

Department News

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



2016-2017 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CHERI L. STANTON

AUGUST 2016



2016 - 2017 Illinois American Legion Family Leadership



*American Legion Department Commander
Cheri L. Stanton
Monmouth Post 136*



*American Legion Department Sr Vice Commander
Robert "Bob" Henderson
Urbana Post 71*



*ABA Department President
Luella Buske
State Police Unit 1922*



*SAB Detachment Commander
Philip Shipley
Champaign Squadron 287*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District Commander

**NO
MEMBERSHIP
RANKINGS
AT THIS
TIME.**

Division Commander



From The Desk of Department Commander Cheri L. Stanton



Illinois finally made history. I want to thank everyone who took the time to come to the Convention and actually voted. My family was impressed with all the official workings of the Convention. This year 75 members of my family came for the installation and got to view the electoral process first hand. I told them they broke the record for the most actual family members attending.

This year is "the year of the family" for our American Legion. My pin says "JUST ASK" and it has the whole families emblems on it. AFTERALL, EVERYONE LIKES TO TALK ABOUT THEIR FAMILY. I thought it could be a focal point of conversation to get new members.

With the 100th year Celebration coming soon, we need to get out the word about what our family does for

the Community. There are many things we do to help out the Community--use our hall for meetings and wedding receptions, reunions, dinners, and our own meeting place. We should start interviewing some of our older veterans to print their stories in the local papers with first hand experiences. Many times we read a line or two in obituaries about men and women who served but we had no clue they were even veterans. Let's get their stories out there!

Keeping with the family theme, how about hosting a Community American Legion Picnic at the park or your post depending on the heat? Put it in the local paper that everyone needs to bring their own table service and a dish to pass that serves twelve. The Legion could serve water, tea, and lemonade. You could tell them about our 100th year Celebration coming up and ask "What does the American Legion mean to you or how has the American Legion impacted your family?" Invite all local papers to attend to record ideas. The

more we blow our own horns, the more we will attract members.

If your Community is huge, go to the National Guard and invite them to attend a dinner with their families that is sponsored by your post. Make sure you contact their CO and explain the invitation is for the soldiers and their families...make posters to put up telling date and time. Have spaghetti or something easy to fix and ask them the same questions. We can't get the younger members if we don't invite the families.

I hope to see you at the State Fair. Look for our booth. The Auxiliary will have one right beside us. The image of our American Legion is changing for the better. WE ARE NO LONGER A BUNCH OF OLD MEN DRINKING AT A BAR, WE ARE THE NEW FAMILY GENERATION.



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Bob Henderson



I hope everyone had a good time at convention. It is over for this year and I was elected Sr. Vice. We need to get right into membership, that is the back bone of the American Legion. I have made contact with the Division Commanders on revitalizations for there divisions.

Hopefully we can get them started as soon as possible, Its not to early to think about the first cut-off Date for membership which is September 16, 2016. Get your membership cards into

Department, **don't hold them.** We want to remember the Post 100% cash awards for membership. This is an incentive to get your post 100% by November 14, 2016 or December 31, 2016. The District Commanders will be visiting your Posts, just ask them about this incentive.

I will be going to Indianapolis for the National Membership Workshop this month, hopefully I will learn some new ideas about recruiting new members. The Jr. Shooting Sports National Championship will be in July along with the State Baseball Tournament.

Starting out in August on the 6th & 7th will be the American Legion Golf Tournament at Danville, get a four-

some up and join in the fun. Then on August 14th we will be at the State Fair for Veterans Day, Come and join the veterans, the American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL & the Riders. You get in free along with your family with a valid ID. Don't forget the National Convention in Cincinnati, OH., that is August 26th to the 31st come and join in on the FUN.



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Luella Buske



W

ow!!! July 16, 2016 will be a day I will never forget. I am so proud and excited to be the new American Legion Auxiliary Department President. Congratulations to The American Legion Commander, Cheri Stanton and Sons of The American Legion Commander Phil Shipley. We have all been friends for years. I know we will work well together to promote the American Legion Family and make 2016-2017 a very successful year.

