

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

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**Illinois**

**2023-2024 Series  
General Orders No. 10  
April 2024**

**BONDS AND INSPECTIONS**

As inspections are being completed, we have had several Posts that are marked as the Quartermaster's Bond being for less than the amount required. We have also had inquiries as to the definition of liquid assets. We asked for clarification from National Headquarters and received the following:

- **Section 703:** Requires officers accountable for funds are bonded in a sum at least equal to the amount of liquid assets for which they may be accountable. As our inspection form indicates, liquid assets include bonds and CD's; the Quartermaster must be bonded for the total amount of liquid bonds and CD'S. According to the Post Inspection Form as published by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Question 16: Post funds include checking accounts, savings accounts, CD and bond accounts, and all other account types. The Quartermaster Bond amount MUST be greater than the total of all these funds. CD'S are considered liquid assets because if a Quartermaster is going to steal funds, they don't care that there is a penalty fee associated with liquidating a bond or CD before its maturity date. The purpose of a bond is to protect the Post's assets that can be liquated with relative ease which would include bonds and CD's. The Post may purchase their Quartermaster Bond through State Headquarters or they may purchase their Quartermaster Bond from a commercial bond company and provide a copy of that bond to State Headquarters.

## **IMPORTANT-REPORT OF ELECTION FORM**

National Headquarters has mailed all Post Quartermasters a packet which includes the 2024-2025 Report of Election Form with instructions on how to submit their report online using the Online Membership System (OMS). A blank Post Election Report can also be found in the "Document Repository" section on the Online Membership System (OMS). Also included in that packet is information on how to register your Post for National Convention along with a room reservation form for National Convention. The 125<sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention will be held July 26 - Aug 1, 2024 in Louisville, KY. Post Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> to National Headquarters. We encourage all the Post Quartermasters to use the Online Election Report filing process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to Department Headquarters.

## **REMINDER – STATE BY-LAW CHANGES**

Resolutions having effect on the By-Laws of the Department must be received in State Headquarters by no later than April 30, 2024 so they can be circulated to all Posts within the prescribed time prior to the State Convention. Resolutions affecting Department By- Laws received after that date cannot be considered at this State Convention. ALL RESOLUTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN PROPER FORM. Any Resolutions received that are not in proper form will be returned for correction. **NOTE:** in order for your resolution to be included in the State Convention Resolutions Book, it must be received at State Headquarters no later than **April 30, 2024**.

## **NOMINATION, ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

Part 216 of the National By-Laws is quoted below for your information and necessary action. Please note paragraph c.

### **Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.**

(a) The Post shall elect the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, and three Trustees.

*(b)The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Chaplain and Service Officer.*

*(c)The Post may elect or the Post Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day and/or Guard if required by Post By-Laws.*

*(d)The Post Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Post or as may be required by Post By-Laws.*

A number of posts have by-laws that state that Post Officers will be elected in accordance with the National By-Laws or are silent on the election of officers as the National By-Law has precedence. With the change to 216c should review their by-laws and decide if they wish the positions in 216c to be elected or appointed. Part 416 of the National By-Laws is quoted below for your information and necessary action. Please note paragraph c.

**Sec. 416 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.**

(a) The elected officers of each District shall consist of a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, and three (3) Trustees.

(b) The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Chaplain, Service Officer and an Inspector

(c) The District may elect or the District Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chief of Staff or Officer of the Day if required by the District

By-Laws

(d) The District Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the District or as may be required by District

By-Laws

Paragraph c allows Districts to choose between election or appointment of the listed officers. Should the District wish to appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chief of Staff or Officer of the Day they need to have this reflected in their by-laws.

## **Part 417 of the Manual of Procedure**

### **Sec. 417 - Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office. Order of nominations and elections.**

The order of nominations and elections shall be Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Surgeon and Trustee(s).

**Nomination:** A member may be nominated and elected although not present at the meeting. A member making a nomination of an absentee for any office shall have presented to the Adjutant, in writing, the consent of the member being nominated prior to the closing of nominations. Any nominee shall have the opportunity to decline nomination for the office to which they have been nominated before nominations are closed. Nominations shall remain open until the District Convention is ready to vote.

**Election:** In balloting for District officers, a majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary for election. If there is no election on the first ballot, the name of the comrade receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive ballots until an election is made.

**Challenging Election Results:** If irregularities are claimed with respect to the election to any office, such challenge must be made prior to the close of the meeting.

**Installation:** District officers shall be installed before the adjournment of the meeting at which elected. The installation shall be conducted by a member in good standing who holds or has held an office equal to or higher than District Commander, The District Commander-elect shall select the installing officer. An officer who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause; shall be installed at any succeeding regular or special meeting of a unit of the organization within sixty (60) days of the date of installation. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant.

**Term of Office:** Officers shall be elected for a term of one(1) year except that three trustees shall initially be elected for term of one (1), two (2) and three (3) years. District

officers shall take office upon the conformation of election and installation of the Department Commander by the Department Convention.

### **INSTALLING OFFICERS**

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Post Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

### **SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING DISTRICT CONVENTIONS**

*The District Convention is held for the purpose of electing your officers for the upcoming administrative year. Any member, not a member of the District Convention, (Refer to Section 404 of the National By-Laws) may attend the Convention, however, they shall have no voice in business discussions unless requested by the Commander, and shall have no voting privileges. Those on official business shall be recognized by the Commander for the conduct of business. (Article IV, Sec. 403 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees).*

### **PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIRED FOR ALL ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS**

Officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the District Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to office. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility

within thirty (30) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited, the office declared vacant and the eligibility qualifications of such officer shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National By-Laws. **Proof of Eligibility for District Commanders, District Senior Vice Commanders, and District Junior Vice Commanders MUST be furnished to the State Adjutant within thirty (30) days of Election.**

### **COMMANDERS-ELECT AT ALL LEVELS**

Your attention is directed to the fact that the State Commander does NOT ASSIGN a Past Post, District, County Council Commander or a State Officer to be an Installing Officer. This is something that is between you and the Officer you choose.

### **REMINDER – POST/DISTRICT OFFICER CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS**

**Please note that changes in Post or District Officers must be reported to State Headquarters immediately.** Changes in addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses should also be reported immediately – even if changes are made on the Online Membership System (OMS). These changes are not always transmitted to State Headquarters; please help us keep our records current.

