



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Illinois

**2024-2025 Series
General Orders No. 1
July 2024**

STATE HEADQUARTERS CLOSURE

State Headquarters will be closed on July 4th and 5th in observation of Independence Day.

SPAM EMAILS

If you receive an email from a Department Officer with a suspicious request, check the actual email address of the sender. Keep in mind that a Department Officer will not ask you send them money or gift cards. Scammers are very skilled at making an email appear that it came from someone else.

RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

Attention of all members is directed to the purposes listed within the VFW's Congressional Charter. "To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom" is one of the VFW's chartered purposes; as such the VFW represents fighting for American rights, civil rights and humanitarian impulses that have always guided the VFW's principles.

Today the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department of Illinois reaffirms its commitment to that chartered purpose by first recognizing that in order to end racism within our organization it is not enough to be non-racist/non-discriminatory: we must be proactive. While we focus on education and mentorship we work to identify, address, and eradicate any and all forms of racial bias and discrimination. We will work to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization. The IL VFW's leadership is united in the pursuit to end racial bias and discrimination while empowering our members and the greater veteran community towards this collective goal.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION

Attention of all members is directed to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "Discipline of Members." Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned. In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another's ability to participate in VFW events. All members will be treated with dignity and respect.

VFW AND AUXILIARY

For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary. If your Post has an Auxiliary, you will strive to work with the Auxiliary in order to form a common bond of working together to take care of veterans.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT-QUARTERMASTER

ALL QUARTERMASTERS: If you have not created an account on the Online Membership System (OMS), please go to <https://www.vfw.org/login.aspx>. Below you will see a link to *create an Account*. After following the instructions, you will be identified as the Post Quartermaster.

National Headquarters will mail a PIN number to the address registered for the Quartermaster on your Post Election Report to complete your registration as Post Quartermaster. Once you enter the PIN number, you'll be able to update information for members of your Post, revise your Post Election Report, etc. **Important note:** *The Online Membership System will be unavailable beginning on Thursday, June 30th at 6:30 p.m. for end of year membership processing. All membership transactions should be entered prior to that time. Check back frequently for availability.*

Make sure to visit our state website - <http://www.vfwil.org>! You'll find upcoming events at the District, State, and National level. You can also view the new Commander's Leadership Manual, [Illinois VFW](#) submit/view online reporting for programs, etc! Please do not hesitate to call State Headquarters with questions - (217) 529-6688.

ALL POST AND DISTRICT ADJUTANTS

Keeping properly formatted meeting minutes is one of the most important duties you have to your post or district. There have been recent incidents of post meetings being held and important decisions, such as the membership approving to sell property, not being recorded in the minutes. If it is not recorded, it did not happen. For further information on how to properly record meeting minutes please refer to Roberts Rules of Order (Newly Revised) Section 48, paragraphs 1 through 8.

ALL DISTRICT COMMANDERS AND POST COMMANDERS

REMINDER: Print each month's General Orders to take them to your Post and District Meetings. *Please* read them to your members so they are aware of what is going on within our department. Every month of General Orders can be viewed and downloaded from <http://www.vfwil.org>.

THROUGH CHANNELS

Post Commanders, County Council Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all Resolutions or communications relative to FEDERAL LEGISLATION OR TO THE POLICY OR PROCEDURE OF THE U.S. VETERANS ADMINISTRATION OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY to the State Headquarters for endorsement and referral to the Adjutant General.

ATTENTION POST COMMANDERS

Your attention is drawn to Section 218 of the National By-Laws... Among the Duties of a Post Commander, the Commander shall:

Assure that the Commander or one of their representatives attends all properly called District Conventions or meetings and County Council meetings (if applicable).

APPLICATION FOR POST QUARTERMASTER'S BOND

Bond applications for Post Commanders and Quartermasters are available online. Ordering poppies and Convention Delegate Registration can also be done online. **NOTE:** The maximum amount of bond that can be purchased through State HQ is \$1 Million. This bond only covers the Commander and Quartermaster. If a Post needs a bond greater than \$1 Million or they need coverage for more than Commander and Quartermaster, they **MUST** purchase from outside source and provide a copy to State HQ.

