

Department News

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



2016–2017 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CHERI L. STANTON

APRIL 2017



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
MARCH 24, 2017

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
7	LEPINSKI
5	DEARBONE
9	FUGGITI
19	LAUFUTTE
25	PICOU
15	HAZZARD
18	MONROE
12	JOHNSON
17	NAGEL
13	KRAUT

Division	Commander
4	DUDLEY
1	WHYTE
5	SMITH
3	KILKENNY
2	DAVIS JR.

“EXTRA , EXTRA ... READ ALL ABOUT IT ”

Have you publicized whatever program or activity you are planning? If not, have the mayor or other local official issue a proclamation declaring **April as Children & Youth Month**. Then the post commander should issue a news release proclaiming April as Children & Youth Month and list what the post will be doing for their annual observance.

Remember, programs affecting the children and youth of your community are news!! Don't forget to invite the news media to your activities as well, and keep them informed.

SUGGESTED NEWS RELEASE : For CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH (April)

The American Legion will observe Children & Youth Month during April, Commander (full name) of (Name of Post) Post No. announced today. Participating with Post No. in this observance will be the members of the American Legion Auxiliary (and/or the Sons of The American Legion).

The observance here in (community) will be one of many throughout the nation as over 13,700 Legion posts and over 9,500 Auxiliary units plan special events to emphasize the Legion's continuing concern for the well-being of the country's children and youth. For more than eighty years, The American Legion and its affiliate organizations have donated countless hours of volunteer effort and millions of dollars in support of programs and activities for the benefit of children and youth, Commander (last name) reported. Since the beginning of these programs in 1926, The American Legion and its affiliates have reported expenditures of over one half billion dollars.

The national theme of The American Legion's Children & Youth Month is "Children...Our Most Precious Natural Resource." Over the years, the Legion has developed many programs to serve the youth of this nation. By providing a solid foundation and adequate opportunities for children to realize their future, we are helping to ensure our own.

Commander (Last Name) listed three major areas of concern on which The American Legion is focusing its attention on a national basis: Child Health, Child Safety and Family Support. Locally, The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have made meaningful contributions to the well-being of the children and youth of (community) through programs and endeavors such as (List examples of post and unit projects and contributions on behalf of the children and youth of the community).

Don't forget to share your C&Y event photo's with Department Facebook and Twitter



From The Desk of Department Commander Cheri L. Stanton



I went to Washington with our Auxiliary President Luella Buske, our Sr. Vice President Marsha Haag, and our National Security representative Edna Taylor. We all went to many meetings and I got to go to Senator Tammy Duckworth's office with Marty, Myron, and Bob. Tammy wants to work with all things for the Veterans, but stated she "WILL NOT vote for the flag amendment". She mentioned that she agrees with Dick Durbin about freedom of speech. In my own opinion, I feel that any Congressmen who would vote against the flag amendment should not be allowed to have any military honors when their time comes, including a flag.

Off to the oratorical contest in Peoria. As a retired educator, it is always a pleasure to see how students evolve from Elementary students to High School age. The competition was MARVELOUS! Many thanks to Joy, Christy, and Gary for putting on the contest each year. The quality of the speeches was amazing.

I spent a Birthday evening with Bellflower Post and got to meet a WWII veteran. Bob Collins got to see and help many Concentration Camp people who were destined for the gas chamber.

Before my next event at Patriotic Conference in Springfield, I traveled with President Luella, National President Mary Davis, and PNP Sharon Conatser to Danville. We saw many artwork exhibits that were done by Veterans as part of their therapy. The Mayor of Danville met us and read a proclamation that declared March 9th as "American Legion Auxiliary Day." Then we met up with

Patty Williamson to take a tour of the VA there. I got to visit a wing while they were doing music "Bell Therapy." They play colored bells with color coded directions to music. This program has really got them involved and communicating with other veterans. It was amazing to know we also have a housing area for homeless veterans with families.

Spent all day Friday listening to programs that were at Patriotic Conference. Many Legionnaires miss out when they don't attend our family events. Myron Kirby told about our own Poppy Productions and how they got started. Melissa Uhles, a State Policewoman, talked about our Youth Police School and what happens that week. The best part of the afternoon was when we filled the Socks of Love with all the people who attended and several police officers. Check out

(Dept. Commander continued on page 4)



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Bob Henderson



We have been pretty busy this month, starting at The Lincoln Pilgrimage. There was the Division & District Training for the Sr. & Jr. Vice's to get them ready to be Commanders & Sr. Vice Commanders for 2017-2018. Next we went to Washington, DC to meet with our Senators & Representatives of our Districts. We went to the hill and met with Darin LaHood & Tammy Duckworth, to try and get them on the same page as the American Legion. The next day after getting back from Washington we were in Peoria for the Oratorical. The Auxiliary Patriotic

Conference in Springfield was next on the agenda. I enjoyed being there and learning what the Auxiliary does and what they do to help Veterans.

