

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Illinois

**2023-2024 Series
General Orders No. 8
February 2024**

STATE HEADQUARTERS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The State Headquarters will be closed on the following days:

February 16th Lincoln's Birthday

February 19th Presidents Day

STATE CONVENTION

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

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

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 will be in upcoming General Orders and on the vfwil.org web page under "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. The registration fee is \$20.00 until **May 31, 2024**, and is \$22.00 after **May 31, 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.

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, 2024 audit must be submitted and approved.

Delegate strength to the convention is based on one delegate and one alternate delegate per thirty members or fraction thereof.

2024 CONVENTION RAFFLE AND PURPLE HEART TICKETS

Tickets for the 2024 Purple Heart and Convention raffle went out in the December issue of the Illinois VFW newspaper. Included were 2 sheets of 5 tickets (\$20 each) and two Purple Heart tickets (\$5 each). Winners will be randomly selected at our State Convention in June, for the following: \$10,000 grand prize, \$3,000 second prize, \$2,000 third prize, \$500 awarded to fourth through tenth place winners. Purple Heart Raffle: \$2,000 grand prize. If you have any questions or would like to request more tickets, please contact VFW Department Headquarters.

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.

ALL-STATE POST AWARDS

The 2023-2024 Membership 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 2023-2024 All-State Post Criteria is as follows:

- Membership greater than 102%

- Posts must hold 2 membership drives/events and submit report to Program Reporting Dashboard
- Posts must be 100% reported on the Department Programs Reporting Dashboard.
- Posts must have submitted all 4 quarterly Trustees Audits and audits were approved.
- Posts 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)
- Posts must order at least 3 poppies per member with a minimum of 1,000 poppies.
- Posts 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 Patriot's Pen as stated in this manual will be accepted if a Post does not have a nomination.

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

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**. There will be no limits on the number of Posts that can achieve All-State status.

All-State Post Commanders will receive an All-State Commander cap and distinguished service lapel pin. All-State Quartermasters may purchase an All-State Post Quartermaster cap and will receive a distinguished service lapel pin. All-State Post Members may purchase an All-Sate Post Member cap.

ALL-STATE DISTRICT CRITERIA

- 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 drive/event and submit report to Programs Reporting Dashboard.
- Districts must submit 1 of each of the following to Department Headquarters for judging:
 - Patriot's Pen
 - Voice of Democracy
 - Teacher of the Year
 - Employer of the Year
- Districts must forward a record of the Roll Call of Officers and Posts of each District Meeting to State Headquarters.

ALL AMERICAN POST CRITERIA

- Membership greater than 102%
- Must conduct 2 membership recruiting events, submit reports through All-American Dashboard
- Post Election Report must be submitted to National
- Posts must meet all of the following Program Participation Criteria:
 - Voice of Democracy- minimum of one entry advanced to District judging. (Overseas Posts can donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry).
 - Patriots Pen- minimum of one entry advanced to District judging.

(Overseas Posts can donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry).

- Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to Veterans and Military Support Program Services. Minimum of \$100
- National Citizenship Education Teachers Award - one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas Post can donate \$100 to National in Lieu of entry)
- A Post must submit a community service report to their department for submission to the All-American Dashboard. The quarters are July-September, October-December, January-March and April through June
- Buddy Poppy - Purchase 3 per member in the Post

FEBRUARY COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

The February Council of Administration Meeting and 78th Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet will be held February 9-11, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield, Illinois 62703.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings will begin on Friday, February 9, 2024 at **1:00** pm at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. All meetings will run consecutively beginning with the Veterans Service Committee at **1:00 pm**. The *Illinois VFW News* Committee, Budget & Finance Committee, and The Foundation Committee will follow.

Members of the Veterans Service Committee are as follows:

Brad Gould, Past State Commander, Chairman

Laurie Emmer, Past State Commander

Robert Welch, Past State Commander

Bobby Edwards, Past State Commander

Bobby Nila, Commander

Maurice Bridges, State Sr. Vice Commander

Eugene Blackwell, State Jr. Vice Commander

Joe Bartley, State Adjutant-Quartermaster

The Illinois VFW News Committee will meet following the Veterans Service Committee...

