



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Illinois

2022-2023 Series
General Orders No. 5
November 2022

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Effective November 1, 2022, Suzie Lynch has joined the State HQ Staff. Please join us in welcoming her to her new position. She will be training to take over the duties that Crystal currently takes care of and other duties will be shifted among staff members to get duties spread out like before.

HOLIDAY HOURS

State HQ will be closed on the following days in November for holidays:

November 11 Veterans Day
November 24-25 Thanksgiving

MONTHLY SITREP

District Commanders are reminded to submit a Situational Report (SITREP) to State HQ by the 15th of each month in order to increase the communications to State HQ. The duties and responsibilities of a District Commander includes serving as a liaison between the Post Level leadership and State Level leadership. A monthly report will allow you to review what is happening in your Posts and to communicate any issues to State leaders.

Your SITREP will include information on the following:

What is the current status of audit submissions for each Post? What is your plan to fix any deficiencies?

What is the current status of inspections for each Post? What is your plan to complete inspections at all Posts?

What is the current membership status for each Post? What membership events have they held in last 30 days? What membership events do they have planned for the future?

What Post(s) have you visited in last 30 days?

Does any of your Post(s) need any assistance?

Does any of your Post(s) have any issues that State HQ should be aware of?

The monthly SITREP will be submitted by email to vfwil@vfwil.org

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Chris Maynor of Jackson County VFW Post 7190 on being selected as the October Veteran of the 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.

SECTION 709-CONTROL OF UNITS

POST OFFICERS: Please review Section 709, Control of Units, in the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure in its entirety. You are not authorized to sell or transfer property, borrow against the assets of the VFW Post without the full knowledge and consent of the Post membership thirty (30) days prior to the sale, purchase, transfer or encumbrance. You must advise all members of the meeting where there will be a discussion of such action. You must notify Department Headquarters of the outcome of this meeting at which time the State Commander will either approve or disapprove the action. Only then

will they authorize the Post to continue with the sale, purchase, transfer or encumbrance. You are reminded that you have a fiduciary responsibility in the position you have been elected to. Any deviations from said By-Laws will nullify the transaction and any officers violating these By-Laws will be subject to removal.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FORM 990

The deadline for filing the Federal IRS Form 990 is November 15th and the IRS can levy a \$10.00 per day penalty for every day the 990 Form is late. The forms are available on the IRS's website at www.irs.gov. It is the responsibility of the Post Commander and Quartermaster to make sure this form is prepared and submitted on time to the IRS.

AG-990 STATE OF ILLINOIS

Any Post that has applied for a Bingo License, Las Vegas Night License and Gaming License or a Pull Tab License will probably be receiving an AG-990 Form from the State of Illinois Attorney General's office for filing and if you have one of the above licenses, you are required to file this form unless your Post as received an exemption from the Attorney General's Office.

IRS FORM 990-T

VFW Posts that have unrelated business income must file an IRS Form 990-T. The 990-T must be filed by November 15th of each year and this form is available on the IRS's website at www.irs.gov. It is the responsibility of the Post Commander and Quartermaster to make sure this form is prepared and submitted on time to the IRS.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

The February Council of Administration Meeting and 77th Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet will be held February 10-12, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield, Illinois 62703. To reserve a reservation for February, you may call the hotel directly at (217) 529-7777 and give them our group code: **V3W**. Or you may reserve a room online – go to our website at www.vfwil.org, under News, go to the Events page, click on the link for “**VOD and February Council Meeting Room Reservations**”.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY BANQUET

The State of Illinois VFW will be celebrating its 77th Annual Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Banquet on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL. Tickets are available for \$40 per person. Tickets may be ordered online by making a donation at <http://vfwil.org/> – and allocating the funds to the *Voice of Democracy Banquet*. You may also call State Headquarters (217) 529-6688.

District Prime Tables will once again be available for \$400; they are to be ordered by and paid for by the District Commanders who will decide who will be seated at these tables. ***Reminder – these are tables of ten.***

Special Thank You to Humana for being a major sponsor of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Banquet.