There were a lot of District and Division meetings being held this last month. Hope everyone has attended at least one to get information on what is going on at each level in the American Legion. If you didn't go you missed out on some very good information. You can go to face book and see what you have missed.

April is also busy, starting with a revitalization in the 10th District. The DEC meeting in Bloomington on the 8th. The Jr. Conference in Springfield, and another revitalization later in April, if you would want a revitalization in your District get the dates and talk to Chad Woodburn. The biggest thing in April and May is Membership. The

\$20.00 SPECIAL for March and April. You can get a new member for \$20.00 or an expired member that has been expired as of 2015, 2014 & back. Then we are going to have to go out and knock on some doors, so get on your walking shoes and get out there and get that Membership. Department has given the Division & District Officers the training and tools to get members, just go out and get them with the help of your Posts. **I want to thank all of you for what you do for the American Legion. "THANK YOU"**



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Luella Buske



Spring is in the air! The birds are singing and the flowers are starting to bloom and the trees are budding out. I love this time of year as the renewal of nature begins. It should be the same for The Legion Family. We can all work together to get those final renewals in and to find those new members that still haven't heard about what we do.

Legionnaires don't forget the personal award of \$100 from me for the Post signing up the most new Auxiliary members. Send your list to me by Flag Day, June 14. The winner will be announced at Department convention.

Thank You to the five Posts who have added a new Auxiliary Unit to our Legion Family! Two more are in the beginning stages of adding an Auxiliary. This is so exciting!

I just attended the state oratorical

contest along with many of The American Legion Family. Joy Wilson did an amazing job coordinating this event. Everything was on schedule and flowed very nicely. The American Legion is lucky to have her! Your Executive Secretary and Assistant Adjutant Gary were a large part of this event as well. I loved being able to participate as an escort again this year. These are amazing young people!

Please talk to the Auxiliary in your Post. April is Children & Youth month. I am sure they are planning a special event. I know the more help they have, the better.

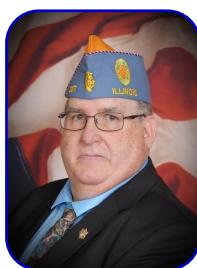
A huge Thank You to The Legion Family for attending the Patriotic Conference! The speakers were excellent, Myron Kirby did a wonderful job of sharing the Illinois Poppy Story, ISP Special Agent Melissa Uhles had a very informative presentation on Youth Police School, and Liz and Anna Wright and Limey Nargelenas did a great job introducing the Service Project. The Lincoln Land Chorus were awesome!

The Service Project of filling Socks of Love to be carried by officers throughout Illinois to be given to homeless and the needed was almost unbelievable, except it was the Legion Family doing it. We were joined by Officers from Sangamon County, Springfield City, and Springfield Park District along with a members of the ISP Heritage Foundation and about 200 of The Legion Family! Thank you all! There was a total of eight hundred fifty-five pairs of socks filled and they all went out to help people that need them. It was made possible by all the donations and time spent putting them together. This was a very good thing!

We were honored to have our National President Mary Davis with us for Patriotic Conference. It was great to hear her message and to spend time with this awesome lady!

Please remember we need to continue to work on membership so Illinois can be a goal Department!

Wishing you all a great spring!



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Shipley



The Sons of The American Legion changes lives in our communities and throughout the country.

The Sons of The American Legion is a fun way to help the United States your way.

The Sons of The American Legion is an over 84-year old national network of over 350,000 men, descendants of Veterans, joined in fellowship and friendship in over 5,000 squadrons in 50 states and 2 countries, making a difference in our communities, state, and nation. And we have collaborated in raising over 7 million dollars to assist in funding The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation that

annually issues grants to non-for-profit organizations that support children's issues everywhere.

We are motivated by Service Above Self.

The American Legion has celebrated April as Children & Youth Month since 1938, and this year will be no different. April is the perfect time of the year to demonstrate that The American Legion Family is committed to its community, and especially its children.

"Children represent the future of our nation and it is up to us to equip them with knowledge, leadership skills and a commitment to service that they will use as productive adult citizen of the United State."

The purpose of the Children and Youth Committee is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to:

- Assume care and protection for children of Veterans.
- Improve conditions for all children and youth, with due concerns for maintaining the integrity of the family home.
- Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible. AND
- Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

There are a great deal of things that, we as members of The America Legion Family, can do ourselves for the children of this country.

APRIL is Children and Youth month. Please try and carry out an activity of some kind. Remember you can always make a donation to one of the American Legion Charities that benefit our Children.



Did You Know?