### **ELECTION OF POST DELEGATES**

Congressional Charter, By-laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual

Article II - Posts, Section 217

#### **Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office of Post Officers**

Post officers shall be elected in April. Balloting for Post Officers may be conducted by open vote or written secret ballot (handwritten or printed) at a regular Post meeting, or, if required by Post By-Laws or authorized by Post vote prior to the opening of nominations, by a poll system. Absentee ballots and proxy votes are prohibited. A majority vote of all votes cast except where otherwise designated shall be necessary to elect. If there be not election on the first ballot, the name of the comrade receiving the

lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive ballots until an election is made.

#### Article II - Post, Section 222

##### Delegates, Districts Conventions & Meeting, Department and National Conventions

Delegates and alternatives for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate Strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. Delegates shall not be recognized at the National Convention unless they personally register their completed delegate card with the National Credentials Committee. Posts instituted after strength has been determined, but prior to convening date of the respective convention or district meeting, shall on the day of institution, elect one delegate and one alternate for each thirty names or fraction thereof according to the number of names listed on the charter application.

#### **NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

##### **Part 222 of the Manual of Procedure**

- *Please note the recent changes in Part 222 of the Manual of Procedure. Delegates to the District, Department and National Convention shall be elected in April*

##### **Section 222- Delegates, District Convention and Meetings,**

##### **Department and National Conventions.**

*Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of **March 31<sup>st</sup>**. Delegates shall not be recognized at the National Convention unless they personally register their completed delegate card with the National Credentials Committee. Posts instituted after delegate strength has been determined, but prior to convening date of the respective convention or district meeting, shall on the day of institution, elect one delegate and one alternate for each thirty names or fraction thereof according to the number of names listed on the*

charter application. **Section 222** of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention Registration Fee of \$25 – which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Please note each additional delegate attending the National Convention will have to pay an additional \$10 delegate fee. Information on delegate registration will be available at a later date.

### **SPRING POPPY DISTRIBUTION**

Commanders on all levels should be organizing their 2024 Memorial Day Poppy Distribution. Promotional material is available from the VFW Store Catalog. Every Post is urged to order and distribute Buddy Poppies; poppies can be ordered and paid for from our website – [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org). They are available in multiples of 500. All other accessories such as caps, aprons, cans, etc. can be ordered directly from the VFW Store at National Headquarters.

### **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PARADE OF WINNERS**

Every year, nearly 230,000 of our nation's youth compete in the VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen audio essay competitions for their chance to win a portion of more than \$3 million in college scholarships and awards. The competitions culminate with the Parade of Winners event, designed to celebrate and recognize the contests' top national winners.

Congratulations to our Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy winners from Illinois.

Our Patriots Pen winner Ava Wiemer, Sponsored by Post 2245, District 5 finished in 29<sup>th</sup> Place at National and received \$500.

Our Voice of Democracy winner Riley Malone, Sponsored by Post 4724, District 9 finished in 14<sup>th</sup> Place at National and received \$2,000

Themes for 2024-2025 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy have been announced. Information is on the [vfwil.org](http://vfwil.org) web page and included as attachment in this General Order.



## **STATE CONVENTION**

The State Convention will be held on June 6-9, 2024. The hotels for the State Convention are:

### **Primary Hotel**

President Abe Lincoln Double Tree Hotel  
701 E Adams  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Phone number (217) 544-8800

### **Overflow Hotel**

Wyndham City Center  
700 E Adams  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Phone Number (217) 789-1530

The VFW meetings will be held in the BOS Center at 1 Convention Center Plaza Springfield, IL 62701, which is located conveniently adjacent to both hotels. The VFW Auxiliary meetings will be held in the President Abe Lincoln Double Tree Hotel. Information on reserving your room for the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel or the Wyndham City Centre Hotel is on the [vfwil.org](http://vfwil.org) web page under News then go to Events.

## **STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

Included in these General Orders is the Advance Registration Form for the State Convention. Delegates can also be registered online by going to [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org). The registration fee is \$20.00 until **May 1, 2024**, and is \$22.00 after **May 1, 2024**. Letters of registration confirmation will be mailed to registrants after the proper registration fee has been paid. Registrants will be required to present this confirmation when they check in at the convention registration desk at the BOS Convention Center.

## **DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AD BOOK**

The Program Book Order Form for the 105th Annual State Convention is included in these General Orders. Full Page Ads are \$200, Half Page Ads are \$100 and Quarter Page Ads are \$75. Ads on the Inside Front or Back Cover are \$300 and outside back cover is \$350. (Contact Headquarters Office for availability of Cover Pages) Please mail your ad form, picture (*if applicable*) and payment to Editor, State Convention Program Book, 3300 Constitution Ave, Springfield, IL 62711 or e-mail to [vfwil@vfwil.org](mailto:vfwil@vfwil.org). Ads must be received in State Headquarters no later than **April 15, 2024**. **PAYMENT FOR ADS MUST BE REMITTED AT TIME OF PLACEMENT!**

## **PROGRAM DIRECTORS**

Your respective Programs end on **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. As soon as your program winners are determined, please send that information to Department Headquarters.

## **NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

We are accepting nominees to be considered by our Convention Awards & Citations Committee for our State Convention. The deadline for award nominations for our State Convention is **April 30, 2024** for the following categories:

- Outstanding Legislator of the Year
- Outstanding Patriotism of the Year
- Outstanding Governmental Service of the Year
- Clergy of the Year
- News Media Professional of the Year
- Outstanding Citizen of the Year

**There is no *form to fill out...just write down the name, address, sponsoring Post Number, Contact Person and the reason why you feel this individual deserves to be recognized. THE DEADLINE DATE IS April 30th 2024.***

### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES RECORD BOOK**

Community service, as defined by the National Community Service Trust Act "encompasses any human act serving the common good; in the interest of the community." Elsewhere, community service is further defined as "a service that is performed for the benefit of the public or its institutions."

Annually we ask all VFW Posts to submit record books detailing their Community Service Projects. We encourage Posts to gather pictures, newspaper clippings, letters, receipts, etc and compile this important record of your Post's activities in your community. We are receiving fewer and fewer entries each year for judging; ask for volunteers in your Post to assemble this important part of your Post's history. Please contact State Headquarters if you have any questions.

