

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Illinois

2024-2025 Series
General Orders No. 9
March 2025

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

Wyndham City Center
700 E Adams
Springfield, IL 62701

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. Information on reserving your room for the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel or the Wyndham City Centre Hotel will be in upcoming General Orders and on the vfwil.org web page under "Events". Please do not call and make your reservation until the links are posted.

STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Included in these General Orders is 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 31, 2025**, and is \$22.00 after **May 31, 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 Convention Center.

REMINDER: Delegates **will not** be allowed to vote until such issues have been resolved if the Post is in arrears for supplies, poppies or any sort of financial obligation to the Department. The Post must be bonded, inspected, have an election report on file with Department and National Headquarters for the ensuing year, and all audits **including the March 31, 2025 audit** must be submitted and approved.

Delegate strength to the convention is based on one delegate and one alternate delegate per thirty members or fraction thereof.

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 2 sheets of 5 tickets (\$20 each) and two Purple Heart tickets (\$5 each). Winners will be randomly selected at our State Convention in June for \$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.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AD BOOK

The Program Book Order Form for the 106th Annual State Convention is included in these General Orders. Full Page Ads are \$200, Half Page Ads are \$125, and Quarter Page Ads are \$75. Ads on the inside front cover are \$350, the inside back cover is \$300, and the outside back cover is \$300. (Contact Headquarters Office for availability of Cover Pages) Please mail your ad form, picture (*if applicable*), and payment to the Editor, State Convention Program Book, 3300 Constitution Ave,

Springfield, IL 62711, or e-mail to vfwil@vfwil.org.

Ads must be received in State Headquarters no later than **April 15, 2025.**

PAYMENT FOR ADS MUST BE REMITTED AT TIME OF PLACEMENT!

ONLINE DONATIONS

Posts and individuals have the opportunity to make donations to the Veterans of Foreign Wars by going to our state website, <http://www.vfwil.org>. Once on the website, by clicking on "Donation" link and following the instructions. Through that same form, it is also possible to purchase banquet tickets for state events, pay for poppies, and make donations for the dashboard to the Department of Illinois VFW Programs. ***Don't forget to specify what the donation is for under the "allocate funds to" line. Please note, if you are paying for poppies, supplies, or VFW Programs, we need your Post number!***

SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

Pursuant to Section 214 - "Solicitation of Funds" found in the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, fundraising may only be held for sanctioned purposes. This means no member shall use his/her title, position or office in connection with solicitation of funds for any non-VFW related purpose. Violation of this provision may lead to penalties which may include removal from office.

MARCH 25TH ... "MEDAL OF HONOR DAY"

A Resolution was passed by the U.S. Senate which designates March 25th as "National Medal of Honor Day". The day is set aside to acknowledge the more than 3,400 individuals who have received the nation's highest honor. The date of March 25th was chosen to highlight this special day because it was on March 25, 1863, that the first Medals of Honor were presented to six members of Andrews' Raiders. According to the Medal of Honor Society, there are only 83 living individuals who have received the 'Medal of Honor' and the Department of Illinois is proud to be "home" to three of them. They are: Harold Fritz, Post 2078-9, Allen Lynch, Post

4308-5 and Sammy Davis, Post 4549-17. Let's all join in recognizing their dedication and service to our country.

STATE PATRIOT'S PEN WINNER

Sponsored by Ronald Hill Memorial Post 2245 in our 5th District, we would like to congratulate Georgia Roscoe as this year's State first place Patriot's Pen winner! Georgia is a 7th Grader at St. Gilbert School in Grayslake, IL. She received a \$1,000 cash award and a specially engraved plaque at this year's 79th annual Voice of Democracy Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois. As one of 54 finalists worldwide, Georgia will compete at the National level for individual awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