Office: 312-980-4266 Email: 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 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 highlights:

- eBenefits is a computer based program that allows veterans to access their records and print out from the comfort of their home or office various VA letters that they may need. Last year veterans requested over 1.4 million Civil Service Preference letters.
- To insure separating active duty personnel are fully informed about their VA benefits TAP (Transitional Assistance Program) attendance is now mandatory. Last Fiscal Year 1.8 million attended these programs.
- To speed up the VA claims process exams are being contracted out. Last year there were 1.2 million of these and as a result claims processing has been reduced dramatically.
- For veterans born between 1945-1965 over 4% may have Hepatitis C. With new drugs 95%+ can be cured. Veterans using the VA Health Care System should ask their doctor for a one time screening for Hepatitis C.
- Camp Lejeune contaminated drinking water regulations become effective March 14th of this year. If you have one of the listed conditions or your spouse died from one of them you should file your claim now. For the complete list see the VA's press release at <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2853>.
- Throughout the country our Department Service Officers helped 800,000 veterans last year with their various VA benefits.
- Some medications prescribed for a veteran's Service-connected condition can cause tinnitus (noise/buzzing/ringing) in the ears. If this occurs the vet can file for Secondary Service-connected for that new condition.
- In that same vein when a veteran suddenly gets diagnosed with a serious illness e.g. cancer, heart problems, ALS, etc. This could lead to chronic depression. If this happens the vet can file for Secondary Service-connected for that.
- Medicare now requires doctors who give annual exams to seniors to screen for depression or anxiety.
- After a vet's case is denied at the Board of Veterans Appeals the vet can take his or her case up to the next level which is the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). Last year 3,000 veterans went that route.
- A recent decision at the CAVC may affect thousands of veterans who were eligible for VA care but were taken to a local ER and ended up having to pay some of that cost. Stay tuned as the VA may appeal that decision to a higher court.
- If a vet's claim is denied due to loss of his service treatment records and they are later found (even 30 or 40 years later) the VA must go back to the original date of claim and review it all over.
- And finally, of all the National Veteran Service Organizations the American Legion is the largest.

(Dept. Commander continued from page 2)

FACEBOOK for a video and pictures.

Went to the 11th District in Aurora for a revitalization. Paul Brown and Jeff Brown from National were there to help us. On Thursday afternoon, Chad, Bob, Jeff, and I went to WBIG radio and did a radio interview with OUR NEWEST MEMBER Bernard Coffey.

Go to your Facebook page and type The Veterans Show to view. We talked about the American Legion Programs while he did the interview on radio and live on FACEBOOK, BUT HE ALSO SHOWED HIS AUDIENCE HOW EASY IT WAS TO SIGN UP AS A NEW MEMBER. He called Chad the next day to tell him how many hits he had. He was very impressed!

This month I have been to three Division meetings to say THANK YOU for electing me this year. I have learned a lot and met so many new friends. Remember, July convention is right around the corner. Hope you and your family are planning to attend.

National Executive Committee Resolution No. 16



Rendering Proper Respect

ATTENTION ALL POSTS

Important Notice

The American Legion is a strong supporter of the protection of the American Flag. The American Legion realizes there are proper platforms for expressing protest or disagreements. We vehemently reject using disrespect to the Flag of our Nation or the National Anthem as a way of protesting. The National Executive Committee passed the enclosed resolution addressing the issue for participants in our Youth programs.

Illinois strongly supports the action of The National Executive Committee. This means that local Posts will need to screen all participants in Boys State, Youth Police School, Oratorical Contest, American Legion Baseball or other programs to ensure compliance. Please take the time during the screening process to eliminate the embarrassment latter.

We support an individual's right to protest, but using our programs as a platform for that protest will not be allowed. Please ensure that whoever screens applications for participation in our Youth programs is aware of this new policy.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Department Adjutant at 309-663-0361.

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 12-13, 2016**

Resolution No. 16: Expectations for Rendering Proper Respect when Participating in Programs of The American Legion

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted By: Americanism Commission

(As amended)

- WHEREAS, The American Legion since its founding has supported this country, and
- WHEREAS, Countless members of The American Legion died defending the Constitution of the United States and the First Amendment; and
- WHEREAS, The American Legion has fought bigotry, racism and similar concepts since its founding; and
- WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion pledges that "For God and Country" we shall associate ourselves together "To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism"; and
- WHEREAS, There have been public displays of disrespect to the Flag of the United States, including during the National Anthem, by certain individuals, groups and others failing to show respect thereto; and
- WHEREAS, The American Legion realizes there are proper platforms for expressing protest or disagreement; and
- WHEREAS, The American Legion vehemently rejects using disrespect to the Flag of the United States or the National Anthem as a platform for publicly expressing protest or disagreement; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 12-13, 2016, That The American Legion expects participants of all its programs to show proper respect to the Flag of the United States, at all times, including during the National Anthem; and, be it further**
- RESOLVED, That the national organization of The American Legion recommends to departments and posts that the chairman or director of any American Legion program make clear to all participants in advance of the program that The American Legion has the expectation for rendering proper respect to the Flag of the United States, at all times, including during the National Anthem; and, be it further**
- RESOLVED, That if any participant of any program of The American Legion cannot or will not live up to this expectation, the individual should not be a participant in American Legion programs; and, be it finally**
- RESOLVED, That if any participant of any national-level program of The American Legion cannot or will not live up to this expectation, the individual will be removed from the program and not be allowed any further participation.**



