

— BYLAWS —  
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

As Amended to **June 9, 2024**

**ARTICLE I — Name**

This subordinate subdivision of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be known as the Department of Illinois, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, hereinafter referred to as "Department."

**ARTICLE II — Jurisdiction**

The territorial limits of the Department shall be the State of Illinois and all Posts, County Councils and other units located in the State of Illinois shall be subject to its jurisdiction and constitute subordinate subdivisions thereof.

**ARTICLE III — Districts**

For the purpose of administering the affairs of the Department, the territorial jurisdiction of the Department is divided into the following seventeen territorial Districts, which Districts are comprised of the following counties:

3. The Third District being all of that section of the City of Chicago and the County of Cook lying within the following described boundaries: Starting at the intersection of Howard Street and the shore line of Lake Michigan, thence west along the centerline of Howard Street to the centerline of North Kedzie Avenue, thence South along the centerline of North Kedzie Avenue to Devon Avenue, thence in a westerly direction along the centerline of Devon Avenue to the centerline of North Harlem Avenue to the centerline of North Avenue, thence in an easterly direction along the centerline of North Avenue to the centerline of Austin Avenue, thence to the centerline of West Roosevelt Road, thence west along the center of Roosevelt Road to the city limits, thence south along the city limits to the center of the Sanitary District Canal, thence in a southwesterly direction along the center of said canal and in a southwesterly direction in the DuPage County Boundary line, due south on the Cook-DuPage County line, extended, crossing Cook County due south to the centerline of 119<sup>th</sup> Street, excluding the Village of Alsip, north of 119<sup>th</sup> Street, and thence easterly to the Illinois-Indiana state line thence north along the Illinois-Indiana state line and in a northerly direction the east city limits of the City of Chicago and along the shore of Lake Michigan to the point of beginning.
4. The Fourth District shall be as follows: Starting at the Lake County line and the shore of Lake Michigan south to the Centerline of Howard Street, west to the centerline of Kedzie Avenue, south to the centerline of Devon Avenue, west to the centerline of Harlem Avenue, south to the center line of North Avenue, east to the center line of Austin Boulevard, south to the center line of Roosevelt Road, east to the Belt Railroad, south to the center line of the Sanitary and Ship Canal, southwest to the Cook-DuPage County line, north and west along the Cook-DuPage county line to the Lake County line, east along the Lake County line to the shore of Lake Michigan and the point of beginning.
5. The Fifth District being: Lake and McHenry Counties and that part of Kane County North of a line that runs geographically straight west from the Kane-DuPage County Line at 7 N 200 to Fox River, then West along the Fox River to the nearest point of Silver Glen Road, along the Center Line of Silver Glen Road, West to Burlington Road, Northwest along the Center Line of Burlington Road to a line that runs geographically straight West from the intersection of the Cook-DuPage-Kane County Lines to the DeKalb-Kane County Line, and that part of DeKalb County North of a line that runs geographically straight West from the Kane County Line to the South Branch Kishwaukee River Bridge on Illinois Route 64, and then West along Illinois Route 64 to the Ogle County Line.
6. The Sixth District being: Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside and Lee Counties.
7. The Seventh District being: Kankakee, Livingston, Woodford, Iroquois, McLean, Ford, Champaign and Vermillion Counties.
8. The Eight District being: Rock Island, Henry, Mercer, Knox, Henderson, Warren, Hancock, McDonough and Fulton Counties.
9. The Ninth District being: Bureau, LaSalle, Stark, Putnam, Marshall, Peoria, and Tazewell Counties.
10. The Tenth District being: Mason, Logan, Adams, Schuyler, Brown, Cass, Menard, Pike, Scott, Morgan and Sangamon Counties.
11. The Eleventh District being: Macon, DeWitt, Christian, Shelby, Piatt and Moultrie Counties.
12. The Twelfth District being: Calhoun, Greene, Macoupin, Jersey, Montgomery, Fayette, Madison and Bond

Counties.

13. The Thirteenth District being: Marion, Jefferson, Clay, Richland, Lawrence, Wayne, Edwards, Wabash, Hamilton and White Counties.

14. The Fourteenth District being: St. Clair, Clinton, Monroe, Washington, Randolph and Perry Counties.

15. The Fifteenth District being: Franklin, Jackson, Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Union, Johnson, Pope, Hardin, Alexander, Pulaski and Massac Counties.