2024/2025 STATE PATRIOT'S PEN WINNERS

1st Place – John H. Emery Youth, Pageantry, & Patriotism Fund - \$1,000

Recipient: Georgia Roscoe, District 5

2nd Place – Gaye Hines Memorial - \$500.00

Recipient: Lynnly Guedet, District 6

3rd Place: William Glenn Britt Memorial - \$400.00

Recipient: Elanna Oberg, District 17

4rd Place: Raymond L. Moreland Memorial - \$300.00

Recipient: Emma Meyer, District 12

STATE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CHAMPION

Congratulations to Joseph Martinez on being selected as the 2024-2025 State Voice of Democracy Champion. Joseph is a 12th grade student at Sarah E. Goode. He was sponsored by Johnson-Phelps Post 5220 and its Auxiliary located in Oak Lawn, Illinois in our 3rd District. He received the \$2,500 first place award and a specially engraved plaque at this year's 79th annual Voice of Democracy Ceremony. As one of 54 finalists worldwide, Joseph will travel to Washington, D.C. and compete at the National level for the first-place prize of a \$30,000 college scholarship.

2024/2025 STATE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNERS

- 1st Place: John H. Emery Youth, Pageantry and Patriotism Fund - \$2,500.00**
Recipient: Joseph Martinez, District 3
- 2nd Place: George R. Cramer & Ray R. Soden Scholarship Award - \$1,500.00**
Recipient: Han Liao, District 5
- 3rd Place: Terry L. McKinney Memorial Award - \$1,250.00**
Recipient: Thaylee Dunaway, District 13
- 4th Place: Dale & Catherine Clifton Award - \$1,000.00**
Recipient: Amira Hammad, District 16
- 5th Place: Johnson Phelps Post 5220 Auxiliary Award - \$750.00**
Recipient: Reece Mileur, District 15
- 6th Place: Edward Jarnell & Joseph Ross Award - \$600.00**
Recipient: Raed Slim, District 18
- 7th Place: William Glenn Britt Memorial Award - \$550.00**
Recipient: Josephine Griffith, District 9
- 8th Place: Dick Cosner Memorial Award - \$500.00**
Recipient: Kathryn Killian-Johnson, District 8
- 9th Place: Vern & Lorraine Umphery, Post 6863 & Auxiliary Award - \$450.00**
Recipient: Jackson Mullins, District 12
- 10th Place: Robert C. Holysz Post 2200 Award - \$400.00**
Recipient: K'Lynn Patterson, District 10
- 11th Place: Grant-Parkholme Post 9115 Award - \$375.00**
Recipient: Victoria McMillan, District 17
- 12th Place: West End Post 2004 Memorial Award - \$350.00**
Recipient: Matthew Peterson Jr., District 19
- 13th Place: Chester Spears Memorial Award - \$325.00**
Recipient: Kyle McGuire, District 11
- Runner-Up Awards - \$300**
Recipients: Joshua Koyfman, District 4
Kaydance Wooton, District 7
Riley Doyle, District 6
James d'Entremont, District 14

LOBBY DAY 2025

This year, the IL AMVETS is organizing and hosting the Illinois Veteran's Lobby Day in Springfield, IL, on March 19, 2025. Again, we invite other IL veteran service organizations to join us as we lobby state legislators on various veteran issues. Anyone who wishes to participate should plan on being in Springfield that day. The day will start at 8 am with a meeting of all the participants for coffee and donuts at VFW Post 755,

2211 Old Jacksonville Rd, Springfield, IL 62704. This will be an opportunity for everyone to discuss the planned visits for the day and the talking points to discuss with members of the IL General Assembly. A detailed schedule of the day and the scheduled visits will be handed out at the meeting. At 9:30, we will break up into teams and visit the offices of the State Representatives and the State Senators to talk about the veteran's issues in IL. The day will conclude at approximately 5 pm when we gather at Boone's Saloon, 301 W Edwards St, Springfield, IL (1 block from the State Capitol) for social hour and to discuss the day's results. All the talking points and bill info will be provided, so no lobby experience is necessary. This has been successfully done at the federal level to discuss veterans' issues, and the state lobby day last year was instrumental in helping to get some bills signed into law. Our State Legislators must know what veteran's issues are essential for IL and our members. Please plan to attend and make our IL Veteran's Lobby Day successful.

