

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

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## Illinois

**2024-2025 Series  
General Orders No. 12  
June 2025**

### **STATE HEADQUARTERS CLOSURE**

State Headquarters will be closed on June 4<sup>th</sup> through June 8<sup>th</sup> for the State Convention and on June 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of Juneteenth.

### **2025-2026 OFFICERS-ELECT**

District and Post Officers elected or appointed for the 2025-2026 term are reminded that they will not take office until the Installation of the State Commander on Saturday, June 7, 2025. You are also reminded that the nomination of officers will take place on Friday afternoon, June 6, 2025, with the election and installation of officers scheduled for Saturday afternoon, June 7, 2025. **DELEGATE REGISTRATION CLOSSES AT 10:00 a.m. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 7th. REGISTER EARLY!!**

### **DEPARTMENT ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICERS AND DISTRICT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDERS**

All newly elected and appointed Department Officers and District Junior Vice Commanders for the 2025-2026 term of office are reminded that, according to our National Bylaws, all Officers listed above are required to submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant before being installed into their respective offices during the State Convention. If you have a question on whether or not you have ever submitted your DD-214 or Proof of Eligibility to the Department, please contact the State Adjutant before the convening of the State Convention in June.

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

Officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and adequately reviewed. Proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the District Commander, Adjutant, and Quartermaster before installation in office. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited, the office declared vacant, and the eligibility qualifications of such officer shall be questioned following the provisions of Section 108 of the National By-Laws. Proof of Eligibility for

District Commanders, District Senior Vice Commanders, and District Junior Vice Commanders MUST be furnished to the State Adjutant within thirty (30) days of the Election.

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

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

### **STATE CONVENTION**

The State Convention will be held from June 5 to 8, 2025. The hotels for the State Convention are:

Presidential Abraham Lincoln Double Tree Hotel

701 E Adams  
Springfield, IL 62701

Crowne Plaza  
3300 Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62703

The VFW meetings will be held at the BOS Center, located at 1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701, conveniently adjacent to both hotels. The VFW Auxiliary meetings will be held at the Presidential Abraham Lincoln DoubleTree Hotel. The Hotel reservation links and codes are posted on the [vfwil.org](http://vfwil.org) web page under "Events".

### **STATE CONVENTION SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There will be a Shuttle from Timi's Tours that will run between the Crowne Plaza and the BOS center for those staying at the Crowne Plaza. The bus will pick up at the Crowne Plaza and drop off at the BOS Center. A sign will be attached to the window, and the pickup/drop-off location will be on the north side of the BOS lobby, located on Washington Street, between 7th and 9th streets. There is an area marked 'Pick Up and Drop Off'. A shuttle bus schedule is attached, and it can also be found on the state website at [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org) under "News." Finally, since the Wyndham is not open for business, parking in the parking garage will be free.

### **STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

Included in these General Orders is the Advance Registration Form for the State Convention. Delegates can also register online by visiting [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org). The registration fee is now \$22.00 per member. Letters of registration confirmation will be mailed to registrants after the proper registration fee has been paid. Registrants will be required to present this confirmation when they check in at the convention registration desk at the BOS Center. Reminder: Delegates will not be allowed to vote until these issues have been



resolved, specifically if the Post is in arrears for supplies, poppies, or any other financial obligation to the Department. The Post must be bonded, have an inspection approved by the State Inspector, and have an election report on file with the Department and National Headquarters for the ensuing year. Additionally, all audits, including the March 31, 2025, audit, must be submitted and approved. The delegate strength to the convention is based on one delegate and one alternative delegate per thirty members or a fraction thereof. Registration will be open in B 11 A/B of the BOS Center:

Thursday, June 5, 2025	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday, June 6, 2025	8:00am - 5:00 pm
Saturday June 7, 2025	8:00 am - 10:00 am

### **HOSPITALITY ROOM**

The joint hospitality room will be in the Freeport Room and the Governor Yates Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Presidential Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL. According to the City Fire Code and the hotel rules, there can be NO heating devices or heating elements in the hospitality room. This includes electric hot plates, crockpots, and roasters, but excludes anything that uses gas or propane. You can use a hot box or an insulated container to keep hot foods warm but avoid anything that requires a power source to maintain the temperature. Also, this year, the hospitality room will be closed during all the business sessions, the Memorial Service, and the Patriotic Rally.