Other sponsorships are still available on a first come first serve basis

14th Place - \$300

15th Place - \$300

16th Place - \$300

17th Place - \$300

Ice Cream Social for kids - \$300

Pizza Party for kids - \$300

Lunch for kids - \$300

Tours for kids - \$400

Please contact Crystal at State HQ if your District or Post wishes to sponsor any of these events

POST RELIEF FUND

Section 704 of the Manual of Procedure outlines the various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be used.

Aid, assistance, relief, and comfort of needy or disabled veterans or members of the Armed Forces and

*their dependents, and the surviving spouses and orphans of deceased veterans.
Maintenance and expansion of the VFW National Home for Children and other facilities devoted exclusively to the benefit and welfare of the dependents, surviving spouses, and orphans of disabled, needy or deceased veterans or members of the Armed Forces.
Necessary expenses in providing entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the Armed Forces.
Veterans rehabilitation, welfare and service work.
To perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the Armed Forces, and to comfort their survivors.
To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs.*

Relief funds may be invested in approved securities but shall not be loaned to the Post or other units, or transferred from the relief fund in any manner or under any guise, except that relief funds may be transferred to the general fund for remission of dues of sick, needy or disabled members

The Trustee Report of Audit MUST show a Relief Fund!

FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMANDER

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 office of the Quartermaster is bonded according to Section 703 of the By-Laws

Assure that all dues and other monies due the National Headquarters and Department are forwarded promptly together with accurate reports and returns pertaining thereto.

Assure that all reports are correctly prepared and promptly forwarded, that all the business of the Post is handled with dispatch and that all necessary licenses and permits are obtained for proper operation. Ensure that a properly completed Report of Election of Officers for the ensuing year is submitted to Department and National Headquarters by June 1.

Assure that the Post Trustees have examined the books and records of the Post and prepared the Post Trustees Quarterly Report of Audit no later than the end of the month following the last day of each quarterly period.

RESPONSIBILITY OF TRUSTEES

Each VFW Post shall have **three elected trustees** who will, at least monthly, review the Monthly Report of Receipts and Expenditures of the Post Quartermaster. Within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, they should properly audit the books and records of the Post Quartermaster and submit a Post Trustee's report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. Please see Sec. 218 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure for complete information on the duties of Post Officers.

PLEASE NOTE:

Before the Department Headquarters accepts an audit, it must be signed by the trustees. You may mail or fax the form to HQ, or you may scan the signed form and email it to HQ, at vfwil@vfwil.org.

VETERANS DAY - NOVEMBER 11TH

All V.F.W. Posts are urged to make plans to observe Veterans Day on Friday, November 11th, 2022. *Patriotic Speeches can be found on National Headquarters' website at www.vfw.org.*

COMMUNITY SERVICE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING

When you are reporting on your activities, please remember - The money that should be reported are the dollars donated or expended in the performance of the community service hours reported, plus \$0.14 per mile for each mile driven by the volunteers. **Posts should not report any figure derived from the value of hours worked.**

POST COMMANDER & QUARTERMASTER AWARD

Posts recruiting 5% of their prior membership (as recorded on Memstats as new and reinstated members), with a minimum of six members, by January 15, 2023 will receive a special award. The Post Commander and Quartermaster will receive a special embroidered State Commander's jacket. (Note: Partial numbers will be rounded up to the next whole number). Jacket size forms will be sent to qualifying Post Commanders and Quartermasters and these forms must be received at State Headquarters no later than February 15, 2023.

REMINDER

If you pay for poppies, tickets, bonds or program donations using a credit card via our State web page, don't forget to indicate what you are paying for and your Post Number.

ACTION CORPS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

All members with an active email address on file with National Headquarters has automatically been subscribed to the Action Corps Weekly newsletter. If you are not subscribed and would like to be-- directions to do so are as follows.

Go to www.vfw.org.

Scroll to bottom of homepage where the black banner is. The word "Advocacy" will be in the banner in white lettering.

Click on "Grassroots Efforts" under Advocacy.

The next page that pops up is the VFW Action Corps Weekly page. There will be a link on that page to sign up via email.