POPPIES - IMPORTANT!

Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as "They Gave, Will You?" is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies.

Please note the price of the poppies is \$280.00 per thousand for Traditional poppies and \$140.00 per thousand for the metal poppies. **Please allow a minimum of 6-8 weeks for processing and shipping** when you order your poppies; **be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use "ASAP."** Poppies can be paid for by check or by credit card. Please submit payment with your order or pay promptly when invoiced.

BOND APPLICATION AND OTHER NECESSARY FORMS

Post Officer's bond applications, poppy order forms and the Commander's Leadership Manual are available on our website - <http://www.vfwil.org>. Poppies can be ordered and paid for online! Your bond can be applied for and paid for online as well! Quick, easy, and saves you a stamp!

FORM 990 - RETURN OF ORGANIZATION EXEMPT FROM INCOME TAX

We call attention to the fact that all VFW Posts are required to annually file the IRS Form 990. As a subordinate unit of the Department of Illinois, Veterans of Foreign Wars, you could lose your non-profit status by failing to file this annual report. **We are asking all VFW Posts to forward copies of the 990 filed with the IRS starting with the year ending June, 30, 2023 to this office.**

ELECTED OFFICERS

Below are the State Officers who were elected during our 104th Annual State Convention...

State Commander - Maurice Bridges-Post 4183-14
State Senior Vice Commander - Eugene Blackwell- Post 311-16
State Junior Vice Commander- Robert Bailey - 7452-19
State Quartermaster - Joe Bartley - Post 10302-10
State Judge Advocate - Jayson Hoffman - Post 4763-10
State Surgeon - Ryan Higginbotham - Post 4226-13
State Chaplain - Gary Holmes - Post 2955-6

APPOINTMENTS

Below are appointments for the 2024-2025 year made by our State Commander...

State Adjutant - Joe Bartley - Post 10302 -10
State Assistant Quartermaster - Josh Seed - Post 755-10
State Assistant Adjutant - Jonathan Cooper - Post 8821-3
State Veterans Service Chairman- Laurie Emmer - Post 5768-19
State Chief of Staff - Nancy O, Connell - Post 4226-13
State Inspector - Cathy Stubbs - Post 7710-14
State *Illinois* VFW News Editor - Barbara Wilson - Post 3455-15
State Sergeant-at-Arms - Raymond Bachewicz - Post 2298-5
State Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms Roy Johnson - Post 5220-3,
Jack Lamont - Post 3851-13
Kenneth Williams - Post 3480-14
State Officer of the Day- Jeff Britt- Post 6865-14
Advisor to State Commander - Phil Maughan - Post 3873-19
Emblem & Supply Chairman- Duane Hisel- Post 4763-10
State Marketing/Public Relations Chairman - Barbara Wilson - Post 3455-15
State Membership Chairman- Dustin Dixon - Post 7678-12
State All-State Program Chairman- Evamarie Duff- Post 2868-4
State Student Veterans Liaison - Georges Sanon - Post 311-16
State Blood Donor Chairman - Rob Bland- Post 1461-4
State Community Activities Chairman - Steve Eller - Post 7710-14
State Homeless Veterans Chairman - Paul Bezazian - Post 8322-3
State Legislative Chairman – Larry Miller – Post 1299
State Assistant Legislative Chairmen - Dave Marsh - Post 755-10
Doug Jameson - Post 1739-14
Jay Hoffman - Post 4763-10
State National Home Chairman- Kyna Simpson- Post 311-16
State Assistant National Home Chairman- Mike Mc Grath- Post 3873-19
State Veterans & Military Support Programs Chairman- Bobby Welch- Post 450-16
State Parliamentarian- Victor Smith - Post 1239-10
State Photographer- Barbara Wilson- Post 3455-15
State Buddy Poppy Chairman - Stephanie Kirksey - Post 6504-14
State POW/MIA Chairman- Clarence Caraker- Post 3455-15
State Safety Chairman - Glen Goodrich - 4495-11
State Voice of Democracy Chairman - Dave Darte- Post 3912-12
State Assistant Voice of Democracy Chairman - Kyna Simpson - Post 311-16
State VAC Liaison- Doug Jameson- Post 1739-14
State Youth Activities Chairman- John Davin - Post 5917-18
State Assistant Youth Activities - Michelle Ramlow - Post 1756-10
State Scouting Chairman - Ron Milton - Post 4183-14
State Historian - Bobby Welch- Post 450-16
Deputy/District Inspectors
District 3 -
District 4 - Melvin Parks- Post 2868-4