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

The Past District Commanders' Association (PDCA) will hold its meeting during the State Convention. A luncheon for the PDCA is scheduled for Friday, June 6, 2025, from 12:00 to 1:15 p.m. in Room B-2. The cost of the luncheon is \$20. Anyone who is currently serving as District Commander (term ending June 2025) and anyone who has served as a District Commander in the past is eligible to participate in the luncheon. Tickets can be ordered through State HQ.

### **2025 DISTRICT COMMANDER-ELECT CONFERENCE**

Once District Elections are held, an invitation will be sent to the newly elected district commanders for the 2025-2026 year. Department Headquarters will provide rooming accommodations for 4 nights (Wednesday to Sunday) for incoming District Commanders at the Presidential Abraham Lincoln DoubleTree Hotel, 701 E. Adams in Springfield. District Commander training will be conducted to cover duties, goals, and expectations for the incoming year. The conference will begin on Thursday, June 5, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. The agenda is attached.

**PLEASE NOTE:** District Commanders-Elect must be present during the Council of Administration Meeting, June 5th, 2025. Please dress in a coat, tie, and cap to have your photograph taken; this will be done in BOS B-4. Additionally, they must be present on Saturday, June 7th, 2025, during the installation of officers.

On Sunday morning, June 8th, a brief Council of Administration meeting will take place at 9 a.m. to discuss and pass an interim budget until the next meeting in August.

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE & TRIBUTE TO GOLD STAR FAMILIES**

The Memorial Service held during our State Convention will be held in Room B 11 C/D of the BOS Center on Thursday, June 5, 2025, beginning at 6:00 pm with State Chaplain Reverend Gary Holmes presiding. All District Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents are to be in attendance.

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Please see the attached schedule for the expanded training scheduled for June 6, 2025.

### **SILENT AUCTION**

The Annual Silent Auction will be held during the State Convention. Please bring your donated item to the B-11 A/B area of the BOS Center and ensure that you fill out the form provided to you. If you have any questions, please get in touch with State Headquarters. District Commanders are asked to donate an item from their District valued at a minimum of \$75.

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

On Saturday, June 7, 2025, join the newly installed IL VFW State Commander and IL VFW Auxiliary State President for the Commander and President's Reception. The event will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It will be held at the BOS Center in B11 C-D. The cost of tickets is \$25; they can be purchased through the State Headquarters.

### **RULES OF THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

Chairman, Vince Long, Post 1756-10

Jeff Britt, Post 6865-14

Rick Frank, Post 1461-6

Bill Regan, Post 7452-19

### **POPPY DISPLAY COMMITTEE**

Chairman: Stephanie Kirksey, Post 6504-14

Roger D. Guebert, Post 7980-14

### **POPPY DISPLAYS**

Poppy Displays will be accepted in BOS B4 of the BOS Center starting on Thursday, June 5, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 pm, and continuing Friday, June 6, 2025, from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. All poppy displays must be picked up from B4 before 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 7, 2025.

### **SUPPLY SALES BOOTH**

The Supply Sales Booth will be set up in B-11 A/B of the BOS Center starting on Thursday, June 5, 2025, from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm The Supply Sales Booth will continue on Friday,



June 6, 2025, from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm and Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm.

### **DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE**

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

*Distinguished Guest Committee:*

Brad Gould, Post 630-7

John Davin, Post 5917-18

J.D. Spindler, Post 4549-17

### **OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO STATE CONVENTION**

The officers listed below are assigned to attend the Council of Administration Meeting in B-7 of the BOS Center on Thursday, June 5, 2025. They should also be in attendance for the Joint Opening Session on Friday, June 6, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in B-11 C/D, as well as all business sessions on Friday and Saturday.

#### **Credentials Committee:**

Chairman: Scott Holley, Post 3873-19

Joe Wein, Post 2202-04

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

Jeff Britt:	Post 6865-14	Officer of the day
Raymond Bachewicz:	Post 2298-05	Sergeant-At-Arms
Jack Lamont:	Post 3851-13	Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Roy Johnson:	Post 5220-03	Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Kenneth Williams	Post 3480-14	Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

### **STATE PROGRAM AWARDS**

#### **SMART/MAHER VFW CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARDS**

The first-place winner in each of the three categories received a \$100 cash prize and a specially engraved plaque, which was awarded to them at ceremonies held at their schools. A specially engraved plaque will also be presented to the winning Teacher's School. This year's Department winners are:

<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>School</b>
Tim Smiddy	K-5	Staunton Elementary School
Dale Gibson	6-8	Peotone Jr. HS
LeVonne Cescolini	9-12	Addison Trail HS

#### **BLOOD DONOR AWARDS**

A monetary award of \$50 will be awarded to the Post that donates the most pints of blood in each of the following membership categories...

