

From the desk of Department President Rhonda Borkgren

Here we are, it's already the first of March. As we work to finish up the have fun and be kind year, I want you to think about many things. First are you welcoming and friendly to all of the members? Almost every day, I get a call or email about someone not getting along. Most of the time it is just a personality conflict and there is nothing I can do. I ask that you be nice. Don't gossip and bad mouth people. Especially if you don't know them. I actually have friends who thought really badly of another of my friends. Then they got to know them, and now are good friends. Don't form your opinion by what someone else says. When you meet someone, always be nice. Form your own opinions. Don't listen to someone else's gossip. Usually, it isn't even close to true.

The next thing I want to talk about is new officers. I am going to suggest that if you go to meetings, but never want to take an office, you take one this year. It really isn't hard to get involved. I don't want to hear this office doesn't do anything. It could. If a President gets sick, a Sr. Vice is expected to run the meetings. It's not difficult. Just jump in with both feet. I remember when they told me to take this job, you don't have to do anything. If you are like me, you want to do the best you can do. Take a job and see what happens. We need to think about mentoring new or different members. Seriously, think about taking an office. Sometimes those of us who are officers, forget to get new members involved. It isn't hard to be a president. Try it. You just have to follow the Ritual. If I can do it, anyone can. The most important thing is to be friendly and positive. I really dislike hearing we tried that and it doesn't work. New people and new ideas. It's what makes us SUCESSFUL!

The next thing is the Circle of Excellence. If you haven't answered the questions for the extra points on the Circle of Excellence form, you need to get that done. It is due to me by April 30, 2022. Remember I need time to get all the points added up and have a drawing for the winner of the Hotel room for Convention. You also have time to make sure you have completed everything required for the Circle of Excellence. Membership is a large part of the points. If you are close to 100%, work it hard. Get the points that are allowed for being 100%. Let's get it done. I want to order a lot of awards!

The Department of Illinois is working hard to get the Circle of Excellence award too. We would really appreciate it if you all help us out. If there is someone in your Auxiliary that hasn't paid dues and you know they are having a hard time, let us know. We will talk to them and see if we can help them. Just contact me. Everyone is doing an amazing job this year! We still have 105 paid members to get to 100%! I know we are going to do it!! Keep up the good work!

Another thing is what happens to an auxiliary that doesn't get new members or keep the current members active. I have been so saddened to have to close 4 auxiliaries this year. In each one of those, it was because they couldn't get new officers. Sometimes they had the same President for 20 years. Everyone else stops doing things if the same person, does it all. Please start talking to your members now. Make sure you have

officers for the new year. When you lose a member due to death or whatever reason, you need to replace them. Get a new member to keep your membership numbers the same. That helps to ensure you stay healthy. If you lose members and don't replace them, one day you won't have enough members. Don't let that happen. Sign up your grandkids or friends. Most high schools require many volunteer hours. Colleges look at if you volunteered during school. You can help them, and they can help you, to continue our work of helping Veterans. We still have 299 continuous members to pay their dues or convert to Life members before the end of the year. Let's talk to them. We don't want to lose anymore Auxiliaries. You don't want to close. Let's work really hard and get all of our members dues paid, before they are dropped from our membership.

The final thing to think about is have you completed all your audits? If you haven't done your audits, we have a big problem. The new list was just posted online. Please look. If your auxiliary hasn't done the audit, why not? It takes 1 Trustee and 2 pro tem's to get it done. I am going to be calling Treasurer's again to see what is happening with auxiliaries that don't have them done. Please get them to Linda Lorenz ASAP. If audits aren't done, nothing else matters. Once audits are current and you have election of officers, after you have your installation, immediately complete the Installation report and send it to Colette Bishop. Auxiliary Secretary can also go into MALTA and enter all the Installation reports. You can also enter your delegates for National Convention. The sooner you do it the better it is. Thank you for all you do for Veterans! Let's finish up this "Honoring Old Glory and Those Who Fight for it" Year, with lots of awards!!

From the desk of the Department Secretary Colette Bishop

For those who may not have received this notice via email, Colette Bishop has been appointed as Secretary for the balance of this year. Her address is 3540 160th Street, Muscatine, IA 52761 and her phone number is 309-781-4291. Please use the secretary's email address to communicate with her.

