

Illinois

2024-2025 Series General Orders No. 11 May 2025

STATE HEADQUARTERS CLOSURE

State Headquarters will be closed on May 26th in observation of Memorial Day.

COMMANDER SHIRTS

You can now purchase the incoming Commander's shirts. There is a link for the form on the homepage of the State website, vfwil.org, that can be filled out, and you can pay either by check or through the "donate now" button located on the homepage of the State website, vfwil.org. Also, Greco Graphics is offering a special deal for the month of May; you will get \$5 off two or more lines of embroidery per shirt until May 30.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO DEPARTMENT PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

All Department Program Chairmen are reminded that most Programs ended officially as of April 30, 2025, and you shall compile the Program Award Winners. We **must** have your Award Winners in State Headquarters no later than Monday, **May 15, 2025**, to enable us to order and prepare your Convention Awards on time. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 15TH

Posts within the Department of Illinois shall fly their U.S. Flag at "half-staff' on May 15th, 2025, in observance of **Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15th**, as authorized by Public Law 103-122.

IMPORTANT - REPORT OF ELECTION FORM

Per section 213 of the National Bylaws, <u>Posts that have not submitted a properly completed</u>
<u>Election Report by June 1st are in arrears and shall be deprived of all representation in</u>

<u>District, Department, and National conventions.</u> Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustments of such deficiencies. Posts that have registered delegates for the Department and National Conventions will not receive credentials until the Post has satisfied its arrearage.

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

The District Convention is held for the purpose of electing your officers for the upcoming administrative year. Any member, not a member of the District Convention, (Refer to Section 404 of the National Bylaws), may attend the Convention. However, they shall have no voice in business discussions unless requested by the Commander, and shall have no voting privileges. Those on official business shall be recognized by the Commander for the conduct of business. (Article IV, Sec. 403 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees).

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 properly reviewed. Proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the District Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to 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 in accordance with 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 Post or District Officers changes must be reported to State Headquarters immediately. Changes in addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses should also be reported immediately – even if changes are made on the Online Membership System (OMS). These changes are not always transmitted to State Headquarters; please help us keep our records current.

DISTRICT ELECTION REPORTS

All District Quartermasters have received a 2025-2026 Report of Election form for the District and **must** submit it immediately upon completion of the District election. It is very important that the names, addresses, Post numbers, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses are up-to-date. Commanders-elect who may receive mail at a Post Office Box should also include their street address for shipping purposes.

CREDENTIALS - CONVENTION

Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

- (a) Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing. Delegates and alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure.
- (b) Delegates elected under this section shall not be considered instructed and may exercise full authority in the duty to be performed.
- (c) Each Post will pay, in accordance with its Department Bylaws, a delegate registration fee for each and every delegate to which the Post shall be entitled
- (d) Each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of \$25, which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a \$10 delegate fee.

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 be held on Friday afternoon, June 6, 2025 with the election and installation of officers taking place on Saturday afternoon, June 7, 2025. **DELEGATE REGISTRATION CLOSES AT 10:00 a.m. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 7th. REGISTER EARLY!!**

FINAL EXPENSE VOUCHER

Reminder for all Officers who have Expense Accounts – the final date for submitting expense voucher for the 2024-2025 term is **Friday**, **June 20**, **2025**. Expense vouchers must be within budget limitations and must be marked FINAL. **Expense Vouchers**

PROGRAM DIRECTORS REPORTS - STATE CONVENTION

<u>All program directors</u> – please have your reports printed so that you will be able to pass it to the State Adjutant when you finish giving your report to the Convention floor. Please provide a duplicate copy of your report to the State Headquarters and please make sure your name is on your report. Please remember to keep your reports short and to the point. <u>Reminder</u> – the State Convention is also the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Please be sure to have your correct name and title on your report. Your cooperation in this matter will eliminate the chances of errors in the report and will help Department by having information available for the news media, etc.

DISTRICT CAUCUS DURING STATE CONVENTION

Each District will be responsible for establishing their own District Caucus and it will be their responsibility to contact and invite candidates to address their caucus.

STATE CONVENTION

The State Convention will be held on June 5-8, 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 in the BOS Center at 1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701, conveniently adjacent to both hotels. The VFW Auxiliary meetings will be held in the Presidential Abraham Lincoln Double Tree Hotel. The Hotel reservation links and codes are posted on the <u>vfwil.org</u> web page under "Events".

ATTENTION TO EVERYONE PLANNING TO ATTEND STATE CONVENTION

Just a quick reminder and some updates/changes for this year's State Convention.