Join VFW Day of Service 2025

The VFW's fifth annual VFW Day of Service – a dedicated day of service led by VFW members throughout the country and the world – kicks off the first Saturday on May 3, 2025, and marks the start of veteran-led community service projects to take place throughout the month.

The VFW Day of Service is an outgrowth of the organization's #StillServing campaign, launched in 2020, to recognize the dedication of veterans and service members who continue to serve their communities. The VFW Day of Service, led by veterans and in concert with other organizations and civic groups, is open to anyone to participate.

We're urging all members and Posts to visit VFWDayofService.org to register their event on the interactive Day of Service map and receive a special participation decal or find a local event to join and see what other veterans around the country are doing to make a difference.

DEPARTMENT BYLAW CHANGES

Resolutions affecting the Bylaws of the Department must be submitted in **proper form** and received by State Headquarters by no later than **May 15, 2025**, so that the resolutions can be circulated to all Posts within the proper time prior to the State Convention. Resolutions concerning the Department By-Laws received after that date cannot be considered at the convention. **If you have questions regarding the proper form, please contact State Headquarters.**

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES RECORD BOOK

Community service, as defined by the National Community Service Trust Act, "encompasses any human act serving the common good in the interest of the community." Community service is "a service that is performed for the benefit of the public or its institutions."

Annually, we ask all VFW Posts to submit record books detailing their Community Service Projects. We encourage Posts to gather pictures, newspaper clippings, letters, receipts, etc., and compile this vital record of their activities in their community. We receive fewer and fewer entries each year for judging; ask for volunteers in your Post to assemble this critical part of your Post's history. Please get in touch with State Headquarters if you have any questions.

When the Community Activity Record Books are submitted for judging, they must have the official entry form attached to the inside front cover. The Official Entry Form is in the Commander's Leadership Manual, and at the end of these orders, your record book must be at State Headquarters by **May 2, 2025**, for judging on **May 5, 2025**

CONVENTION AWARDS AND CITATIONS COMMITTEE:

We are accepting nominees to be considered by our Convention Awards & Citations Committee for our State Convention. Categories for these awards are Outstanding Legislator, Education, Outstanding in Industrial Field, Legal Profession, Athletic Field, Governmental Service, Clergy, News Media, and Outstanding Citizen

or Community.

There is no **form to fill out...just write down the name, address, sponsoring Post Number, Contact Person and the reason why you feel this individual deserves to be recognized.** **THE DEADLINE DATE IS April 30, 2025**

NOMINATION, ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Section 216 of the National By-Laws is quoted below for your information and necessary action. Please note paragraph c.

Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

(a) The Post shall elect the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and three Trustees.

(b) *The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant and Service Officer.*

(c) *The Post may elect or the Post Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day and/or Guard if required by Post By-Laws.*

(d) *The Post Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Post or as may be required by Post By-Laws.*

A number of posts have by-laws that state that Post Officers will be elected in accordance with the National By-Laws or are silent on the election of officers as the National By-Law has precedence. With the change to 216c should review their by-laws and decide if they wish the positions in 216c to be elected or appointed.

Section 416 of the National By-Laws is quoted below for your information and necessary action. Please note paragraph c.

Sec. 416 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

(a) The elected officers of each District shall consist of a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, and three (3) Trustees.

(b) *The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Service Officer and Inspector.*

(c) *The District may elect or the District Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chief of Staff or Officer of the Day if required by the*

District By-Laws.

- (d) *The District Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the District or as may be required by District Bylaws.*

Paragraph c allows Districts to choose between election or appointment of the listed officers. Should the District wish to appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chief of Staff or Officer of the Day they need to have this reflected in their by-laws.

Section 417 of the Manual of Procedure

Sec. 417 - Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office. Order of nominations and elections.

The order of nominations and elections shall be Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Surgeon and Trustee(s).

Nomination. A member may be nominated and elected although not present at the meeting. A member making a nomination of an absentee for any office shall have presented to the Adjutant, in writing, the consent of the member being nominated prior to the closing of nominations. Any nominee shall have the opportunity to decline nomination for the office to which they have been nominated before nominations are closed. Nominations shall remain open until the District Convention is ready to vote.