Laurie Emmer, Past State Commander - Chairman
Barbara Wilson, Illinois VFW News Editor
Robert Welch, State Historian
Brett Nila, State Commander
Joe Bartley, State Adjutant-Quartermaster

The Budget & Finance Committee will meet after the Illinois VFW News Committee... Phil Maughan, Past State Commander, Chairman
Joe Bartley, State Adjutant-Quartermaster, Assistant Chairman

The Foundation Committee will meet after the Budget and Finance Committee...
Dave Stout, President
Todd Latham, Vice President
Barbara Wilson, Secretary
Joe Bartley, Treasurer
Brett Nila, Member
Maurice Bridges, Member
Eugene Blackwell, Member

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

The Council of Administration will meet on Friday, February 9, 2024 and Saturday, February 10, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Springfield. The meeting will begin Friday at 3:00 pm until approximately 5:00 pm. It will reconvene at 8:15 am on Saturday.

All officers and directors are expected to be in attendance for all sessions of the Council of Administration. Past Department Commanders who are receiving Department paid rooms are highly encouraged to attend all sessions of the Council of Administration

FEBRUARY COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

*February 9-11, 2024 Crowne Plaza,
3300 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62703.*

All persons assigned or called-in to report during the February Council of Administration

will receive two complimentary room nights from State Headquarters. It is their responsibility to cover any additional expenses - such as additional nights and incidentals, etc. Those called-in are expected to be in attendance for all meetings and to purchase a banquet ticket for the Voice of Democracy Banquet on Saturday, February 10, 2024.

ASSIGNED TO THE COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

In addition to the Top 3 Chairs and the 17 District Commanders, the following State Officers and Program Chairmen are called to be at Council of Administration Meeting...

Bobby Edwards Past State Commander

Gary Holmes, State Chaplain

Robert Bailey, State Chief of Staff

Ryan Higginbotham, State Surgeon

Robert Welch, State Inspector

Joe Bartley, State Adjutant-Quartermaster

Jay Hoffman, State Judge Advocate

Matthew Claussen, National Council Member

John McGlynn, State Membership Chairman

Georges Sanon, State Student Veterans Liaison

Rob Bland, State Blood Donor Chairman

Steve Eller, State Community Activities Chairman

Paul Bezazian, State Homeless Veterans Chairman

Kyna Simpson, State National Home Chairman

Evamarie Duff, State All-State Chairman

Barbara Wilson, State Public Relations Chairman

Robert Welch, State Veterans and Military Support Programs Chairman and State Historian

Stephanie Kirksey, State Poppy Chairman

Clarence Caraker, State POW/MIA Chairman

Les Durov, State Safety Chairman
Josh Seed, State Yellow Ribbon Chairman
Doug Jameson VAC Liaison
C. Maurice Theriac, State VFW/MOC Coordinator
Dave Darte, State Voice of Democracy Chairman
Kyna Simpson, Assistant Voice of Democracy Director
John Davin, State Youth Activities Chairman
PSC Brad Gould, Veterans Service Committee Chairman
PSC Laurie Emmer, Illinois VFW News Committee Chairman
Dutch DeGroot Legislative Chairman
Duane Hisel Emblem and Supply
Anthony Bellin VFW Rider
Ray Bachawicz, State Sergeant-at-Arms
Jeff Britt, State Officer of the Day
Ron Milton, State Scouting Chairman
Josh Seed, State Assistant Quartermaster
Michelle Ramlow, State Assistant Youth Activities Chairman

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & PATRIOT'S PEN WINNERS' TRIP TO SPRINGFIELD

Each student will receive accommodations for two nights at the Crowne Plaza, 3300 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62703. If the student would like to stay longer than two nights or would like to book additional rooms, the District should assist in making these arrangements and help cover the costs. District Commanders or Chairmen may call State Headquarters to have these arrangements made.