The American Legion Family



The Illinois American Legion First Division is Proud to Host

Armed Forces Day Dinner

Saturday, May 20th, 2017

TO BE HELD AT DES PLAINES ELK LODGE NO. 1526

495 LEE ST., DES PLAINES, IL 60016

Key Note Speaker

National Vice Commander

Paul Martel

\$31 per person

Social Hour starts at 5:00 pm (cash bar), Dinner at 6:00 pm

Family Style

London Broil, Baked Chicken, Grilled Sea Bass, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Salad & Dessert

Please contact the hotel directly to make reservations.

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Chicago / O'Hare

6600 N. Mannheim Road

Rosemont, IL 60018

(847) 544-7500

Room Rate: \$117/night (Code: Armed Forces Day)

Deadline: Friday, May 12, 2017

NO WALKINS

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

Questions? Contact: Joe Lampert at (847) 417-8672

Reservations: Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____

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

Checks are to be made payable to: **The American Legion First Division Council**

Mail reservations to: **P.O Box # 280 Riverside, Illinois 60546-0280**

Veterans Awareness Walk 22

Walk 2.2 miles for Veterans Suicide Awareness



The walk is to make awareness within our Community, State and Nation that “22” Veterans “END” their lives daily in the United States.

Veterans Awareness Walk 22

Milan, IL

Registration Form

Date: May 13th 2017

Time: 9:00 am Registration, 11:00 am Walk

Place: Milan American Legion, 515 1st Street West, Milan, IL 61264

Name: _____

Your mailing address: _____

Phone Number: _____

T-Shirt cost Adult: \$20.00 each, Children 12 and under \$10.00.

T-Shirt Size: _____

Make your Check or Money order out to; **American Legion Veterans Awareness walk 22. All money will be considered a donation.**

Mail your registration or donation money to; **4010 30th Street, Rock Island, Illinois 61201 (attn.: Rick Schomer Awareness Walk 22).**

***Fill one registration form per person.

Thank you very much for your support.

The walk will consist of; 5K (2.2) miles through Milan, IL. On May 13th 2017 Registration time: 9:00 am, Walk time: 11:00 am, Location: Milan American Legion, 515 1st Ave West, Milan, IL 61264. The walk includes; T-shirt, Water, fruit and snacks, Coupled with a really good time. All proceeds will help the American Legion Disaster Relief Fund for Veterans and Adonai Community Support Services of the Quad Cities Veterans. Let's walk together so that we can make our Communities, State and Nation aware of what “22” Means.

**Thanks,
Rick Schomer**

All donations and Registration for walk can be mailed to:
4010 30th Street, Rock Island, Illinois 61201
or may be completed a walk site.

Registration and donations for the walk can be done early or at walk site.

T-Shirt Form or more Information can be obtained on Face Book @ “Veterans Awareness Walk 22” or by calling the event organizer: Rick Schomer (309) 558-0712 or E-Mail: schomer@gmail.com





From The Desk of the
Membership Director
Chad J. Woodburn



American Legion Illinois
Premier Boys State

www.illinoisboysstate.org

Congratulations to Commander Kurt Lepinski and the 7th District for being the first District to reach 100.00%. Outstanding work Commander to you and your membership team. The rest of the top 10 are in a neck to neck race to 100%, what district will be next?

A lot of District's are taking advantage of district revitalization's helping get new members in and bring in member from 2910. They DO work. It takes volunteers to work them, but hardest part is done before we start them, we just need help making phones calls and knocking on doors. Dates are filling up fast for the rest of the membership year, so contact me quick to reserve your dates. In order to reserve a date, the District Commander will need to provide me with the location the revitalization will be held at, the zip codes to be worked and the dates to be worked. I also need to know a rough number of volunteers that will be working and if there will be a service officer there.

Thank you for everyone's hard work on membership this year! Let's keep pushing forward we're almost there!

Have you liked our department Facebook page? If not, please do, The American Legion Department of Illinois is the page address. There is a lot of information that we have started pushing on the page.

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."