Election. In balloting for District officers, a majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary for election. If there is no election on the first ballot, the name of the comrade receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive ballots until an election is made.

Challenging Election Results: If irregularities are claimed with respect to the election to any office, such challenge must be made in a writing containing specific details concerning the irregularities, signed by the challenger, and forwarded to the Department Commander, mailed no later than three (3) days after the election.

Installation. District officers shall be installed before the adjournment of the meeting at which elected. The installation shall be conducted by a member in good standing who holds or has held an office equal to or higher than District Commander. The District Commander-elect shall select the installing officer. An officer who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause shall be installed at any succeeding regular or special meeting of a unit of the organization, within sixty (60) days of the date of installation. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant.

Term of Office. Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year except that three trustees shall initially be elected for terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3) years and thereafter one (1) trustee shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years. District officers shall take office upon the confirmation of election and installation of the Department Commander by the Department Convention.

INSTALLING OFFICERS

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed.

Post Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (**OMS**). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

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 By-Laws) 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.

Per Section 416: District Officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to District Adjutant. Additionally District Commander, District SR. Vice, and the District JR. Vice shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant.

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.

COMMANDERS-ELECT AT ALL LEVELS

Your attention is directed to the fact that the State Commander does NOT ASSIGN a Past Post, District, County Council Commander or a State Officer to be an Installing Officer. This is something that is between you and the Officer you choose.

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 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.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF POST OFFICERS

Section 217 of the Constitution, By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, states that prior to the opening of nominations, the Post shall decide which form of election shall be used, unless the Post By-Laws specify the manner of election.

Any nominee shall have the opportunity to decline nomination for the office to which they have been nominated before nominations are closed. A member making the nomination of an absentee for any office shall have presented to the Adjutant, in writing, the consent of the member being nominated prior to the opening of nominations. Nominations of Post Officers shall open in March and remain open until the Post is ready to vote, provided, however, that when a poll system is used, nominations must be closed at the meeting prior to the election to allow the Adjutant to prepare a printed ballot.

Post officers shall be elected in April. Balloting for Post Officers may be conducted by open vote or written secret ballot (handwritten or printed) at a regular Post Meeting, or, if required by Post By-laws or authorized by Post vote prior to the opening of nominations, by a poll system and preprinted ballot. **Absentee ballots and proxy votes are prohibited.**

A majority vote of all votes cast, except where otherwise designated, shall be necessary to elect. If there be no election on the first ballot, the name of the comrade receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive ballots until an election is made.

If irregularities are claimed with respect to the election to any office, such challenge must be made in a writing containing specific details concerning the irregularities, signed by the challenger, and forwarded to the District Commander, mailed no later than three (3) days after the election.

Complete details regarding the election of Post, District, County Council and Department Officers are available in the 2024 Podium Edition of the National Constitution, By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Every Post is urged to purchase a copy of the [Podium Edition](#) from the [VFW Store](#) for a nominal fee.

NATIONAL BY-LAW CHANGES REGARDING THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers at all levels should take note of Part 216 and 416 of the National By-Laws regarding the election of officers. Please also take the time to review your Post/District By-Laws.

Section 416 - Elected and Appointed officers; Chairmen and Committees.

(c) The District may elect or the District Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chief of Staff or Officer of the Day if required by the District By-Laws.

Section 216 - Elected and Appointed officers; Chairmen and Committees.

(c) The Post may elect or the Post Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day and/or Guard if required by the Post By-Laws.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Sec. 413 - Arrearages, Deficiencies and Omissions.

The Commander of the District in arrears for financial obligations to Department or National, for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, or failing to have the office of the Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the District is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed District Trustees Report of Audit, District Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation at the Department Convention. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

A properly completed District Election Report shall be submitted to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention. There is a blank election report at the end of these orders.

Sec. 212 - Defunct Posts

Any Post with less than ten (10) members, or while under suspension the Post fails to establish a meeting quorum or elect the required officers, its charter shall be revoked and declared defunct with the issuance of a special order by the Commander-in-Chief.