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 WINNERS

Date of Drawing	Winner	Seller
10/07/2022	John Bochenek Sr	John Bochenek Sr
10/14/2022	Gina Bigley	Homer Smith
10/21/2022	Michael Vance	Michael Vance
10/28/2022	Wayne Cox	No seller listed

Happy Thanksgiving!
From State Commander Bobby Edwards, State
Officers and Staff

OFFICIAL:



JOE BARTLEY
State Adjutant-Quartermaster

BY ORDER OF:



BOBBY EDWARDS
State Commander

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE
DSO MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

THIS REPORT IS FOR: Illinois Service Office

REPORT MONTH OF: Sep 2022

1. Office Interviews:	<u>217</u>	8. Appeals Actions	
2. Communications:		a. NOD Filed	<u>0</u>
a. Correspondence Recd	<u>127</u>	b. VA Form 9 Filed	<u>0</u>
b. Correspondence Orig	<u>262</u>	c. DRO:	
c. Emails Received	<u>243</u>	1. Conferences	<u>0</u>
d. Emails Responded to	<u>240</u>	2. Favorable Decisions	<u>0</u>
e. Telephone calls	<u>781</u>	3. Unfavorable Decisions	<u>0</u>
f. Other	<u>42</u>	d. VA Form 646 Filed	<u>0</u>
3. Claims Filed	<u>149</u>	9. Health Care Assistance	
4. Powers of Attorney Filed	<u>97</u>	a. Enroll 10-10EZ Compl	<u>1</u>
5. File Accessed	<u>37</u>	b. Health Care Ref Asst	<u>0</u>
6. Ratings Cleared	<u>194</u>	c. Hospitalized Vets Visit	<u>0</u>
7. Rating Queries	<u>0</u>	Veterans Assisted through	
		10. outreach	<u>11</u>
		11. New VFW Members	<u>0</u>

	<u># Awds Recd</u>	<u>Totals</u>
12. DISABILITY BENEFITS		
a. Compensation	<u>105</u>	<u>2,469,341.28</u>
b. Pension	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>
13. DEATH BENEFITS		
a. DIC	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>
b. Pension	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>
c. Burial	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>
14. OTHER BENEFITS		
a. VR & E	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>
b. Waivers of Indebt	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>
15. C & C Awards	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>
16. Lump Sum and Retroactive	<u>89</u>	<u>586,263.15</u>
17. TOTALS	<u>194</u>	<u>3,055,604.43</u>
18. Miscellaneous Comments:		



The Department of Illinois VFW Veteran Service Office will be doing outreach at the following locations;

- **Mattoon VA CBOC** the **FIRST TUESDAY** of every month
 - 501 Lake Land Blvd., Mattoon IL from 0900-1400
- **Dow Stepp Memorial Post 5975, VFW** the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of every month
 - 112 North 5th St., Marshall IL from 0900-1400
- **Bloomington VA CBOC** the **SECOND TUESDAY** of every month
 - 207 Hamilton Rd., Bloomington IL from 0900-1400
- **Decatur VA CBOC** the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of every month
 - 792 North Sunnyside Rd., Decatur IL from 0900-1400
- **Peoria VA CBOC** the **THIRD TUESDAY** of every month
 - 7717 North Orange Prairie Rd., Peoria IL from 0900-1400
- **Busey-Fletcher-Stillwell Post 630, VFW** the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of every month
 - 1303 E. Main St., Urbana, IL from 0900-1400
- **Springfield VA CBOC** the **FOURTH WEDNESDAY** of every month
 - 5850 South 6th St., Springfield IL from 0900-1400

During these outreach days we can provide;

- assistance in filing for disability compensation
- pension and death benefits assistance
- information on rehabilitation and education programs
- links to employment and training programs
- requests for hearings before the VA and the Board of Veterans Appeals to present oral arguments
- information on other benefits for eligible Veterans provided by local and state agencies

For further information or questions, please contact Assistant Department Service Officer Sean Conner at sean.conner@va.gov
Offices located at;

VA Regional Office, 2122 W. Taylor St., Rm 105, Chicago, IL 60612 ·Phone: (312)980-4284

