

Department of Illinois 2026 – 2027 Series General Order No. 3 September 2026



Headquarters Announcements

1. Effective August 28, 2026, Comrade Joseph “Scott” Swinford resigned from his positions as Department of Illinois Adjutant and Quartermaster. As a result of his resignation, the offices of Department Quartermaster and Department Adjutant are currently vacant.

Effective immediately, Comrade Bobby Edwards is appointed to serve as Department Quartermaster Pro Tempore pending the election of a Department Quartermaster.

Additionally, in his current capacity as Assistant Adjutant, Comrade Edwards will temporarily perform the duties of the Department Adjutant pending formal action regarding that position.

Nominations are hereby open for the office of Department Quartermaster. Any member in good standing of a VFW Post within the Department of Illinois who meets the applicable eligibility requirements may submit their intent to seek the position.

Candidates should submit their intent by email to both: vfwil@vfwil.org and rbaileyvfwil@gmail.com. While submission of a candidate biography is not required, candidates are strongly encouraged to provide a brief biography outlining their VFW service, qualifications, and relevant experience.

Nominations will remain open until the election is conducted at a special meeting of the Council of Administration on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will have two topics of business; election of a Department Quartermaster and Council confirmation Comrade Bobby Edwards appointment as Department Adjutant for the remainder of the VFW year.

2. State Headquarters will be closed on September 7, 2026, in observance of Labor Day. Normal operations will resume on Tuesday, September 8, 2026.
3. Effective July 1, 2026, the required donation for the **Service Officer Support Program** has been increased to **\$75.00** to receive credit towards All-State.
4. To receive All-State credit for the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy programs, a Post **must** advance a student entry for District judging. Monetary donations will **not** be accepted in lieu of a student entry.
5. **RED**, **WHITE**, and **BLUE** Program sponsorship tiers:
 - Red Level: Donations of \$1,000 or more
 - White Level: Donations of \$500 - \$999
 - Blue Level: Donations of \$250 - \$499

Membership

1. State total 1.73%
2. 59 New Members
3. 28 Annual Reinstates
4. The Sponsor a Vet program flyers were provided to all District Commanders to be distributed to every post. If you have not received your posts, contact your District Commander.

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Post Announcements

1. Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler, Special Order No 6 dated August 3rd cancelled the charter of Mt. Sterling Post 10399
2. Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler, Special Order No 7 dated August 4th cancelled the charter of Momence Post 7535.
3. Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler, Special Order No 13 dated August 5th cancelled the charter of Newton Post 7537.
4. Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler, Special Order No 25 dated August 26th cancelled the charter of Monmouth Post 2301.
5. The Charter suspension for Post 1379 was rescinded.
6. In accordance with National Special Order No 15, one member was removed from the membership rolls due to ineligibility.
7. Two eligibility challenges are active.
8. Seven Posts and one District are suspended.

Bylaws

1. As of July 1st, Posts and Districts may file IRS form 990 for the 2025 fiscal year. All are encouraged to complete this early.

2. Critical Notice: Bond Expirations

Be advised that all current Post and District Officer bonds purchased through State Headquarters have expired as of August 31, 2026. All Post and District Commanders and Quartermasters must purchase a bond equal to or greater than their liquid assets. Bonds can be purchased directly through State Headquarters, or you must submit proof of a bond if purchased through a private company.

All bonds purchased through Headquarters are being sent out through the email address on file. Be sure to watch your email in the coming days.

Veterans Foundation of Illinois

The Veterans Foundation of Illinois is seeking qualified individuals to fill honorary, non-voting positions on the Foundation Board to help build awareness of its mission to serve Illinois Veterans and the VFW. These honorary members are not required to attend regular board meetings, though they are welcome to participate. The Foundation is specifically looking for individuals with expertise in Marketing, Fundraising, Grant Development, or Social Media strategy. Interested members should contact Brett Nila or any current Foundation Board member for additional details.

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Events

1. September 19, 2026: Illinois Day at the National Home (Eaton Rapids, Michigan)

Early Agenda

Friday, September 18, 2026, VFW Post 2406, 695 Lansing Rd., Charlotte, MI 48813

5:00 pm cocktails and camaraderie

6:00 pm Dinner, suggested donation of \$15 per plate.

Saturday, September 19, 2026, Tribute/Memorial at Rosehill Cemetery.

Immediately after travel to the VFW National Home.

Our National Home Chairs have reserved hotel blocks at a discount price.

- Comfort Inn Charlotte: Rooms must be reserved by Saturday, September 12, 2026, to receive the special group rate.
- Holiday Inn: To obtain a reduced rate, guests must call the hotel directly and use the code DOI/Dept of IL.
- If you would like to stay on campus at the National Home, please contact Michelle Neuman as soon as possible. Only a few rooms remain available so call to book yours as soon as possible. Her number is 517-663-7941.

Calendar and Deadline Dates

September 2026

September 11, 2026: Patriot Day

September 18, 2026: Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day

September 19, 2026: Illinois Day at the National Home (Eaton Rapids, Michigan)

October 2026

October 15-18, 2026: Big 10 Conference (Kalamazoo, MI)

October 15, 2026: Deadline to submit articles for Illinois VFW News (Nov. issue)

October 31, 2026: Audit for quarter ending September 30 due to State Headquarters

October 31, 2026: Student entries for VOD/PP and Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award entries are due to the post

Commander Town Halls

1. October 10, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 7446, 446 W. Lake St. Addison, IL 60101
2. October 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 8078, 200 W 5th St. Kewanee, IL 61443
3. October 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 454, 1006 E Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 61701

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4. October 25, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 4763, 214 W Chestnut St. Chatham, IL 62629
5. November 14, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 976, 123 W Market St. Troy, IL 62294
6. November 21, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 9763, 16217 Sulphur Springs Rd. Creal Springs, IL 62922
7. November 22, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Post 4226
205 N Walnut St. Olney, IL 62450

Official:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Edwards".

Bobby Edwards
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

By order of:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. Bailey".

Robert J. Bailey
State Commander