

**MICHIGAN VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS**  
**Agenda 106<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**  
**Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo**  
**May 28 – June 1, 2025**

**ROOM**

**Wednesday, May 28**

**VFW Golf Outing**                      **by registration**

**VFW Uniform for Convention: CofA Members in CofA Uniform; Chairmen in business casual;  
Delegates in VFW polo shirt of choice**

**Thursday, May 29**

8:00 am – 11:00 am                      Registration                      **Fields**  
(Registration closes for lunch 11:00am – 12:30pm)

**7:30 – 8:30**                      **CofA Breakfast**                      **Meadows**

8:00 am - 4:00 pm                      Program Display Tables                      Great Lakes

8:30 am                      Service Committee Meeting                      Prairies

8:45 am                      Budget & Finance Committee Meeting                      Prairies

9:00 am                      ByLaws & Resolutions Committee Meeting                      Prairies

**10:05 am**                      **VFW Council of Administration Meeting**                      **Prairies**

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm                      Lunch on your own

12:30 pm – 5:00 pm                      Registration                      Fields

**1:00 pm**                      **Joint VFW / Auxiliary Opening**  
**(see separate program agenda)**                      **Glens**

**5:00 pm -**                      **Mandatory practice for Joint Memorial Service**  
**Required for Dept Line Officers & District Commanders**                      **Glens**

6:00 pm – 11:00 pm                      Department Hospitality Room                      8<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Friday, May 30**

8:00 am – 11:00 am                      Registration                      **Fields**  
(Registration closes for lunch 11:00 – 12:30)

8:00 am – 3:00 pm                      Program Display Tables                      **Great Lakes**

**VFW Uniform for Convention: CofA Members in CofA Uniform; Chairmen in business casual;  
Delegates in VFW polo shirt of choice**

**The Convention will be broadcast by ZOOM – non interactive**

**8:30 am – Noon**

**Opening Session of 2025 Department Convention**

**Prairies**

Opening Ceremonies

Roll Call of Officers

Reading - adoption of Convention Rules

Registration / credentials report by the Adjutant / Credentials Chairman

Budget & Finance Committee Report - PSC Phil Patterson

Service Committee Report – PSC Kevin Conklin, Sidney Love

Camp Trotter Board Report – Board President

VFW Charities Board Report – Board President

**Reports of Committees – presentation of Committee awards to Posts and Districts**

Americanism Director Report, Brian Martin – presentation of awards

Buddy Poppy Director Report, Robin Bailey – presentation of awards

Cancer Director Report, Mindy Taylor / John Griffith - presentation of awards

Community Service Director Report, Joe Tebor – presentation of Post awards

Day of Challenge Director Report, Robert Paavola

Homeless Veteran Director Report, Barbara Locke - presentation of awards

Hospital Director Report, Ben Light - presentation of awards

Legislative Director Report, Barry Walter - presentation of awards

National Home Director Report, James Hubbard

Pool League Director Report, Don Smith

Safety Director Report, Mark Drayton – presentation of awards

VMS / Mental Health & Welfare Director Report, Doug Brinker / Daren Humes –  
Presentation of awards

VFW Rider Group Director Report, Charlie Cline – presentation of awards

Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Teacher of the Year Director Report,

Michael Martin – Presentation of TOY National Citations

Youth Activities Program Report, Larry Thayer – presentation of awards

**12:00 pm**

**Recess Convention for lunch**

**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

**Convention Delegates - Lunch on your own**

**12:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

Registration

**Fields**

**The Convention will be broadcast by ZOOM – non interactive**

**1:00 pm – 2:15 pm**

**Resume Convention Business Session –**

**Prairies**

**Resume Committee Reports**

Membership Director Report, Garrett Dickey - presentation of awards

**2:15 pm**                                      **Suspend order of business – Opening of Nominations**

Commander  
Sr Vice Commander  
Jr Vice Commander  
Quartermaster  
Judge Advocate  
Surgeon  
Chaplain