Upon the students' arrival on Friday, February 9, 2023, State Headquarters will be hosting a pizza party! The following morning, the students will meet in the lobby of the hotel at 8:45 am for the Land of Lincoln Tour. The tour will make the following stops: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, Staab Funeral Home, Lincoln's Tomb and the Illinois State Military Museum. Only Students and assigned personnel will be allowed on the bus. Following the

78th Annual State of Illinois Voice of Democracy Banquet, the students will be invited to enjoy an ice cream bar arranged by State Headquarters.

PAST DISTRICT COMMANDER'S ASSOCIATION

The Past District Commander's Association will be hosting a luncheon for all PAST District Commanders.

When: Saturday, February 10, 2024

Where: VFW Post 755, 2211 Old Jacksonville Rd, Springfield, IL 62704

When noon – 1 p.m.

Who: All PAST District Commanders

Cost: \$20 donation to the Past District Commander's Association (Checks made out to the VFW Foundation with PDCA in memo)

Food: Provided by Mission BBQ and paid for by sponsors

LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE

The Lincoln Pilgrimage will take place at Lincoln's Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery at 3:00 pm on Saturday February 10, 2024. Everyone needs to be in place by 2:45.

PATRIOT'S PEN WINNERS

The four finalists for Department Patriot's Pen are listed below.

Luke Martinez, District 4, Post 981

Ava Wiemer, District 5, Post 2245

Braelynn Goddage, District 7, Post 2029

Katelyn Davin, District 12, Post 1241

VOD AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET

The doors will open for the 78th annual Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Banquet at 6:00p.m., on Saturday February 10, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Springfield. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year category winners have been chosen. The winners will be notified and invited to the State Convention in June 2024. The category winners are...

Grade K-5: Jill Metzger, Sponsored by Lilac Post 5815, District 19

Grade 6-8: Katie Sommer: Sponsored by Harry E. Anderson Post 9545, District 18

Grade 9-12: Paula West: Sponsored by Olney Memorial Post 4226, District 13

The overall Department winner whose entry will be forwarded to National for judging will be Jill Metzger.

INCORPORATION OF UNITS

Your attention is directed to the following excerpts from Section 708 of the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

BYLAW - Posts, Districts, and Departments of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be incorporated within the state where they are located as prescribed in the Manual of Procedure.

MANUAL OF PROCEDURE - Proposed Articles of Incorporation and amendments thereto shall be forwarded to the Department Commander for review through channels to the Adjutant General for review by the Commander-in-Chief for compliance with this Section. Articles shall not be filed with the appropriate state officials until review has been completed. No proposed Articles or amendments thereto shall be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief unless so recommended by the Department Commander.

MEMBERSHIP

Quartermasters are reminded and encouraged to go to the Online Membership System (OMS) and click on the reports listing members that are 30 and 60 days from expiration. All officers are encouraged to make every effort to contact these continuous members and ask them if they are ready to renew their membership or become Life Members prior to their expiration date. Remember that the Post Relief Fund can help pay the dues of a member that wishes to remain a member but is financially unable to pay his/her dues.

BONDS

Posts not bonded with the State of Illinois VFW are required to provide State Headquarters with a copy of the Surety Bond with a Fidelity Company approved by your Post membership.

Bonds are valid from September 1 through August 31 annually. If you have questions or concerns, please contact State Headquarters at (217) 529-6688.

SEC. 219 - RELIEF FUND

Section 219 of the National by-laws is quoted below:

A relief fund will be established and maintained by the Posts. In this fund shall be credited the net proceeds of the distribution of Buddy Poppies and such other monies as may be solicited or donated for veteran's relief purposes. Expenditures from the relief fund shall be as prescribed in Section 219 of the Manual of Procedure.

Any audit submitted to Department Headquarters that does not indicate the Post is maintaining a Relief Fund will be rejected and returned for correction.

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. 3rd St., Riverton, Illinois 62561. You can also e-mail a copy to 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.**

MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Members wishing to receive correspondence from the VFW at both the state and National level, please make sure your contact information is up to date. You can do so by logging in to www.vfw.org.