16. The Sixteenth District being: That part of Cook County lying outside the City of Chicago and that part of Will County described as follows: Beginning at a point where 119<sup>th</sup> Street intersects with the Illinois-Indiana state line, thence south along the Illinois-Indiana state line to the Will-Kankakee County line thence westerly following the Will-Kankakee County line (area County Line Road) to the point where Drecksler Road intersects the Will-Kankakee County line, thence northerly along Drecksler Road continuing onto Harlem Avenue, to the point directly South of the Cook-DuPage County line, extended, crossing Cook County to said point, along said extended line (area Will-Cook Road) of the Cook-DuPage County line to the centerline of 119<sup>th</sup> Street, including all of the Village of Alsip north of the centerline of 119<sup>th</sup> Street, thence easterly along 119<sup>th</sup> Street to the point of beginning.

17. The Seventeenth District being: Coles, Douglas, Effingham, Edgar, Crawford, Cumberland, Clark and Jasper Counties.

18. The Eighteenth District being: Will, excluding that portion of Will County east of the line extending from the intersection of Harlem Avenue and the Will-Cook County line, south continuing onto Drecksler Road to the point where Drecksler Road intersects the Will-Kankakee County line, Grundy, Kendall Counties, and that portion of DeKalb County of a line running geographically straight west from the intersection of the Kane-DeKalb-Kendall Counties line to Route 23, south on Illinois Route 23, to the LaSalle County line, east to the Kendall County line.

19. The Nineteenth District being: DuPage County and that part of Kane County South of the line that runs geographically straight West from the intersection of the Cook-DuPage-Kane Counties line on the East, to the DeKalb County line on the West and that part of DeKalb County South of a line that runs geographically straight west from the Kane County line to the South Branch, Kishwaukee River Bridge on Illinois Route 64, and then West along Illinois Route 64 to the Ogle County line, and that portion of Cook County West of the boundary line of the Third District, except that portion of DeKalb County of a line running geographically straight West from the intersection of the Kane-DeKalb-Kendall County lines to Illinois Route 23, South on Illinois Route 23, to the LaSalle County line, East to the Kendall County line.

#### **ARTICLE IV — Government**

##### **Section 1 – Supreme Body**

The supreme power of this Department shall be lodged in the National Convention.

##### **Section 2 – Supreme Authority**

The Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Rules, regulations and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, as from time to time amended, and all regulations enacted thereunder by the National Convention, together with the lawful orders promulgated by the Commander-in-Chief, shall be the supreme law of the Department.

##### **Section 3 – Vested Powers**

Subject to the governing powers of the National Convention, the government of the Department shall be vested in a supreme legislative body styled the Department Convention, an administrative group styled the Council of Administration and a Chief Executive styled the State Commander. Immediately upon being elected and duly installed, that the State Commander's signature be placed on file with any and all financial institutions where Department of Illinois funds or financial instruments are or may be deposited, be notified to be the acceptable signature for any and all financial transactions only during the period of the State Quartermaster's illness, mental or physical immobilization and that immediately upon being elected and duly installed, the State Senior Vice Commander's signature also be placed on file with any and all financial institutions where Department of Illinois funds or financial instruments are or may be deposited, be notified to be the acceptable signature for any and all financial transactions only during the period of the State Quartermaster and State Commander's illness, mental or physical immobilization.

##### **Section 4 – Control of Units**

The Department of Illinois, Veterans of Foreign Wars shall not be responsible for the negligent or wrongful acts or omissions nor for contractual obligations of debts of any Post, County Council or District nor for the negligent or wrongful acts or omissions or obligations or debts of any activity, clubroom, canteen or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by or on behalf of any Post, County Council or District. They shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council or District.

To the extent that the Department of Illinois, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Inc., is threatened with or sustains damage arising from a debt or liability incurred by a unit, the Department of Illinois, Veterans of Foreign Wars Inc., may seek to recover such damage and any costs and expenses incurred from such unit or persons responsible for such debt or liability.

## **ARTICLE V — Convention**

### **Section 1 – Composition**

The Department Convention shall consist of such members as are designated by the National Bylaws.

### **Section 2 – Rules of Order**

This Department Convention shall follow the rules and order of business as adopted by the National Convention.