---Phil Jackson

April is national volunteer month. We would like to thank each and every one of you for all of your hard work and dedication in assisting us with increasing our awareness in the communities throughout the state. Our team will be meeting this month to discuss and plan for our 82nd session. Just a reminder our session dates are June 10-16, 2017. There is a lot of planning that happens throughout the year leading up to each session. When each session ends, that's when the work begins for the following year. Whether a Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, or Rider member, next to our membership, our veterans and their families, the focus should be on our programs. It is up to us to guide our youth in the right direction to make them into better citizens and servant leaders. When we turn on the news today and watch the rapid deterioration of our society our program of citizenship training is more necessary today than ever before. We as an organizational family must take on the responsibility in rebuilding our society, by beginning with the youth in America. If you are interested in joining our American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State leadership team please feel free to reach out to us via our website. Please contact us with any questions or to inform us of your post, district or division progress. Please remember, our team is here to assist you in any way needed. We will leave you with this quote:

The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth.

American Legion 2017 State Convention Book Application for Ad placement

BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

[Post use only] American Legion Post name: _____ Post No. _____

Slogan Choices: (three choices—choose one)

- ____ 1. We Are Proud To Be Part of
The American Legion Family
- ____ 2. Helping The American Legion
Help American's Veteran's
- ____ 3. We Proudly Stand Behind
The American Legion

Ad Choice: (please choose black & white or color)

- Medal of Honor (full page--7-1/2 x 10 in.)
- Silver Star (half page--7-1/2 x 5 in.)
- Bronze Star (quarter page--3-3/4 x 5 in.)
- Purple Heart (3-3/4 x 3-3/8 in. "Business card")
- Commander Salute (3-3/4 -1-11/16 in.)
- Flag Page (1-3/4 - 1 in.)

Black & White Ad

Color Ad

\$230.00 _____	\$250.00 _____
\$120.00 _____	\$125.00 _____
\$90.00 _____	\$95.00 _____
\$75.00 _____	\$80.00 _____
\$60.00 _____	\$65.00 _____
\$25.00 _____	\$25.00 _____

Method of Payment (please check one) All credit information will be kept confidential

____ Check (Make Check payable to: AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF IL)

Send Check to: American Legion, Dept. of IL 2720 E. Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 61704

____ Credit Card _____

EXP Date: ____ / ____ / ____ Security Code #: ____

Card type: / MC / Visa / AmEx / Disc

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS 2017 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

DIVISION #	NAME OF WINNER	DISTRICT #
DIVISION 1	Nicholas James Lewis	District 8
	Bailey Jane Radnitzer	District 9
	Logan Boven	District 9
	Trevor Konieczny	District 7
	Courtney Harris	District 3
DIVISION 2	Colin Barker	District 12
	Hannah Erickson	District 11
	Alex Wojowicz	District 11
	William Porter	District 11
	Teyler Shere	District 13
DIVISION 3	Kayla Vortman	District 20
	Austin Ator	District 20
	Samuel Killday	District 20
	Caylin Dean	District 20
	Curtis Kilver	District 20
DIVISION 4	Seagan Snow	District 17
	Hannah Kegg	District 18
	Madelyn Allen	District 17
	Haley Allen	District 17
	Clayton Thorne	District 18
DIVISION 5	Kayla Herzing	District 24
	Connor Tincher	District 25
	Faron Bartins	District 25
	Alison Deters	District 23
	Noah Pals	District 23