ILLINOIS VETERAN'S LOBBY DAY

This year, the IL VFW has invited other IL veterans' service organizations to join us for a Veteran's Lobby Day at the State Capitol in Springfield, IL on March 13, 2024. Any VFW member that wishes to participate is asked to plan on being in Springfield that day. The day will start out with a meeting of all the participants for coffee and donuts. This will be a chance for everyone to discuss the planned visits for the day and the talking points that will be discussed with members of the IL General Assembly. We will then break up into teams and visit the offices of the State Representatives and State Senators to talk about the veteran's issues in IL. The day will conclude with a social hour to discuss the day's results.

All the talking points and bill info will be provided, so no lobby experience is necessary. This has been successfully done at the federal level to discuss veteran's issue with the Members of Congress and we plan to use the concept to let our State Legislators know what veteran's issues we think our important for IL and for our members. Plan to attend and make our first Veteran's Lobby Day a success.

DEPARTMENT BY-LAW CHANGES

Resolutions having effect on the By-Laws of the Department must be submitted in **proper form** and received by State Headquarters by no later than **April 30, 2024**** so that the resolutions can be circulated to all Posts within the proper time prior to the State Convention. Resolutions affecting the Department By-Laws received after that date cannot be considered at the convention. **If you have questions regarding proper form please contact State Headquarters.**

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES RECORDBOOK

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**

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.

Ads must be received in State Headquarters no later than **April 15, 2024**. ***PAYMENT FOR ADS MUST BE REMITTED AT TIME OF PLACEMENT!***

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF POST OFFICERS

Section 217 of the Constitution, By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, states that *prior to the opening of nominations, the Post shall decide which form of election shall be used, unless the Post By-Laws specify the manner of election.*

Any nominee shall have the opportunity to decline nomination for the office to which he has been nominated before nominations are closed. A member making the 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 opening of nominations. Nominations of Post Officers shall open in March and remain open until the Post is ready to vote, provided, however, that when a poll system is used, nominations must be closed at the meeting prior to the election to allow the Adjutant to prepare a printed ballot.

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 and preprinted ballot. **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 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.

If irregularities are claimed with respect to the election to any office, such challenge must be made in a writing containing specific details concerning the irregularities, signed by the challenger, and forwarded to the District Commander, mailed no later than three (3) days after the election.

Complete details regarding the election of Post, District, County Council and Department Officers are available in the 2024 Podium Edition of the National Constitution, By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Every Post is urged to purchase a copy of the [Podium Edition](#) from the [VFW Store](#) for a nominal fee.

NATIONAL BY-LAW CHANGES REGARDING THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers at all levels should take note of Part 216 and 416 of the National By-Laws regarding the election of officers. Please also take the time to review your Post/District By-Laws.

Section 416 - Elected and Appointed officers; Chairmen and Committees.

(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.

Section 216 - Elected and Appointed officers; Chairmen and Committees.

(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 the Post By-Laws.

VOTING AT DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Each member of a District Convention or District meeting are those persons as defined in Section 404 of the By-Laws, except delegates elected by the Posts, present at a District Convention or meeting shall be entitled to one vote, and an individual possessing more than one qualification for membership in the District Convention or meeting shall have no more than one vote. The delegate or delegates of a Post present at a District Convention or meeting shall be entitled to vote the full delegate strength to which the Post is entitled.

Should there be a division among the delegates representing the Post, each delegate present shall cast his pro rata share of the total voting strength of the Post. For the purpose of this Section (Section 421-Voting), a Post Commander shall be considered a delegate.

A roll call vote may be required and entered upon the record at the call of any three officers or delegates representing three different Posts.

This means that District Elections are determined, not by the number of individuals present and voting, but by the amount of weighted vote that each Post possesses

125th VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION

Louisville, KY is the host city for the 125th VFW and 110th Auxiliary National Conventions, which will be held **July 27-August 1, 2024**. Convention housing will open March 18, 2024. Hotel reservations can be booked via the VFW website www.vfw.org . More information will be released as we receive it.