District 5 - Raymond Rigsby - Post 7448-5
District 6 - Charles Ingle - Post 2955-6
District 7 - Jimmie Waters - Post 454-7
District 8 - Iris Miller - Post 5117-8
District 9 - John Finnegan - Post 5506-9
District 10- Friedrich Carroll- Post 4763-10
District 11- Fred Whobrey - Post 99-11
District 12- Dustin Dixon -Post 7678-12
District 13 - Christopher Hatcher - Post 2006-13
District 14- James Page - Post 1739-14
District 15- Robert Owen - Post 9763-15
District 16 - Ermon Davis - Post 311-16
District 17 - Robert Denny - Post 5975-17
District 18- Paul Cravens - 725-18
District 19 - Bryan Kelsey - Post 1197-19

PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

All reports to the Council of Administration will be typed and forwarded to Headquarters no later than **Friday, August 2, 2024.** These will be presented to the Council in the form of a **Book of Reports;** you will be given two minutes to highlight any changes or important information contained within your written report. As a reminder, any action items that need Council of Administration approval will be listed after the information you are providing for your program report. District Commanders will be required to present these reports at their District meetings.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS/PROGRAM CHAIRMANS

Committee members for Committee meetings must be present. All other Officers and Program Chairmen are expected to be in attendance for all Council of Administration meetings. The committees being called into the August Council of Administration will meet on Friday, August 16, 2024 at 1:00 pm and the August Council of Administration Meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. The meetings will take place at Four Points by Sheraton St. Louis. All *Program Chairmen* are expected to be present and to introduce themselves and outline their programs giving instruction on how to accomplish program goals.

PROGRAM CHAIRMEN: If you need a PowerPoint presentation or any visual aid, please contact State Headquarters as soon as possible to have arrangements made. If **you have documentation you would like to handout,** please forward them to State Headquarters by **Friday, August 2, 2024!**

VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Veterans Service Committee will meet at 1:00pm...

Brett Nila, Chairman
Maurice Bridges, State Commander
Eugene Blackwell, State Senior Vice Commander
Robert Bailey, State Junior Vice Commander
Joe Bartley, State Adjutant-Quartermaster
Bobby Edwards, Past State Commander
Bobby Welch, Past State Commander
Laurie Emmer, Past State Commander

ILLINOIS VFW NEWS COMMITTEE

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

Laurie Emmer, Chairman, Past State Commander
Barbara Wilson, *Illinois VFW News* Editor
Maurice Bridges, State Commander
Joe Bartley, State Adjutant-Quartermaster
Bob Welch, Historian

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Budget & Finance Committee will meet after the *Illinois VFW News* Committee...

Phil Maughan - Chairman
Joe Bartley - Assistant Budget and Finance Chairman

FIRST COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

The first Council of Administration Meeting will be held August 16-17, 2024 at Four Points by Sheraton St. Louis, 319 Fountains Pkwy., Fairview Heights, IL 62208. Hotel rooms are priced at \$115 plus tax per night. The cut-off date for reserving your room is August 1, 2024. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at (618) 622-9500. Our group code is ILVFW.