This is just a reminder that Adams St, which runs in front of the BOS center and the Presidential Abraham Lincoln Hotel, is now a two-way street. Due to unforeseen

events, the Wyndham will not be the secondary hotel this year; it will be the Crowne Plaza. Information for the hotel is above and located on the state website vfwil.org. We are negotiating with the Visitors Bureau about transportation for those staying at the Crowne Plaza. More information will be available closer to the State Convention.

Finally, the parking garage will be free with the Wyndham not being open for business.

STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

These General Orders include the Advance Registration Form for the State Convention. Delegates can also be registered online by going to www.vfwil.org. The registration fee is \$20.00 until May 1st, 2025, and will be \$22.00 after May 1st, 2025. 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. 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 2nd Floor of the Presidential Abraham Lincoln Hotel. **According to the City Fire Code** and hotel rules, no heating devices or heating elements can be used in the hospitality room. This includes electric hot plates, crock pots, roasters, and nothing that is gas or propane.

You can have a hot box or thermal insulated container if you want to bring in hot foods to keep them warm, but nothing that has to be plugged in to keep the temperature.

Also, this year, the hospitality room <u>will be closed</u> during all the business sessions, the Memorial Service, and the Patriotic Rally.

<u>ATTENTION POST COMMANDERS</u>

<u>Under the Department of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars By-Laws, Article V - Convention Section 8</u>: "Each Post shall register, in advance or at the Convention, at least one delegate to the Department Convention by payment of the advance registration fee in effect for such

Convention, which fee shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials. Post failing to comply with this requirement shall be considered delinquent and in arrears.

PAST DISTRICT COMMANDER'S ASSOCIATION

The Past District Commanders' Association is meeting during the State Convention; there will be a luncheon for Association members on Friday, June 6, 2025, from 12:00-1:15 in room B-2. The cost of the luncheon is \$20. Anyone currently serving as District Commander (term ending June 2025) and anyone who has previously served as a District Commander 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 newly elected District Commanders for the 2025-2026 year. The Department will provide room accommodations for four nights (Wednesday-Sunday) for incoming District Commanders at the Presidential Abraham Lincoln Double Tree Hotel.

Incoming District Commander training will be held on Thursday, June 5^{th,} at 8 am. Training will cover the upcoming year's duties, goals, and expectations. All incoming District Commanders **MUST** attend the training.

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

On Sunday, June 8th, there will be a brief Council of Administration meeting at 9 a.m. to pass an interim budget until the next meeting in August.

COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Join the newly installed IL VFW State Commander and IL VFW Auxiliary State President for the Commander and President's Reception on Saturday, June 7, 2025. The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. at the BOS Center in B11 C-D. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased through State Headquarters.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

This year at the State Convention, we have expanded the breakout sessions and seminars that we offer to attendees. All of this training will be held in the BOS Center on Thursday,

June 5, 2025, and Friday, June 6, 2024. When the schedule for breakout sessions is complete, it will be posted on the State website, vfwil.org, along with the agenda for the weekend.

POST SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING

At the State Convention this year, there will be two breakout sessions for post-service officer training: one on Friday and one on Saturday. Once the schedule for the breakout sessions is complete, there will be more information on times.

CONVENTION EXHIBIT BOOTHS

Please let the businesses in your area know that exhibit space is available during our 106th Annual State Convention at the BOS Center. For more information, contact State Headquarters at 217-529-6688.

SILENT AUCTION

The Annual Silent Auction will be held during the State Convention. Please bring your donated item to the *B-11 A/B* of the BOS Center and make sure to fill out the form provided. If you have any questions, please contact State Headquarters. District Commanders are asked to donate an item from their District of at least \$75.

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 will be accepted in BOS B4 of the BOS Center from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 5, 2025, and continuing on Friday, June 6, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

All poppy displays must be picked up from B4 before 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 7, 2025.

Awards will be presented when the Program Director makes their final report during the State Convention. Directors must ensure their awards are in the stage area prior to making their reports.

SUPPLY SALES BOOTH

The Supply Sales Booth will be set up in B-11 A/B of the BOS Center from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 5, 2025. It will continue on Friday, June 6, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE

The Distinguished Guest Committee Members will operate from the VIP Room in the BOS Center 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 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 attend the Joint Opening Session on Friday, June 6, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in B-11 C/D and all business sessions on Friday and Saturday.

Credentials Committee:

Chairman: Scott Holley, Post 3873-19

Joe Wein, Post 2202-4

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

Jeff Britt: Post 6865-14 Officer of the day Raymond Bachewicz: Post 2298-5 Sergeant-At-Arms

Jack Lamont: Post 3851-13 Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Roy Johnson: Post 5220-3 Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Kenneth Williams Post 3480-14 Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

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. Two sheets of 5 tickets (\$20 each) and two Purple Heart tickets (\$5 each) were included. 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 more tickets, please get in touch with VFW Department Headquarters.