When the Community Activity Record Books are submitted for judging they must have the official entry form attached to the inside front cover. The Official Entry Form is in the Commander's Leadership Manual and at the end of these orders and your record book must be at State Headquarters by **May 2, 2024**, for judging on **May 6, 2024**

### **COMMANDERS SPRING MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE**

We are behind on our recruiting goals for this time in the program year. Recruiting is a grassroots effort from the members to ask people to join the VFW or to reinstate their membership in the VFW. We still have a chance to reach our recruiting goals for the year but it is going to take some serious effort. Every member is asked to get at least one new or reinstated member. We have seen some that have far exceeded that goal

and are doing much more. Every member is a recruiter.

### **RECRUITER CHALLENGE.**

We are going to reward the top recruiter for this spring membership challenge.

This membership challenge will run from Feb 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024. The VFW member that recruits the most new or reinstated members during the contest period will receive a specially engraved Henry 22lr Golden Boy Rifle.

The Top Recruiter must be listed as the recruiter on a minimum of 10 applications for new or reinstated members to qualify for the rifle. (Must have FOID card to claim rifle)

If the Top Recruiter has less than 10 new or reinstated members, then they will receive \$300 cash prize.

Every VFW Member that recruits at least 1 new or reinstated member will be placed into a random drawing for other prizes.

### **ILLINOIS VFW PUBLICATION CONTEST**

Editors of Post and District publications are invited to send in a copy of 1 issue published during the 2023 year 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Riverton, Illinois 62561. You can also e-mail a copy to [bwilson@vfwil.org](mailto:bwilson@vfwil.org).

## **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.**

## **LOYALTY DAY, May 1st**

Post and Districts are urged to start planning now for Loyalty Day (May 1, 2024) observations in their community. Go to the VFW Store for Loyalty Day Posters, Award Citations and Brochures and Patriotic Holiday Speeches are available at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

## **VFW DAY OF SERVICE, May 4th**

In 2020 the VFW launched the #still-serving campaign to highlight the countless ways veterans continue to serve in communities across America. This year the VFW is introducing VFW Day of Service. The VFW Day of Service kicks off the first Saturday of May-- May 4, 2024-- marking the start of veteran-led community service projects to take place throughout the month. We're asking VFW Posts, members, community advocates and veterans of every stripe to band together to host one community service event on May 4th or at another point during the month, to make a meaningful difference in your community. Posts can sign up to participate or express an interest in participating by visiting <https://todaysvfw.org/day-of-service/>. Service projects can be any size. After your project is complete, please send information and pictures on how you participated to State and National Headquarters.

## **PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

Posts within the Department of Illinois are hereby instructed to fly their U.S. Flag at "half-staff" on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in observance of Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15<sup>th</sup> as authorized by Public Law 103-122. (See law below):

### 175. **Position and manner of display**

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

(A)-(1) (Unchanged)

(iii) The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only and then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States, that Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff. The flag shall be flown at half-staff thirty days from the death of a President or a former President, ten days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress. **The flag shall be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day, unless that day is also Armed Forces Day.**

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

This year at State Convention, we have expanded the breakout sessions and seminars that we are offering to attendees. All of this training will be held in BOS Center on Thursday, June 6, 2024 and Friday, June 7, 2024. The tentative schedule is below.

Some of this training is specifically for VFW members but some of the training is applicable for both VFW and Auxiliary Members. The classes are annotated to show the audience for the training. Anyone (VFW or Auxiliary) can attend any of the training.

June 6, 2024

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Membership Events (VFW and Aux)

Fundraising Ideas (VFW and Aux)

State Benefit Programs for Veterans (VFW)

How to Get Federal Surplus Property (VFW)

Veterans Assistance Resources and Illinois Joining Forces (VFW)

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Post Service Officer Training (VFW)

How VA Assumable Loan works for Estate Planning - passing your benefits to your children (VFW and Aux)

Supporting Women Veterans (VFW)

Onboarding New Members (VFW and Aux)

Working with National Guard and Reserve Units (VFW and Aux)

Tricare and Medicare – How do they work together (VFW)

June 7, 2024

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Recognizing Signs of Suicide and Suicide Prevention (VFW and Aux)

Veterans Rights and Benefits (VFW)

Publicity and Newsletters (VFW and Aux)

Duties and Responsibilities of Post Officers (VFW)

Chaplain Training (VFW)

How to Attract Younger Members (VFW and Aux)

3:00 to 4:30 pm

Post Service Officer Training (VFW)

County Veterans Assistance Commissions (VFW)

Obtaining and Using VA Housing Loan (VFW)

Role of the District, Duties and Responsibilities of District Officers (VFW)

The Role of Auxiliary, Cooties, and Riders Groups (VFW and Aux)

How to Input Program Reporting (VFW)

### **PAST DISTRICT COMMANDER'S ASSOCIATION**

The Past District Commander's Association meeting again. During the State Convention, there will be a luncheon for the Past District Commanders Association on Friday, June 7, 2024 from 1200-1300 hours. Cost of the luncheon is \$20. Anyone that is a currently serving District Commander (term ending June 2024) and anyone that has served as a District Commander in the past is eligible to participate in the luncheon. Tickets can be ordered through State HQ.

### **COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION**

On Saturday, June 8, 2024 join the newly installed IL VFW State Commander and IL VFW Auxiliary State President for the Commander and President's Reception. More information in the General Orders next month.

### **2024 DISTRICT COMMANDER-ELECT CONFERENCE**

Once District Elections are held, an invitation will be sent to newly-elected District Commanders for 2024-2025 year. Department Headquarters will provide rooming accommodations for 4 nights (Wednesday-Sunday) for incoming District Commanders at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre, 700 E. Adams Street in Springfield.



We will be conducting a conference to cover their duties and our goals and expectations for the incoming year. This conference will begin Thursday morning, June 6th, 2024 at 8 a.m. Conference will be held in BOS Center. The agenda is attached.

**PLEASE NOTE:** District Commanders-Elect should be present during Council of Administration Meeting, June 6th, 2024. Please dress in a *coat, tie and cap* to have your photograph taken. Also, they **must** be present Saturday, June 8th, 2024 during the installation of officers!

Sunday morning, June 9th, there will be a brief Council of Administration meeting to begin at 9a.m. for the purpose of passing an interim budget until the next meeting in August.