- Category I: Up to 150 Members - Arnold-Heath Memorial Post 5151, District 4

- Category II: 151 – 300 Members - Roscoe Post 2955, District 6
- Category III: 301 plus Members - Russell E. Dunham Memorial Post 1308, District 12

### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES RECORDBOOKS AWARD**

The top Community Activities Record Book in each Membership Category will receive a \$50 monetary award at the State Convention...

- Category I: Up to 150 Members - New Athens Post 7710, District 14
- Category II: 151 to 300 Members - John Hugo Kaiser Post 1461, District 6
- Category III: 301 plus Members - no entries this year

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 1-4 (Post) Chatham-Auburn Memorial Post 4763 Quarterly Newsletter, Stephanie Wells, Editor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 1-4 (Post) No entries this year
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place 5 and up (Post) Post 1461 Newsletter, Sheila Gonzales, Editor
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 1-4 (District) Got Your Six, VFW District 6 Newsletter, Rob Bland, Editor

### **NATIONAL HOME AWARDS**

The Post with the most dollars donated will receive a beautifully engraved plaque noting their accomplishment...

- Judd Kendall Post 3873, District 19
- Batavia Overseas Post 1197, District 19
- Elk Grove Village Post 9284, District 4

These Districts will receive a citation for reporting 100% before April 30, 2025.

- District 03 Jonathon Cooper, Commander
- District 13 Robert Shehorn, Commander
- District 14 Doug Jameson, Commander

### **SAFETY AWARDS**

A special plaque will be presented to the top Post in the following three membership categories who reported the most hours, dollars, and members:

- Category I - Up to 150 Members - Marty Gollnitz Post 4999, District 9
- Category II - 151-300 Members - Ambraw Post 2244, District 13
- Category III – 301 plus Members - Villa Park Post 2801, District 19

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES AWARDS**

A \$50 cash award and certificate will be presented to the following posts that have the most hours, dollars, and the largest number of members participating in the following membership categories...

- Category I: Up to 150 Members - Lemont 22 Honor Post 5819, District 19
- Category II: 151 - 300 Member Category- Ambraw Post 2244, District 13
- Category II: 301 plus Members - no entries this year

An engraved plaque will be presented to the district with the most total hours, donations, and members reported....

### **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AWARDS**

For sponsoring the State Voice of Democracy Champion, this Post will receive a personalized plaque...

- Johnson-Phelps Post 5220, District 3

The school where the State winner attends will receive a \$500.00 award.

- Sarah E. Goode STEM Academy

All participants who participated in the judging portion of the Voice of Democracy Program will receive a certificate, which will be presented at their next District Meeting.

### **PATRIOT'S PEN**

For sponsoring the State Patriot's Pen Winner, this Post will receive a personalized plaque...

- Ronald Hill Memorial Post 2245, District 5

### **SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Boy Scout listed below will receive a monetary award of \$300...

- Cooper Merrinette, Sponsored by Lilac Post 5815-19

### **POW/MIA PROGRAM AWARD**

The Dennis Nelson Memorial POW-MIA Award will be awarded to the VFW Post that demonstrates the most outstanding POW-MIA Recognition Program within their community. This award is presented to:

- Prospect Post 1337, District 4

### **POPPY AWARDS**

The Post below will be awarded a plaque for the highest numerical increase in Buddy Poppy sales, according to the following membership classifications...

- Category I: Up to 150 Members - Bartlett Post 11018, District 19
- Category II: 151-300 Members - Batavia Overseas Post 1197, District 19
- Category III: 301 plus Members - Bremen Post 2791, District 16

### **MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

Congratulations to those who qualified for the All-State Team.