Danville VAMC, 1900 E. Main St., Danville, IL 61832 ·Phone: (217)554-4502

Marion VAMC, 2401 W. Main St., Marion, IL 62959 ·Phone: (618)997-5311

Community Activities Program
 Chuck Ingle, Chairman
chuck@roscoevfw.com

VFW 2022-2023 Community Activities, Dept. of IL

<u>District</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Posts Reported</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Community Activities Chairman</u>
3	Chris Garza	1	8%	
4	Stephen MacInnes	5	42%	
5	Kevin Cournoyer	3	18%	
6	Ruben Hernandez	4	24%	Rob Bland
7	Adam Lau	2	11%	
8	Arthur Munos	5	31%	Arthur Munos
9	Christopher Rush	0	0%	
10	Anthony Bellin	4	27%	
11	Rick Hobbs	13	100%	Glen Goodrich
12	Dustin Dixon	17	100%	
13	Don Porter	2	17%	
14	Rod Thompson	6	35%	John Barrett
15	Christopher Maynor	4	33%	
16	Fred Cagle	1	9%	
17	Sean Conner	1	7%	
18	Todd Latham	6	50%	
19	Bob Zeman	8	35%	George Cramer

Total Posts
259

Dashboard Data
28-10-22

Department Percentage
32%

Compiled by
Chuck Ingle

The next page is included in case you missed the direct email from Department. It outlines the current Grants available through the VFW Foundation. Take a close look, and imagine how your Post can make use of one or more of them, before they expire or run out of funds.



VFW Foundation Grant Opportunities 2022-2023

The VFW Foundation is offering a total of three grants beginning in October 2022. All grants will operate on a reimbursement basis. Applicants will need to do a project and then submit an application with proof of how the funding was spent. Applicants are highly encouraged to contact the VFW Foundation prior to starting a project to ensure it qualifies. Detailed guidelines can be found on the application forms of each grant. Questions may be directed to jcouch@vfw.org.

I. #StillServing Grants – Applications Available at www.vfw.org/grants

1. Community Support Grant

This Community Support Grant is offered exclusively to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to offset expenses incurred while doing a community service project. Districts, Departments, VFW subordinate organizations, etc. may not apply. Both a VFW Post and its Auxiliary can receive funding of up to \$1,500. Applicants are limited to one Community Support Grant award during the October 1, 2022 – June 1, 2023 cycle.

2. District Corporate Partnership Grant

The District Corporate Partnership Grant is offered exclusively to offset expenses related to the community service projects of VFW or VFW Auxiliary Districts that include substantive involvement of a VFW National corporate partner's local affiliate. Posts, Departments, VFW subordinate organizations, etc. may not apply. Applicants are limited to no more than \$1,500 in funding through the VFW District Corporate Partnership Grant award during the October 1, 2022 – June 1, 2023 cycle.

II. Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant – Applications Available at www.vfw.org/utch

1. Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant

The Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant is a matching grant of up to \$1,500 available to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries for monetary and food donations to local food banks and pantries in their communities. The VFW Foundation will provide a \$1 match for every pound of food or dollar donated to these organizations. A Post or its Auxiliary may receive this grant but not both. Applications will be accepted through December 19, 2022. The grant will likely return for a second offering in spring 2023.

VFW FOUNDATION

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Office 816.968.1128
Fax 816.968.2789

foundation@vfw.org
www.vfwfoundation.org

Program Bulletin November 2022

Comrades,

I hope Posts are reaping the benefits of their efforts to promote the Voice of Democracy Program with many entries in the contest.

Just a reminder of some important dates to put on your calendar and a list of must-have materials to accompany entries that you would advance to the next level of Judging:

V.O.D:

- **October 31, 2022** – *Local entries must be in hands of Post Chairpersons.*
- **November 15, 2022** - *Local winners must be in the hands of the District Chairperson (District Chairperson may designate another timeline with proper notification of posts)*
- **December 15, 2022** – *District judging is to be completed (**Sooner, if Possible, Please**)*
- **December 20, 2022**- *District winner to Department (**Sooner, if Possible, Please**)*
- **February 11, 2023** – *Department V.O.D. awards banquet Crown Plaza, Springfield*

The following is a list of materials that need to accompany all VOD entries into the district judging in order to meet the deadlines for state judging and to keep district winner's identity secret until their respective district award programs:

- Students recorded speech (email or flash drive only - no CDs)
- Completed official entry form with all necessary signatures (email preferred)
- A good quality digital, head and shoulders, color photo in the portrait position. (Good quality cell phone pictures are acceptable)
- Student Introductory Questionnaire
- Typed copy of the essay

VFW-IL 2022 – 2023 STUDENT VETERANS LIAISON

With the ending the fall semester and leading to the spring semester, we are reminded that the VFW-IL can play a critical role in assisting military affiliated students across the state of Illinois. With the re-establishment of school clubs due to more face-to-face classes on campus.