Disposition of Property. In all cases of surrender, revocation or forfeiture of a charter, title to all real and personal property shall immediately pass to the Department who shall take possession and control for disposition as directed by the Department Council of Administration for the purposes set forth in the Congressional Charter. In addition, the books and records of the Post shall be recovered by the Department.

In case of surrender or forfeiture of a charter, the Department Council of Administration in the case of trust funds or trust property, or both, shall carry out the intent and purpose of such trust to the extent of such funds or property, or both.

Sec. 213 - Arrearages, Deficiencies and Omissions.

Any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council and District meetings; County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

Sec. 218 (K)- Duties of Commander (Attendance at District Meetings)

Assure that the Commander or their representative attends all properly called District Conventions or meetings and County Council meetings (if applicable).

VOTING AT DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Each member of a District Convention or District meeting are those persons as defined in Section 404 of the By-Laws, except delegates elected by the Posts, present at a District Convention or meeting shall be entitled to one vote. An individual possessing more than one qualification for membership in the District Convention or meeting shall have no more than one vote. The delegate or delegates of a Post present at a District Convention or meeting shall be entitled to vote the full delegate strength to which the Post is entitled.

Should there be a division among the delegates representing the Post, each delegate present shall cast his pro rata share of the total voting strength of the Post. For the purpose of this Section (Section 421-Voting), a Post Commander shall be considered a delegate.

A roll call vote may be required and entered upon the record at the call of any three

officers or delegates representing three different Posts.

This means that District Elections are determined not by the number of individuals present and voting but by the amount of weighted votes that each Post possesses

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 will open on March 17, 2025. We will release more information as we receive it.

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING

126th National Convention housing will open on Monday, March 17, 2025. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at vfw.org/convention. The convention website will also have general convention information, including the registration form and links to other convention-related information for Columbus, OH – August 9-13, 2025, and a tentative agenda.

NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states 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. Please note each additional delegate attending the National Convention will have to pay an additional \$10 delegate fee. Information on delegate registration will be available at a later date.

2026 ILLINOIS VFW CALENDAR

The Council of Administration voted in August to allow the State Headquarters to proceed with a 2026 calendar raffle as part of the Marketing Program. The raffle will begin on Jan. 1, 2026, and run daily through Dec. 31, 2026. The calendars will not be numbered to ensure the prizes are given away rather than to determine if the “winning”

calendar has been sold. Each calendar will cost \$20. Only 5,000 calendars will be sold. State Headquarters has created a prize structure and incentive package for Posts selling the calendars. Approximately \$21,500 in prizes will be awarded.

Below is the prize structure

Prize Structure

Prize Amount	# of Prizes	Total Prizes
a. 1000	7	\$7,000
b. \$500	7	\$3,500
c. \$250	2	\$500
d. 100	8	\$800
e. \$50	46	\$2,300
f. \$25	295	\$7,375
Total Prizes	365	\$21,475

Honoring Day

A. New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Hannukah, Christmas

B. Army Bday, Navy Bday, Air Force Bday, USMC Bday, USCG Bday, USSF Bday, NG Bday

C. VFW Anniversary, VFW Auxiliary Anniversary

D. Loyalty Day, Halloween, St. Patricks Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, Valentine Day, MLK Day

E. All other Sundays

F. All other days

Incentive Program: To help State Headquarters sell the calendars, we have developed an incentive program in which each Post selling the calendars would receive \$2 for each calendar sold.

Sponsorship Programs: We have several sponsorships for posts, Auxiliary, and members.

Sponsor a Day—We have two levels of “Sponsor a Day” sponsorships. For Posts with 100 or fewer members, a day could be sponsored for a donation of \$25. For Posts with 101 or more members, a day could be sponsored for \$50.

In consideration of the sponsorship, the sponsor would be allowed to submit a photo or a tidbit of historical information for that day, which would be included. The photo or information would not have to be about that day. Example: A Post could sponsor their anniversary day, including a photo of their post, the Post's namesake, or information about their post namesake.