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Spring D.E.C

1:00 PM

Bloomington, IL

April 8th

~~~

ALA--Junior Conference

April 8th--9th

~~~

Good Friday

DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED

April 14th

~~~

Easter

April 16th

~~~

National Spring Committee &

Commission Meetings

Indianapolis, IN

May 8th--11th

~~~

Armed Forces Day

Cut-off

May 12th

~~~

Mother's Day

May 14th

~~~

Armed Forces Day

May 20th

~~~

Memorial Day

DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED

May 29th

~~~

Illinois Premier Boys State

EIU--CHARLESTON, IL

June 10th--16th

~~~

Flag Day

June 14th

~~~

Father's Day

June 18th

###

**The American Legion Department of Illinois**  
**99<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION JULY 11-16, 2017**  
**-SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS (Mr. Lincoln's Hometown)-**

**HOUSING RESERVATION FORM**

All reservations **MUST** be made directly with the **hotel housing your respective Division** on or before **June 20, 2017**. 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. **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 AT BOTH HOTELS**

| <u>HOTEL</u>                                     | <u>DIVISION</u>                                                         | <u>RATE</u>                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>WYNDHAM SPRINGFIELD</b>                       | <b>1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>\$107.00 plus tax (currently 12%)</b> |
| <b>City Centre (formerly Hilton Springfield)</b> |                                                                         | <b>(\$119.84 per night with tax)</b>     |

700 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/789-1530

Reservation- Mail this form to the Wyndham Springfield or via internet and linking up to [www.wyndham.com/groupevents2017/49084\\_2017AMERICANLEGIONSTATECONVENTION/main.wnt](http://www.wyndham.com/groupevents2017/49084_2017AMERICANLEGIONSTATECONVENTION/main.wnt) or you may also call 217/789-1530 and select the RESERVATIONS OPTION and advise the reservationist of Group Code **07107027AL** and/or the group name "2017 American Legion State Convention"

**PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPRINGFIELD**

|                                    |                                                |                                          |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <i>(A Doubletree by Hilton)</i>    | <b>2<sup>ND</sup> Division &amp; Auxiliary</b> | <b>\$107.00 plus tax (currently 12%)</b> |
| 701 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 |                                                | <b>(\$119.84 per night with tax)</b>     |

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 "ALM". 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 20, 2017.**

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 14<sup>TH</sup> - COMMANDER'S AND PRESIDENT'S DINNER, SATURDAY, JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>**



# Springfield Welcomes the 99th 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  
**99th Annual Convention ~ July 11th–16th, 2017**

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 13th -14th, 2017

# 99th Annual Department Convention

July 11 – 16, 2017 Springfield, Illinois

Join us at the Annual Friday Night

**BEER, SODA,  
FOOD, &  
LIVE MUSIC**

## **FREEDOM FEST**



Friday, July 14, 2017 6:00 PM - 11:30 PM

DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD IN THE ROADWAY BETWEEN THE TWO CONVENTION HOTELS  
700 Block of E. Adams

**\$\$\$ NO COVER CHARGE \$\$\$ Featuring the band "RANSOM"**

Everyone is invited to help Commander Cheri and President Luella  
Celebrate their Conventions and Year of Service!!

## Chaplain's Conference



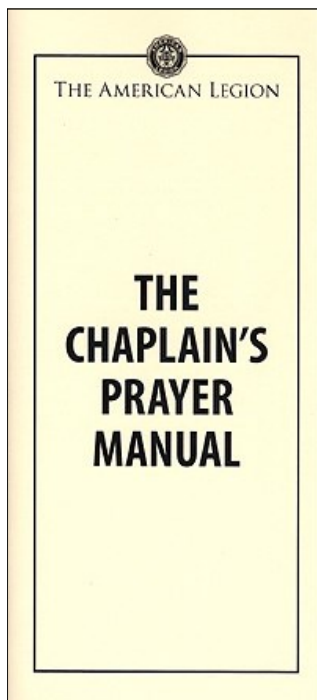
**Thursday,  
July 13, 2017**

**10:00 AM**

~

**11:00 AM**

Prairie  
Capitol  
Convention  
Center  
Springfield, IL  
Room  
B-6 East



Party In Honor of  
*Department Commander Cheri L. Stanton*

Thanking Commander Cheri  
for her year of Service!

Thursday, July 13, 2017  
6 PM – 12 AM

Springfield Post 32  
1120 Sangamon Avenue



**EVERYONE**

**WELCOME !**

*The Mess Hall Restaurant*

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

Hours of  
Operation

Lunch Monday—Friday: 11:00 am—2:00 pm **PLUS**  
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.

# District Outstanding Chaplain Award



Nominate yours today



TO: DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Under the direction of Department Chaplain Virgil Oikion, with the sanction of the Religious Emphasis Committee and the delegated authority of the Department Commander Cheri L. Stanton, Chaplains who have done an outstanding job during the past Legion year will be awarded the Chaplain's Cross or Star of David. Department Commander Stanton and Department Chaplain Oikion will present the award to the selected chaplains at the Department Convention Memorial Service which will be held on July 15, 2017. Each District Commander, with the advice of their Executive Committee, is requested to select one individual from their district who is serving in the capacity of a Post, County, District or Division Chaplain and who has specifically gone beyond merely performing his or her normal obligations of leading prayers at meetings.