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING CHANGE

125th National Convention housing will open, Monday, March 18, 2024. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at vfw.org/convention. The convention website will also have general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related

information for Louisville, Kentucky – July 27-Aug. 1, 2024, and a tentative agenda.

NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

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.

Join 2024 VFW Day of Service.

The VFW's third annual VFW Day of Service – a dedicated day of service led by VFW members throughout the country and the world – kicks off the first Saturday on May 4, 2024, and marks the start of veteran-led community service projects to take place throughout the month.

The VFW Day of Service is an outgrowth of the organization's #StillServing campaign launched in 2020 to recognize the ongoing dedication of veterans and service members who continue to serve their communities. VFW Day of Service, led by veterans and in concert with other organizations and civic groups, is open for anyone to participate.

We're urging all members and Posts to visit VFWDayofService.org to register their event on the interactive Day of Service map and receive a special participation decal, or find a local event to join and see what other veterans around the country are doing to make a difference.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Posts and individuals have the opportunity to make donations to the Veterans of Foreign Wars by going to our state website, <http://www.vfwil.org>. Once on the website, by clicking on "Donation" link and following the instructions. Through that

same form, it is also possible to purchase banquet tickets for state events, pay for poppies, and make donations for the x-sheet to the Department of Illinois VFW Programs. ***Don't forget to specify what the donation is for under the "allocate funds to" line. Please note, if you are paying for poppies, supplies, or VFW Programs, we need your Post number!***

BUDDY POPPY PROGRAM

Order your poppies now for your Memorial Day distribution or for your Poppy Display. You can order electronically from our webpage - <http://www.vfwil.org>, or fill out the form and mail or fax or just call us. Please keep in mind:

- You can order in increments of 500. Poppies are priced at \$280.00 per 1,000 for Traditional poppies or \$140 for Tin tab poppies
- Your poppies should be ordered 6 to 8 weeks in advance of your distribution. State Headquarters does have Poppies in stock. A shipping charge will be added to the invoice for orders that are shipped from this office. **Please order early!**
- Poppies must be ordered using a name. Your order will be shipped to the *name* of the person who ordered them, but not to "VFW Post __ " or just "Commander" or "Quartermaster".
- **Please include a street address.** Poppies are shipped via UPS or Fedex and cannot be delivered to a Post Office Box.
- Poppies can be paid for by check or by credit card. **Please submit payment with your order or pay promptly when invoiced.**
- Be sure to put an actual sale date on your order; to avoid paying extra for shipping, **do** **not just** put *RUSH* or *ASAP*. The Cost of shipping for 500 poppies is \$10.05 and for 100 poppies it is \$11.45.
- Poppy cans, caps, table covers, vests, aprons, etc. are ordered directly from the [VFW Store](#) at National Headquarters.

- **Special Note: If you have ordered your poppies from the State website and didn't pay with a credit/debit card, please do not send a paper copy of your order form if paying with a check. This will eliminate the possibility of a duplication of your order.**

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>
1/5/2024	Roger Ferguson	No Seller Listed
1/12/2024	Raymond Grandfield	Raymond Grandfield
1/19/2024	Carol Penrod	Carol Penrod
1/25/24	Cornelius OMalley	No Seller Listed

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

January's Veteran of the Month will be announced next month. Thank you to all who submitted nominations for this month, please continue to do so and for those that did not please look for those comrades from your post who stand apart from the rest by serving the

community, Veterans and embodying the purposes of our congressional charter: to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead; and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United states from all her enemies.

CHARTER CANCELLATION

Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento has approved the cancellation of the Charter for Sturms & Schmitt Post 7176. Please update your records accordingly.

By Order of:



Joseph H. Bartley

State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Official



Brett Nila

State Commander

**105th 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.

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.