### **STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

Included in these General Orders is the Advance Registration Form for the State Convention. Delegates can also be registered online by going to [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org). The registration fee is \$20.00 until **May 1<sup>st</sup> 2024**, and will be \$22.00 after **May 1<sup>st</sup> 2024**. Letters of registration confirmation will be mailed to registrants after the proper registration fee has been paid. Registrants will be required to present this confirmation when they check in at the convention registration desk at the BOS Center. **Reminder:** Delegates **will not** be allowed to vote until such issues have been resolved; if the Post is in arrears for supplies, poppies or any sort of financial obligation to the Department. The Post must be bonded, inspected, have an election report on file with Department and National Headquarters for the ensuing year, and all audits **including the March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024** audit must be submitted and approved. Delegate strength to the convention is based on one delegate and one alternative delegate per thirty members or fraction thereof. Registration will be open in B 11 A/B of the BOS Center:

Thursday June 6, 2024	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday June 7, 2024	8:00am - 5:00 pm
Saturday June 8, 2024	8:00 am - 10:00 am

## **ATTENTION POST COMMANDERS**

Under the Department of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars By-Laws, Article V -  
Convention Section 8:

“Each Post shall register, in advance or at the Convention, at least one delegate to the Department Convention by payment of the advance registration fee in effect for such Convention, which fee shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials. Post failing to comply with this requirement shall be considered delinquent and in arrears.

## **CONVENTION EXHIBIT BOOTHS**

Please let the businesses in your area know exhibit space is available during our 105<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention at the BOS Center. Contact State Headquarters at 217-529-6688 for more information. Below is a list of confirmed vendors so far for the State Convention:

### **VFW Entities**

IL VFW – Veterans Service Officers  
IL VFW – Emblem and Supply  
IL VFW – State Historian  
VFW National Home

### **Government Agencies**

IL Department of Corrections  
Sangamon County VAC  
IL National Guard Casualty Ops

### **Not for Profits**

Fifth Street Renaissance  
Gold Star Mission  
Family Guidance Center  
Fox Valley Patriotic Organization  
Springfield Cares Soldier Mailing

Gateway Foundation  
Rosecrance Behavioral Health  
Project Die Hard  
Military Women's Memorial

### **HUMANA AND UNITING TO COMBAT HUNGER GRANT**

This year at State Convention, we are expanding the vendor and exhibitor area. We have organizations that provide services to veterans. We have organizations that will work with VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to support veterans or to support community activities. One such vendor is Humana. Humana has been a great supporter of the IL VFW and supports many of our activities. Humana is also a National Sponsor of the VFW and is a major supporter of the Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) Program. At State Convention this year, we are working with Humana to raise awareness about food insecurity but also to promote the UTCH Grant Program and we are inviting everyone to join the fight against food insecurity.

Bring canned goods or non-perishable food items to the Humana Booth in the vendor/exhibitor area. For every 5 items donated, you will receive 1 raffle ticket. In addition, the winner of the raffle will have the opportunity to complete a UTCH Grant Application and their Post or Auxiliary will be submitted for the grant. The amount of food collected will determine the amount of the grant.

The food we collect will be donated to homeless veterans shelters.

Join the Fight for Food Insecurity, help homeless veterans, and earn an opportunity to win up to \$1,500 UTCH Grant for your Post or Auxiliary. See the attached flyer.

### **SILENT AUCTION**

The Annual Silent Auction will be held during the State Convention. Check out your home for items in good condition to donate. Please bring your donated item to the *B-11 A/B* of the BOS Center and make sure to fill out the form given to you. If you have any

questions, please contact State Headquarters. District Commanders are asked to donate an item from their District valued at no less than \$75.

### **STATE PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Room B-10 of the BOS Center will be the base of operations for State Photographer Dutch DeGroot and Public Relations Director Barbara Wilson.

### **POPPY DISPLAY COMMITTEE**

*Chairman:* Stephanie Kirksey, Post 6504-14

Roger D. Guebert, Post 7980-14

Thomas Cleland, Post 2955-6

John Lenhardt, Post 6504-14

Matthew Willis, Post 6871-10

### **POPPY DISPLAYS**

Poppy Displays will be accepted in B-11 A/B of the BOS Center starting on Thursday, June 6, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 pm, and continuing on Friday, June 7, 2024 from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm.

All poppy displays must be picked up from B-11 A/B before 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

### **STATE AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

Awards will be presented at the time the Program Director makes their final report during the State Convention. Directors must insure their awards are in the stage area prior to making their reports.

## **SUPPLY SALES BOOTH**

The Supply Sales Booth will be set up in B-11 A/B of the BOS Center starting on Thursday, June 6, 2024 from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm The Supply Sales Booth will continue on Friday from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm and Saturday from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm.

## **DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE**

The Distinguished Guest Committee Members will use the VIP Room in the BOS Center as their base of operations for our distinguished guests.

### *Distinguished Guest Committee:*

Brad Gould, Post 630-7

John Davin, Post 5917-18

Bobby Welch, Post 2791-16

## **OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO STATE CONVENTION**

The officers below are assigned to be present at the Council of Administration Meeting in B-7 of the BOS Center on Thursday, June 6, 2024. They should also be in attendance for the Joint Opening Session on Friday, June 7, 2024 at 8:00 am in B-11 C/D and all business sessions on Friday and Saturday.

### *Credentials Committee:*

*Chairman:* Scott Holley, Post 3873-19

Joe Wein, Post 2202-4

### *Officer of the Day, Sergeant-at-Arms and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms:*

Jeff Britt: Post 6865-14, Officer of the day

Raymond Bachewicz: Post 2298-5, Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

Jack Lamont: Post 3851-13, Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

Roy Johnson: Post 5220-3, Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

## **2024 ILLINOIS STATE CONVENTION RAFFLE**

*The 2024 Convention Raffle Tickets are in the mail!!* This year's mailing consists of two sheets of tickets and each sheet has five (5) Convention Raffle Tickets for \$20.00 and two Purple Heart Tickets for \$10.00. The drawing will be held at the VFW State Convention on Saturday, June 8, 2024, in Springfield, Illinois. Grand Prize is \$10,000.00. Second Prize is \$3,000.00, Third Prize is \$2,000.00 and Fourth through Tenth Prize is \$500.00 each. Purple Heart Grand Prize is \$2,000. Please contact State Headquarters for additional tickets.