Sponsor a Week – For \$250, the entire week (Sunday-Saturday) could be sponsored. In consideration of the sponsorship, the sponsor could place three photos and four tidbits of historical information.

Sponsor a Month – For \$1,000, the entire month can be sponsored. In consideration of the sponsorship, the sponsor would be allowed to include a display photo (the main photo for that calendar month) as well as additional photos and informational tidbits throughout the month (to be placed on unsponsored days).

Calendars will be printed and available at the Illinois VFW State Convention in June. If your post (or members) is interested in sponsoring a day, week, or month, please let State Headquarters know. We'll work with the sponsors to ensure their photos and/or information is included on their sponsored area(s).

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 15TH

Posts within the Department of Illinois are hereby instructed to 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. (See law below):

175. Position and manner of display

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

(A)-(1) (Unchanged)

(iii) The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half- staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff. By order of

the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States, that Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff.

The flag shall be flown at half-staff thirty days from the death of a President or a former President, ten days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death

BUDDY POPPY PROGRAM

Order your poppies now for your Memorial Day distribution or for your Poppy Display. You can order electronically from our webpage - <http://www.vfwil.org>, using the "Donate Now button" or fill out the form and mail or fax or just call us.

Please keep in mind:

- You can order in increments of 500. Traditional poppies are priced at \$280 for 1000 or \$140 for 1000 tin tab poppies.
- Your poppies should be ordered 6 to 8 weeks before your distribution. State Headquarters does have Poppies in stock. A shipping charge will be added to the invoice for orders shipped from this office. **Please order early!**
- Poppies must be ordered using a name. Your order will be shipped to the *name* of the person who ordered them, but not to "VFW Post ___" or just "Commander" or "Quartermaster".
- **Please include a street address.** Poppies are shipped via UPS or Fedex and

cannot be delivered to a Post Office Box.

- Poppies can be paid for by check or by credit card. **Please submit payment with your order or pay promptly when invoiced.**
- Be sure to put an actual sale date on your order.
- Poppy cans, caps, table covers, vests, aprons, etc. are ordered directly from the VFW Store at National Headquarters.

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 a weekly drawing of \$100 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 monthly in the General Orders and posted on <http://vfwil.org> website.

WEEKLY WINNER

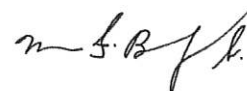
<u>Date of Drawing</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Seller</u>
02/07/25	Edwin Klinger	No Seller Listed
02/14/25	John Butterfield	John Butterfield
02/21/25	Edward Walsh	Edward Walsh
02/28/25	Alan Posey	No Seller Listed

By Order of:



Joseph "Scott" Swinford
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Official:



Maurice Bridges
State Commander

**106th 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.

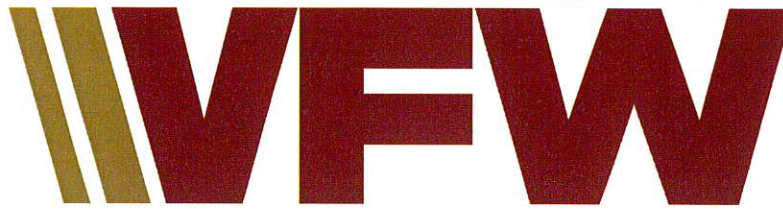
NOTE: REGISTRATION FEE AFTER WEDNESDAY, MAY 01, 2025 WILL INCREASE TO \$22.00 PER PERSON, SO REGISTER EARLY!

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.

STATE OF ILLINOIS



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

106th

Illinois State Convention Program Book Order Form

Our Post/District/Auxiliary would like to purchase the ad size selected below in the 106th annual Illinois VFW Convention Program Book.