All-State Team Post Commanders will be presented:

All-State Commander's Cap Distinguished Service Lapel Pin

All-State Team Post Quartermasters will be presented:

Distinguished Service Lapel Pin: Quartermasters may purchase an All-State Quartermaster's Cap

**2024-2025 ALL-STATE TEAM OF POST COMMANDERS AND  
QUARTERMASTERS**

<b><u>DISTRICT/POST #</u></b>	<b><u>COMMANDER</u></b>	<b><u>QUARTERMASTER</u></b>
<b><u>DISTRICT 6</u></b> Post 1461 Post 8739	Bernadette Bland Matthew Alford	Rob Bland Stanley Asp
<b><u>DISTRICT 10</u></b> Post 11463	Kyle Blumhorst	Larry Miller
<b><u>DISTRICT 11</u></b> Post 99	Ron Boomer	Jeff Urquhart
<b><u>DISTRICT 12</u></b> Post 5691	Alonzo Skipper	Sam Farrah
<b><u>DISTRICT 14</u></b> Post 805 Post 1739 Post 2698 Post 5596 Post 6504 Post 6865 Post 7710	Kipp Reed John Lawson Kenneth Eddy David Gladney Michael Douglas Michael Shaw Billy Tucker	Roger Witek James Page William Epplin Steven Elliott Paul Braun Jeff Britt Cathy Stubbs
<b><u>DISTRICT 18</u></b> Post 725	James Hogan	Paula Graser

**FINAL EXPENSE VOUCHER**

Reminder for all officers with expense accounts: The final submission date for expense vouchers is **Friday, June 20, 2025**. Expense vouchers must be within budget limitations and must be marked FINAL. **Expense Vouchers received after that date will not be honored.**

**2025 CONVENTION RAFFLE AND PURPLE HEART TICKETS**

Tickets for the 2025 Purple Heart and Convention raffle went out in the December issue of the Illinois VFW newspaper. Included were two sheets of 5 tickets (\$20 each) and two Purple Heart tickets (\$5 each). Winners will be randomly selected at the State Convention in June for the \$10,000 grand prize, \$3,000 second prize, \$2,000 third prize, and \$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 additional tickets, please get in touch with VFW Department Headquarters.



## **126<sup>th</sup> VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Columbus, OH, will host the 126th VFW and 111th Auxiliary National Conventions, scheduled for August 9-13, 2025. Convention housing opened on March 17, 2025. Hotel reservations can be booked on the VFW website, [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

## **FALL PROGRAM AD BOOK**

The Program Book order form for the fall program book is included in these general orders. Full page ads are \$200, half page ads are \$125, and quarter page ads are \$75. Please mail your ad form, any picture you would like included and payment to Editor, Illinois VFW Fall Program Book, 3300 Constitution Dr., Springfield, IL 62711 or email to [barb.wilson2@outlook.com](mailto:barb.wilson2@outlook.com). Deadline for submission is **July 15, 2025**. Please enclose payment in full or pay via credit/debit card at [www.vfwil.org](http://www.vfwil.org). The program books will be distributed at the Department Commander's and President's joint homecoming in August.

## **COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING & COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING**

The first Council of Administration Meeting and Commander's Homecoming will be held August 22-24, 2005.

### **Hotel Information**

Even Hotel - Tinley Park  
18501 Convention Center Dr  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
(708) 444-1100

The room cost is \$169.00 plus tax. The room block is **IVF**, cut off for room reservations is **August 1, 2025**

The meetings and Banquet will be held at:

Tinley Park Convention Center  
18451 Convention Dr  
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Homecoming Banquet tickets are \$50 per person. Order through State Headquarters. The cut-off for banquet reservations is **August 15, 2025**.

## **NEW CENTURY RAFFLE**

The New Century Raffle has officially started and will run through June 30, 2025. The tickets are just \$10.00 each. Each ticket entitles you to participate in a weekly drawing for a \$100 prize from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Drawings will be held each Friday beginning July 1, 2024, with each week's winning ticket being returned to the barrel for 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 the seller prints their name on the ticket, they will receive \$10.00. If the seller does not sign the ticket, the \$10.00 will be automatically donated and split between the Department's Unmet Needs Program and Children's

National Home. Winners will be announced each month in the General Orders and posted on the <http://vfwil.org> website.