## **ALL-STATE POST AWARDS**

The 2023-2024 All-State 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 All state Team of Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters will be made up of Post who achieves:

- Membership greater than 102%
- Post must hold 2 membership drives/events and submit report to Program Reporting Dashboard
- Post must be 100% reported on the Department Programs Reporting Dashboard
- Post must have submitted all 4 quartley Trustees Audits and audits were approved
- Post must be in compliance with all questions on the National and Department Inspection Sheets (For example: a post that is not incorporated shall not be eligible until proof is provided that they are in compliance.)
- Post must order at least 3 poppies per member with a minimum of 1,000 poppies
- Post must have one nomination for each of the programs of Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year or Employer of the Year submitted to District for judging. Donations to Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen as stated

in this manual will be accepted if a Post does not have a nomination

- Post must have representation at all properly called District Conventions and meetings
- Post must have representation at a minimum of 1 Commanders Call (Roll Call will be taken)
- Post must make a \$50 donation to the Service Office Support Program (SOS), This is separate from the Red, White and Blue Program donations
- New Post need to attain 50 members to become All-State

The All-State Program runs through June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. To receive All-State Awards at the State Convention, the deadline for completion of All-State Criteria is April 30, 2024. All-State Post Commanders will receive an All-State Post Commanders Cap and Distinguished Service lapel pin. All-State Post Quartermasters have the option to purchase an All-State Post Quartermaster Cap and will receive a Distinguished Service lapel pin. All-State Post Members have the option to purchase an All-State Team Member cap.

### **ALL-STATE DISTRICT CRITERIA**

The All-State Program runs through June 15, 2024. To receive All-State Awards at the State Convention, the deadline for completion of All State Criteria is **April 30, 2024**. All- State District Commanders will receive an All-State District Commander's Cap and a Distinguished Service Lapel Pin. There will be no limits to the number of Districts that can achieve All-State status. The criteria are as follows:

- Membership greater than 102%
- Districts must have 100% of Posts inspected and the inspections must be cleared by the State inspector by April 30, 2024
- Districts must hold a minimum of one School of Instruction and submit a report to State Headquarters
- District must hold or participate in 2 membership drives/events and submit

report to Programs reporting dashboard

- Districts must submit 1 of each of the following to Department Headquarters for judging:
  - Patriots Pen
  - Voice of Democracy
  - Teacher of the Year
  - Employer of the Year
- District must forward a record of the Roll Call of Officers and Posts of each District meeting to State Headquarters.

### **ALL AMERICAN POST LEADERSHIP CRITERIA**

- Membership greater than 102%
- Must conduct two Membership Recruiting events and submit reports through the All-American Dashboard
- Post Election Report must be submitted to National
- Meet all of the following Program Participation Criteria:
  - Voice of Democracy - Minimum of one entry advanced to District judging
  - Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging
  - Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to Veterans & Military Support Programs Services (Minimum of \$100)
  - Teacher of the Year award - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging
  - A Post must submit a community service report quarterly to their department for submission to the All-American Dashboard. The quarters are July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Jan-March, and April-June
  - Buddy Poppy – Purchase three per member in the Post



**ALL AMERICAN DISTRICT CRITERIA**

- Membership greater than 102%
- Must conduct two Membership Recruiting events and submit reports through the All-American Dashboard
- District Election Report must be submitted to National
- Meet all of the following Program Participation Criteria:
  - Voice of Democracy - Minimum of one entry advanced to District judging
  - Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging
  - Teacher of the Year award - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging

**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>
3/1/2024	Ricky Hoffman	Ricky Hoffman
3/8/2024	Harold Albright	Harold Albright

3/15/2024	James Dickey	David Hall
3/22/2024	Lonzo Murray	Lonzo Murray
3/29/24	Iva Muller	Don Muller

### **VETERAN OF THE MONTH**

Congratulations to Harry Miller of Wilmington Post 5422 on being selected as the February Veteran of the Month and Veteran of the Quarter for December-February! Harry "J.R." Miller is an essential figure with Post 5422. His skills and values cannot be understated when it comes to all things VFW. Comrade Miller's positive spirit during Post functions help the functions be successful and carries the Post forward in a positive direction. He has a vast knowledge and is a strong supporter for programs such as National Home, Buddy Poppies, and Recruiting and he can be found talking about the programs both inside and outside the VFW. When Comrade Miller heard that residents were being evacuated due to the flooding of the Kankakee River, he organized the Post to open up for shelter and resources to the displaced residents. As other members arrived at the Post, Comrade Miller briefed everyone and led the relief effort. Harry's efforts in the VFW and in the community have led to his recognition as the February 2024 Veteran of the Month and Veteran of the Quarter. 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.

**124<sup>TH</sup> VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Louisville, KY is the host city for the 125th VFW and 110<sup>th</sup> Auxiliary National Conventions, which will be held **July 26-Aug 1, 2024**. Convention housing will open at a later date. Hotel reservations can be booked via the VFW website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) . More information will be released as we receive it.

**POST CONSOLIDATIONS**

Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento has approved the consolidation of Post 5508 in Ridgway and 3479 in Eldorado, to be known as Saline Post 3479 in Eldorado, Illinois. Please update your records accordingly.

**CHARTER CANCELLATION**

Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento has approved the cancellation of the Charter for Kenneth E. Brady Post 7660 on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Please update your records accordingly.

By Order of:



Joseph H. Bartley  
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Official



Brett Nila  
State Commander



# 20\_\_ - \_\_ POST ELECTION REPORT

DATE OF ELECTION:

POST #	DISTRICT #	DEPARTMENT	POST NAME	POST DUES AMOUNT Includes National and Department Per Capita	\$
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POST MEETING LOCATION (PHYSICAL ADDRESS)				POST MAILING ADDRESS			
BUILDING NAME (IF NOT POST NAME)				STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #			
STREET ADDRESS				ADDRESS LINE 2			
CITY		STATE	ZIP CODE	CITY		STATE	ZIP CODE
POST E-MAIL ADDRESS				POST MEETING DAY/TIME			
POST WEBSITE				CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:			
POST PHONE #		FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION # (EIN)		<input type="checkbox"/> OWN	<input type="checkbox"/> RENT	<input type="checkbox"/> NO POST HOME	<input type="checkbox"/> CANTEEN/CLUBROOM
				<input type="checkbox"/> PROVIDE HALL RENTALS	<input type="checkbox"/> PROVIDE MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS		

COMMANDER				
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME	STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER				
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME	STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER				
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME	STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

QUARTERMASTER				
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME	STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

CHAPLAIN				
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME	STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

JUDGE ADVOCATE (APPOINTED)				
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME	STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

SURGEON (APPOINTED)				
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME	STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

1 YEAR TRUSTEE				
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME	STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

2 YEAR TRUSTEE				
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME	STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

3 YEAR TRUSTEE				
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME	STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

ADJUTANT (APPOINTED)				
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME	STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

SERVICE OFFICER (APPOINTED)				
MEMBERSHIP #	NAME	STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

**105<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION  
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

TO: Department Adjutant-Quartermaster  
Department of Illinois V.F.W.  
3300 Constitution Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62711

POST NO: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register below listed Comrades for the Department Convention being held the week of June 06-09, 2024 in Springfield, Illinois. The registration fee of \$20 per Comrade is enclosed.