This will be the 27th year that the Chaplain's Cross or Star of David will be awarded to outstanding Chaplains at the Department Convention. It is the Department Commander's and Department Chaplain's expectations that each District will nominate an individual worthy of its receipt. Each District Commander is requested to complete the Nomination Form with an optional short narrative about the Chaplain's work. If you determine that there is no one in your District to nominate, please indicate that on the nomination form, sign it and return it to Department Headquarters before June 9, 2017.

## District Chaplain's Award Nomination Form for 2016-2017

⇒ District # \_\_\_\_\_ Nominates

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Nominee)

of Post # \_\_\_\_\_ for recognition as an outstanding Chaplain from said District.

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ We have no one to nominate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(District Commander signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

This form **must** be signed by the District Commander and sent in to the American Legion Department Headquarters Office in Bloomington, Illinois

**MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN**  
**JUNE 9, 2017**

Nominations are accepted by mail only. Please **DO NOT** call in your Nominations.



The American Legion Family  
2017  
State Golf Tournament

# SAVE THE DATE

## August 5-6, 2017

### THE AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION HOSPITALITY LOCATIONS 2017

**28th Floor Presidential**

**3rd Division Hospitality**  
to be w/Department Commander Stanton  
(3rd Division Commander Kevin Kilkenny)

**Rendezvous Room**  
(Mezzanine Level Wyndham)

**1st Division** (Commander Gary D. Whyte)  
Note: Room has bar and refrigerator.  
Will get ice from machine in Plaza 3 Room.

**VISTAS 1, 2 & 3**  
(29th Floor Wyndham)

**2nd Division** (Commander John W. Davis Jr.)  
Note: Ice Machine and refrigerator located in attached kitchen.

**VISTAS 4, 5 & 6**  
(29th Floor Wyndham)

**4th Division** (Commander Ronald L. Dudley)  
Note: Ice Machine and refrigerator located in attached kitchen

**Embassy Room**  
(Lower Level Wyndham)

**5th Division** (Commander Roy E. Smith)  
Note: Refrigerator is located in Ambassador Room Kitchen.

**PLAZA 1 & 2**  
(Mezzanine Level Wyndham)

**12th District** (Commander Dave Davis)  
Note: This room will get ice from ice machine in Plaza 3. **If available,** a Refrigerator will be placed in this room by Wyndham.

**PLAZA 3**  
(Mezzanine Level Wyndham)

**11th District** (11th District Cmdr Tony Arellano)  
Note: Ice machine and refrigerator located in this room.

Mike Walton, Convention Director  
September 6, 2016

Please Note: Wyndham Springfield City Centre will supply refrigerators **if available.** If they have to "rent" them, the Person/Division/District will be responsible for the rental fee.

**AGENT ORANGE AWARENESS RIDE**  
MICHAEL RAGUSA MEMORIAL RUN

**MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> - 9AM**  
**AMVETS POST 169**

\$15.00 RIDER \$5.00 PASSENGER (PRE-REGISTERED)  
\$25.00 RIDER 5.00 PASSENGER (DAY OF EVENT)

**MICHAEL RAGUSA MEMORIAL RIDE FOR AGENT ORANGE AWARENESS**

**REGISTRATION: 09:00 - 11:00 HOURS**

**BREAKFAST PROVIDED BY AMVETS AUXILIARY: BISCUITS & GRAVY \$ 5.00 8AM - 10AM**

**LOCATION: AMVETS POST 169 - 660 RADIO CITY DR. NORTH PEKIN**

**COST: \$15.00 RIDER \$5.00 PASSENGER (PRE-REGISTERED)  
\$25.00 RIDER \$5.00 PASSENGER (DAY OF EVENT)**

**LAST BIKE IN 17:00 HOURS (5PM)**

**LIVE MUSIC PROVIDED BY: TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**RAFFLE: \$500.00 VOUCHER FOR WINNER'S CHOICE AT 50/50 DRAWING - VENDORS**



**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS**



**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL VETS FOR VETS RIDE**

ALL RIDERS, PUBLIC, AND VEHICLES WELCOME • OUR VETS HAVE SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR US - LET'S RIDE FOR THEM

**ZACHARY LEE CRAWFORD FOUNDATION**

**DATE: JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
**TIME: 09:00AM**

All proceeds will go to the local Zachary Lee Crawford Foundation in effort to fund Service Dogs for Local Veterans with PTSD

**START AND REGISTRATION: BASS PRO PARKING LOT EAST PEORIA, IL**

**REGISTRATION: 09:00AM - 11:00AM**  
**LAST BIKE IN BY 17:30 (5:30PM)**  
**\$15.00 RIDER \$5.00 PASSENGER**

Raffle Tickets 5.00 per ticket or 5 for 20.00 (Drawn @ 7pm)  
Firearm Transfer handled by Midwestern Firearms

S&W M&P Sport 15 - 5.56 NATO

Tickets can be purchased from any member of the Vets for Vets Rider's Coalition or at day of ride

**RIDE COORDINATED BY VETS FOR VETS RIDER'S COALITION**

**COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE (CIB) LICENSE PLATES NOW AVAILABLE**



**To Apply you need:**

- ◆ A photocopy of DD214 (discharge from military service) indicating receipt of the Combat Infantryman or a letter from the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the federal government verifying service is required.
