# Department of Illinois
# 2026 – 2027 Series
# General Order No. 5
# November 2026

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
Illinois

## Headquarters Announcements

1. State Headquarters will be closed on November 11, 2026, in observance of Veterans Day Normal operations will resume on Thursday, November 12, 2026. We will also be closed on November 26 and 27, 2026 in observance of Thanksgiving Day. Normal operations will resume on Monday November 30, 2026.
2. **Critical Notice: Bond Expirations**
   Be advised that all current Post and District Officer bonds expired as of August 31, 2026.
   - Currently 36 Posts and 4 Districts are not bonded. All Posts and Districts must be bonded by November 15, 2026, you will be suspended.

   **National Bylaws Section 703 - Bonds.**
   Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department, District, County Council or Post, as the case may be, to which each officer is accountable.
   The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit.
3. District Inspectors should be scheduling Post inspections and getting them completed.
4. **The deadline to submit your 990 is November 15, 2026.**
5. VOD/PP Program book Ad form: Located on the State website vfwil.org, under resources tab and then reports and forms there is the form to place an Ad in the VOD/PP Program book for the February 2027 banquet. Payment must be in full at the time you submit the request. You can mail the form with a check or email the form and submit the payment via credit/debit card at www.vfwil.org. Email or mail the ad and any photos to Editor, 2027 Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Program Book 3300 Constitution Dr Springfield, IL 62711 or send via email to: barb.wilson2@outlook.com (please cc vfwil@vfwil.org) Questions? Contact State Headquarters at 217-529-6688. **The deadline is December 15, 2026.**
6. **February Council of Administration, Voice of Democracy Banquet & Deadlines:** The February Council of Administration meeting and Voice of Democracy Banquet will be held February 5–7, 2027, at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL (room rate: $115/night plus tax; call 217-529-7777 with Option #1 and Code W9W, or reserve online at vfwil.org under News → Events). The banquet takes place Saturday, February 6, 2027; tickets are $60.00/person or $600.00/table of 10 and must be purchased by January 29, 2027 (no sales after this date or at the door; District tables must be ordered and paid for by District Commanders).
7. All Program reports are due to State Headquarters by Friday, January 22, 2027.

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8. VOD sponsorships are available for the following:
   - 15th Place - $300
   - 16th Place - $300
   - 17th Place - $300
   - Pizza Party for kids - $300
   - Lunch for kids - $300
   - Tours for kids - $400
   - Book Bags for kids - $400

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

## Membership

1. State total 87.72%
2. 88 New Life Members
3. 126 New Annual Members
4. 138 Annual Reinstates
5. 213 Life Member Upgrades

## Post Announcements

1. Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler, Special Order No 100 dated October 22nd cancelled the charter of Moweaqua Post 2705.
2. In accordance with National Special Orders No 88 and 90, two members were removed from the membership rolls due to ineligibility.
3. Special Order No. 19: Post 9961 charter suspended for a period of 90 days.
4. Seven posts are currently suspended
5. One Article IX active.

## Bylaws

1. Section 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.
   In part reads…
   (a) The Post **shall** elect the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, and three Trustees.
   (b) The Commander **shall** appoint an Adjutant and Chaplain.
2. Fifteen (15) Posts currently have required officer vacancies. All vacancies **shall** be filled immediately in accordance with Section 220 of the Manual of Procedure at the next regular or special meeting.
3. The following Post are missing Trustees:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2024-03 | 3637-17 | 4724-09 | 6870-03 | 8283-16 |

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The National Bylaws do not allow for a pro-temp Trustee under any circumstances. All Trustee Audits must be signed by the three (3) elected Trustees. Post with vacancies in the Trustee position will not have their audits approved.

4. Section 210 - Surrender of Charter

A Post may surrender its charter in accordance with the following procedures:

1. A motion to consider surrendering a Post charter shall be made and approved at a regular or special meeting of the Post. If approved, the Post Commander shall immediately provide to the Department Commander a list describing all assets and liabilities of the Post.
2. A Post may then, after at least twenty (20) days written notice to the Department Commander, District Commander and members of the Post, vote to surrender the charter upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting.
3. The Department Commander shall be notified immediately after the meeting, in writing, of the outcome of the vote to surrender the charter of a Post. If approved, the Department Commander shall within thirty (30) days, request that the Commander-in-Chief cancel the charter. Pending such cancellation, the Post shall not dispose of any assets.

## Events

- 1. February 5-7, 2027: Council of Administration
- 2. February 6, 2027: State Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Banquet

## Calendar and Deadline Dates

**November 2026**

November 11, 2026: Veterans Day

November 15, 2026: Post judging for VOD/PP and Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award completed

**December 2026**

December 1, 2026: Sponsorship money due to State Headquarters for Post and Districts wishing to sponsor VOD/PP Scholarships, Pizza Party, or Ice cream Social

December 7, 2026: Pearl Harbor Day

December 15, 2026: Deadline to submit articles for Illinois VFW News (January issue)

December 15, 2026: District winners for Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen due to State Headquarters

December 29, 2026: District participation reports due to State Headquarters for Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher award

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**Commander Town Halls**

1. November 14, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
   Post 976, 123 W Market St. Troy, IL 62294
2. November 21, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
   Post 9763, 16217 Sulphur Springs Rd. Creal Springs, IL 62922
3. November 22, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
   Post 4226, 205 N Walnut St. Olney, IL 62450

Official:



Bobby Edwards
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

By order of:



Robert J. Bailey
State Commander