

# STATE SERVICE OFFICE

The State of Illinois VFW Department Service Office is headquartered at the VA Regional Office in Chicago. The Department Service Office is organized under the authority of the Department By-Laws and provides services under the supervision of the Department Veterans Service Committee. All Service Officers employed by the VFW of Illinois are members of the VFW. All Service Officers and Claims Consultants are accredited by the VA through the VFW and perform their duties in accordance with the National Policy and Procedure Manual of the VFW National Veterans Service.

The mission of the Department Service Office is to assist all veterans of Illinois, their dependents, and their survivors in the pursuit of all benefits administered by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to which they may be entitled. This mission is pursued through the development of supportive relationships with County Veteran Assistance Commission (VAC) Offices, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) Offices, VA Social Workers, and a state-wide network of volunteer VFW Post and District Service Officers. From these sources claims for benefits are received, prepared, and submitted to the VA.

The Department Service Office is under the direction of the Department Service Officer, Sean D. Conner, an Iraq War Veteran. Currently, the Service Office staff includes four Assistant Department Service Officers, two working in Chicago, one stationed at the Marion VAMC, and one stationed at the Danville VAMC. We also have a part-time Assistant Department Service Officer in the Metro St Louis area. Field service coverage is also provided at various locations as indicated in the schedule listed below. The Regional Office staff includes one Claims Consultant and one clerical support staff member.

Activities of the Service Office staff include case management of claims submitted to the VA from all state- wide sources to include representation for appeals pending at the Board of Veterans Ap-

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Sean Conner and George State Service Officer

1900 E Main St Bldg 98, Room 1012 Danville, IL 61832

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peals. Staff members provide training to Post and District Service Officers and participate in training seminars for IDVA and VAC staff and local volunteers. The staff also provides guest speakers on issues pertaining to VA benefits to VFW Posts and Districts, local civic groups, military Reserve and National Guard units, and college student organizations upon request.

The hours of operation and contact information for the Department Service Office are listed below. Members with questions about existing claims or requesting information about VA benefits are encouraged to contact the Department Service Office during hours of operation or by e-mail.



# 2024-2025 Illinois VFW Commander's Leadership Manual

# **Department Service Office Contact Information**

VFW Service Office 2122 West Taylor St., Chicago, IL 60612

Room 105

Phone: 312-980-4284 Fax: 312-980-4680

Email: vso@vfwil.org

Website link: www.vfwilserviceoffice.com

Office Telephone Hours Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Office Walk-In Hours Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

# VFW Service Office Staff

Sean Conner Marine Corps, Iraq Director of Veterans Service Danville VA Medical Center sean.conner@va.gov

Russell Meredith
Navy, Iraq
Assistant Department Service Officer
Chicago Regional Office
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Charles Johnson
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Army, Korea
Assistant Department Service Officer
Marion VA Medical Center
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Craig Koch Marine Corps, Desert Storm Assistant Department Service Officer craig.koch@va.gov

Grabiela Salgado Claims Consultant/Office Manager Chicago Regional Office grabiela.salgado@va.gov

> Edith Giles Navy Receptionist Chicago Regional Office edith.giles@va.gov

# Field Office/Outreach Locations

# -Southern Illinois-

Marion VA Medical Center AmVets Building, Room 110 2401 W. Main St., Marion, IL 62959 Phone: 618-997-5311 ext. 158230

FAX: 618-997-8219

Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

O'Fallon VFW Post 805 Every Tuesday 223 West 1st St.

O'Fallon, IL 62269 618-624-6575

11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Metro East Vet Center Every Wednesday 228 West Pointe Drive Swansea, IL 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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# -Central Illinois-

# Illiana Health Care System

Danville VA Medical Center Bldg 104, Room 127 1900 E. Main St., Danville, IL 61832 Phone: 217-554-4502 FAX: 217-554-4361 Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

#### Mattoon VA Clinic

First Tuesday of the month 501 Lake Land Blvd., Mattoon IL 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

# **Dow Stepp Memorial Post 5975**

First Thursday of the month 112 North 5th, Marshall, IL 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## **Crawford County Post 4549**

Second Tuesday of the month 712 E. Main St., Robinson, IL 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### **Decatur VA Clinic**

Second Thursday of the month 792 North Sunnyside Rd., Decatur, IL 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### Peoria VA Clinic

Third Tuesday of the month 7717 N Orange Prairie Rd., Peoria IL 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Busey-Fletcher-Stillwell Post 630

Third Thursday of the month 1303 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

# **Bloomington VA Clinic**

Fourth Tuesday of the month 207 Hamilton Rd, Bloomington IL 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Springfield VA Clinic

Fourth Thursday of the month 5850 South 6th St., Springfield, IL 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

# -Chicagoland-

#### **Hines VA Medical Center**

Every Thursday & Third Friday of the month 5000 S. 5th Ave., Hines, IL 60141
Building 1, Room 109
Phone: 708-202-2562
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Frisbie Senior Center

First Monday of the month 52 E. Northwest Hwy., Des Plaines, IL 60016 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

# Judd Kendall Post 3873

First Tuesday of the month 908 Jackson Ave., Naperville, IL 60540 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Benjamin O. Davis Post 311

Every Monday & Tuesday and First & Second
Wednesday of the month
(except 1st Monday & Tuesday)
22341 S. Governors Hwy., Richton Park, IL 60471
Phone: 708-679-0995
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Chicago Vet Center

First Friday of the month 8658 S. Sacramento Ave., Chicago, IL 60652 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## **Aurora Vet Center**

Second & Fourth Friday of the month 750 Shoreline Dr. #150, Aurora, IL 60504 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.