With that said, the **VFW's Student Veteran Support Grant**, administered by the VFW Washington Office, focuses on supporting the overall student veteran population within the community, which consists of many student veterans at campuses across the country that are not affiliated with an SVA chapter. The grants will be disbursed to a VFW Post or Department that has submitted an application, to support the student veterans at the university or college. Grants may be awarded up to \$500 to support each event, and grants can be awarded to a VFW entity twice each fiscal year, totaling up to \$1,000. Here is the link to apply:

<https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/svagrantapplication>.

Sport Clips Haircut's Record-Breaking \$1.55M Donation Makes Education Goals a Reality for Hundreds of Veterans

In January, the VFW and Sport Clips were pleased to announce 146 student veterans will receive scholarships for the Spring 2022 semester, totaling nearly \$650,000. This brings the number of scholarship recipients to 2,200 and makes the program one of the largest veteran support programs of its kind.

VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship

The scholarship assists members and their immediate family members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at a vocational/technical school. Four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded each year, one in each of the four VFW Auxiliary Conferences.

The following are VFW National's 2022 Priority Goals pertaining to education:

- Improve education benefits through increased online student housing allowances, childcare stipends, parity for Guard and Reserve members, and elimination of delimiting dates.
- Enhance outreach and counseling for Veteran Readiness and Employment eligible veterans.
- Fund and track outcomes for career-focused training programs.

Pending legislations (U.S. Senate & House of Representatives):

S. 3606, A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement to specify an effective period of transfer of Post-9/11 educational assistance to a dependent, and for other purposes.

The VFW supports this bill, which would eliminate the requirement to specify an effective period of a transfer of Post-9/11 educational assistance to a dependent. In cases where a service member

dies before the educational assistance is used, unnecessary red tape is a hurtful barrier if the surviving family is unavailable to clarify clerical errors. The process of transferring education benefits to a dependent should be as transparent and seamless as possible, and this bill would help eliminate a field which serves no real utility. This legislation would make it easier for all veteran and military families using VA education benefits and would be of significant importance to Gold Star Families.

(Passed the Senate Aug 04, 2022)

S. 4319, Informing VETS Act of 2022

The VFW supports this proposal to better inform veterans about the opportunities offered through the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program. Currently, according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for all veterans in America in June of this year was 2.7 percent. While this is good news regarding veteran employment, the VFW understands this situation can be cyclical. If we do not put proper tools in place, we could see these numbers rise again during this country's next period of financial instability. VR&E offers a proven system that enables veterans to retrain for their next career, allowing them to continue participating in the American dream of prosperity.

(Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs: May 26, 2022)

S. 4458, Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022

The VFW supports this bill to improve the process by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines whether an educational institution meets certain requirements for enrollment. VA's 85-15 rule is not meant to prohibit veterans from utilizing their earned education benefits. However, due to recent changes that had unintended consequences, certain schools were unsure if they could enroll veterans in courses. This proposal takes input from schools and veteran advocates to make sure veterans are able to use the benefits they have earned while schools still maintain quality standards.

(Passed both the House and Senate; Presented to President: Aug 23, 2022)

H.R. 1836: Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021

This bill expands eligibility for Post-9/11 GI Bill educational assistance and addresses other Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs and benefits. Specifically, the bill expands the type of duty that is eligible for such educational assistance.

(Passed the House Jan. 11, 2022)

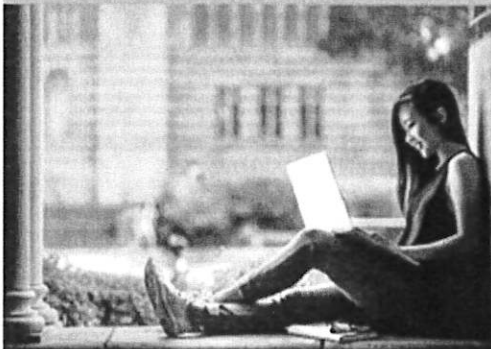
A reminder: we have a VFW-IL 12-slide PowerPoint presentation template (geared towards military affiliated students), that you can personalize to be specific to your post/district when presenting to a local college/university. Also available to you is a current listing of all the institutions of higher learning for the state of Illinois (this list does not include private, for-profit institutions), that we can generate on demand. If anyone would like either or both materials, my contact information is located above.