AUGUST COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

The Council of Administration will meet at the Four Points by Sheraton St. Louis on Friday, August 16, 2024 at 3:00 pm. This meeting should adjourn at approximately 5:30 pm, and reconvene on Saturday, August 17th at 8:30 am. The following State

Officers and Program Chairmen should be prepared to report on Friday, August 16, 2024.

Matt Claussen, National Council Member
Nancy O'Connell, State Chief of Staff
Cathy Stubbs, State Inspector
Ryan Higginbotham, State Surgeon
Jay Hoffman, State Judge Advocate
Gary Holmes, State Chaplain
Dustin Dixon, State Membership Chairman
Evamarie Duff, State All-State Program Chairman
Barbara Wilson, State Marketing/Public Relations Chairman
Georges Sanon, State Student Veterans Liaisons
Robert Bland, State Blood Donor Chairman
Stephanie Kirksey, State Buddy Poppy Chairman
Steve Eller, State Community Activities Chairman
Paul Bezazian, State Homeless Veterans Chairman
State Legislative Chairman – Larry Miller, Post 1299
Kyna Simpson, State National Home Chairman
Clarence Caraker, State POW/MIA Chairman
Bobby Welch, State Veterans and Military Support Programs Chairman
Laurie Emmer, *Illinois VFW News* Committee Chairman
Barbara Wilson - *Illinois VFW News* Editor
Glen Goodrich, State Safety Chairman
Dave Darte, State Voice of Democracy Chairman
John Davin, State Youth Activities Chairman
Ron Milton, State Scouting Chairman
Doug Jameson, VAC Liaison
Brett Nila, Veterans Service Chairman
Phil Maughan, Budget & Finance Committee Chairman

AUGUST COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

These additional State Officers will also be called into the Council of Administration Meeting...

Sean Conner, State Service Office Chairman
Jeff Britt., State Officer of the Day

STATE COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING

The Homecoming Dinner for Commander Maurice Bridges will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2024 at Four Points by Sheraton St. Louis, in conjunction with our First Council of Administration Meeting. *Please look for the flyer on the state website for more information.*

You may purchase your tickets through State Headquarters by calling (217) 529-6688 or making a donation on <http://www.vfwil.org>. Tickets are \$55 each.

PROGRAM BOOKS

The State of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars has been given permission by members of the Council of Administration to sign a contract with Golden Rule, Inc. to sell advertising space in our Convention Program Book, 2024 Fall Program Book and our 2025 Voice of Democracy Program Book. Representatives of this company work throughout the State of Illinois to sell advertising; this is a legitimate advertising program and is not a donation. If anyone in your immediate area has a problem with any these representatives, contact Jim Alyea at 1-800-433- 4680. The Sales Representatives have received a "Letter of Introduction" and should produce it if asked to do so. This is not a new program. We ask that you help promote this on behalf of the State of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars.

NATIONAL CONVENTION, JULY 27-August 1, 2024

The National Convention will take place from Saturday, July 27, 2024 through Thursday, August 1, 2024 in Louisville, KY. A tentative agenda and other information regarding the National Convention in July can be found on National's website under *Media & Events*. Complete information regarding National Convention in Louisville, KY is attached at the end of these orders. You can use the following method to make reservations:

VFW Convention: [website-www.vfw.org/convention](http://www.vfw.org/convention).

NATIONAL CONVENTION-ADVANCE REGISTRATION

A reminder **every** Post must register a delegate to the 125th National Convention. Section 222 of the National Congressional Charter and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure states - *Each Post shall register, in advance, at least one delegate to the National Convention, by the payment of a fee in the amount of \$25, which fee shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials. Posts failing to comply with this provision shall be considered delinquent and in arrears.*

If your Post has not registered a delegate, **PLEASE DO SO NOW!** We still have a good number of Posts from Illinois who have not registered. If you are unsure if your Post is registered, contact National Headquarters. If you registered online, you must still fill out the paper form and mail it to our National Headquarters. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a \$10 delegate fee. *A delegate registration form is included in these General Orders.*

NATIONAL CONVENTION CREDENTIALS

National Convention Delegates will receive a letter acknowledging their registration of the 125th National Convention. This letter must be presented to the Credentials Committee at the Registration Booth in Louisville, KY. Post Commanders, District Officers, and State Officers are not automatic delegates. They must attend as Post Delegates and carry credentials.