All Auxiliaries will receive a hard copy of the April 2022 Mailing which will include important information for your election of officers and delegates at your April 2020 meeting. This edition of the mailing will be mailed to the Auxiliary President and be posted online. Included in this mailing will be:

- Report of the Installation of Officers
- Installing Officer to complete Installation Report and mail to Department Secretary immediately upon completion of Installation. **Installation must be held before the Department Convention.**

- Your Auxiliary's Invoice for the Auxiliary President and Delegates' Fee for Department Convention (Please note: All auxiliaries must pay the President and Delegates' Fee even if there is no one planning to attend the Department Convention)
- District Convention meeting - List of Delegates/Alternates are to be sent to District Secretary
- Department Delegate Delegates are to be elected for District, Department and National also at April Auxiliary meeting. Auxiliary to pay delegate fee for ALL delegates to Department Convention. If not, no voting privileges at Department Convention. Your Auxiliary will be in arrears. No delegate cards will be sent. There are Department Delegate Fees of \$7.00 for Auxiliary President and \$7.00 for each Delegate
- National Convention – List of Delegates/Alternates can be filed using MALTA (National), entered online via website Member Login.
- All Audits must be filed with the Department Treasurer prior to Department Convention, Auxiliary and District
- Information on how to register your delegates for the National Convention
- Tentative Convention Schedule
- Room Reservation information and form
- There is only a registration fee that needs to be paid to National to register for National Convention.

STATE CONVENTION

The Wyndham Springfield City Centre Hotel, located at 700 East Adams Street in Springfield will be the State Convention Headquarters for the VFW. The Auxiliary Headquarters is the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel: this hotel is located across the street at 701 East Adams Street in Springfield. There will be a room reservation form for each hotel at the end of these orders. You may also contact your preferred hotel directly at the number listed on the corresponding form. If you make your reservation through the hotel, be sure to mention the group code: **VFW**

123rd VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION

Kansas City, Missouri is the host city for the 123rd VFW and 108th Auxiliary National Conventions, which will be held **July 16-21, 2022**. Convention housing will open at a later date. Hotel reservations can be booked via the VFW website www.vfw.org. Illinois has been assigned lodging at the Marriott Downtown, 200 W. 12th Street. Housing opened February 17, 2022. Hotel blocks are on a first-come first-serve basis, so register early. All of the information we have for National Convention is included with these orders.

CONVENTION AD BOOK

There is an ad form included with these orders. The cut-off date for an Ad in the 2022 June Convention Ad book is **April 30th, 2022**.

GOLD STAR PARENTS

If any of you have any Gold Star Parents/Family that will be attending the Department Convention in June for the Joint Memorial Service on Friday, June 12, 2022, please send their name and information to the Department Chaplain at the following address:

Cindy Watters, Department Chaplain
7251 E. Mount Pleasant Lane
Claremont, IL 62421

Or email her at: cindyvfwaux@gmail.com

From the Desk of Linda Lorenz, Department Treasurer:

In three months the 2021 – 2022 term of office will be ending and a new year will begin. There are a number of things that the Treasurer will need to be sure are completed before the Department Convention. Here is a check list to help you make sure you are on track.

- ✓ Have all the annual dues for your members been transmitted through MALTA or sent to the Department Treasurer to transmit. Any member who has not paid their 2022 dues by June 30, 2022 will need to rejoin after July 1, 2022. Remember this will affect their ability to receive a Cancer Grant.
- ✓ Check the donations list and be sure your auxiliary has been credited with all the donations you have sent. If you see any discrepancies, please let us know as soon as possible. We publish this listing at convention, and we want to be sure that you are credited with any donations made through April 15, 2022.
- ✓ Are your Audits up to date.
 - At this time, you should have all audits completed through December 31, 2021. The last audit for October – December 2021 was due by February 28, 2022.

- The next Audit is for January – March 2022 and is due to the Department Treasurer no later than May 31, 2022.
 - If your Auxiliary is not current on your audits by your District Convention meeting, your Auxiliary will not have a vote at this meeting.
 - If your Auxiliary is not current on your audits, you will not be allowed to vote at the Department Convention.
 - I am also required to report at the end of the Department Convention to National VFW Auxiliary Headquarters all auxiliaries that are in arrears for Audits.
- ✓ Prior to your April meeting, you will be received the information on the Delegate Fees for your Auxiliary.
 - All Auxiliaries in the Department of Illinois are required to pay the delegate fee for the Auxiliary President and Delegates whether attending the convention or not.
 - There will be an invoice showing the amount that is due to the Department by the end of May. This is the money that is used to pay the expenses of the convention.
 - ✓ Also, as a reminder. All auxiliary checks sent to the Department for donations, dues, delegate fees, etc. must be signed by the Auxiliary Treasurer and the Auxiliary President.
 - If there are not 2 signatures, your check will be returned to you for the missing signature. This could cause delays in being credited correctly.