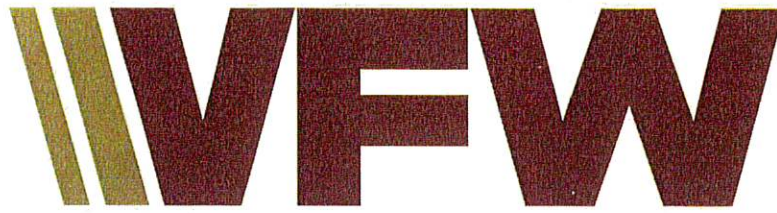
**NOTE: REGISTRATION FEE AFTER FRIDAY, MAY 01, 2024 WILL INCREASE TO \$22.00 PER PERSON, SO REGISTER EARLY!!!**

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY!!!**

	NAME	STREET	CITY	ZIP
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**This form may be photo-copied for additional names if needed.**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**

**105th**

**Illinois State Convention Program Book Order Form**

Our Post/District/Auxiliary would like to purchase the ad size selected below in the 105th annual Illinois VFW Convention Program Book.

**2024 will also mark the 100th Convention of the VFW Auxiliary.**

• Full Page - \$200.00 • • Half Page - \$125.00 • • Quarter Page - \$75.00

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

**BOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE  
JUNE 2024 STATE CONVENTION**

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

*Editor, State Convention Program Book  
3300 Constitution Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62711*

or send via email to: [bwilson@vfwil.org](mailto:bwilson@vfwil.org)

Questions? Contact State Headquarters at (217) 529-6688

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS APRIL 15, 2024**

**Tentative Agenda for  
State Convention  
BOC Center  
June 6-9, 2024**

Wednesday, June 5

Set up State HQ Remote Office, Registration Area, Emblem and Supply  
No VFW Events Scheduled

**Pre-Convention Activities**

Thursday, June 6

0800-1200 District Commander Elect Training (BOS B-7)  
1200-1300 Membership Challenge Luncheon (By Invite Only) (BOS B-2)  
1300-1700 Registration Open (BOS B11A-B)  
1300-1700 Exhibitor/Vendor Booths open (BOS B11A-B)  
1300-1700 Emblem and Supply Open (BOS B11A-B)  
1300-1700 Silent Auction Open (BOS B11A-B)  
1300-1700 Poppy Display Open (BOS B11A-B)  
1330-1500 Committee Meetings (BOS B-7)  
1500-1630 Council of Administration (BOS B-7)  
1400-1630 Breakout Sessions (BOS B-4, B-6, BOS 11C-D)  
1630-1700 Foundation Meeting (BOS B-7)  
1800-1900 Memorial Service (BOS B11C-D)  
TBD Hospitality Room Open (PAL Freeport and Governor Yates Rooms)

**Convention Activities**

Friday, June 7

**0800-1000 JOINT OPENING CEREMONY (BOS B11C-D)**  
0800-1700 Registration Open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1700 Exhibitor/Vendor Booths open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1700 Emblem and Supply Open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1700 Silent Auction Open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1700 Poppy Display Open (BOS B11A-B)  
**1000-1200 BUSINESS SESSION (BOS B11C-D)**  
Rules of Convention, Credentials, Legislative  
Guest Speaker  
Program Reports  
1200-1300 Past District Commander's Association Luncheon (BOS B-2)  
**1300-1400 BUSINESS SESSION (BOS B11C-D)**  
Program Reports  
1<sup>st</sup> Nominations  
1400-1630 Breakout Sessions (BOS B-4, B-6, B-7, BOS 11C-D)  
1630-1700 Church Service (BOS B-7)  
1800-1930 Patriotic Rally (BOS B11C-D)  
TBD Hospitality Room Open (PAL Freeport and Governor Yates Rooms)

Saturday, June 8

- 0800-1200 BUSINESS SESSION (BOS B11C-D)**  
Guests from other Veterans Groups  
VA Hospitals  
State Veterans Homes  
Buddy Poppy Report  
National Home Report and Silver March  
other Program Reports
- 0800-1000 Registration Open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1200 Exhibitor/Vendor Booths open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1200 Emblem and Supply Open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1100 Silent Auction Open (BOS B11A-B)  
0800-1100 Poppy Display Open (BOS B11A-B)  
1200-1300 Past State Commander's Luncheon (BOS B-2)  
1300-1500 **BUSINESS SESSION (BOS B11C-D)**  
By-Laws and Resolutions  
Credentials  
Convention Raffle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Nominations  
Election
- 1500-1600 JOINT INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS (BOS B11C-D)**  
1800-2000 Commander and President's Reception (Adams St or BOS B11C-D)  
TBD Hospitality Room Open (PAL Freeport and Governor Yates Rooms)

**Post Convention Activities**

Sunday, June 9

- 0900-0930 Council of Administration (PAL)



TENTATIVE AGENDA  
District Commander Elect Training  
June 6, 2024

08:00-08:15	Welcome and Introductions, Opening Comments	Adj/QM
08:15-08:30	State Commander and State Senior Vice Commander Welcome	Commander and Sr Vice Commander
08:30-08:45	Role of the VFW Auxiliary	State Aux Vice President Cindy Watters
08:45-09:15	Communication with your District Comrades and Post Commanders	TBD
09:15-09:45	Legislative Committee/Action Alert/Witness Slips	Legislative Team
09:45-10:15	Inspections	TBD
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:00	Parliamentary Procedures	Rob Bland
11:00-11:30	Duties and Responsibilities of District Commander Review of 2024-2025 Commander's Leadership Manual	SVC Maurice Bridges
11:30-11:55	MEMSTATS and Membership	Dustin Dixon
11:55-12:00	Closing Remarks	Adj/QM

## **COMMANDERS SPRING MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE**

We are behind on our recruiting goals for this time in the program year. Recruiting is a grassroots effort from the members to ask people to join the VFW or to reinstate their membership in the VFW. We still have a chance to reach our recruiting goals for the year but it is going to take some serious effort. Every member is asked to get at least one new or reinstated member. We have seen some that have far exceeded that goal and are doing much more. Every member is a recruiter.