DISTRICT MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE!

All District Meetings have been posted on our State of Illinois VFW Website. Click on the tab for "News" and then click on "Calendar". Commanders, please check the website to insure your events are listed correctly. District Commanders are reminded that if a date or location should change after being submitted, they are to contact State Headquarters to provide the updated information. Please be advised that no State Officer will be assigned to District Conventions.

WHEN A STATE REPRESENTATIVE VISITS YOUR DISTRICT OR POST FUNCTION...

When you request a state officer to attend a function at the Post or District level, they should be greeted upon arrival at the designated location. Please make sure they have a designated parking space, and that they are introduced around. If the event is overnight, accommodations need to be made for the assigned officer. They will need prior notification of their reservation, along with their confirmation number to make sure check-in goes smoothly.

REMEMBER: This may be their first visit to your Post or District. They are giving up their time. Let's show the courtesy they deserve. State Representatives assigned to District Meetings will be taking roll call so please make a special effort to be present at your upcoming District Meetings.

2024-2025 COMMANDER'S CALLS

State Commander Maurice Bridges will be holding 5 Commander's Calls this fall at Posts around Illinois

Schedule

September 14, 2024

Centralia Post 2055
1826 S. Pine St.
Centralia, IL 62801

September 15, 2024

Caseyville Post 1117
415 N. Long St.
Caseyville, IL 62232

September 28, 2024

East Peoria Post 2078
1507 E. Meadow Ave.
East Peoria, IL 61611

September 29, 2024

Joshua W. Harris Brookfield Memorial Post 2868
8844 Ogden Ave.
Brookfield, IL 60513

April 12, 2025

Oren L. Davis Post 99,
3920 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Decatur, IL 62526

All Commanders' Calls are scheduled for 10 am to 2 pm on the dates and locations above

ALL Veterans of Foreign Wars officers and members are invited to attend and meet with the State Commander and other State Officers and Chairmen of the IL VFW

As a reminder, A Post Commander or representative must attend at least one (1) of the scheduled Commander's Calls in order to be eligible for All-State Post for 2024-2025

NEW CENTURY RAFFLE

The New Century Raffle has officially started and will run through June 30, 2023. The tickets are just \$10.00 each. Each ticket entitles you to participate in a weekly drawing of \$100 from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Drawings will be held each Friday beginning July 1, 2022, 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>
6/7/2024	Carl Metz	No seller listed
6/14/2024	Michelle DeBourge	Michelle DeBourge
6/21/2024	Ralph Boblitt	Ralph Boblitt
6/28/2024	Danny Marinello	Danny Marinello