### **Section 3 – Designation of Committees**

The Standing Committees of the Department Convention shall be as follows: Credentials, Officer's Reports, Buddy Poppy Display, Bylaws, and such other committees as the Department Commander may deem necessary, or the Department Convention or Council of Administration shall direct.

### **Section 4 – Meetings of Committees**

Subject to specific provisions for the meetings of particular committees, prescribed by these Bylaws or by special enactment of the Department Convention, all committees may meet at any convenient time and place at the call of their respective chairmen announced upon the Convention floor, provided that no expense to the Department is thereby incurred; any committee shall meet at the time and place designated when ordered to convene by the State Commander.

### **Section 5 – Election, Appointment and Installation of Department Officers**

The Department will elect a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Surgeon and Chaplain at the Department Convention. The State Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Chief of Staff, Inspector and Service Officer at the Department Convention. Additionally, the State Commander may appoint such chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Department or as may be required by Department Bylaws. The appointment of all salaried officers shall be made subject to the confirmation of a majority vote of the Department Council of Administration. The Officers thus elected and/or appointed shall be installed before the adjournment of the Department Convention at which they were elected or appointed. 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. Department officers shall take office at the close of the Department Convention.

### **Section 6 – District Conventions**

Each District, at its annual Convention, shall elect officers in accordance with the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

### **Section 7 – Department Convention**

The stated meeting of the Department Convention shall be held annually as provided by the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of these Bylaws.

### **Section 8 – Department Convention Registration**

Each Post shall register, in advance or at the Convention, at least one delegate to the Department Convention by the 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. Posts failing to comply with this requirement shall be considered delinquent and in arrears.

### **Section 9 – Resolutions**

All resolutions for the Convention shall be typewritten, shall bear a title, and shall be in the possession of the State Adjutant no later than May 15.

No resolution, other than those of condolence or appreciation shall be considered by the Convention unless provisions of Section 9 of this Article have been complied with, except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the convention.

### **Section 10 – Voting**

All contested elections for Officers will be conducted by roll call vote. Tally sheets for use of roll call voting shall be printed in reverse numerical order on the odd numbered years. At the completion of a roll call vote, Tellers Tally sheets will be placed in the custody of the Adjutant until they are destroyed.

### **Section 11 – Delegates to Big Ten Conference**

Delegates to the Big Ten Conference shall be the State Commander, State Senior Vice Commander, State Junior Vice



Commander, State Quartermaster, and Junior Past State Commander.

## **ARTICLE VI — Council of Administration**

### **Section 1 – Composition**

The Council of Administration shall consist of the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Adjutant, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chaplain, Chief of Staff, Inspector, and District Commanders. In the absence of a District Commander the District Senior Vice Commander and in the absence of the District Senior Vice commander, the District Junior Vice Commander may function as a member of the Council of Administration. The retiring State Commander shall also be a member of the Department Council of Administration until such time as another State Commander retires. In the event the retiring State Commander is unwilling or unable to serve on the Department Council of Administration, his/her place shall be filled by the last retired Past State Commander who is ready, willing and able to serve.

### **Section 2 – Meeting For Interim Budget**

The State Commander shall call a Council of Administration meeting immediately following the adjournment of the Department Convention for the sole purpose of approving an interim budget until the next regularly scheduled Council of Administration meeting.

### **Section 3 – Budget**

The State Commander shall call a meeting of the Council of Administration not more than sixty days after the adjournment of the Department Convention for the purpose of adopting the annual budget for the Department, fixing of all salaries, and the transaction of any business, which may properly come before the Council. The State Commander shall have the power to order payments from the designated funds for all current expenses of the Department within the limits fixed by the budget of the Council of Administration. A roll call vote shall be taken on the budget and all questions involving the expenditure of money.

### **Section 4 – Chart of Accounts**

The proposed annual budget prepared by the State Quartermaster will contain a clear and concise description detailing as applicable, charges to be made during the fiscal year's operation for each and every line item account of the General Fund consisting of: "Receipts; Disbursements; Assets; and Liabilities". The foregoing information shall be only included in the initial presentation of any proposed annual budget and thereafter, only in the financial report of the Department's previous year's operations.

## **ARTICLE VII – Standing Committees**

### **Section 1 - Poppy Committee**

There shall be a Poppy Committee composed of four (4) members and a Chairman who shall be appointed by the State Commander to promote the sale of poppies and to conduct the Poppy Display Contest.

