



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

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Illinois

2025-2026 Series  
**General Orders No. 3**  
September 2025

**HOLIDAY CLOSURE**

State Headquarters will be closed on September 1, 2025, for Labor Day.

**NATIONAL BY-LAWS: POLITICS SEC. 702- POLITICS.**

No officer or member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall in any manner use the Veterans of Foreign Wars for partisan politics and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any meetings nor shall any nominations, recommendations or endorsements for political office be made, provided this shall not apply to discussion of policies of any organization that seeks to alter our present form of government by force, violence or other unlawful means.

Participation in activities supporting or opposing legislation or the administration of laws related to veterans' welfare or other matters pertinent to the organization's purposes shall be permitted. Such participation shall be consistent with the legislative and welfare programs and policies approved by the National Convention. No Post, County Council, District, or Department shall participate in a labor dispute, either on behalf of labor or management. No member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall wear the VFW uniform or VFW cap in any plant or picket line or meeting of employees where a labor dispute arises.

## **SECTION 703 - BONDS**

Please refer to Section 703 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure regarding the bonding of officers. We quote in part from Section 703: "Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these By-Laws 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, he may be accountable.

**The 2024-2025 bonds purchased through Department Headquarters expired on August 31, 2025.**

## **ATTN: DISTRICT OFFICERS**

District Meetings are intended to serve as a school of instruction. District Commanders must make sure instruction is taking place at their meetings. Training is very important to the success of our organization; without it, we lose members and Posts. The national website, [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), contains a wealth of information that can be utilized in educational settings. Use these materials and more to cause your attendees at District Meetings to leave the meeting knowing more than they did when they arrived. Department representatives are available, from time to time, to provide training at District Meetings or at Schools of Instruction called outside of the normal District Meeting Schedule. Should more than one District decide to join together for a school of instruction, a Department Representative is almost sure to attend if invited.

## **REGULARLY HELD POST MEETINGS**

**"Sec. 203 - Regular, Special, and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.**

**Regular Meetings.** Posts shall hold at least one regular meeting each month. Failure to comply can result in immediate revocation of the Post Charter notwithstanding the provisions of Section 211 of the Manual of Procedure."

Posts **MUST** meet each month. Those who do not comply with this by-law are subject to adverse action. Post and District Commanders are expected to ensure compliance.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Keeping properly formatted meeting minutes is one of the most important duties you have to your post or district. There have been recent incidents of post-meeting decisions, such as the membership approving the sale of property, not being recorded in the minutes. If it is not recorded, it did not happen. Meeting minutes must include the following.

- You need to include the date, time, and type of meeting
- Meeting location
- Officers/members present
- Any subject brought to the meeting floor for a vote
  - The result of that vote
- Anything brought to the meeting floor for a discussion

Meeting minutes do not need to be a transcript; just a summary is sufficient. Your minutes must be legible and read and approved at the next regular meeting.

For further information on how to properly record meeting minutes, please refer to [Roberts Rules of Order \(Newly Revised\)](#) Section 48, paragraphs 1 through 8.

## **POST PURCHASES AND EXPENDITURES**

We have received a few inquiries from members and officers regarding the procedures for approving purchases and expenditures in a Post. Specifically, they inquired about purchases or donations that were made without approval of membership prior to the disbursement of funds.

Please refer to Section 218 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures. Sec 218(a)(1)f states that one of the duties of the Commander is "Approve all disbursements of funds properly authorized by the Post by use of voucher or payment order."

Sec 218(a)(5)c states that one of the duties of the Quartermaster is "Disburse funds as properly authorized by the Post using acceptable banking practices."

In both instances, it is very clear that Post expenditures can only be made after they are properly authorized by the Post, which means approval of the membership.

Please review the procedures you are following to ensure that all your expenditures

and disbursements of funds comply with the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures.

#### SECTION 709 - CONTROL OF UNITS

We have received inquiries from Posts regarding the sale or purchase of real estate properties. You are reminded to follow section 709 of the Natina Bylaws in its entirety.

"In addition to other legal requirements under existing local laws or Department By-Laws, no Post, County Council, District, or any holding company or corporation subordinate thereto, shall purchase, sell or otherwise transfer title or any interest in any real estate unless written notice of such proposal has first been given to each member of said unit ten days before such regular or special meeting at which the proposal is to be considered, and then only by two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval of those members present and voting at such regular or special meeting. In addition, at least thirty (30) days before such meeting, notice shall be provided to the Department Commander, who shall review any sale, purchase, transfer, or encumbrance to determine whether such transaction serves the purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as prescribed in the Congressional Charter. Failure to comply with these provisions shall nullify said transaction. "

#### **RED, WHITE AND BLUE VETERANS SERVICE SUPPORTER PROGRAM**

Districts, Posts, and Individuals can once again show their support for our Veterans Service programs through our Red, White, and Blue Supporter Program. We have established three levels of Sponsorships: Red for those making donations of at least \$1,000; White for those making donations of \$500; and Blue for those making donations of \$250. Individuals, Posts, Districts, and Auxiliaries making donations at the above Supporter Levels will receive a beautiful plaque noting their level of support. Signs acknowledging contributions will be displayed at the Mid-Winter Conference in February and at our 106th annual State Convention in June 2025.