- ◆ The request can only be processed in Springfield. Apply in person or mail the proper documentation to: Secretary of State Special Plates Division #520 ATTN: Ms. Amy Moser 501 S. 2nd St. Howlett Building, Room 541 Springfield, Illinois 62756

Ph: (217) 782-7758 EMAIL: amoser@ilsos.net

[http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/vehicles/license\\_plate\\_guide/military/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/vehicles/license_plate_guide/military/home.html)

## 2016—2017 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

| DATE                 | DIST. / DIV.  | TIME     | HOST POST                                               | CITY              |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 04/01/2017           | 14TH DISTRICT | 1:00 PM  | PLYMOUTH POST 912                                       | PLYMOUTH          |
| 04/02/2017           | 23RD DISTRICT | 1:00 PM  | SALEM POST 128                                          | SALEM             |
| 04/12/2017           | 2ND DISTRICT  | 7:30 PM  | FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT POST 923                      | CHICAGO           |
| 04/19/2017           | 7TH DISTRICT  | 7:30 PM  | EVANSTON POST 42                                        | EVANSTON          |
| 04/21/2017           | 10TH DISTRICT | 7:00 PM  | LIBERTYVILLE POST 329                                   | LIBERTYVILLE      |
| 04/26/2017           | 9TH DISTRICT  | 7:30 PM  | SCHILLER PARK POST 104                                  | SCHILLER PARK     |
| 04/27/2017           | 3RD DISTRICT  | 7:00 PM  | ILLIANA POST 220                                        | CHICAGO           |
| 04/27/2017           | 8TH DISTRICT  | 8:00 PM  | THORNTON POST 1070                                      | THORNTON          |
| 05/07/2017           | 21ST DISTRICT | 1:00 PM  | CHATHAM POST 759 (CONVENTION)                           | CHATHAM           |
| 05/10/2017           | 2ND DISTRICT  | 5:30 PM  | CZECH PLAZA RESTAURANT                                  | BERWYN            |
| 05/17/2017           | 7TH DISTRICT  | 7:30 PM  | MORTON GROVE POST 134 (POST EVERLASTING)                | MORTON GROVE      |
| 05/19/2017           | 10TH DISTRICT | 7:00 PM  | LAKE REGION POST 703<br>(CONVENTION & POST EVERLASTING) | FOX LAKE          |
| 05/20-<br>05/21/2017 | 19TH DISTRICT | 1:00 PM  | SELBYVILLE POST 81 (CONVENTION)                         | SHELBYVILLE       |
| 05/21/2017           | 16TH DISTRICT | 10:00 AM | WASHINGTON POST 100 (CONVENTION)                        | WASHINGTON        |
| 05/21/2017           | 18TH DISTRICT | UNKNOWN  | GEORGETOWN POST 203                                     | GEORGETOWN        |
| 05/21/2017           | 20TH DISTRICT | 10:00 AM | WINCHESTER POST 442                                     | WINCHESTER        |
| 05/21/2017           | 22ND DISTRICT | 1:00 PM  | COLLINSVILLE POST 365 (CONVENTION)                      | COLLINSVILLE      |
| 05/24/2017           | 9TH DISTRICT  | 7:30 PM  | MERLE GUILD POST 208                                    | ARLINGTON HEIGHTS |
| 05/25/2017           | 3RD DISTRICT  | 7:00 PM  | FRED SCHWEITZER POST 272                                | CHICAGO           |
| 05/25/2017           | 8TH DISTRICT  | 8:00 PM  | EVERGREEN PARK POST 854                                 | EVERGREEN PARK    |
| 05/28/2017           | 13TH DISTRICT | 1:00 PM  | STOCKTON POST 449 (CONVENTION)                          | STOCKTON          |
| 06/03/2017           | 4TH DIVISION  | 7:00 PM  | FARMER CITY POST 55                                     | FARMER CITY       |

**NOTE:** Remember if any changes or updates regarding your District/Division meetings occur please contact Joy Wilson at 309-663-0361 or email: [joywilson@illegion.org](mailto:joywilson@illegion.org)

# ★ DATES TO REMEMBER ★

- ★ Boys State--June 10th--16th, 2017
- ★ Illini Girls State--June 18th--24th, 2017
- ★ Youth Police--June 25th--30th, 2017
- ★ Department Convention--July 12-15, 2017

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
BLOOMINGTON, IL  
PERMIT No. 18

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS  
P.O. BOX 2910  
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61702

PUBLISHED MONTHLY \*

Phone: 309-663-0361 Fax: 309-663-5783  
Email: hdqs@illegion.org Web: www.illegion.org

Department Commander Department Editor  
CHERIL STANTON MARTY CONATSER

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

\* One year Subscription to the Department News  
\$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.

Department of Illinois ~ Official Member of The National American Legion Press Association

## APRIL TRIVIA?

1. What president opined: "Once you get into this great stream of history you can't get out"?
2. Who was the first president to utter "We shall overcome" before a joint session of Congress?
3. What future president was the only U.S. senator from a Confederate state to remain in Congress after secession?
4. What president's mug graces a \$100,000 bill?
5. The unsuccessful landing by US troops in April 1961 was where?

## ANSWERS:

1. Richard Nixon.
2. Lyndon B. Johnson.
3. Andrew Jackson.
4. Woodrow Wilson.
5. Bay of Pigs.



Check us out on Social Media!



# Happy Easter

*Please Remember and Pray for our Service men and women who cannot be with their families during the holidays.*