The Department Headquarters staff shall have charge of the distribution and sale of poppies within the Department.

The Committee shall submit recommendations concerning the price to be charged to the Posts, subject to the approval of the Council of Administration.

### **Section 2 – Veterans Service Committee**

The Veterans Service Committee shall consist of the following voting members: State Commander, State Senior Vice Commander, State Junior Vice Commander, four immediate Past State Commanders. The State Quartermaster shall be a member of the Committee without a vote. Whenever a State Commander shall retire at the end of his/her term, he/she shall thereupon become a member of the Veterans Service Committee and the Senior Past Commander of the four (4) previous Past Commanders shall thereupon retire from the Committee.

The Veterans Service Committee shall have full control of the service work of the Department of Illinois. The Chairman of the Veterans Service Committee shall be the senior Past State Commander serving on the Committee. The Vice Chairman shall be the next senior Past State Commander. The Committee, through its Chairman, shall report the status of the Service Office at each scheduled Council of Administration Meeting.

The Veterans Service Committee shall conduct its work chiefly through the Veterans Service Director. In each of the odd numbered years, or whenever a vacancy occurs, the Veterans Service Committee shall select a Director of Veterans Service who may be removed at any time for cause by the Veterans Service Committee. In each odd numbered year, the Veterans Service Committee shall report its selection to the Council of Administration at the first Council of Administration meeting to be held in compliance with ARTICLE VI, Section 3 of these Bylaws, typically not more than sixty days after the Department Convention. The term of office of the Veterans Service Director shall be July 1 to June 30. The Veterans

Service Committee shall annually make a recommendation as to the salary at the Council of Administration meeting to be held in compliance with ARTICLE VI, Section 3 of these Bylaws. The salary recommendation must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Council of Administration before becoming effective.

All funds of the Department Service Office shall be kept in a separate account to be disbursed only by check signed by the State Commander and countersigned by the State Quartermaster.

In the event of death, disability or refusal to act of any Past State Commander composing the Veterans Service Committee, his/her place shall be filled by the last retired Past Commander who is ready, willing and able to serve.

All vacancies of Assistant State Service Officers in the Veterans Service Office shall be filled by the Veterans Service Committee and reported to the Council of Administration at its next meeting. All vacancies of clerical staff in the Veterans Service Office shall be filled by the Veterans Service Director and reported to the Veterans Service Committee at its next meeting. All vacancies shall be filled within the budget limits of the then current operating budget.

The Veterans Service Committee shall meet prior to each Council of Administration Meeting at a time and place to be called by the Veterans Service Committee Chairman. In addition to the meetings above, the Veterans Service Committee may meet from time to time to include the place of operations of the Department Service Office when requested by the State Commander, Veterans Service Committee Chairman or Veterans Service Director.

### **Section 3 – Illinois VFW News Committee**

The Illinois V.F.W. News shall be the official publication of the Department of Illinois, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The Illinois VFW News shall be managed and operated subject to the Council of Administration by a committee composed of a total of 5 members, consisting of the State Commander, the State Adjutant, the Editor, the State Historian and one (1) member to be appointed by the Department Commander during his/her term of office, serving at the Commander's pleasure.

The appointed member shall be a Past State Commander who shall be the chairperson.

This committee shall assemble and meet at the August and February Council of Administration meetings for the purpose of reviewing and assessing the "Illinois V.F.W. News" and making recommendations for its improvement to the Department Council of Administration for their approval and adoption.

### **Section 4 – Convention Committee**

The Department Convention shall be managed by a Convention Committee.

The initial appointments by the State Commander shall be two (2) for a three (3) year term, two (2) for a two (2) year term and two (2) for a one (1) year term. Thereafter all appointments shall be two (2) for a three (3) year term.

The Convention Committee, subject to the approval of the Council of Administration shall select the annual Convention site within the boundaries of the Department of Illinois, but not to exceed five (5) years in advance of the next annual Convention date.

### **Section 5 – Awards and Citation Committee**

The Department Awards and Citations Committee shall consist of the State Commander, State Senior Vice Commander, State Junior Vice Commander, and the State Adjutant.

The Committee shall consider the type and style of each award or citation. The committee shall solicit the Posts, County Councils, and Districts to submit to it, the names of likely recipients.