**3:15**    **Recess Convention Session**

**VFW Uniform for Memorial Service: CofA Members in CofA Uniform; Chairmen in business casual;  
Delegates in VFW polo shirt of choice**

**3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**                      **Joint VFW / Auxiliary Memorial Service**                                      **Glens**

**VFW Uniform for Testimonial: CofA Members in CofA Uniform; Members in business casual;**

**6:00 pm**                                      **Joint Testimonial**    **Arcadia Ballroom**

**Saturday,**

**8:00 am – 10:00 am**                      **Registration**    **Fields**

***(REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE PROMPTLY AT 10:00 am)***

**8:00 am – 2:00 pm**                      **Program Display Tables**    **Great Lakes**

**VFW Uniform for CofA: CofA Members in CofA Uniform; Chairmen in business casual;  
Delegates in VFW polo shirt of choice**

**9:00 am to 4:00 pm**                      **Incoming Officer / Director photos - location to be announced**

**The Convention will be broadcast by ZOOM – non interactive**

**8:30 am**                                      **Resume Convention Business Session**    **Prairies**  
**Resume Committee Reports**

**Updated Registration / Credentials Report – Adjutant, Credentials Chairman**

**All State Director Report, Michael Martin – presentation of awards**

The below listed awardees may be seated by the Honor Guard in the reserved seating area off of the stage as soon as opening ceremonies are completed. Chairmen are responsible to ensure their awardees are seated.

**Youth Activities / Scouting Director, Larry Thayer – presentation of awards**  
**Boy Scout of the Year – National Citation and Plaque**  
**Girl Scout of the Year - Plaque**  
**JROTC Cadet of the Year - Plaque**

Safety Director, Mark Drayton – presentation of individual awards  
Law Enforcement of the Year – National Citation & Plaque  
Firefighter of the Year – National Citation & Plaque  
EMT / Paramedic of the Year – National Citation & Plaque  
Dispatcher of the Year – National Citation & Plaque

Community Service Awards, Joe Tebor  
VFW Employer of the Year – Citation & Plaque  
VFW Member of the Year – Citation & Plaque

Presentations of Citations by State Commander

**10:30 am**

ByLaws & Resolutions Director Report, Kevin Conklin  
(Action as required by Convention delegates)

**12:00 pm**

**Recess Convention Session for lunch**

**12:00 – 1:30 pm**

**Past State Commanders / Past State Presidents Luncheon  
(by invitation)**

**12:00 – 1:30 pm**

**Convention Delegates - Lunch on your own**

**The Convention will be broadcast by ZOOM – non interactive**

**1:30 pm**

**Resume Convention Business Session –**

**Prairies**

**Resume Committee Reports**

Final Registration / Credentials Report – Adjutant, Credential Chairman

**Reopening of Nominations – Presentation of Candidates**

**Recess Convention District Caucuses – 30 minutes**

**Resume Convention**

**Election of Officers**

Good of the Order – Comments by distinguished guests  
National candidates

James Nail – MO

Chris Haynes -OH

VFW National Council Member. PSC Kevin Conklin

VFW National Judge Advocate, Josuha Schreck

VFW National Representative, Glenn Umberger

## **Closing Ceremonies**

**Following Closing Ceremonies incoming CofA members will change into  
CofA uniform for Installation of Officers**

**Joint VFW / Auxiliary Installation of Officers**

**Glens**

**2025 - 26 CofA Meeting promptly after Installation**

**Prairies**

**6:30 pm – 10:00 pm**

**Celebration with Commander Reinold Yahnka and  
Department President Deb Scheetz at Hotel.**

**Kalamazoo 1**

**6:30 pm – Doors Open, Cash Bar**

**7:00 pm - Hors D'Oeuvres Buffet**

**Sunday**

**DRIVE HOME SAFE**