### **RECRUITER CHALLENGE.**

We are going to reward the top recruiter for this spring membership challenge.

This membership challenge will run from Feb 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024. The VFW member that recruits the most new or reinstated members during the contest period will receive a specially engraved Henry 22lr Golden Boy Rifle.

The Top Recruiter must be listed as the recruiter on a minimum of 10 applications for new or reinstated members to qualify for the rifle. (Must have FOID card to claim rifle)

If the Top Recruiter has less than 10 new or reinstated members, then they will receive \$300 cash prize.



Every VFW Member that recruits at least 1 new or reinstated member will be placed into a random drawing for other prizes.

## Community Activities Record Book Entry Form

1. This Form must be filled out and attached to the inside cover of the Community Activities Record Book that your Post enters in the Department Community Activities Record Book Contest.
2. All Record Books submitted for Department Judging will be returned to the Post Commander following judging.
3. The Post Commander must sign this form.
4. Your book must be in State Headquarters by May 3, 2024 for judging on May 6, 2024.

Post # \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Projects	Total Hours	Total Funds
----------------	-------------	-------------

Since 5/1/24 \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteered \_\_\_\_\_ Used/Donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN:

Post Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGES, NOTE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Page # \_\_\_\_\_, Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

Page # \_\_\_\_\_, Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

Page # \_\_\_\_\_, Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

Page # \_\_\_\_\_, Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

Post Commander Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Post Commander's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

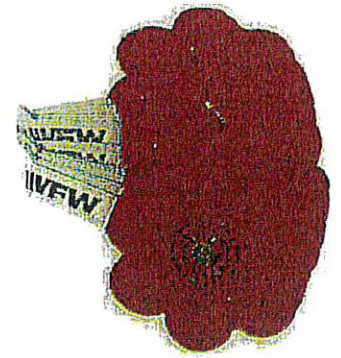
City: \_\_\_\_\_, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

# POPPY ORDER FORM



Traditional Poppy

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

## **TENTATIVE AGENDA**

### **VFW 125th National Convention Louisville, KY Kentucky Convention Center July 27-August 1, 2024**

*All meetings are held in the convention center unless otherwise noted.  
Times for various functions are subject to change.  
Meeting rooms will be posted closer to conference dates and are subject to change*

#### **Friday, July 26, 2024**

10:00 a.m. –6:00 p.m.      **Remote registration** – VFW/Auxiliary – Convention Center -South Pre-Function – Main Concourse

#### **Saturday, July 27, 2024**

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.      VFW Health Fair  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.      VFW/Registration/Exhibits  
8:30 a.m.      National Veterans Service Advisory Committee  
10:00 a.m.      Budget and Finance Committee  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.      Uniting to Combat Hunger  
1:30 p.m.      National Council of Administration Meeting  
4:00 p.m.      Eastern Conference Caucus  
4:00 p.m.      Southern Conference Caucus  
4:00 p.m.      Big Ten Conference Caucus  
4:00 p.m.      Western Conference Caucus

#### **Sunday, July 28, 2024**

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.      VFW Health Fair  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.      VFW Registration/Exhibits  
8:30 a.m.      Annual Memorial Service  
10:00 a.m.      Membership Seminar  
10:00 a.m.      VFW Programs, VMS Committee  
10:00 a.m.      VFW Riders National Advisory Committee  
10:00 a.m.      Post Commander Responsibilities as Non-profit Workshop  
10:30 a.m.      Parliamentary Procedure Workshop  
12N-3:00 p.m.      Cornhole Tournament  
11:00 a.m.      Update on VFW Legislative Priority Goals  
11:00 a.m.      VFW Post Service Officer Training  
12:30 p.m.      First Time Attendees Welcome Orientation  
1:00 p.m.      VFW Programs Town Hall

### Committee Meetings:

2:00 p.m.	National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual -
2:00 p.m.	Finance and Internal Organization (200 series)
2:00 p.m.	General Resolutions (300 Series)
2:00 p.m.	National Security and Foreign Affairs (400 series) Sub Committee – POW/MIA
2:00 p.m.	National Veterans Service Resolutions (600 series) Sub-committee – Health Sub-committee – Benefits Sub-committee – Economic Opportunity/Other
4:00 p.m.	Membership Seminar – Recruiting and Engagement
4:00 p.m.	Member Rights & Post Commander Authority Workshop
4:30 p.m.	Department Adjutant Quartermasters Association Meeting
4:30 p.m.	District Commander Responsibilities Workshop

### Monday, July 29, 2024

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m.	Joint Opening Session <i>(Business session will resume after lunch break)</i>
4:00 p.m.	Parliamentary Procedure Workshop
4:00 p.m.	District Commander Responsibilities Workshop
4:30 p.m.	Department Adjutant Quartermasters Reception <b>(by invitation)</b>
5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Cornhole Tournament Championship

### Tuesday, July 30, 2024

8:00 a.m.-12N.	VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-12N.	VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m.	VFW Business Session
1:00 p.m.	2024-2025 Department Commanders Luncheon – (by invitation) –
1:00 p.m.	2024-2025 Senior Vice Commanders, Senior Vice Presidents Luncheon (by invite only)

1:00 p.m.	2024-2025 Junior Vice Commanders, Junior Vice President's Luncheon (by invite only)
1:00 p.m.	Update on Federal Benefits and Services for Veterans
1:00 p.m.	Grant Seeking & Fundraising Ideas for VFW& Auxiliary Posts
1:00 p.m.	Member Rights & Post Commander Authority
1:00 p.m.	Chaplains Workshop
2:30 p.m.	Post Commander/Quartermaster Responsibilities as a Non-profit
5:15 p.m.	Parade Line-up
6:00 p.m.	Patriotic Celebration

**Wednesday, July 31, 2024**

8:00 a.m.	Business Session /Nomination of Officers
1:00 p.m.	All American Commanders Luncheon (ticketed event)
1:00 p.m.	VFW National Home Workshop

**Thursday, August 1, 2024**

8:00 a.m.	Business Session: Election/Installation of National Officers National Council of Administration Meeting <i>(Following business session)</i>
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Commander-in-Chief's and National President's Reception (ticketed event) – Kentucky Convention Center

Updated: 3/26/24

## Program Bulletin VOD April 2024

Comrades, I hope you had a great Easter celebration and are enjoying this early spring! If you haven't already been informed, the 2024-2025 theme for the Voice of Democracy Program is: "Is America Today our Forefathers' Vision?" We experienced a 10% increase in student participation for 23-24 which is encouraging; however, we have much room for improvement. We currently reach less than 1% of eligible high school students in the state. Let's make it our goal this year to have every post in the department participate in the VOD program and strive for more student enrollment in the posts that are currently participating. The VOD program and other youth activities offer much opportunity for posts to partner with the communities in which they reside. This will favor well for public recognition of our great organization, is a great membership recruitment tool, and can be a source of much personal satisfaction for all involved. Let's go all in for 24-25!