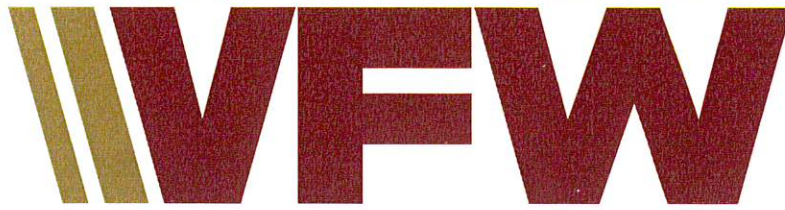
We are going to reward the top recruiter for this spring membership challenge.

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. 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.

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

**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

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

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS APRIL 15, 2024



20__ - __ POST ELECTION REPORT

DATE OF ELECTION:

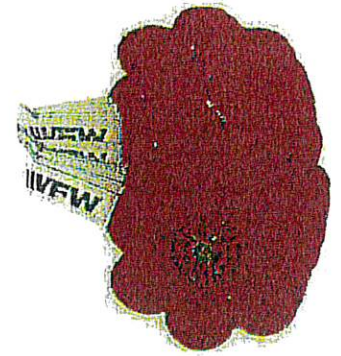
POST #	DISTRICT #	DEPARTMENT	POST NAME	POST DUES AMOUNT Includes National and Department Per Capita	\$
POST MEETING LOCATION (PHYSICAL ADDRESS)			POST MAILING ADDRESS		
BUILDING NAME (IF NOT POST NAME)			STREET ADDRESS or PO BOX #		
STREET ADDRESS			ADDRESS LINE 2		
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
POST E-MAIL ADDRESS			POST MEETING DAY/TIME		
POST WEBSITE			CHECK ALL THAT APPLY: <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		
POST PHONE #			FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION # (EIN)		
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



Traditional Poppy

POPPY ORDER FORM

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

Homeless Veterans

Comrades, winter is back & our Brothers & Sisters living on the street are in desperate need of our help. We all know how cold & windy it gets this time of year. Housing, food & clothing are sorely needed for these Veterans right now. No matter where you live, there is a Veteran in need of some help. A lot of people keep an extra blanket, knit cap, scarf, gloves or maybe some hand warmers in your car for safety reasons in the winter. Now is the time to look in the closet, cedar chest, dresser or wherever you keep your warm clothing & put an extra set in your car for a Veteran in need. How about that flannel shirt, long underwear or sweat shirt that doesn't fit. Now is the time to make good use of it.

Keep some extra candy, granola bars, cheese crackers, slim jims, something of this nature to give out to a needy Veteran. I have a Comrade from the Sandwich post who gives me gift cards from McDonalds, Burger King & Subway to pass out to the Veterans. Something to think about. There is still weeks of winter to go & it can get brutally cold outside. You know what it's like to lose a hat, scarf or pair of gloves when it's cold. Now think of our Veterans living in the elements, no warm clothing, hat, gloves, warm, clean socks. Maybe you are reading this in your kitchen, your office, your living room, nice & warm. Next time you walk out that door into that Bitterly Cold weather, think of our Veterans living out there.

According to the Dept. of Housing & Urban Development, Homelessness among Veterans has decreased from 2020 - 2023. But, Homelessness among Women Veterans in this same period has jumped nearly 48%, from 1,464 to 2,165!! These are Women Veterans living on the streets, in a car or other unsafe situation. There are a lot of factors that put a Woman Veteran on the street or in the woods. Trauma- experience of trauma before, during or after their time in service that could contribute to housing instability. Military sexual assault, partner violence, poverty, single parenthood. We need to work on these issues. Our programs provide this help.

Besides working this program on the streets, we need to make sure our posts make the monetary donations for the five programs that require a minimum of \$ 50.00 to department. These five programs all work for the same goal, Veteran Service. Our programs don't run themselves. We need our comrades to work with the directors at the post, district & department levels to get this done.

Remember to report everything that you do for the programs so we can record what you do. Remember, we are a " VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION" That's our mission. Do the work & report the good deeds we do!! Thank you for what you do for our Veterans. Work with your post comrades & the district chairman.