#### **PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025**

Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11 is designated as Patriot Day. The President requests the flag of the United States be flown at half-staff - sunrise to sunset - and a moment of silence be observed in honor of the individuals who

lost their lives on September 11th, 2001, due to terrorist attacks on the United States. You can find a Patriot's Day Speech on the National VFW website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Once you sign in, click on the tab for "Patriotic Holiday Speeches".

### **NATIONAL POW MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025**

Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. You can find a POW/MIA Recognition Day Speech on the National VFW website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Once you sign in, click on the tab for "Patriotic Holiday Speeches".

### **ILLINOIS DAY AT THE VFW NATIONAL HOME**

"Illinois Day" at the National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2025. We hope to have a large turnout and would appreciate having a head count of the number of VFW and Auxiliary Members from each Post who will be in attendance. Please see the attachment in the back for more information.

### **2025-2026 TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

State Commander Eugene Blackwell will be conducting five (5) Town Hall Meetings this fall and one (1) in the spring at VFW Posts across Illinois. These meetings are designed to provide updates, share information, and hear directly from our members. All Town Hall Meetings will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude no later than 2:00 p.m. Lunch arrangements will vary by host Post. Participation in a Town Hall is a requirement for eligibility toward the All-State Award. Each Post must ensure that at least one member attends one of the scheduled Town Hall sessions. Your engagement is vital to the success of VFW-IL. We look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming Town Halls and to hearing your ideas and concerns as we continue moving forward together.

**October 11, 2025**  
Fox River Post 4600  
3002 W. Rt 120  
McHenry IL, 60051

**October 12, 2025**

Princeton Post 4323  
1549 W Peru St.  
Princeton, IL 61356

**October 25, 2025**

Cronin Brothers Post 1756  
915 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lincoln, IL 62656

**December 7, 2025**

Cox Post 4753  
302 W Coal St.  
Sesser, IL 62884

**April 11, 2026**

John H Kraus Post 454  
1006 E. Lincoln St.  
Bloomington, IL 61701

**DEPARTMENT CALENDAR**

There is a department-wide calendar on the website that all members can view. Any events a Post or District has can be added to this calendar. Let others know what is going on in your area! You can request that an event be added to the calendar by sending the information to Erin at [erin@vfwil.org](mailto:erin@vfwil.org). This is one of the steps we are trying to use to increase communication and cooperation statewide.

**ILLINOIS VFW 2026 CALENDAR**

The Illinois VFW 2026 Calendar is now in the hands of our District Commanders. We are asking Posts and Districts to assist in selling the calendars. As a reminder, Posts and Districts selling Calendars can keep \$2 for each calendar as an incentive. The calendars are \$20 each, and the daily drawing begins January 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a fundraiser that the Council of Administration approved in August 2024.

**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 participate in 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 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 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

<u>Date of Drawing</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Seller</u>
8/1/2025	Peter Mills	No Seller Listed
8/8/2025	Mary Ann Kliman	Rich Kilman
8/15/2025	James Conyne	Mark Kish
8/22/2025	Jerry Schultz	No Seller Listed
8/29/2025	Jerry Koch	No Seller Listed

### POST CONSOLIDATION

Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt has approved the consolidation of Posts 2029 in Saybrook and 454 in Bloomington, effective August 7, 2025, to be known as the John H. Kraus Post 454 in Bloomington, Illinois. Please update your records accordingly.

