**Department Treasurer
Linda Lorenz**

VFW MEMBERS pay online at:

**vwil.org or send check to
Department Headquarters**

TriCare Informational Sheet

If you live in one of the six states (Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin) moving to the West Region in 2025 as part of TRICARE's new regional contracts and you pay for your TRICARE coverage via credit card or bank electronic funds transfer, you can now securely give your recurring payment information to the incoming West Region contractor, *TriWest Healthcare Alliance*.

In the coming days, you may get an email/letter from TriWest. This message notifies you of your ability to set up your payment information online or download a printable Payment Authorization for mailing.

If you live:

- **In the new West Region (including Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin):** TriWest Healthcare Alliance's call center will open Nov. 11. Starting Nov. 11, you can call TriWest at 888-TRIWEST (888-874-9378).
- **Overseas:** Update your information in DEERS. You can also contact International SOS.

TriWest will **not** charge your recurring payment method before Jan. 1, 2025. But it will need to have your payment information on file. Your recurring payment information won't automatically transfer from Health Net Federal Services, LLC or Humana Military.

If you don't provide TriWest with payment information before Jan. 1, you may be involuntarily disenrolled from TRICARE and lose your health coverage.

Don't cancel your current recurring payment method after you've set up your new payments with TriWest. If you live in the West Region on Jan. 1, HNFS and Humana Military will stop collecting payments after your December payment.

You don't need to take any action if:

- You pay by a military pay system allotment. Allotment payments will transfer automatically.
- You have TRICARE For Life, the US Family Health Plan, or a TRICARE health plan overseas.

To securely give your payment information to TriWest, go online after 02 November:

1. Visit tricare.mil/west.
2. Look for information and the link on how to securely set up your recurring payments.
3. Select the link. Then, select the "New User? Sign Up Now" option.
4. You'll be asked to input your email address. A verification code will be sent to you.
5. Check your email for the verification code. Then, enter it to continue.
6. Complete the information requested (name, address, etc.) in the secure forms. Complete all fields.
7. Select your payment method and submit.

MAJOR TRICARE UPDATES 28 October 2024 v2

URGENT TIME SENSITIVE: NLT 30 NOV

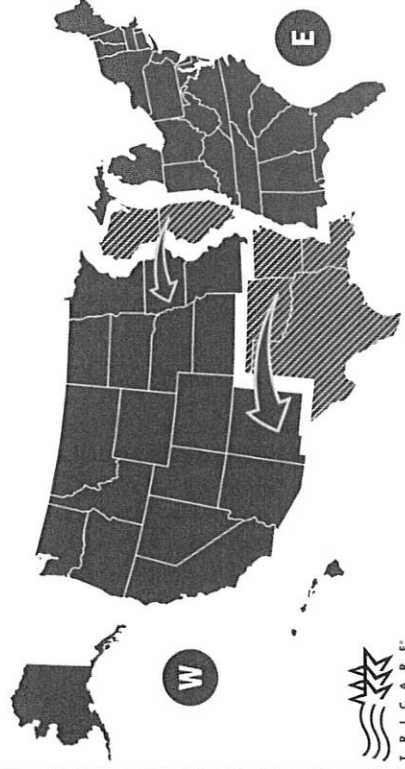
- Those who are enrolled in TRS need to call TriWest by the end of Nov to set up automatic withdrawal for premiums
- Make automatic payment changes by 30 NOV. Though Tricare may extend the deadline, don't put your health insurance at risk by waiting.
- Members **MUST CALL** after 11 Nov to accomplish - 888-874-9378 (TRI-WEST)
- Screenshot all active referrals/authorizations in Human Military app by 31 DEC for your records. They should carry over until 1 JUN 2025!

MEMBERS ENROLLED IN PRIME: ON/AFTER 1 JAN

- Service members on Prime (AGR/MPA/ADOS/TAMP) will not need to re-enroll, but should check PCM has not changed - especially if on Remote
- Confirm family members PCM did not change after moved to TriWest (starting 1 Jan, but no later than a month before next Primary Care appointment)

TRICARE Stateside Regions

Starting Jan. 1, 2025



We will also be losing our Tricare East Rep 31 DEC when we switch to TriWest in January.

Please reach out with any urgent questions regarding enrollment or referral issues while we still can!

Steve Williams

swilliams153@humana.com

618-698-4442

****Steve will no longer be available after 31 DEC****