The only ads in color will be inside and back cover ads

- Inside Front Cover - \$350.00
- Back Cover - \$300.00
- Half Page - \$125.00
- Inside Back Cover - \$300.00
- Full Page - \$200.00
- Quarter Page - \$75.00

PLEASE ENCLOSE PAYMENT IN FULL OR
PAY VIA CREDIT/DEBIT CARD AT www.vfwil.org

BOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE JUNE 2025 STATE CONVENTION

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

Ad copy must accompany order form

*Editor, State Convention Program Book
3300 Constitution Dr.
Springfield, IL 62711*

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS APRIL 15, 2025

Questions? Contact State Headquarters at (217) 529-6688

Illinois Veterans Lobby Day



Wednesday, March 19th, 2025
at 8:00 AM

Meet at VFW 755,
2211 Old Jacksonville Rd.
Springfield, Illinois

- 8 AM Join us on March 19th at 8 AM to learn about important legislative issues facing veterans. This will be an opportunity for everyone to learn about the legislative talking points and plan their visits for the day.
- 9:30 AM Participants will be grouped into teams and visit the offices of the Illinois Representatives and Senators.
- 5 PM Meet at Boone's Saloon (301 W. Edwards) for a social hour and to discuss the day's results.

Community Activities Recordbooks Award

The top Community Activities Recordbook in each Membership Category will receive a \$50.00 Cash Award at the 2025 State Convention.

Membership Category 1 - Up to 150 members

Membership Category 2 - 151 to 300 members

Membership Category 3 - 301 members and up

RULES FOR THE RECORDBOOKS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Community Service Projects completed between May 1, 2024 and April 30, 2025.
2. Book size should be no larger than 12 x 16 inches and no thicker than 3 inches. You may use as many volumes as necessary.
3. Book to be separated into
4 Sections, A- B - C & D describing each project. Show money spent, and volunteer hours for each project. Also, show total of dollars spent and hours used at the end of each Section
4. Clippings or photographs should show dates and captions from newspapers and any other information
5. Checks and Photostats should show what the money was spent for, also, total number of volunteer hours for each project.
6. Your book must be in State Headquarters by **May 2, 2025 for judging on May 5, 2025.**
7. The Community Activities Record Book Entry Form must be filled out and attached to the inside cover of the record book.
8. Pages must be numbered. By reporting your out-of-pocket expenses, volunteers and hours for each project, we can continue to show Veterans and Their Families – We Got You.

Leadership Manual Community Activities Record Book Entry Form



Community Activities Record Book Entry Form

1. This Form must be filled out and attached to the inside cover of the Community Activities Record Book that your Post enters in the Department Community Activities Record Book Contest.
2. All Record Books submitted for Department Judging will be returned to the Post Commander following judging.
3. The Post Commander must sign this form.
4. Your book must be in State Headquarters by May 2, 2025 for judging on May 5, 2025.

Post # _____ City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Total Projects	Total Hours	Total Funds
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Since 5/1/24 _____ Volunteered _____ Used/Donated \$ _____

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN:

Post Chairperson _____ Auxiliary Chairperson _____

JUDGES, NOTE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Page # _____, Project Name _____

Page # _____, Project Name _____

Page # _____, Project Name _____

Page # _____, Project Name _____

Post Commander Signature _____

Post Commander's Name (print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Deadline Dates National VFW Post Special Project Program Deadline is April 30, 2025

“VFW Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year” Award Deadline must be in Department Headquarters by April 1,

2025 NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CONTEST

- Department selects Posts based on their own criteria and National guidelines
- Number of Awards based on Department size:
 - Up to 200 Posts 1 selection
 - 201 to 400 Posts 2 selections
- Department selection due to National by May 1.
- Award presented to Post Commander at National Convention
- Each Post Commander receives \$599.00 to assist with Convention expenses
- National Award Plaque
- Post Recognition Street Sign

GENERAL ORDERS

MARCH 2025

SCOUT OF THE YEAR

ITS 1 MARCH AND THE POST SHOULD BE RECEIVING SCOUT OF THE YEAR APPLICATIONS.

BEFORE SUBMITTING THE APPLICATIONS PLEASE REVIEW THE PACKAGE AND MAKE SURE ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES ARE THERE.

THE SCANNED APPLICATIONS CAN BE SENT TO USAFRET1@ATT.NET OR MAILED TO 209 TAURUS DR, SHILOH IL 62269.

R MILTON

STATE SCOUTING CHAIR