### WEEKLY WINNER

Date of Drawing

05/02/25

05/09/25

05/16/25

05/23/25

5/30/25

Winner

Patricia O'Brien

Stephanie Kirksey

Ashli Presswood

David Dohm

Ronald Hoeksema

Seller

Frank O'Brien

Stephanie Kirksey

Jason Presswood

David Dohm

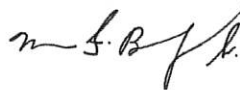
Ronald Hoeksema

By Order of:



Joseph "Scott" Swinford  
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Official



Maurice Bridges  
State Commander



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

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

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

Please register below listed Comrades for the Department Convention being held the week of June 05-08, 2025 in Springfield, Illinois. The registration fee of \$20.00 per Comrade is enclosed.

***NOTE: REGISTRATION FEE AFTER WEDNESDAY, MAY 01, 2025 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.

Department of Illinois  
106th Annual State Convention

Tentative Agenda (May be subject to change.)

BOS Convention Center  
1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701

June 05-08, 2025

Thursday, June 05, 2025

Dress Code for Training & Council Meeting will be Coat & Tie

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	District Commander-Elect Training <i>BOS B7</i>
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Membership Luncheon <i>*Invite Only</i> <i>BOS B2</i>
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Scholar's App Training <i>BOS B11C-D</i>
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	VFW Registration <i>BOS B11A-D</i>
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	VFW Sales <i>BOS B11A-B</i>
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Exhibitor/Vender Booths <i>BOS B11A-B</i>
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Silent Auction <i>BOS B11A-B</i>
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Poppy Displays <i>BOS B4</i>
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Committee Meetings <i>BOS B7</i>
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Breakout Sessions <i>BOS B 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, BOS 11C-D</i>
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Final 2024-25 Council Meeting <i>BOS B7</i>
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Memorial Service <i>BOS B11C-D</i>
TBD	Hospitality Room <i>PAL Freeport &amp; Governor Yates</i>



# Department of Illinois 106th Annual State Convention

Tentative Agenda (May be subject to change.)

BOS Convention Center  
1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701  
June 05-08, 2025

**Friday, June 06, 2025**

Dress Code for Business Session will be Coat & Tie

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Joint Opening Ceremony Includes Guest Speakers & Special Presentations <i>BOS B11C-D</i>
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	VFW Registration <i>BOS B11A-B</i>
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Exhibitor/Vendor Booths <i>BOS B11A-B</i>
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	VFW Sales <i>BOS B11A-B</i>
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Silent Auction <i>BOS B11A-B</i>
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Poppy Displays <i>BOS B4</i>
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	Past Dist. Commander's Assoc. Luncheon <i>BOS B-2</i>
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Rules of the Convention, Credentials, Legislative. Includes Guest Speakers & Program Reports <i>BOS B11C-D</i>
3:00 PM - 3:45 PM	1st Nominations for 2025-26 State Officers <i>BOS B11C-D</i>
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Breakout Sessions <i>BOS B 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, BOS 11C-D</i>
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Patriotic Rally <i>BOS B11C-D</i>
TBD	Hospitality Room <i>PAL Freeport &amp; Governor Yates</i>

# Department of Illinois 106th Annual State Convention

Tentative Agenda (May be subject to change.)

BOS Convention Center

1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701

June 05-08, 2025

**Saturday, June 07, 2025**

Dress Code for Business Session will be Coat & Tie

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Prayer Breakfast <i>BOS B2</i>
8:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Guests from Veteran's Groups <i>BOS B11C-D</i>
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	VFW Registration <i>BOS B11A-B</i>
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Exhibitor/Vendor Booths <i>BOS B11A-B</i>
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	VFW Sales <i>BOS B11A-B</i>
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Silent Auction <i>BOS B11A-B</i>
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Poppy Displays <i>BOS B4</i>
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM	Buddy Poppy Report, Ntl. Home Report, Silver March & Other Program Reports <i>BOS B11C-D</i>
12:30 PM - 3:00 PM	By-Laws & Resolutions, Credentials, Convention Raffle, 2nd Nominations, & Elections <i>BOS B11C-D</i>
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Joint Installation of 2025-26 State Officers <i>BOS B11C-D</i>
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Commander & President's Reception <i>BOS B11C-D</i>
TBD	Hospitality Room <i>PAL Freeport &amp; Governor Yates</i>