# WHERE HEROES SHOP

All honorably discharged Veterans and Department of Defense civilians with CAC can shop tax free at [ShopMyExchange.com](http://ShopMyExchange.com). In addition, the Department of Defense expanded in-store military exchange and commissary shopping privileges as well as MWR resale facility use to all Veterans with service-connected disabilities.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE BENEFITS  
[SHOPMYEXCHANGE.COM/VETS](http://SHOPMYEXCHANGE.COM/VETS)

*The Exchange is a Department of Defense Organization*



# 2024 Cam Ranh Bay Air Base Reunion

We had such a good time in Dayton, Branson, Nashville and Kansas City we're doing it again! You've got another chance to reconnect with those you were stationed with at Cam Ranh Bay during the Vietnam War, from 1965-1972.

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Date:** September 19-September 22, 2024  
(arr on the 19<sup>th</sup>, dep on the 22<sup>nd</sup>)

**Location:** St. Louis, MO

**Who:** All military personnel stationed at CRB and families of those personnel.



*Vets-we'll need your help, too! We need to reach & find as many people as possible so any veterans groups you belong to, please get the word out!*



Reunion information/registration form will be available soon. This information will also be on our reunion facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/156407821446646/> or you can search on: 2024 Cam Ranh Bay AB Reunion-St. Louis, Missouri If you or someone you know is not on facebook, please contact Diana Westphal at 920-609-5672 or [dicancook@gmail.com](mailto:dicancook@gmail.com) for info.

**SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION**

Name of business or individual \_\_\_\_\_  
How would you like your name publicized? \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Opportunity \$ Amount

**GOLFER INFORMATION**

Team Captain: Name/Email \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran?: Y N  
Golfer #2: Name/Email \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran?: Y N  
Golfer #3: Name/Email \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran?: Y N  
Golfer #4: Name/Email \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran?: Y N

**TEAM NAME**

How many golf carts will your team need?: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration required by May 24, 2024**

**Payment due by June 1, 2024**

If paying by check, please make checks payable to IL State Fair Veterans Day Committee, and mail to: Crystal Womack 833 S Spring St, Springfield, IL 62704. The IL State Fair Veterans Day Committee is a 501(c)3. All money raised will be raised to support Veteran's Day @ the IL State Fair.

Committee Contact:  
Crystal Womack  
217.299.8333  
crystal.womack@illinois.gov



**SCHEDULE**

Registration at 7:00am and 8:00am Shotgun Start  
Lunch will be served

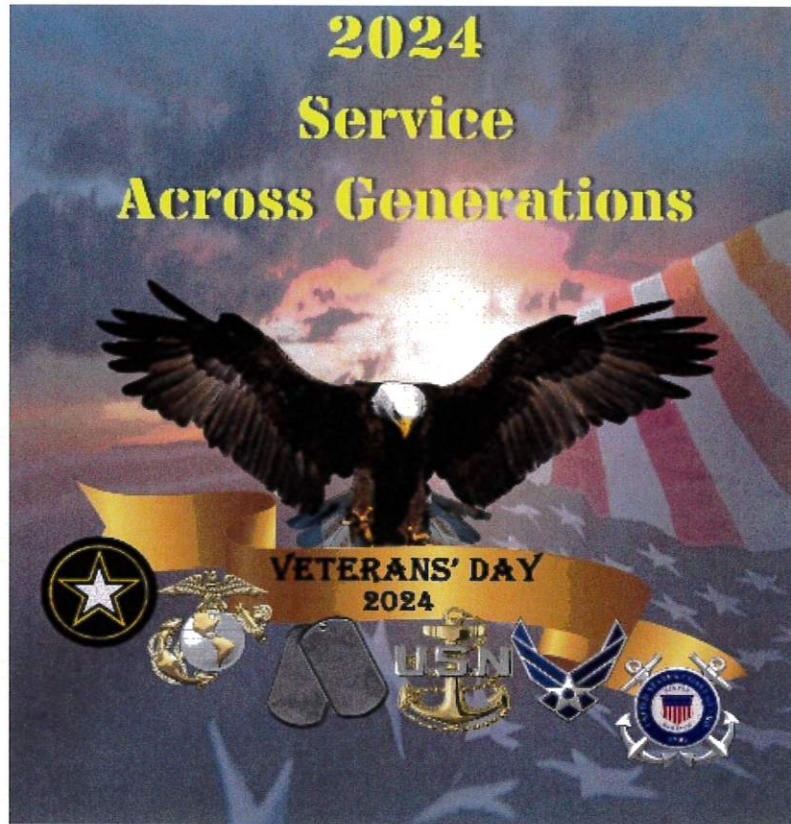
**SPONSORSHIPS**

Red: \$2000 (includes 2-foursomes and sponsorship signage)  
White: \$1,500 (includes 1-foursome and sponsorship signage)  
Blue: Putting Green/Driving Range Sponsor: \$500 (includes signage)  
Hole Sponsor: \$250 (includes signage)  
Sponsor a Veteran to Play: \$100  
Team: \$400 (four golfers)

Ask us how to become a sponsor!

**Challenge Sponsors!**





Dear grateful veteran supporter:

Each year a group of veterans representing the various veteran service groups throughout Illinois plan a day at the Illinois State Fair dedicated to recognizing the military veterans of the state. Included in the day's activities is a recognition breakfast for Gold Star families, musical entertainment, static displays, JROTC drill competitions, and free lunch for attending veterans. Individual, corporate, veteran, and community donations have historically funded this event.

The Veterans Day at the State Fair Committee, a 501 (C) (3) organization, working through the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, invites you to partner with us in sponsoring this day of recognition. Any contribution, large or small would be appreciated as we take time to recognize and thank our service veterans for their contribution to our freedoms.

**This year we will celebrate Veterans Day on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>!**

Contributions can be made to: **Veterans Day State Fair Committee** and mailed to:  
Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs  
Crystal Womack  
833 South Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62704

Thank you for supporting our veterans!