126th VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION

Columbus, OH, is the host city for the 126th VFW and 111th Auxiliary National Conventions, which will be held August 9- 13, 2025. Convention housing opened on March 17, 2025. Hotel reservations can be booked on the VFW website, www.vfw.org.

2025-2026 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN

The VFW has announced the topics for the 2025-2026 Voice of Democracy and Patriots' Pen youth essay competitions.

The topic for both the Voice of Democracy and Patriots' Pen will be the same this year which is:

"How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

Posts are encouraged to start distributing this information to the schools in their area now rather than waiting until the fall. Entry forms can be found on either the National Headquarters website, <u>vfw.org</u>, or the Illinois website, <u>vfwil.org</u>.

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING & COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING

The Council of Administration Meeting will be held August 22-24, 2005. Please check the June General Orders for more information.

NEW CENTURY RAFFLE

The New Century Raffle has officially started and will run through June 30, 2026. The tickets are just \$10.00 each. Each ticket entitles you to a weekly drawing of \$100 from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Drawings will be held each Friday beginning July 1, 2025, 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 monthly in the General Orders and posted on http://vfwil.

WEEKLY WINNER

Date of Drawing	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Seller</u>
4/4/25	James Quinn	No Seller Listed
4/11/25	Linda Johnson	No Seller Listed
4/18/25	Paul Topel	Paul Topel
4/25/25	Gary Rakin	Gary Rakin

By Order of:

Joseph "Scott" Swinford State Adjutant/Quartermaster Maurice Bridges State Commander

m.f.Bfl.

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

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

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

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

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

	Sunday, June 08, 2025
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Council of Administration Meeting
	PAL Governor Bond

BREAKOUT SESSIONS - FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025

B6
В8
B1
Road Home & SSG FOX Sulcide Prevention Programs B2
В6
B8
B1
B3
B1
B2
B1
B2
В6
B8
B1
B2
В6
В8
B1
B3
Room

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

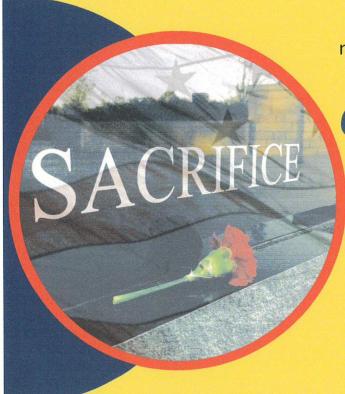
PATHWAYS TO ADVENTURE	4	
GREATER ST LOUIS		4
RAINBOW	3	
THREE FIRES		4
BLACKHAWK		1
NORTHEAST ILLINOIS	2	

RON MILTON SCOUTING CHAIR USAFRET1@ATT.NET

Help Build the Springfield Gold Star Families Memorial Monument



A new Gold Star Families Memorial Monument (GSFMM) honoring the families of servicemen and women who gave their lives in service is planned for Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL, with other memorials for World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, and Purple Heart Recipients.



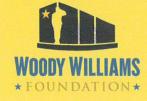
Thanks to previous support, the granite monument and benches are funded. We now need the community's help to raise the funds for the final stage: construction of the memorial.

Construction Cost Fundraising Goal: \$35,000!!

Honor their sacrifice with your support

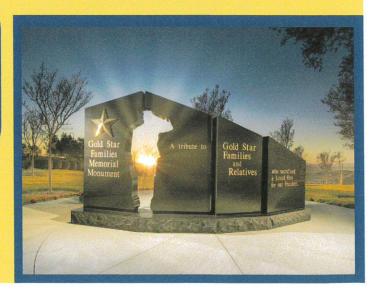
Support our ongoing mission by donating at: https://www.woodywilliams.org/monuments/springfield-il.html.

Join Our Fundraising Telethon!
Date: May 2, 2025
Radio Station: 1450 AM
Casey's Pub, Meadowbrook Lane,
Springfield, IL
6am - 9am









GLe Bing B

Not Your Grandma's Bingo!

BL-53131

SPRINGFIELD VFW POST 755 TO BENEFIT ILLINOIS STATE FAIR
VETERAN'S DAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 3, 2025

Doors @ 6pm

Bingo @ 7pm

Springfield VFW Post 755
2211 Old Jacksonville Rd, Springfield, IL
OVER \$1000 IN CASH PRIZES!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
GLO-BINGO.COM/EVENTS
(\$2/TICKET NON REFUNDABLE FEE)
OR CRYSTAL 217-299-8333



\$25 In Advance/\$30 At The Door MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO ATTEND

Includes 6 bingo cards for 10 games
Also includes Glow hat & Dauber
(\$5 per additional 6 cards)

CASH BAR - BYO SNACKS - 50/50 - WINE PULL