Poppy Display Winners

1st Place

Category 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

100 to 750 Poppies: Auxiliary Post 5117-8

751 to 1500 Poppies: Post and Auxiliary 7678-12

1501 and Up Poppies: Post 4183-14

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Display

100 to 750 Poppies: Post and Auxiliary 2801-19

751 to 1500 Poppies: Post and Auxiliary 5762-17

1501 and Up Poppies: Post and Auxiliary 805-14

Category 3: Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

100 to 750 Poppies: Post and Auxiliary 9773-3

751 to 1500 Poppies: Post and Auxiliary 4325-17

2nd Place

Category 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

100 to 750 Poppies: Post and Auxiliary 6504-14

751 to 1500 Poppies: Post and Auxiliary 4549-17

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Display

100 to 750 Poppies: Post and Auxiliary 5079-3

751 to 1500 Poppies: Post and Auxiliary 2876-17

1501 and Up Poppies: Auxiliary 2955-6

Category 3: Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

100 to 750 Poppies: Post and Auxiliary 6632-14

751 to 1500 Poppies: Post and Auxiliary 1739-14

2023-2024 ALL-STATE TEAM OF DISTRICT COMMANDERS

<u>DISTRICT #</u>	<u>CMDR.</u>
Dist. 14	Clyde Rowold

2023-2024 ALL-STATE TEAM OF POST COMMANDERS AND QUARTERMASTERS

<u>POST #</u>	<u>CMDR.</u>	<u>QM.</u>
	<u>DISTRICT 3</u>	
Post 2978 Post 8821	Ray Doeksen Jonathan Cooper	Paul Zogg Felix Grzelinski
	<u>DISTRICT 4</u>	
Post 1337	Les Durov	Charles Ohrn
	<u>DISTRICT 5</u>	
Post 4308 Post 4600	Stephen Baker Ben Keefe	Patrick Dunham Ronnie Reber
	<u>DISTRICT 6</u>	
Post 342 Post 2955 Post 8739	Gary Holmes Ruben Hernandez Brian Beckman	Lana McCants Maurice Buffo Stanley Asp
	<u>DISTRICT 10</u>	
Post 755 Post 11463	Josh Seed Kyle Blumhorst	Jim Carroll Larry Miller
	<u>DISTRICT 11</u>	
Post 4168 Post 5346 Post 6190	Joseph Swinford Seth Floyd Stephen Sigler	David Levesque Gordon Lawrence Lowell Spieker

DISTRICT 12

Post 1241	Bradley Lemke	Wayne Bruhn
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DISTRICT 14

Post 805	Karen Ridge	James Stover
Post 1117	Robert Wilson	John Forister
Post 1739	Douglas Jameson	James Page
Post 2698	Kenneth Eddy	Elizabeth Sturgill
Post 3480	Valerie Young	Jeannen Flemings
Post 4183	Seth Miller	Terry Grime
Post 5596	David Gladney	Steven Elliott
Post 6632	Clarence Nail	Larry Ehlers

DISTRICT 16

Post 311	Aretha Spurlock	Arnold Taylor
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DISTRICT 18

Post 5422	Ken Piehl	John Ericksen
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DISTRICT 19

Post 1197	Steven Hunter	Bryan Kelsey
Post 5815	Thomas Zilla	Dennis Jensen
Post 7539	Clifford Hall	David Burdick

RESULTS OF RUN TO THE END

Below are the results of the run to the end membership challenge. Each of the following Post will receive a check for \$250.00.

<u>Division 3</u>	<u>Percentage increase</u>
Post 4183-14	6.13%
<u>Division 4</u>	
Post 2955-6	20.30%
<u>Division 5</u>	

Post 4226-13 10.55%

Division 6

Post 1117-14 2.20%

Division 7

Post 1337-4 11.72%

Division 8

Post 2245-5 6.61%

Division 9

Post 5346-11 13.05%

Division 10

Post 6791-19 5.45%

Division 11

Post 7191-5 16.21%

CHARTER CANCELLATION

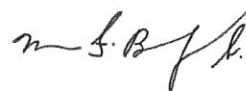
Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento has approved the cancellation of the Charter for Viola Post 2623. Please update your records accordingly.

OFFICIAL:



JOE BARTLEY
State Adjutant-Quartermaster

BY ORDER OF:



MAURICE BRIDGES SR.
State Commander

August Council of Administration

Tentative Agenda (*Subject to Change*)

Four Points by Sheraton St. Louis – Fairview Heights
319 Fountains Pkwy., Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Friday, August 16, 2024

- 11:00 AM Tour of KC135 – Scott Air Force Base
901 South Dr., Scott AFB, IL 62225
- 1:00 PM VFW Supply Sales Opens
Foyer Area
- 1:00 PM Veterans Service Committee
Illinois VFW News Committee
Budget & Finance Committee
Salon A, B, & C
- 1:00 PM Auxiliary Council Meeting
Salon E, F, & G
- 3:00 PM Council of Administration Meeting
Salon A, B, & C
- 5:00 PM VFW Supply Sales Closes
Foyer Area
- 6:00 - 11:00 PM Mixer – Scott Post 4183
1516 Old St. Rt. 158, Belleville, IL 62221

