



2011-2012

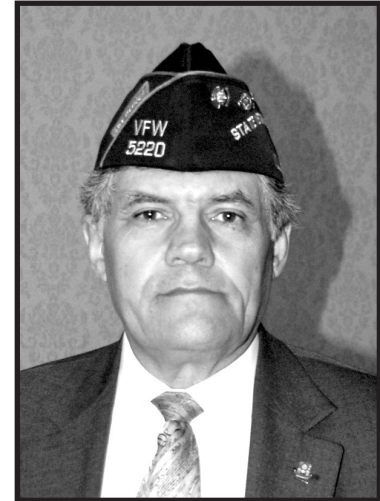
## STATE SERVICE OFFICE



**Barry Walter**  
State Service Officer

2122 West Taylor St  
Room 105  
Chicago, IL 60612

Phone 312-980-4284  
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The State of Illinois VFW Service Office is headquartered at the VA Regional Office in Chicago, IL. The State Service Office is organized under the authority of the State Bylaws and performs under the supervision of the State Service Committee. The mission of the State Service Office is to assist all veterans of Illinois, their dependents and their survivors in the pursuit of all benefits administered by the US State of Veterans Affairs to which they may be entitled. This mission is pursued through the development of supportive relationships with County Veteran Assistance (VAC) Offices, Illinois State of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) Offices and the 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 State Service Office is under the direction of the State Service Officer, Barry Walter, a Vietnam veteran. Currently the office staff includes four Assistant State Service Officers, three working in Chicago and one stationed at the Marion VAMC. The staff also includes two clerical support staff members.

Activities of the Service Office staff includes case management of claims submitted to the VA from all state wide sources, training of Post and District Service Officers, and participation in training seminars for IDVA and VAC staff and local volunteers. The staff also provides guest speakers on the issues of VA benefits to local civic groups, military Reserve and National Guard units and college student organizations as requested.

Each year the State Service Office will select one Post Service Officer to be named the Post Service Officer of the Year to be recognized by the State Commander and Chairman of the State Service Committee at the State Convention. The selection process for the Post Service Officer of the Year will be the sole responsibility of the State Service Office staff although input from Post Commanders is welcome.

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

**Staff**

Barry Walter, Director  
US Army, Vietnam  
barry.walter@va.gov

Vera Moore, Assistant State Service Officer  
USMC, Iraq  
vera.moore@va.gov

Robert Frank, Assistant State Service Officer  
US Navy, Vietnam  
robert.frank@va.gov

Derek Giffin, Assistant State Service Officer  
US Army, Iraq  
derek.giffin@va.gov

Ellen Cozzi, Claims Consultant  
ellen.cozzi@va.gov

Gabriela Salgado, Receptionist

Phone hours: 8:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday-Friday

Walk-in interview hours: 9:00 am to 11:30 am, 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Address: 2122 West Taylor St.  
Room 105  
Chicago, IL 60612

Phone: (312) 980-4284  
Fax: (312) 706-6680

Josh Crisp, Assistant State Service Officer  
US Army, Iraq

Phone 618-997-5311, ext 58230  
josh.crisp@va.gov

Marion VAMC  
2401 W. Main St.  
Room 102  
Marion, IL 62959  
Monday, Wednesday - Friday  
8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Fairview Memorial VFW Post 8677  
5325 N Illinois St.  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
Tuesdays only - 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