Yours in Comradeship, Paul J. Bezazian, Homeless Veterans Director

National Home for Children Bulletin

We are well into 2024 and with it, we are celebrating the 99th anniversary of the National Home! The origins can be traced to Amy Ross who, at 23, wanted to help the thousands of unemployed WWI veterans in Michigan and around the country. News of Amy's efforts reached millionaire cattleman Cory Spencer who gifted 472 acres near Eaton Rapids Michigan to help support the cause. On January 7, 1925, the National Home was founded. Later that spring they welcomed the first family, Mrs Pollett and her six children.

As we are all aware, today, military and veteran families can face challenges. Reintegration, PTSD, injury rehabilitation and multiple tours of duty can take a toll. And through the years, the National Home has grown and continued to provide help and hope for families. Your support has been instrumental and much appreciated!

As we move closer to the "Silver March" in June, please make sure all donations are being properly recorded. As per the Commander's Leadership Manual, a minimum donation of \$50 is needed to receive credit on the dashboard. If you send donations directly to the National Home, please let Dept know. This includes National Home memberships and brick purchases.

Please check with those who have National Home Memberships to ensure the National Home has their correct email address. This will be critical for upcoming trustee voting. If you have any questions, or need further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for continuing to support the families in Eaton Rapids. Thanks also to our own Comrade Mike McGrath, who regularly contributes to spreading the word about the National Home.

We greatly appreciate your efforts and wish you much success with fundraising "bigger and better" in 2024!

In Comradeship,

Kyna Simpson
National Home Chair

Mike McGrath
National Home Co Chair

★ VETERANS ★

WERE YOU EXPOSED TO BURN PITS OR OTHER TOXINS DURING YOUR MILITARY SERVICE?



<https://bit.ly/BCAN4VETS>

The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) is advocating for **bladder cancer** to be accepted as a **tied-to-service** condition for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxins - making it easier for veterans to receive timely health care and benefits when they need it most.

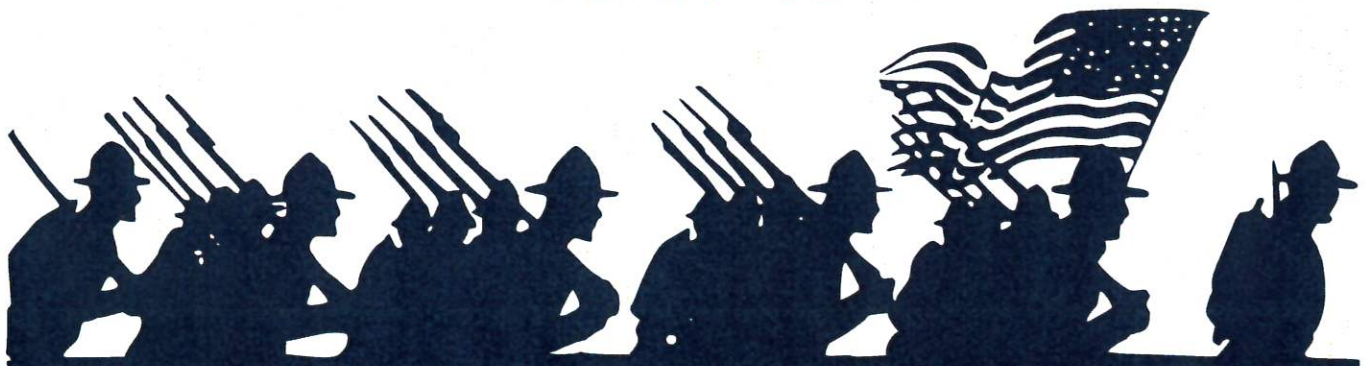
If you are a veteran who:

- Has served in the Gulf War era or post-9/11 and
- Has a bladder cancer diagnosis

We want to hear from you.

Scan the QR code or use the web link to tell us your story via a brief survey.

If you need assistance with completing the survey, please contact Patricia at (301)637-6965 or prios@bcan.org.



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network | bcan.org

