

STATE COMMANDER

Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed officers for the 2021-2022 year. Your dedication and willingness to serve are a testimony to those who have come before you and will leave a lasting legacy for those who will follow in your footsteps.

Without YOU, the Department of Illinois will not function. Without YOU, Veteran's service will fail. Without YOU, VFW programs will falter... You, the local leaders of the VFW, are the backbone of the Department and of the organization as a whole. We will not fail, we will not falter, this I know to be true because I have faith in your abilities and your compassion for our fellow Veterans. So, I say again, congratulations and welcome to the team.

Please keep this guide with you as you conduct the business of our order, the Commander's Leadership Manual is a resource for all of the major programs we will be conducting this year within the department and will answer many of the questions you may encounter or direct you to someone who can. This manual is for all members, not just the leadership, so please share it. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

This year there will be a few changes to the way we have done things in the past, we are coming out of a pandemic that has kept us from meeting in person, conducting our normal business, and in some cases closed doors. We will bounce back; we will be better, and we will be stronger. To do this we are going to emphasize involvement in our communities, participation in our core programs and mentorship within our organization. We have to let our communities know that we are back and that we are coming back with a vengeance, our brothers and sisters in arms need to know that we are still here and that they can turn to us for support. This is the only way forward.

In closing I want to leave you with the motto for this year: "Mission First - Veterans Always" We have a job to do, and we need to get it done, but let's not get so wrapped up in completing the mission that we overlook the Veteran with their hand outstretched asking for help.



Bobby Welch
State Commander

P.O. Box 13206
Springfield, IL 62791-3206
Business: (217) 529-6688
Fax: (217) 546-3415
E-mail: vfwil@vfwil.org
Website: www.vfwil.org