By Order of:



Joseph "Scott" Swinford  
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Official



Eugene Blackwell  
State Commander

## **2024-2025 All-American Commanders**

### **District Commanders**

Jonathon Cooper	District 3
Douglas Jameson	District 14
Kenneth Piehl	District 18

### **Post Commanders**

Ronald Boomer	Post 99
Gary Holmes	Post 342
William Snyder	Post 503
Kipp Reed	Post 805
Anthony Avers	Post 976
Bernadette Bland	Post 1461
John Lawson	Post 1739
Michael Magnetta	Post 2245
Daniel Pearson	Post 2298
Kenneth Eddy	Post 2698

Charles Johnson	Post 2729
Robert Tindon	Post 2868
Charolie Burris	Post 2876
Ray Doeksen	Post 2978
Valerie Young	Post 3480
Kenneth Goodman	Post 3523
Staci Boyer	Post 3873
Antonio Munoz	Post 5079
William Lunsford	Post 5151
Seth Floyd	Post 5346
Kenneth Piehl	Post 5422
Alonzo Skipper	Post 5691
Keith Carberry	Post 5788
Jeremy Deckard	Post 5975
Duane Sanders	Post 6408
Jill Schofield	Post 7682
Billy Tucker	Post 7710

Dwayne Price	Post 8350
Matthew Alford	Post 8739
Jonathon Cooper	Post 8821
Ryan Shurtz	Post 9153
Albert Dagner	Post 9763
Howard Kirby	Post 9773
Kyle Blumhorst	Post 11463
Joshua Deron	Post 12014

Illinois day ... September 20, 2025

National home's 100th anniversary  
Join the celebration!

Event runs from 9am-2pm  
Guided tours from 10-12  
Lunch at 12 followed by program  
A detailed program will be available closer to the event.

Location  
VFW National Home  
3573 Waverly Road  
Eaton rapids, Mi 48827  
Phone - 800- 424 8360

#### Activities

We will begin with a visit to the local (Rosehill cemetery) - national home section at 9am  
Local time. Campus activities begin at 10am. Lunch is at noon followed by the program and  
Silver march. Departure is at approximately 2pm.

We will visit the national home's beautiful campus with 43 homes on over 600 acres, Illinois  
home 1 and 2 as well as the museum,  
Gift shop, and Montana farmstead. There will also be lots of food, fun,  
Games, prizes and good information about the home available in the gym.

#### Welcoming dinner

For those comrades arriving on Friday, September 19, we will have a welcoming dinner at local  
VFW post 2406  
In nearby charlotte Michigan at 695 Lansing street. (517-543 1719)  
Cold beverages and camaraderie at 5 pm and dinner at 6pm.

#### Accommodations

We look forward to having a great trip and for those staying overnight on Friday, September 19  
please make your own accommodations. Blocks of rooms have been set aside for us.  
Please call and mention you are coming with the Illinois VFW for the annual visit to the national  
home.

Here is a list of the local motels

Comfort inn  
1302 Packard hwy.  
Charlotte, Mi  
517-543 7307

Holiday inn  
500 Meijer St,  
Charlotte, Mi  
517-541 5000

America's best value inn  
828 E Shepherd St.  
Charlotte, Mi  
517-543 8288

Our thanks go out to all of our Illinois VFW and Auxiliary members  
And we look forward to a having a great trip!



**CHOICE AWARD  
TROPHIES FOR 3  
CATEGORIES!**



**FACEBOOK:**

**©VETERANS  
DROPINCENTER**

**PLAQUES FOR**

**BEST:**

**CHEVY  
FORD  
PONTIAC  
OLDSMOBILE  
AMC  
HOT ROD  
ORPHAN  
TRUCK  
MOPAR  
BUICK  
JEEP  
SEMI TRUCK  
MOTORCYCLE**

## **VETERANS AND COMMUNITY AUTO SHOW!**

THIS EVENT BRINGS TOGETHER VETERANS, FAMILIES,  
AND AUTO ENTHUSIASTS FOR A SUMMER DAY FULL OF  
HORSEPOWER, CONNECTION, AND GOOD VIBES.