**Sunday, June 08, 2025**

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Council of Administration Meeting <i>PAL Governor Bond</i>
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## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS – FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Instructor</b>
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Post Service Officer Training	B3	Sean Conner
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Quartermaster Training	B1	Jimmie Waters
	Adjutant Training	B8	Glen Goodrich
	Commander Training	B6	Todd Latham
	All-State	B2	Steve Eller
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Audits	B1	Jimmie Waters
	Dashboard	B8	Glen Goodrich
	Trustee Training	B6	Bobby Welch
	Community Service	B2	Steve Eller
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Inspections	B1	Cathy Stubbs
	Women Veterans	B2	Nekohl Johnson
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Scholar's App	B1	Dave Darte & David Long
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Post Service Officer Training	B3	Sean Conner
1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Quartermaster Training	B1	Jimmie Waters
	Adjutant Training	B8	Glen Goodrich
	Commander Training	B6	Todd Latham
	Road Home & SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Programs	B2	Mathius Carter & Josh Daren
1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Audits	B1	Jimmie Waters
	Dashboard	B8	Glen Goodrich
	Trustee Training	B6	Bobby Welch
	Newspaper Article Submission	B2	Brett Nila
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Inspections	B1	Cathy Stubbs

## VFW State Convention Transportation Needs

This will be a continual loop from the Crowne only to the BOS.

### Friday, June 6, 2025

7am – 11:30am	One Motor Coach Bus
1pm-5pm	One 35 passenger Shuttle
6pm-10pm	One Motor Coach Bus

### Saturday, June 7, 2025

7am-10am	One Motor Coach Bus
12pm-5pm	One 35 passenger Shuttle
5pm-11pm	One Motor Coach Bus





## Department of Illinois Joint Homecoming Tinley Park, Illinois

**August 23, 2025**



**Eugene Blackwell**  
State Commander  
*"Serving Our Community  
With Resilience"*

**Diane Ahrens**  
Department President  
*"Life is Sweet Serving Our Veterans"*

### **Illinois VFW Fall Program Book Order Form**

**Our Post/District/Auxiliary would like to purchase the ad size selected  
below in the Illinois VFW Fall Program Book**

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

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

**BOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE  
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S  
JOINT HOMECOMING IN AUGUST**

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

*Editor, Illinois VFW Fall Program Book  
3300 Constitution Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62711*

or send via email to: [barb.wilson2@outlook.com](mailto:barb.wilson2@outlook.com)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS JULY 15, 2025**

SCOUT OF THE YEAR  
PROGRAM SUMMARY  
1 MAY 2025

THANKS TO ALL THE POSTS THAT SPONSORED A SCOUT FOR THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM. THIS YEAR THE PROGRAM HAD 18 APPLICATIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY ONE SCOUT COULD BE SELECTED AS THE STATE WINNER AND MOVE FORWARD TO VFW NATIONAL. OUR WINNER THIS YEAR IS:

**COOPER MERRINETTE – SPONSORED BY LILAC POST 5815, LOMBARD IL**

DISTRICT	SCOUT OF THE YEAR APPLICATION RECEIVED
3	1
4	2
5	2
6	1
12	2
13	1
14	1
18	3
19	5

**PARTICIPATING SCOUTING COUNCILS/NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS  
RECEIVED**

PATHWAYS TO ADVENTURE	4	
GREATER ST LOUIS		4
RAINBOW	3	
THREE FIRES		4
BLACKHAWK		1
NORTHEAST ILLINOIS	2	

RON MILTON  
SCOUTING CHAIR  
USAFRET1@ATT.NET

## Program Bulletin VOD June 2025

As you probably know Scholars App, is a company that has been contracted by the National VFW Programs Staff to help offer the PP/VOD Contests to eligible students nationwide. Scholars App helps students complete their digital entries which are submitted to participating posts. The post then judges the entries and advances their post winning student entry(s) to district. District, in turn utilizes the same process to judge and advance their winner to department. The department and national do the same. The Scholars App program also provides for efficient reporting of these contests at all levels which has been a long- standing issue.

Last year National VFW mandated that Scholars App reporting be introduced at the district level, which was poorly communicated by national and department personnel alike, and required district chairpersons to backtrack operations that should have been completed at the post level which caused considerable confusion. This year we will be implementing the Scholars App program at the post level as it was designed.

The Ill. youth scholarship team has developed and continues to develop easy to follow instructions for post and district chairpersons to conduct their Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contests utilizing Scholars App. These training aids will be readily available at the Department website soon. For those attending the convention this year we are offering a one-hour Breakout session outlining the Scholars App program and addressing questions for all who care to attend on Friday at 10:30-11:30. We hope to see you there!