

**Department of Illinois
2026 – 2027 Series
General Order No. 4
October 2026**



Headquarters Announcements

1. State Headquarters will be closed on October 12, 2026, in observance of Columbus Day. Normal operations will resume on Tuesday, October 13, 2026
2. **Critical Notice: Bond Expirations**
Be advised that all current Post and District Officer bonds expired as of August 31, 2026.
National Bylaws Section 703 - Bonds.
Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department, District, County Council or Post, as the case may be, to which each officer is accountable.
The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit.
3. District Inspectors should be scheduling Post inspections and getting them completed.
4. The deadline to submit your 990 is November 15, 2026.
5. Quartermaster's and Adjutants please see the National Document Retention Policy on the State website at vfwil.org located under the resources tab and reports and forms.
6. Also located there is the form to place an Ad in the VOD/PP Program book for the February 2027 banquet. Payment must be in full at the time you submit the request. You can mail the form with a check or email the form and submit the payment via credit/debit card at www.vfwil.org. Email or mail the ad and any photos to Editor, 2027 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. **The deadline is December 15, 2026.**
7. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs for the observance of Veterans Day, November 11, 2026 - 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

Membership

1. State total 86.30%
2. 65 New Life Members
3. 90 New Annual Members
4. 47 Annual Reinstates
5. Be on the lookout for a new Membership challenge issued by Department.

Post Announcements

Department of Illinois 2026 – 2027 Series General Order No. 4 October 2026



1. Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler, Special Order No 72 dated September 17th cancelled the charter of Rock Falls Post 5418.
2. Special Order No. 13: Post 9759 charter suspended for a period of 90 days.
3. Special Order No. 14: Post 2705 charter suspended for a period of 90 days.
4. Special Order No. 15: Post 8739 charter suspended for a period of 90 days.
5. The Charter suspension for District 8 was rescinded on October 1st.
6. The Charter suspension for Post 450 was rescinded on October 1st.
7. The Charter suspension for Post 8821 was rescinded on September 10th.
8. Charter suspension of Post 2153 was extended for 90 days on October 1st.
9. Charter suspension of Post 8890 was extended for 90 days on October 1st.
10. Charter suspension of Post 12014 was extended for 90 days on October 1st.
11. Seven Posts are currently suspended.
12. Two eligibility challenges are active.
13. Two active investigations and one Article IX issued.

Bylaws

If a Post considers surrendering its charter, it shall follow the bylaws outlined in Section 210 of the Manual of Procedure. No other actions will be accepted.

Section 210 - Surrender of Charter

A Post may surrender its charter in accordance with the following procedures:

1. A motion to consider surrendering a Post charter shall be made and approved at a regular or special meeting of the Post. If approved, the Post Commander shall immediately provide to the Department Commander a list describing all assets and liabilities of the Post.
2. A Post may then, after at least twenty (20) days written notice to the Department Commander, District Commander and members of the Post, vote to surrender the charter upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting.
3. The Department Commander shall be notified immediately after the meeting, in writing, of the outcome of the vote to surrender the charter of a Post. If approved, the Department Commander shall within thirty (30) days, request that the Commander-in-Chief cancel the charter. Pending such cancellation, the Post shall not dispose of any assets.

Events

- 1. Big 10 Conference in Kalamazoo, MI

Calendar and Deadline Dates

October 2026

October 15-18, 2026: Big 10 Conference (Kalamazoo, MI)

October 15, 2026: Deadline to submit articles for Illinois VFW News (Nov. issue)

October 31, 2026: Audit for quarter ending September 30 due to State Headquarters

**Department of Illinois
2026 – 2027 Series
General Order No. 4
October 2026**



October 31, 2026: Student entries for VOD/PP and Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award entries are due to the post

November 2026

November 11, 2026: Veterans Day

November 15, 2026: Post judging for VOD/PP and Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award completed

Commander Town Halls

1. October 10, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 7446, 446 W. Lake St. Addison, IL 60101
2. October 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 8078, 200 W 5th St. Kewanee, IL 61443
3. October 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 454, 1006 E Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 61701
4. October 25, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 4763, 214 W Chestnut St. Chatham, IL 62629
5. November 14, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 976, 123 W Market St. Troy, IL 62294
6. November 21, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 9763, 16217 Sulphur Springs Rd. Creal Springs, IL 62922
7. November 22, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 4226, 205 N Walnut St. Olney, IL 62450

Official:

Bobby Edwards
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

By order of:

Robert J. Bailey
State Commander