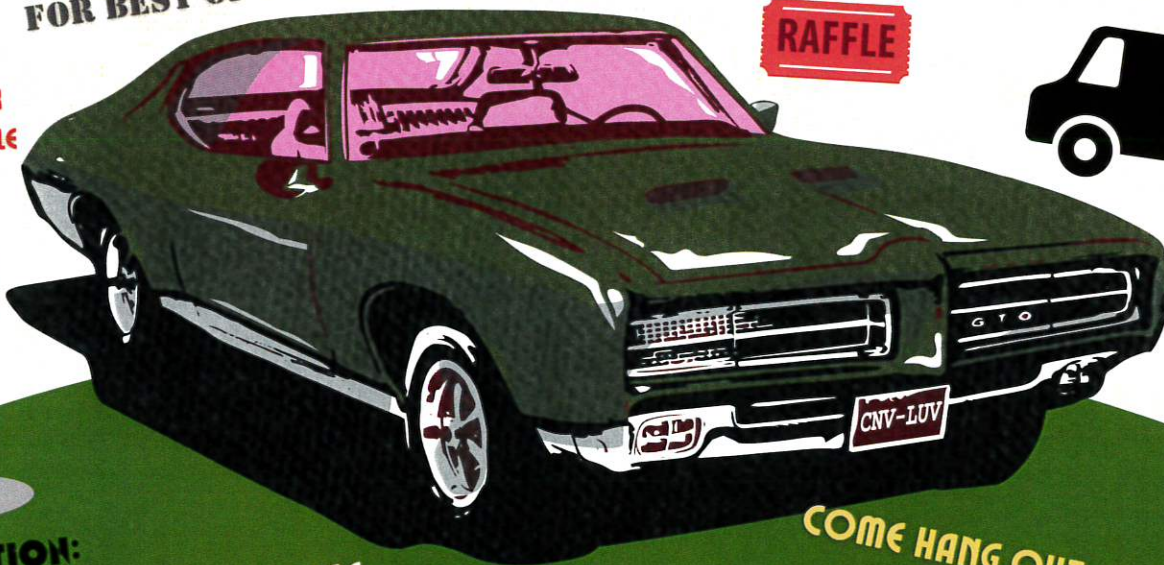
**RVC X OCD X VDIc**

**\$100 CASH PRIZE  
FOR BEST OF SHOW!**

**50/50**

**RAFFLE**

**FOOD TRUCKS**



**LOCATION:**

**ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE  
3301 N MULFORD RD,  
ROCKFORD, IL 61114**

**K-9**

**COME HANG OUT, CHECK OUT  
SOME SWEET RIDES, AND  
CELEBRATE COMMUNITY THE LOUD,  
SHINY, CHROME-COVERED WAY.**

**ENTRY FEE:**

**\$15**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH 2025  
RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH 2025**

**AT 10.00 AM - 2.00 PM**

**BIG THANKS TO ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE VETERANS CLUB AND THE  
OCD CAR CLUB FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE!**



**WWW.VETERANSDROPINCENTER.COM**



**815-713-8843**



**1539 S. 4TH STREET, ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61104**

# POW★MIA Day

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>  
September 2025**



★ 5:00 p.m. Spaghetti & Meatball  
Dinner with garlic bread and salad  
will be served. \$15.00 a plate

★ 6:00 p.m. POW/MIA Ceremony  
conducted by Clarence Caraker



★ 7:00 p.m. Major Music  
Karaoke will kick off

★ 10:00 p.m. we will be serving:  
Biscuits and Gravy \$5  
add scrambled eggs \$7 add  
hashbrowns? \$8

Carroll P Foster Post 3455  
70 VFW Lane, Anna Illinois



# VETFEST

## 2025

### FREE EVENT

**EVENT TO SUPPORT THOSE DEDICATED TO  
SUICIDE PREVENTION**

**WHEN**  
**SEP 27, 2025**  
**11AM-4PM**  
RAIN DATE 9/28/2025



**WHERE**  
**Stone City VFW 2199**  
124 Stone City Dr, Joliet, IL



**VETERANS ASSISTANCE**  
COMMISSION

**CONTACT [VACWC@WILLCOUNTY.GOV](mailto:VACWC@WILLCOUNTY.GOV) WITH QUESTIONS  
OR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**BEARCAT PULL**  
**BOUNCE HOUSE**  
**CAR SHOW**  
**BAGS TOURNAMENT**  
**BBQ CHICKEN**  
**PULLED PORK**  
**DJ KLANCHER**  
**LIVE MUSIC**  
**UKELELE MOONSHINERS**  
**RESOURCE FAIR**  
**BASKET RAFFLES**

**DONATE  
TODAY!**



**CHECKS CAN BE MADE  
PAYABLE TO:  
VETERANS IN PARTNERSHIP**

**ALSO ACCEPTING DONATIONS  
AT EVENT**



# Department of Illinois

## Fact Sheet

### About us

The VFW traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home sick or wounded. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them and they were left to care for themselves.

### Vision

Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

### Mission

To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

#### Get in Touch

**Phone:** 217-529-6688

**Facebook:** VFW State of Illinois

**Email:** [vfwil@vfwil.org](mailto:vfwil@vfwil.org)

### 2024/2025 metrics

**\$280,230** Service Members Assistance  
**\$44,676** Military Appreciation Programs

**191,825** Total VFW/AUX Volunteer Hours

**82 Scholarships and**  
**\$386,918 Awarded** Help A Hero  
Scholarship

**1,439** Voice of Democracy Student  
Participation

**209,000** Poppies Distributed

**4,288** Patriots Pen Student  
Participation

**46,342** VA Claims Processed  
**\$102,082,288** Amount Recovered

### Did You Know?

**34,150** Members as of June  
30, 2025

**December 11,**  
**1920** Charter Date

**2025-2026**  
**State Commander** Eugene Blackwell