### **Section 6- Bylaws & Resolutions Committee**

The Bylaws and Resolutions Committee shall meet prior to the convening of the Department Convention to determine that all proposed Bylaw Amendments and all proposed Resolutions are submitted in the correct format. The proposals shall be forwarded to each Post by the Department Adjutant prior to the assembling of the Department Convention

The committee shall meet annually, prior to the Business Sessions conducted at Department Convention, to either "Recommend" or "Not Recommend" proposed Bylaws Amendments and proposed Resolutions submitted to the Committee. The Committee chair will inform the convention delegates, during the Business Sessions of the convention, of the committee recommendations

All proposed Bylaw Amendments and proposed Resolutions must be sent to the Department Adjutant and shall be forwarded onto the Bylaws & Resolutions Committee

The Committee shall consist of the Department Judge Advocate, who shall act as the chair of the committee, and one appointment from each district

## **ARTICLE VIII — Revenues**

### **Section 1 – Per Capita Tax**

Effective September 1, 2012, the Per Capita Tax on each annual member in good standing in every Post within the Department of Illinois shall be Eleven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$11.50) per annum.

Not less than fifty percent of all current dues received prior to July 1 including Life Membership per capita taxes received from the National Organization because of Life Members shall be credited to the Dues Reserve Fund. The remaining revenue collected shall be allocated between (1) the General Fund and (2) the Service and Rehabilitation Fund as from time to time to be determined by the Department Council of Administration.

## **ARTICLE IX – Arrearages, Deficiencies and Omissions**

Any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to 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 of the National Bylaws, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709 of the National Bylaws, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, failing to complete an IRS 990 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.

## **ARTICLE X — Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended or altered by the Department Convention by a two thirds 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at a stated meeting thereof; provided, however, such amendments have been approved and presented by a Post, a County Council, or other subordinate units, or have been recommended by a Department Officer and written notice thereof, together with a copy of the proposed amendment, has been given each Post by the Department Adjutant, at least fifteen (15) days before the assembling of the Department Convention. All amendments adopted at any Department Convention according to the provisions of this article shall become effective only after a copy has been forwarded through channels and reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.

Proposed Amendments to the Department of Illinois Bylaws must be submitted to the Department Adjutant no later than May 15<sup>th</sup> of that year

Whenever for any reason these Bylaws or any part thereof are in conflict with the National Bylaws, the National Bylaws shall prevail and constitute an automatic repeal by these Bylaws or any part thereof in conflict with the National Bylaws, and from the time such conflict occurs and without further action by this Convention.

## **ARTICLE XI — Control of Department Purchases**

No Department Officer, appointed or elected, or Department Committee Chairman or Department Committee member is authorized to purchase goods or enter into any agreement, expressed or implied, written or oral, providing for or involving the expenditure of Department funds without prior written authorization based on a requisition bearing the signature of the State Adjutant and the State Quartermaster.

## **ARTICLE XII — Consolidation of Posts**

Two or more Posts in the Department of Illinois may consolidate as provided for in Section 209 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

## **ARTICLE XIII – Membership**

### **Section 1 – Eligibility**

Eligibility in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Illinois, shall be that as defined in Article I, Section 101 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

### **Section 2 – Former Members**

Former members shall be those members as defined by Article I, Section 106 of the National Bylaws.

A former member whose dues remain unpaid for a period of more than one year shall be required to reapply for membership as prescribed in Article I, Section 102 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

### **Section 3 – Department Funds**

Department funds shall not be used to purchase membership dues. This is not to preclude the use of Department funds to pay the dues of documented members in need for membership in the Department-at-Large Post.

Department funds shall not be used to subsidize membership dues unless the funds were raised for such purpose and or specifically allocated for such purpose within the adopted budget.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONVENTION: Approved

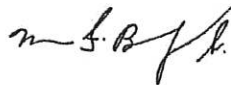
Department of Illinois, Veterans of Foreign Wars, June 7-9, 2024, Springfield, Illinois

ATTEST:

OFFICIAL



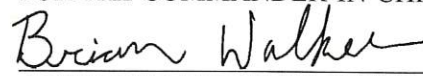
Joseph Bartley  
State Adjutant-Quartermaster



Maurice Bridges  
State Commander



REVIEWED **FEB 21 2025**  
FOR THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

  
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL

BY , DIRECTOR  
ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS