



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF THURSDAY  
MARCH 24, 2016

## TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
12	D. JOHNSON
11	REECE, JR.
4	WHEET
20	LAWSON
7	PIENTO
9	PIZARRO
13	KRAUT
17	HELSEL
16	GOSS
10	R. JOHNSON

Division	Commander
2	FISCHER
3	GRANDBERG
1	CARDER
4	VOGLER, SR.
5	HARRIS

## April is Children & Youth Month

### "CHILDREN...Our Most Precious Natural Resource"

The month of March reminds us that not only spring is almost here, but so is Children & Youth month.

The American Legion has celebrated "April is Children & Youth Month" for the past 78 years by supporting and promoting its national theme – "Children...Our Most Precious Natural Resource." During this month of celebration, American Legion Family members are encouraged to show their local communities the Legion's commitment to young people by hosting youth activities or by becoming involved in programs and organizations that support young people.

As Americans, we need to remember amid the problems we face daily with the environment, crime, unemployment and financial uncertainty, the one constant that will make or break this nation is our young people. They are our FUTURE! Our hopes and dreams for a better tomorrow rest in their hands.

Whatever event you host or participate in as a Legion Family, remember to invite local leaders and officials to the post to discuss the challenges facing children, families and the community, as well as share ideas for addressing those issues. Plan an event and engage the media in publicity and promotion.

Legion Family members can promote Children & Youth Month awareness through their local newspapers, radio and TV stations, civic groups, schools, social media, and in conversations with other veterans and their families. Communities need to know that American Legion services are available and why young people matter so much to us. Also, invite a subject-matter expert on child safety, health and education to present at a post event. And make any post event in April an opportunity to raise funds for Legion programs that support children and youth, such as the Temporary Financial Assistance program and the Child Welfare Foundation.

Following the observance of Children and Youth Month, the C&Y Chairman need to turn their attention to the annual reporting of expenditures and activities. Accurate records are important on money spent for the benefit of children and youth by your post/unit. Shortly after the first of the year, American Legion receives copies of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR). This form provides much needed information about the Legion's total program.

The CPR can be done online by the post adjutant, at [myLegion.org](http://myLegion.org). or go to [www.illegion.org/forms](http://www.illegion.org/forms) "Consolidated Post Report 2016 *fillable form*"





## *From The Desk of Department Commander Paul W. Gardner*



**A**t this time of the Legion year I figured on congratulating Districts and Divisions who had reached 100% and were working on the 105% goal. Of course this isn't to say that no District or Division will make 100% or 105% it's just going to be more difficult.

It seems a lot of Posts, Districts & Divisions stopped or really slowed down their membership efforts since January. Ladies and Gentleman, without effort, retention of members not now signed are not going to fall in your lap. I'm not telling you anything you

don't already know.

I also want to repeat something I stated last year and again this year.

Reaching Membership goals are not for glory or for any one person.

We as Veterans cannot do what we must do without continued Membership retention and growth.

Our voice in Congress is diminished without Membership.

Our great programs could be cut or reduced.

There's always the possibility of a staff cut.

The National Emergency Fund would be less effective.

Veterans serving Veterans and their families is what we do. It is our

charge.

When we lose sight of what we stand for we then have failed ourselves, our American Legion, but most of all those who need us most, Veterans and their Families.

There is still time and I know that every Commander and every active Legion Member will do their best to reach our goal of 105%. Working together we cannot fail to do what's right, Taking Care of Our Veterans and Their Families.



## *From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Lheri L. Stanton*



**I** hope everyone had a Happy American Legion Birthday in March!

I have gotten to attend many division meetings and found out so many ways to use a Poppy in an arrangement. I saw very creative uses including a rendition of the flag raising at Iwo Jima, too bad only a few could win a prize because they were all thoughtfully done. At the meetings we all learned that as soon as we finish using the old poppy stickers that were assembled with glue sticks, we will now have a two-hole punched one that will be easier for the veterans to assemble AND the paper won't come off. NO MORE GLUE...YEAH!

I really enjoyed the Oratorical Contest that Department put on. Joy Wilson is such a gift for our Department! She sends out letters, makes hotel arrangements, gets judges, timers, and in her spare time makes out certificates for each round of contestants. She knows

the rules of the contest backwards and forwards. Thank you Joy, Christy, and Gary for all your loading and unloading and hard work in keeping us organized.

We had two revitalizations this month -one for the third district and one for the seventh district. Thanks to the hosting posts and all the workers who helped make the membership drives so successful.

Commander Paul and Marty have developed a new push on membership to get the last few stragglers to renew. After April 1, OPERATION RENEWAL SURGE will start and for each renewal you get, your post gets a ticket entered into a special drawing at Convention. We literally scraped the bottom of the checkbook to put together some money for prizes and they will get paid off at Convention. This will be your last chance to push your post members to get out and visit all your renewals. You have sent postcards, several letters, and maybe called these guys and gals. IT'S NOT WORKING IS IT! Direct contact has always been the best

answer. Organize a team of helpers and make it a fun night. You will be surprised at how your positive attitude can rub off. Membership is a team effort, not just one person. Besides you get to catchup with old friends!

The more members we have, the more Congress listens when VA appropriations come around. With our membership and the show of force we displayed in Washington at the Conference, they know that the American Legion is serious about supporting our Veteran's.

Don't forget to sign up for the Awareness 22 Walk in Milan, (Up by the Quad Cities.) If you can't walk, come join the fun after. We want to have helpers to talk about the American Legion Programs, maybe signing up a few new members, and above all to make everyone aware about PTSD and how every day, 22 veterans nationally commit suicide. We need to get help for these soldiers. The money raised will go to a

*(Dept. SVC continued on page 6)*



## From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Kathy Bisna



**H**ello American Legion members! This year is really flying by. We just finished a spectacular Patriotic Conference. It was wonderful to see so many Legion Members in the crowd. The conference started off with a report from Emma Sementi, one of the Girls Nation Senators. She reported on her activities at Girls Nation. She had a Great experience and represented Illinois well. We also heard from Linda Ruholl who researches Civil War Nurses. She walked us through the career of one of "her" nurses. It was a very interesting and informative presentation. Next we heard from Steve

Baskis who lost his eyesight in an IED attack in Iraq. Since then Steve has went on to climb mountains and do white water kayaking. He gives motivational speeches and left us all inspired. The big event was OUR National President who addressed us in the afternoon. Sharon Conatser is a member of Urbana, Illinois Unit #71. It was good to have Sharon home for her official visit. She spoke to us about her travels and activities as National President. I know she is picking up lots of good tips and info to implement when she returns home for good next year. Sharon also asked us all to keep working membership and we would love to have your help with that. Have you signed up your eligibility? If not please do so.

Our Junior Conference is right

around the corner. Chairman, Jill Layton, and her committee have been working hard to plan a Purrfect Conference for the Juniors. Our Juniors work hard throughout the year to help Veterans and their families. This Conference is their Convention where they get to celebrate all their good works. Many of the Junior groups earn their own money to pay for the conference. If you are free the week end of April 15-17, stop by the Chateau in Bloomington and see what they are up to. You will leave with a warm fuzzy feeling about our future!

We are also preparing for the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of Illini Girls State. Over the past several years we have seen our number of delegates decline. We would love to see an increase this year. Let us know if you know of anyone interested in

*(ALA President continued on page 6)*



## From The Desk of Detachment Commander William Geary



**O**nce again, Greetings from the Detachment of Illinois. We had a busy month in March. Americanism Chairman Jim Borgman and I had the opportunity to be timekeepers in the Department American Legion High School Oratorical Contest on March 5th. What a great experience this is. If you have never been to an Oratorical Contest, please put it on your calendar for next year, the first Saturday in March. There were 23 contestants this year. We still need to work on more students getting involved. The first place winner was T.J. Kilcullen from Grayslake, IL. He won \$2,000 and will compete at the National Contest April 16 & 17. Last year's Department winner won 2nd place and \$16,000 at the National Contest. Good luck T.J.

On March 12th, we had the Detachment Executive Committee Meeting at the Mt. Vernon Post. They did a great job as our hosts. Thanks guys. On March

17th, we (Sr. Vice Shipley and myself) presented a new SAL charter to members of Potomac Squadron 428. This is the fifth new Squadron this membership year in Illinois. These five Legion Posts have realized that the "Sons" can be a big help to the Post and all its programs and activities. Thank you to those who have encouraged the formation of these new Squadrons. Those Posts that don't have SAL Squadrons are missing out on a great opportunity.

On Friday, the 18th, I had the pleasure of attending the Department Auxiliary's Patriotic Conference in Bloomington. I have presentations. The first was about one of the earliest "military" nurses in Illinois during the Civil War. The second was about a young Iraq veteran who was wounded by an IED. He lost his sight but not his spirit. It is amazing to me that this young man and other wounded heroes have come back and put their lives together. In his case he has used physical adventures, mountain climbing, sheer rock and sheer ice climbing, white water rafting and kayaking to heal his soul. He has also helped many other

wounded veterans to heal in the same way. If you weren't there, you missed a great program. Put this on your calendar for next year also, the third Friday in March. Don't miss it.

**OUR PILLAR-OUR PUPOSE,** our Detachment slogan and "Remembering Our Commitment Keeping it Every Day" **ROCKED.** National SAL Commander Kevin Collier's slogan this year, are the guide we are using to accomplish our goals. As members of the American Legion Family we have a purpose and a commitment to that purpose. The four pillars show us our purpose. Veterans, Defense, Americanism, and Youth. All of our American Legion programs fall under those pillars. If you haven't had a fundraiser or are planning a fundraiser for one or more of our American Legion Programs, please let's get it done. The Sons need to help fund our American Legion programs. The National Emergency Fund (NEF) the National Endowment Fund, the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), the Legacy Scholarship Fund, Comfort Warriors,

*(SAL Detachment Cmdr. continued on page 6)*





# Did You Know?

Office: 312-980-4266 Email: [Raymond.Toczec@va.gov](mailto:Raymond.Toczec@va.gov)

That each year our Legion Service Officers from all of our State Departments meet in Washington, D.C. for training? For three days they are furnished with a wealth of information from The National Veterans Legal Services Program and Department of Veterans Affairs sections including the Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration and the National Cemetery Administration. This training is sponsored by the American Legion VA&R Washington office. Following that most of us also attend the annual DC conference. Here are some of the highlight:

- The Veterans Administration estimates it will process 1.4 million disability claims this year.
- The VA expects an avalanche of appeals and will be asking Congress for money to hire almost 700 new employees at the Bd. Of Veterans Appeals.
- The Legion represents 12% of all appealed claims and currently has a caseload of 8,500.
- The VA will treat over 35,000 patients with Hepatitis C and new drugs will be able to cure 95% of them. It is estimated that 5% of all VA patients have Hep. C and most don't know it. Get tested.
- New National Cemeteries will be built in Western NY and Southern Colorado.
- There are still over 250,000 dependency claims pending, some going back 2-3 years.
- The VA has rolled out its National Work Queue. VA offices that are underutilized will get cases from other offices with too many cases. This will make dramatic improvements in timeliness.
- Veterans are still hurting their fellow veterans by NOT showing up for their hospital appointments and not notifying the VA. These slots could have been filled by another veteran.
- Rules will be changing under the VA's non-service connected pension programs. There will be a look back period on asset transfer to families and friends and certain trusts and annuities will no longer be allowed to hide assets. NOTE-these changes will NOT affect service-connected compensation payments.
- At the VA National Cemeteries 74% of the employees are veterans and of those 28% are service-connected disabled.
- Korean and Vietnam era veteran's claims usually had 2-3 conditions claimed; current Gulf War era veterans average 10 or more conditions.
- Although there are claims which take much longer, the average veteran now waits only 91 days for a decision.
- Coming: although veterans can't reserve a burial space in a National Cemetery yet they soon will be able to determine eligibility ahead of time so that when that time comes their service data will have already been approved.
- The Chicago area has been approved for an urban cemetery to consist of cremated remains however they still haven't found any vacant land within their budget. In other words the land is too expensive.

**IT TAKES THE COURAGE AND STRENGTH OF A WARRIOR TO ASK FOR HELP.**

**CALL THE CRISIS LINE AT 1-800-273-8255**





# *The Illinois American Legion Second Division is Proud to Host Armed Forces Day Dinner*

**Saturday, May 21st, 2016**  
**TO BE HELD AT NAPERVILLE MARRIOT**  
**1801 N. NAPER BLVD., NAPERVILLE, IL 60563**

*Key Note Speaker*

***Past National Commander***  
***Tom Bock***

*With guest speaker John Rose, DoD 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War in Washington, DC*

**\$30 per person**

***Social Hour starts at 5:00 pm (cash bar), Dinner at 6:00 pm in the Naper Ballroom (east side of hotel)***

***Dinner Choices: (choose one) (All are served with Salad and Dessert)***

- ◆ 8oz Flat Iron Steak w/ Marriot steak butter, Roasted Red Potatoes & Baby Carrots
- ◆ Organic Chicken w/ Lemon Caper Sauce, Roasted Red Potatoes & Baby Carrots
- ◆ Vegetarian Eggplant w/ Potato Cannelloni

***Please contact the hotel directly to make your housing reservations.***

**NAPERVILLE MARRIOT**

**1801 N. Naper Blvd., Naperville, IL 60563**

**(630) 505-4900**

**Room Rate: \$112/night** (Code: American Legion Armed Forces Day)

**Complimentary Valet Service Available (Tips Encouraged)**

◇ ***Deadline: Monday, May 16, 2016***

◇ ***NO WALKINS PLEASE***

◇ ***Table of 10 may be reserved, list names on back of reservation form.***

◇ ***Pick up tickets at the door***

◇ ***Questions? Contact: Wayne Fischer at 630-240-8868***

***Reservations: Name: \_\_\_\_\_***

***Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_***

***Dinner Selection: \_\_\_\_\_ Steak; \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken; \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian***

***Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I am reserving a table of 10 (names are listed on the back)***

***Checks are to be made payable to: 2nd Division Armed Forces Day Dinner.***

***Mail reservations to: Ray Powroznik 33236 N. Cove Rd., Wildwood, IL 60030***



*From The Desk of  
American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State*

[www.illinoisboysstate.org](http://www.illinoisboysstate.org)

## American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State Is Just Around The Corner

In just two months the 81st Session of Illinois Premier Boys State will begin. We need as many young men attending as we can get. It is up to Legionnaires to recruit the young men from your communities. For those of you that have not sent any participants to the program lately please consider sending at least one or two this year. For those of you that have sent young men consider sending at least one or two more. For the first time in several years Chicago has a chance to send participants. The Chicago School System has made it possible to allow young men to attend without being counted absent for the days missed. It is being called a field trip. Here is a chance for us to boost our attendance, which is needed. Only 13 young men from the Chicago attended last year. We could also use some help in sponsoring young men financially. At times we have young men wanting to attend but the local post does not have the money to send him. We accept him and try to find sponsors that are willing to help. All donations are tax deductible. If you an organization, business or individual that needs a tax break have them donate all or part of the \$250.00. We will send a letter thanking them which will credit them for the donation. The dates for the session this year are June 11 to 17. Please hit the schools if you have not and get the apps to Joy Wilson as soon as possible. We want to make this year's attendance the largest of the past 5 years.

*(ALA President continued from page 3)*

attending.

In just 3 and a half short months we will be heading in to Department Convention and electing new leadership. I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed working with Legion Commander Paul Gardner and Sons Commander Bill Geary. I truly feel as if I won the Commander lottery! We all work hard for our organizations but we also like to play hard once the work is done. I look forward to the rest of the year and our Conventions.

*(Dept. SVC continued from page 2)*

special fund in Department to provide help for Illinois veterans. We are forming a small committee to decide the criteria.

I want to wish everyone a HAPPY EASTER and may you rejoice in the real reason we celebrate it.

*(SAL Detachment Cmdr. continued from page 3)*

Josh dogs and Children's Miracle Network (CMN), Boys State, Boy Scouts, Junior Shooting Sports, American Legion Baseball, High School Oratorical Contest, Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave, and more. These are our American Legion Programs. We have a purpose and a commitment to assist with these programs. Pick one or two and do your best to promote and fund these programs. These are the Pillars of service of our American Legion Family. Let's get the job done. Please mail your donations to our Finance Officer Bob Tharp in care of Department Headquarters, P.O. Box 2910, Bloomington, IL 61702. Our days are numbered. What I mean is we have very little time to accomplish our goals for the 2016 administrative year. In three months, approximately 90 days, our SAL year will be over with the Detachment Convention. We need to work hard to accomplish our goals for the year, namely 100% plus membership, increased donations to our programs, and increased hours worked for our veterans, our organization, and our communities.

In the April mail Post Adjutants and Squadron Adjutants should receive two very important documents that must be filled out and sent to Headquarters: The Consolidated Report and the Certification of Officers form. These are very important. Please complete them and get them sent to HQ ASAP.

I mentioned that time is running out. We have a short three months to get the job done, not only the job of working our programs, but also the job of getting our membership to 100% and hopefully 105%. We have tried for several years to get our Detachment of Illinois membership numbers back to the 15,000 that we once accomplished. We need to renew our 2015 members and recruit new members to get this done. At this stage, we need to make phone calls and knock on doors to ask our delinquent members to renew and let them know how important they are to our organization. Remind them of the great programs we provide for our Veterans, our Troops, our Youth and our Communities. Remind them that our numbers must increase in order to keep our American Legion voice strong in Washington, D.C. As of this writing the SAL has 90%+ of last year's membership numbers. Most Squadrons and Districts are doing well but a few are holding us back. Sons, Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, please check the website for the current membership report. Find your District. Find your area Squadrons. Please help those Districts and Squadrons that are struggling to get up to where they should be. We especially need help in the 5th District. Thank you.



# National Guard Spring Family Event

This past weekend March 19th, the Department of Illinois and Post 32 youth group supported the National Guard Spring Family Event with face painting. We are reaching out to our Family veterans. We had 5 face painting stations 3 of them manned by Post 32 Youth. There was about 120 kids and 20 Lincoln Challenge cadets. It was a great day for all involved!!!



## Military Taps CD Now Available at Department of IL

The American Legion Department of Illinois is making available for purchase a CD with 5 different taps. *\*example shown below*

**\$5.00 per DVD shipped** (1 CD per package shipped)

**\$4.00 per DVD, purchased at Dept. HQ**

Call the print shop 309-663-0361 or email [printshop@illegion.org](mailto:printshop@illegion.org) to order yours today.



# National Guard & Reserve Eligibility

The National Guard and Reserves are required to meet the same eligibility requirements as the full time federal active veterans. To be eligible, the National Guardsman/Reservist **must have served at least one day on federal active duty during any of the delimiting periods** set forth in Article IV, Section 1 of the National Constitution, and either have an honorable discharge or currently be serving either in the National Guard or Reserves on federal active duty.

The key to determining if a Guardsman/Reservist has been on or currently serving on federal active duty is the **“Authority Line”** on the activation orders of the Guardsman/Reservist. In both cases “Title 10, Subsection 672 or 12301” are orders from the Secretary of Defense and are federal orders. Basic Training and Advanced Training on federal installations IS federal active duty.

The authority the Governor uses to activate the National Guard as an individual or unit is “Title 32” orders, i.e., Weekend Drills and Annual Training. These are **not** federal orders. The Reserves have similar reserve orders which are “Title 10, Subsection 270.” This authority code gives the reserve component the authority to active the reserves for Weekend Drills and Annual Training.

Use the chart below when determining eligibility for National Guard and Reserves.

	ELIGIBLE CODES	NON-ELIGIBLE CODES
National Guard	Title 10, Subsection 672 or 12301 *	Title 32
Reserves	Title 10, Subsection 672 or 12301 *	Title 10, Subsection 270

\* This Subsection was created following Desert Storm to replace 672.

This information was taken from Military Law Chapter 39.

Note: A DD-214 will be issued for the time on federal active duty or a DA-1059 for a completion of a school will be issued with a character type of discharge. All Reserve components send their service members to “Basic Training” using Title 10, Subsection 672/12301 orders.

## National Guard & Reserve Recruiting

New member acquisition is essential in order for us to grow and prosper as an organization. With this in mind, one market area that has gone virtually untouched is the National Guard and Reserve. These military organizations are laced with eligible veterans who may have an interest in becoming members of The American Legion, but have not done so because they have not been asked or are unaware of what we do, and have done, on behalf of all veterans. Many of these veterans have chosen to affiliate with reserve components due to the downsizing of the active military. The great majority of National Guard and Reserve personnel have served on federal active duty, and as a result, the membership potential is great. From the statistical information provided by the VA, we know there are over 27 million veterans and the challenge we are faced with is to make contact and recruit eligible veterans. Over the past several years we have learned that acquiring new members is becoming more and more difficult. We must look beyond traditional methods of recruiting. This is a potential marketplace with a captive audience--**veterans**.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Spring D.E.C

April 9th

Bloomington

~ ~ ~

National Spring Committee &  
Commission Meetings

May 2nd--4th

Indianapolis

~ ~ ~

Mother's Day

May 8th

~ ~ ~

Armed Forces Day

May 21st

~ ~ ~

Department Office Closed

Memorial Day

May 30th

~ ~ ~

American Legion Illinois

Premier Boys State

June 11th--17th

EIU Charleston

~ ~ ~

Flag Day

June 14th

~ ~ ~

Father's Day

June 19th

~ ~ ~

Girls State

June 19th--25th

EIU Charleston

~ ~ ~

Youth Police

June 19th--24th

Springfield, IL

~ ~ ~

**CLOSE OF BOOKS**

**June 24th**

~ ~ ~

SAL Detachment Convention

June 24th--26th

Wauconda, IL

# # #



# Legion launches new-look National website

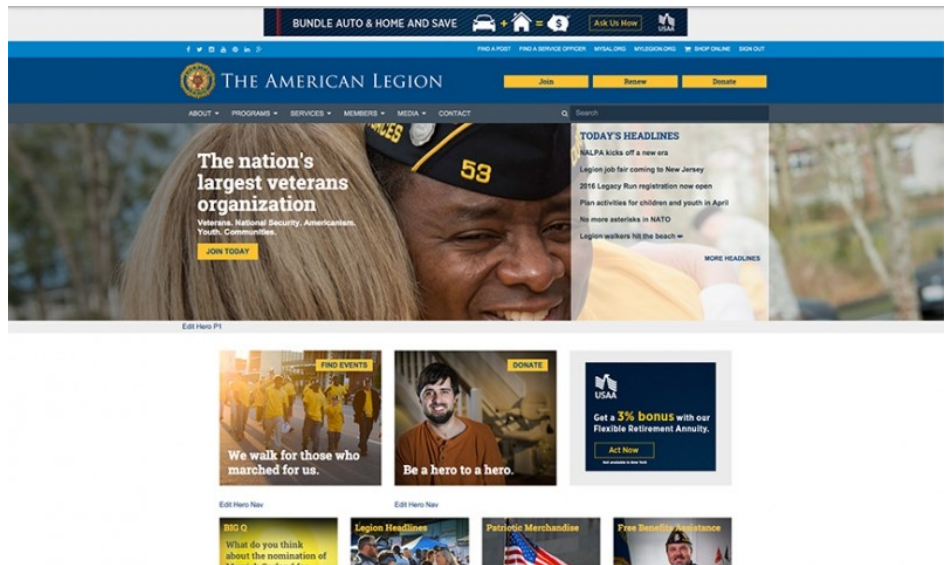
The American Legion's national website, [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), has undergone an extreme makeover.

Redesigned and coded to look and perform better on mobile devices and to improve awareness of the Legion's valuable programs and services, the site maintains nearly all the features visitors have enjoyed and used in recent years while bringing forward easy-to-navigate and well-illustrated portals to join, renew, donate, purchase merchandise and learn more about the nation's largest veterans service organization. While the previous site design was guided primarily by news and promotions on the first landing page, the new architecture brings forward a brightly designed storefront to better acquaint first-time and infrequent visitors with the Legion and its role in society.

For regular visitors, the site still has all the important information, including news headlines high on the landing page and a separate news center at [www.legion.org/news](http://www.legion.org/news) where coverage of Legion activities can be found, along with photo galleries and videos. Redesigned hubs within the site include a new presentation to describe the organization and its mission at [www.legion.org/about](http://www.legion.org/about) and a fresh design to promote the Legion's programs at [www.legion.org/programs](http://www.legion.org/programs). The benefits of membership are laid out in a simple and inviting format at [www.legion.org/members](http://www.legion.org/members) and all the latest media produced by National Headquarters, as well as tools for posts and departments to share with local media are at [www.legion.org/media](http://www.legion.org/media).

"The new design and functions of [legion.org](http://legion.org) are more in tune with the growing percentage of people who click on the site from smartphones," American Legion Media & Communications Commission Chairman Walter Ivie explained. "The site is coded in a card format, meaning each story, video and photo flow nicely from top to bottom when you visit it from a phone or electronic tablet. The site is now really image-driven, and that helps visitors better understand what we do as an organization and why it matters."

Ivie said division staff consulted with post-9/11 generation veterans to improve the user experience for younger members and friends of the Legion. The site also continues to provide valuable access to MyLegion.org, the organization's membership-management portal, which generates substantially improved results for posts looking to convert National Headquarters members into local Legionnaires, and to find former members who have not yet renewed.



The site also makes tax-deductible giving easy via [www.legion.org/donate](http://www.legion.org/donate) where visitors can help The American Legion fulfill its mission to serve veterans, military personnel, youth and communities worldwide.

"One of the most important aspects of the new web design and architecture is that it always puts The American Legion's most important purposes front and center," Ivie said. "When the site is loaded with news stories, sometimes the Legion's over-arching purpose gets lost. The new design keeps the identity of the Legion clear at all times, while at the same time covering all the news in the headlines and the news center hub."

Ivie explained that the site will continue to evolve but will maintain a more consistent structure so changes can be made more quickly and efficiently.

[legion.org](http://legion.org) is one of the most accessed website for veterans, with between 300,000 and 500,000 unique visitors a month. Additionally, the Legion's Facebook and Twitter followings exceed 150,000. The weekly American Legion Online Update e-newsletter and the National Commander's twice-monthly email reach audiences of more than 600,000 subscribers each.

"The American Legion's national media program continues to grow and change to meet the interests of today's members and visitors," Ivie said. "National media products and services are vital to keep members and the public informed and to provide easy ways to conduct transactions online. To stay vital, we have to always be working to keep up with changing technology and ways people use media. It's all about keeping the membership informed and helping everyone understand the Legion and all it does. I invite members and non-members alike to get on [legion.org](http://legion.org) and click through the pages, watch the videos and enjoy the photos."

# Department of Homeland Security recruiting Veterans

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is recruiting veterans and promoting on-the-spot job offers to qualified veterans looking for jobs in law enforcement, mission support, program and budget analysis, contracting and chemical security.

The National Protection and Programs Directorate hiring event is scheduled for April 5 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Fort Belvoir Community Center, Fort Belvoir, Va. (Go to: <http://legion.org/documents/pdf/Job%20Fair%20Flyer%20Belvoir.pdf> to see a flyer promoting the event.)

"We are hiring military veterans who are eligible under the following special hiring authorities: Veterans Recruitment Appointment and 30 percent or more disabled veteran," according to a flyer presented to The American Legion

from DHS. Go to:

<https://www.fedshirevets.gov/job/shav/index.aspx> to learn more about federal hiring authorities for veterans.

"The American Legion strongly supports this kind of proactive approach by DHS to recruit and hire veterans," American Legion Veterans Employment and Education Division Director Joe Sharpe said. "The federal government offers multiple jobs and career tracks that fit perfectly with the credentials and skill sets of veterans, along with directives to make those employment opportunities readily available to disabled veterans."

Applicants should bring current resumes, SF-50 forms if already federally employed, Form DD-214, VA compensation letter (if applicable) and college transcripts for those seeking jobs in information technology.



APPROVED BY YOUR DEPARTMENT  
OF ILLINOIS AMERICAN LEGION



- ★ Owned by vets, and led by a two-star admiral
- ★ Services vets, their families and patriots
- ★ Hires veterans to provide those services
- ★ Donates to veteran causes



## Medical Alert Systems

- ➔ NO UPFRONT COSTS
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- ➔ MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE
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PRICES AS LOW AS  
**\$23.95/MONTH**

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We look forward to answering your questions



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"If you've EVER thought about a medical alert for your family, we're here to help..."  
Robert Wray, Rear Admiral, US Navy (ret) CEO





THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

FAMILY



**Springfield Welcomes the  
98th Annual American Legion &  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department Conventions**

**AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY CONVENTION ACTIVITIES**



**Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum**

**212 North 6th St. Springfield, Illinois**

Come visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

Visiting Hours: Daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Handicap Accessible

\$7.00 person, and the History of Hollywood exhibit is an additional \$3.00

This Special Rate of will be given to the American Legion Family during the  
98th Annual Convention ~ July 13th-16th, 2016

To receive this rate attendees MUST show their American Legion or

American Legion Auxiliary Convention Badge (i.e: Delegate or Alternate or Guest)

This would be a great low cost vacation opportunity for the Legion Families to enjoy the  
historic sites of Springfield and at the same time enjoy the conventions. *(rate subject to change)*

\*\*\*\*\*

# Illinois State Military Museum

**Illinois State Military Museum at Camp Lincoln**

1301 N. MacArthur Blvd. Springfield, Illinois 62702



**~ FREE MUSEUM ~**

Features compelling stories about Illinois soldiers.  
This attraction easily accessible through the  
American Legion's FREE Shuttle Route.

- ◆ Stop in for a visit while in Springfield
- ◆ Handicap Accessible
- ◆ Open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Shuttle Hours: 11am - 4:00pm  
Thursday & Friday  
July 14th -15th, 2016







# 98th Annual Department Convention

July 12 – 17, 2016 Springfield, Illinois



## FREEDOM



## FEST



*DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD IN THE ROADWAY  
BETWEEN THE TWO CONVENTION HOTELS*

700 Block of E. Adams

*BEER, SODA, FOOD*

**Friday, July 15, 2016**

**6:00 PM - 11:30 PM**

*Everyone is invited to help  
Commander Paul  
and President Kathy Celebrate their  
Conventions and Year of Service.*

**LIVE MUSIC 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM**

**\$\$\$ NO COVER CHARGE \$\$\$**

*Featuring the band*

**“OUT OF THE WOODS”**

*Party In Honor of*

***Department Commander Paul W. Gardner***

*Thanking Commander for His Year of Service!*

***Thursday, July 14, 2016***

***6:00 PM – 12:00 AM***

***Springfield Post 32***

*1120 Sangamon Avenue 217/523-3415*

**Everyone Welcome**

***The Mess Hall Restaurant***



*(The Mess Hall Restaurant is inside of and operated by Springfield Post #32, The American Legion)*

***The Mess Hall Restaurant open for***

***Lunch Monday—Friday: 11:00 am—2:00 pm PLVS***

***Open Thursday & Friday 11:00 am—8:00 pm***

***And Saturday 4:30 pm—8:00 pm***

***Complete Bar Service at Post 32 Everyday, open at 10:30 a.m.***

***(VIDEO GAMING AVAILABLE)***

**FREE CONTINUOUS SHUTTLE BY HARMONY SERVICE**

***Operates Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m.***

***between the hotels, Post 32 and Post 809.***

# 98<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION JULY 12-17, 2016

-SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS-

## **HOUSING RESERVATION FORM**

All reservations must be made directly with the hotel housing your respective Division on or before June 21, 2016. You may make your reservation by completing and mailing in this form along with your credit card information or first nights deposit including tax or by following the instructions for your Division hotel, which are listed below. PLEASE NOTE: ALL cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to arrival date. Failure to cancel by that date will result in billing of one night's room rate. **PARKING IS INCLUDED IN THE RATE.**

<u>HOTEL</u>	<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>RATE</u>
Wyndham Springfield	<b>1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup></b>	\$105.00 plus tax (currently 12%)

City Centre (formerly Hilton Springfield)

700 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/789-1530 (\$117.60 per night with tax)

Reservation- Mail this form to the Wyndham Springfield or via internet by visiting the Department of Illinois website and linking up to [www.wyndham.com/hotel/49084](http://www.wyndham.com/hotel/49084) and using the Group Code of "**07117027AL**". You may also call 217/789-1530 and select the RESERVATIONS OPTION and again advise the reservation person of Group Code **07117027AL**.

President Abraham Lincoln Springfield

(A Doubletree by Hilton) **5<sup>th</sup> Division & Auxillary** \$105.00 plus tax (currently 12%)

701 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 (\$117.60 per night with tax)

Reservation- Mail this form to the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield or via internet by visiting the Department of Illinois website and linking up to [www.presidentabrahamlincolnspringfield.doubletree.com](http://www.presidentabrahamlincolnspringfield.doubletree.com) and using the Group Code of "LEG". You may also phone the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield directly at 1/866-788-1860 or 217/544-8800.

Special Notes: All rooms are subject to the applicable sales tax. All reservations must be made with credit card or advanced deposit. Remember, if reserving the room with a personal check, be sure and include the rate including tax as listed above.

**Also, the cut-off date for ALL RESERVATIONS is Tuesday, June 21, 2016.**

If you select a hotel that your Division is not housed in, you may be moved to your Division assigned hotel.

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION**

Division \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Legion Title \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel \_\_\_\_\_ Type of room (circle) 1 Bed 2 Beds

Disabled Access \_\_\_\_\_ **Please note: All Hotel Rooms in Springfield are Non-Smoking.**

(Please note room types are a request and are not guaranteed. The hotels will attempt to accommodate.)

Other Special Requests \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of additional people in room: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**FREEDOM FEST, FRIDAY, JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> - COMMANDER'S AND PRESIDENT'S DINNER, SATURDAY, JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

## R.E.D. RIDE

**REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED**



PROCEEDS TO  
HELP HOMELESS VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES  
AND THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

**APRIL 23rd**

*Registration 10:00 - 11:15am at*

**Pekin American Legion Post 44**

**KSU AT 11:30am**

**\$15.00 Rider - \$5.00 Passenger**

*Last Bike In 5:30pm*

TAZEWELL COUNTY  
AMERICAN



LEGION  
RIDERS

[www.tazewellriders.org](http://www.tazewellriders.org)

**WEAR  
RED  
AND  
SHOW  
YOUR  
SUPPORT**

## TAZEWELL COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS GUN RAFFLE

Drawing to be held at the

Tazewell County American Legion Riders "Swing into Action" Golf Outing

Quail Meadows Golf Course in East Peoria

August 6th 2016

**\$10.00 Ticket - 3 for \$20.00**

(Do not need to be present to win)

Must be 18 or older to enter

Must have valid F.O.I.D.



Interested in our gun raffle, ask one of our  
Tazewell County American Legion Riders  
or you can email us at

**[tazewellriders@gmail.com](mailto:tazewellriders@gmail.com)**

for more information and arrangements to  
purchase tickets.

Gun raffle drawing will be held at our 3rd  
Annual Swing into Action Golf Outing on  
August 6th at the Quail Meadows Golf  
Course. Golf outing starts at 8am.

For more information on our  
Swing Into Action Golf outing contact  
Andy "Sly" Finley at 309-922-5569

**CORE 15 5.56NATO**



**Remington 20ga Combo**



**Walther CCP 9mm**



1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes  
made possible by



**Funds raised go to support our  
local homeless veterans,  
local veterans and their families in need  
as well as the  
American Legion Legacy Scholarship**



# 2015—2016 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
4/13/2016	2ND DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT POST 923	CHICAGO
4/15/2016	10TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	LIBERTYVILLE POST 329	LIBERTYVILLE
4/20/2016	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
4/21/2016	5TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FOREST PARK POST 414	FOREST PARK
4/27/2016	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	SCHILLER PARK POST 104	SCHILLER PARK
4/28/2016	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	TINLEY PARK POST 615	TINLEY PARK
5/01/2016	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	THAWVILLE POST 700	THAWVILLE
5/13/2016	2ND DISTRICT	6:00 PM	KLAS RESTAURANT	CICERO
5/14/2016	14TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	MONMOUTH POST 136	MONMOUTH
5/15/2016	12TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	PECATONICA POST 729 (CONVENTION)	PECATONICA
5/15/2016	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	ROCK FALLS POST 902 (CONVENTION)	ROCK FALLS
5/15/2016	15TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	ABINGDON POST 381 (CONVENTION)	ABINGDON
5/15/2016	17TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	SPRING BAY POST 1115	SPRING BAY
5/15/2016	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	LEIGHTON EVATT POST 365 (CONVENTION)	COLLINSVILLE
5/17/2016	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CARLINVILLE POST 554	CARLINVILLE
5/18/2016	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134 (POST EVERLASTING)	MORTON GROVE
5/19/2016	5TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	BELLWOOD POST 500	BELLWOOD
5/20/2016	10TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	LAKE REGION POST 703 (CONVENTION & POST EVERLASTING)	FOX LAKE
5/21-22/2016	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CHAMPAIGN POST 24 (CONVENTION)	CHAMPAIGN
5/22/2016	15TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	ABINGDON POST 381 (CONVENTION)	ABINGDON
5/24/2016	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	TREMONT POST 1236 (CONVENTION)	TREMONT
5/25/2016	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN PARK POST 974	FRANKLIN PARK
5/26/2016	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EVERGREEN PARK POST 854 (POST EVERLASTING)	EVERGREEN PARK
6/5/2016	2ND DIVISION	1:00 PM	GURNEE POST 771 (CONVENTION)	GURNEE
6/5/2016	3RD DIVISION	10:00 AM	ABINGDON POST 381 (CONVENTION)	ABINGDON
6/5/2016	4TH DIVISION	11:00 AM	DANVILLE POST 210 (CONVENTION)	DANVILLE
6/5/2016	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	STEELEVILLE POST 480	STEELEVILLE
6/8/2016	2ND DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT POST 923	CHICAGO
6/12/2016	5TH DIVISION	UNKNOWN	EFFINGHAM POST 120	EFFINGHAM
6/15/2016	7TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	HUERTER-WILMETTE POST 46	WILMETTE
6/16/2016	5TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	COMMODORE BARRY POST 256	BERWYN
6/22/2016	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	TATTLER POST 973	CHICAGO
6/23/2016	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	MARS-MEYER POST 991	WORTH

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
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Department Commander      Department Editor  
PAUL W. GARDNER      MARTY CONATSER

*Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag*



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\$10.00 for 11 issues

Newsletter articles must be at Department Headquarters by the  
15th of each month for it to be in the next months issue.

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APRIL TRIVIA DID YOU KNOW?

1. What Persian Gulf warrior called his young majors in charge of combat operations “Jedi Knights”?
2. Which two nations, constitutionally barred from military actions, sent money to support the Allied coalition against Iraq in “1991”?
3. What Ohio city was the 1995 Bosnian peace accord signed in?
4. What Civil War general graduated first in the West Point class of 1829?
5. What was the B-17 long-range bomber nicknamed in World War II?



Visit our website!  
Scan Here

ANSWERS:

1. Norman Schwarzkopf.
2. Germany and Japan.
3. Dayton.
4. Robert E. Lee.
5. The Flying Fortress.