ATTENTION

**STUDENTS SEEKING
HIGHER EDUCATION!**

GOLD STAR MISSION IS PROUD TO OFFER
SCHOLARSHIPS TO ANYONE SEEKING HIGHER
EDUCATION! THE WINDOW TO APPLY IS OPEN FROM
NOVEMBER 1, 2022 TO FEBRUARY 1, 2023!



**\$1,000
SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR ANY AND ALL
EDUCATIONAL
EXPENSES!**

*Apply now to be considered for a \$1,000
educational scholarship!*

MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.goldstarmission.org/scholarship.php>

ALWAYS REMEMBER, NEVER FORGET!



Scan code for scholarship information

<https://goldstarmission.org/Scholarship.php>

Illinois Legislation

A lot is going on in Illinois at the County and State level. First, the veto session, 2d week of November and this will include our lame duck legislators. Two things to watch for. Attempt to change the funding in the Military Veterans Assistance Act. Illinois State County Officials Association has publicly opposed the .02 mil rate in the act.

Second, a possible addition in the definition of Veteran Service Organization. I personally would urge that the definition used in the Illinois Joining Forces Act be adopted. The Attorney General's Office has offered a definition and additional oversight by the AG. If we the VFW at the post level do our due diligence the additional oversight is not necessary. It is up to us.

On October 31, the Lake County Forest Preserve District legislative committee meeting. I am confident that they will move to have the state general assembly approve the transfer of 4.7 acres to the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. The initial agreement had the army transfer 290 acres from Fort Sheridan to the Forest Preserve. The District was to maintain the cemetery and golf course. The cemetery was later transferred from the Army to the VA. As a VA cemetery it quickly filled up and the additional acres per the VA will extend its life for 50 years. Who would have thought that we would have to argue with our county officials to expand a VA cemetery. I am also confident that we will have approval from the state. However, I need every post to get a commitment from their State Senator and Representative to support the transfer. The Forest Preserve is not a home rule district and the transfer requires state approval.

Congratulations to the Sangamon County VAC on their resolution to create a super CBOC in Springfield similar to Peoria. The resolution has been sent to Senator Duckworth as a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs committee to create a bill and approval by the committee. Again, every post should urge their legislators to support the CBOC for Springfield. Will advise when we get a Bill number.

The Illinois Veterans Advisory Council meets December 14th. A new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected. It's been my honor to chair the committee the past two years. It's been difficult, one in person meeting. Covid outbreak at LaSalle, new Director and he is a good one, a good working relationship with Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committee members and then passage of our amendment for surviving spouses at 3AM in the morning.

We did good, we passed 10 out of our 13 priority bills. The remaining 3 are in rules committee.

At the National Convention, we passed our resolutions. I am very proud of our resolution to give veteran status to Guard and Reserve retirees. These are good patriots who served 20 years but were never mobilized and thus no DD 214. My concern is getting them admitted to a State Veterans Home, but without DD214 showing active duty the VA will not pay the state the per diem. Just last year, we created the DD Form 214-1 to show all service but this does not change their status. We also passed legislation to cover state active duty that exceeds 14 days by USERRA.

If you have concerns about legislation, please talk to your legislators. As veterans you are their subject matter expert, very few legislators and staff members have military service. I thank you for allowing me to serve.

Michael Peck, Legislative Chair
Dutch DeGroot, Jay Hoffman, Jay Davis, Asst Chairs

NATIONAL HOME BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2022

Mike McGrath
Department Of Illinois
VFWNHC Program Chairman
37 Sussex Court
Naperville, Il. 60540
Phone 630-357 2680
Email mackcav1@sbcglobal.net

Paul Zinck
Assistant Program Chairman

THE VFW'S NATIONAL HOME

FOUNDED IN 1925, THE NATIONAL HOME SERVES AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO AMERICA'S VETERANS BY HELPING MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY.