Saturday, August 17, 2024

- 7:00 AM Church Services
Salon A, B, & C
- 8:00 AM VFW Supply Sales Opens
Foyer Area
- 8:00 AM Auxiliary Council Meeting
Salon E, F, & G
- 8:30 AM Council of Administration Meeting
Salon A, B, & C
- 3:00 PM VFW Supply Sales Closes
Foyer Area
- 6:00 - 10:00 PM Joint Homecoming (\$55/person)
Salon D

DRESS CODE FOR COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE COAT & TIE.
DRESS CODE FOR ALL OTHER EVENTS WILL BE VFW CASUAL WHICH INCLUDES
A VFW POLO SHIRT, KHAKIS, DOCKERS, OR BUSINESS SLACKS.

HOMEcomings TICKETS COST \$55 AND CAN BE PURCHASED THROUGH DEPT. HQ

VOD Program Bulletin for July 2024

Dave Darte, State VOD Chairman

Comrades, I am pleased to report again that the number of students participating in the 2023-2024 VOD contest increased 10% over the previous years' program! While that is truly encouraging, I must also report that those participating represented less than 1% of the number of high school students who were eligible in IL and doesn't even consider the number of students who were home schooled. We have a lot of room for growth.

It is not too soon to begin recruiting students for this year's program. Obviously, getting interest in the high school in your community can be very productive. You can talk to teachers, principals, and school superintendents. Another effective method is to get on the agenda for a local school board meeting. There, parents can help convince the administration that incorporating patriotism in the academic curriculum is worthwhile, especially when they realize that students can earn community recognition and cash prizes, even up to \$35,000 at the national level of judging. (I will be sending a detailed list of talking points to aid in presenting the program to all post commanders and copying district chairmen in the near future.)

Remember, that home- schooled students are eligible to participate and are generally even more interested in scholarship opportunities. Your local Regional Office of Education Superintendent may very well help to disseminate your message to those home-schooled families that they have on record.

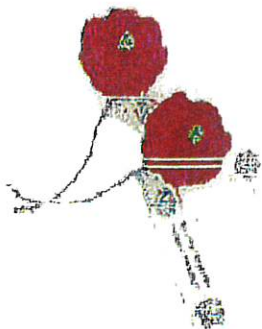
Lastly, post member can reach out to friends and relatives and there are great posters available from the VFW National Store for a nominal fee that be displayed in schools, libraries, churches, or literally any public place that allows such postings. These posters provide a QR Code with all the information that students need to enter the contest. You just have to provide your contact information.

Comrades, in my opinion, there is no good reason why every post in the state can't recruit participants. let's go all out to help plant the seeds of patriotism that are encouraged by all VFW youth scholarship programs. This will bring great community recognition of our great organization, and can be a very effective recruitment tool.

VFW leadership has established a new annual award, beginning with the 2024-25 program, for the district who recruits the largest number of students participating in both the VOD and PP contests. Because there are varying numbers of posts in each district, we are attempting to level the playing field by dividing the number of students entering the contest by the total number of posts in the district.

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



Traditional Poppy



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



IT MATTERS WHERE YOU SHOP!

You Support Your Military Community When You Use Your Exchange Benefit

Veteran Shopping Benefits

- All honorably discharged Veterans shop tax-free for life at ShopMyExchange.com
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Why It Matters

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Regional Airport

Saturday
September 28
and
Sunday,
September 29

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SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 28TH

- Walk the Tarmac and Tour the Planes
- Speed Demons Car Show
- Food Trucks and Live Music by *City Heat*
- Global War on Terror Wall of Remembrance
presented by RiverBend Patriots
- KIDS Zone: Bounce Houses, Activities, Barrel Cars



9 am to 2 pm

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 29TH

- Free Flights For Youth Ages 8-17
- Bethalto's Farmers Market
- Food Trucks
- Artisans and Vendors
- KIDS Zone: Bounce houses, Activities, Barrel Cars



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