On a personal note, I want to thank the members of the Department of Illinois and the Auxiliaries for the cards and notes I received following the death of my mother. You can't imagine how those helped my family get through those days.

I also want to thank you for the cards and notes I received while I have been ill. I am doing much better and continuing to improve every day.

If you need any help or have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I am here to help you.

Treasurer Training Announcement

Who: This training is for all Treasurers and Members

Date: March 19, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM CST

An invitation with the call information will be sent out 1 week prior to the training to all Auxiliary and District Treasurers, Presidents and Secretaries with email addresses. I would like to ask the District Presidents to make sure that anyone without email receives the information. Auxiliary Presidents, please provide the information to your members who would like to attend.

We will be discussing:

- ✓ Responsibilities of the Treasurer including
 - Monthly Treasurer's Report
 - Donations
 - Reporting
- ✓ Quarterly Audits
- ✓ Completion of Membership Applications

I look forward to seeing you on March 19th.

STATE OF ILLINOIS



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

101st

Illinois State Convention Program Book Order Form

Our Post/District/Auxiliary would like to purchase the ad size selected below in the 101st annual Illinois VFW Convention Program Book

• Full Page - \$200.00 • • Half Page - \$125.00 • • 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 2022 STATE CONVENTION**

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

*Editor, State Convention Program Book
PO Box 13206
Springfield, IL 62791-3206*

or send via email to: bwilson@vfwil.org

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

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS APRIL 30, 2022



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Illinois

101st Annual State Convention
and June Council of Administration

Hotel Reservation Form

June 9-11, 2022

President Abraham Lincoln Springfield, a DoubleTree by Hilton

701 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701

A block of rooms have been reserved for Wednesday, June 8th 2022 through Sunday, June 12th 2022. The special room rate of \$94.00/night + 13% tax will be available until May 25th, or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first. Check-in time is 4:00p.m., and check out time is 11:00 a.m.

Cut-Off Date: **Wednesday, May 25th 2022**

This form may be mailed to State Headquarters at 3300 Constitution Drive, Springfield, IL 62711 or faxed to (217) 546-3415. Print legibly or type in the information below.

PLEASE NOTE: Only one room/reservation form.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Room Preference: ___ 1 King Bed (Non-Smoking) ___ 2 Double-Beds (Non-Smoking)

Additional Occupants: _____

Special Request(s): _____

PLEASE NOTE: All reservations must be guaranteed by a debit/credit card only!

Card Type: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover ___ American Express

Name Listed on Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration Date: _____ / _____

Please call State Headquarters at (217) 529-6688 if you have any questions or concerns.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

3300 Constitution Drive, P.O. Box 13206, Springfield, Illinois 62791-3206
Phone: (217) 529-6688 Fax: (217) 546-3415 Email: vfwil@vfwil.org



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Illinois

101st Annual State Convention
and June Council of Administration

Hotel Reservation Form

June 9-11, 2022

President Abraham Lincoln Springfield, a DoubleTree by Hilton

701 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701

A block of rooms have been reserved for Wednesday, June 8th 2022 through Sunday, June 12th 2022. The special room rate of \$94.00/night + 13% tax will be available until May 25th, or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first. Check-in time is 4:00p.m., and check out time is 11:00 a.m.

Cut-Off Date: **Wednesday, May 25th 2022**

This form may be mailed to State Headquarters at 3300 Constitution Drive, Springfield, IL 62711 or faxed to (217) 546-3415. Print legibly or type in the information below.

PLEASE NOTE: Only one room/reservation form.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Room Preference: ___ 1 King Bed (Non-Smoking) ___ 2 Double-Beds (Non-Smoking)

Additional Occupants: _____

Special Request(s): _____

PLEASE NOTE: All reservations must be guaranteed by a debit/credit card only!

Card Type: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover ___ American Express

Name Listed on Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration Date: _____ / _____

Please call State Headquarters at (217) 529-6688 if you have any questions or concerns.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

3300 Constitution Drive, P.O. Box 13206, Springfield, Illinois 62791-3206
Phone: (217) 529-6688 Fax: (217) 546-3415 Email: vfwil@vfwil.org