"HELPING FAMILIES SUCCEED"

BECAUSE WAR CAN TAKE A TOLL ON MILITARY FAMILIES DURING AND AFTER DEPLOYMENTS, NATIONAL HOME RESIDENT FAMILIES CAN STAY AT THE HOME FOR UP TO FOUR YEARS AND THUS HAVE A HOME AND A CHANCE TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES ... AT NO COST ...

FAMILIES CAN ENJOY THE PEACEFUL, RURAL, SMALL TOWN NATIONAL AND THE NATIONAL HOME COMMUNITY AND THE NATIONAL HOME WILL PROVIDE HOUSING, EDUCATION, DAYCARE SERVICES AS WELL AS RECREATION AND CASE MANAGEMENT FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN OR AUXILIARY FAMILIES FOR UP TO FOUR YEARS. FAMILIES IN RETURN ARE ASKED TO BE COMMITTED TO MAKE CHANGES AND WORK TOWARD FAMILY GOALS SO AS TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

THE NATIONAL HOME IS LOCATED IN EATON RAPIDS MICHIGAN,
(NEAR LANSING MICHIGAN) AND RECEIVES NO GOVERNMENT FUNDING.
YOU CAN CALL THE NATIONALHOME HELP LINE AT 800-313 4200 OR VISIT THE
NATIONAL HOME WEBSITE, vfnationalhome.org FOR MORE INFORMATION.

AND SAVE THE DATE

ILLINOIS DAY 2023 AT THE NATIONAL HOME IS SCHEDULED FOR
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

"THE VFW'S NATIONAL HOME"

COULD THIS HELP SOMEONE YOU KNOW?



Christopher Maynor
Chairman

chris.Maynor.VFW@gmail.com
American Red Cross Contact



Rob Bland
Assistant Chairman

Robert.b.bland@outlook.com
Blood Bank Contact



NEW

INFORMATION

People who spent time in the United Kingdom, Ireland and France between 1980 and 2001 have been ineligible to give blood over concerns of a variant related to "mad cow" disease. That donor restriction is now lifted.

Mad cow disease may be a fleeting memory for some, but concerns over Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) kept tens of thousands of people, often members of the military and their families, from giving blood.

Recently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration updated its blood donor eligibility guidance on CJD. Dawn Johnson is with the Red Cross Cascades Region and said anyone who hasn't tried because of the prior donation criteria should know they are now welcome to give.

"We always need blood donations," she said. "The need is continuous and so being able to have more people donate is definitely a positive."

Johnson said American Red Cross Cascades Region has so far sent 300 units of blood to Florida to aid in the disaster relief following Hurricane Ian.



UNITING TO COMBAT HUNGER (UTCH) GRANT OVERVIEW

Serving our communities is a time-honored tradition of the VFW, that is why we are again teaming up with Humana to fight food insecurity and we need your help!

Did you know that your Post or Auxiliary could receive \$1,500 in matching funds from the VFW Foundation for making a donation to a local food bank or food pantry? Applying for and receiving a grant UTCH Grant is a very easy process:

STEP 1: Make a donation of cash or food to a local food bank OR have members log volunteer hours working at one. Alternatively, make a donation using the link found by clicking “Donate Now” at www.vfw.org/utch.

STEP 2: Get a receipt from the organization you donated to that states how much money you donated, pounds of food you donated and/or the number of volunteer hours logged. If you donate using the web link, be sure to get a screenshot of the page that confirms that you donated and how much you contributed

STEP 3: Log onto <http://www.vfw.org/utchgrant> and obtain an application. You may also reach out to the VFW Foundation staff at jcouch@vfw.org or 816-968-1174 to coordinate having a copy sent to you.

STEP 4: Complete the two-page form and submit it along with the documentation using the instructions found on the application.

STEP 5: Receive a matching grant!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Applications will be accepted until December 19, 2022, but the grant will likely return during the following spring. If you have any questions or need any assistance at all with applying, please call or email Jason Couch, Grants and External Relations Coordinator at:

816-968-1174

jcouch@vfw.org

I am happy to help you in any way I can!