The American Legion Family does so many Great things to help & support our Veterans, their Families and their Communities. The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Amer-

icanism, and Children & Youth programs are our Four Pillars and our Foundation. We have built on that foundation with many other great programs such as Boys/Girls State, Youth Police School, Community Service, and Education to name a few. With all this great work people should be coming to us and asking us how to join? I think they would be if they knew. That is why we should always wear our emblem. When people ask about it be prepared to tell them Who we are, What we do, and Why it matters!

I have chosen a theme of "Serving and Protecting Those Who Serve and Protect." The American Legion Auxiliary is honoring Law Enforcement this year. I have picked two programs to be our special project this year. One is the Education Committee. Every year we seem to be short funds to award schol-

arships to deserving young people, hopefully this year we will not have to deny anyone because of the lack of funds. The other is The Youth Police School, this is one of the best kept secrets of The Legion Family. This is a week for young people, 14 – 16, to learn about Law Enforcement and what it means to be an officer. They come away with an idea of the amount of training and dedication it takes to be an officer. The Illinois State Police and The American Legion team up to make this a truly life changing week. Also the Illinois National Guard provides PT and guidance throughout the week. The Auxiliary Members that serve as chaperones for the young ladies and the Retired ISP Officers who are now members of SAL all work together to make this an ISP and American Legion Family project.

(ALA President continued on page 14)



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Shipley



Hello! My name is Phil Shipley, and I was elected as the Son's latest Detachment Commander at the Fifty-third annual Detachment Convention of the Illinois Sons of The American Legion, held in Wauconda, Illinois, June 24 - 26, 2016. I am proud to be serving as Commander and will strive hard to continue the traditions of service to our Veterans, our children, and our communities passed down from past generations of The American Legion Family.

The theme for the upcoming Illinois S A L year will be - "Shooting for Membership"!

My membership to the Sons of The American Legion spans over seventeen

years of continuous service for God and Country.

My eligibility in the Sons of The American Legion is through my deceased father, C. Robert Shipley a Vietnam veteran, and grandfathers C. Lee Richards, and George Ernest Shipley, both of whom served in the US Army in World War One.

I want to start by thanking all of our veterans, our Illinois Legionnaires! Thank you for your service. To our dual members, thank you for your commitment to The American Legion Family.

I am a retired employee of the University of Illinois where I worked as an Building Service Worker at the Illini Union facility in Urbana Illinois.

I have always been active in the programs and activities of the Sons of The American Legion. I have served my Squadron, District, Division and Detachment in many positions and

with many responsibilities. I have been a member of many committees and commissions, serving as Detachment Promoter for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and the Children's Miracle Network. I served as Detachment Historian for eight years where I was also an ex-officio member of the Contest, Committee. I have just completed my first year of the SAL National Management Institute and hope to graduate that course in 2018. I wish to thank my friends and family for their support, love, and patience. Without them to guide and encourage me, my climb through the chairs of the Sons of The American Legion from the Squadron to the Detachment level would not have been possible!

Since 1932 the Sons of The American Legion have been vital part

(SAL Detachment Cmdr. continued on page 14)



Did You Know?

Office: 312-980-4266 Email: Raymond.Toczec@va.gov

That our annual state convention is now over and it was a great time to meet our comrades from all over Illinois. As service officers for the Department it was also a good time for Wayne Macejak, Bill Slider, Carolina Contreras and myself to converse with other post service officers. These are your four Department service officers in the Chicago VA&R office. We had a table in the display area during the convention and we had lots of foot traffic. There were many interesting questions, rumors and concerns. Some of these rumors and questions have been covered in my previous articles but we came back from Springfield with some brand new ones or updates on old ones. Here they are:

1. I receive VA non-service connected pension. I turned 66 and started drawing my Social Security. I don't have to tell the VA since they are the government and will find out. TRUE BUT. Yes they will be notified by Social Security but this only happens once a year. In the meantime you are being overpaid and will be asked for the money back. Under the pension program changes in income must be reported immediately.
2. I just went through a messy divorce. I had my lawyer change my will and I took him off my VA life insurance. That's good, right? NO. Changes to government life insurance must be made in writing to the Veterans Administration. Wills are not binding for changes.
3. I received a Purple Heart in Vietnam for grazing shrapnel wound. It was minor and the scar is hard to even see. The Veterans Health Administration hospital told me I couldn't use them because I wasn't service-connected disabled and my income was too high. FALSE. Any veteran who received a Purple Heart for any kind of injury, big or small is eligible and should be placed in Category 3.
4. My first husband died back in the 60's and he is buried in a National Cemetery. I have remarried and we are making our burial arrangements. Can my current spouse also be buried in the same cemetery? YES. There is no limit to the number of deceased spouses being buried. As far as we know the record for an Illinois veteran is five!
5. I have heard that servicemen and women who served at Camp Lejeune for over 29 days between 1/1/53 and 12/31/87 days are now eligible for some benefits, is that true? YES. These veterans can now be placed in category 6 at the hospital. Also, there are pending regulations to grant some service-connected compensation for certain cancers and other diseases as a result of the drinking water. This is a work in progress so veterans are advised to continue reading their monthly American Legion magazine for important changes.
6. I applied for a hearing loss but was granted only 0%. Guess I can't get hearing aids. FALSE. A zero percent rating for a hearing loss makes you eligible for the aids.
7. You guys in Chicago did your best for my claim but it was denied. Can I get a lawyer to help with an appeal? YES. Although our office would be happy to help you in the appeal stage we understand some veterans prefer to hire a lawyer. Some of the larger firms have medical doctors on staff that can give expert opinions on claims. They can also sometimes track down an old military buddy for affidavits. We do our best with the resources we have in the Chicago office but we never feel bad if you go this route, especially if in the long run you are granted the benefit.

I could go on and on but have to stop now. Our staff was happy to have met so many of our comrades at the convention and thanks for stopping at our table. See you next year. And since we were so close to the Lincoln museum I'll close with a quote from our sixteenth president.

IN THE END IT'S NOT THE YEARS IN YOUR LIFE THAT COUNT BUT THE LIFE IN YOUR YEARS.

— ABRAHAM LINCOLN

From The Desk of the Membership Director Chad J. Woodburn



Welcome to a new membership year! Commander Cheri has set our goal of 103% this year, and with team work from everyone, it can be accomplished.

Communication is one key to success in any organization, and we are no different. We here in headquarters are here to assist you in any way we can. But, we do not know how to fix something, if we do not know what is broken. Do not hesitate to call the membership office with any questions.

I was approached at convention with requests for revitalizations. We are blocking out dates now and will try our best to get to as many districts as we can. If your district is chosen, be ready to work and have fun.

Remember, membership is everyone's responsibility. Commander Cheri's year will be "year of the family". We need to take advantage of this to try and draw families in to get

more involved in legion activities. We need to start thinking "outside the box" when it comes to ideas to try and draw new members in, and this year will be a perfect time to try new ideas. Street fairs, county fairs etc. get involved in your community and show them what we are about.

We will have a booth at the State Fair on August 14th. Stop by our booth and see us, and stay to march in the veteran's parade in the afternoon. Bring your family and they can march with you.

*"The strength of the team is each individual member.
The strength of each member is the team."*
— **Phil Jackson**

Look for us on **FACEBOOK** , **TWITTER** and **INSTAGRAM**



From The Desk of American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State
Vice Chairman Joe Mcbraith

www.illinoisboysstate.org

The 81st session of American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State (ALIPBS) is in the books. It was a successful week. There have been several positive comments from the young men about their week at Eastern. It was good to hear how much they enjoyed the Boys State experience. It tells us that we are doing a good job.

As the school year is about to begin I would urge you to contact your person at the school and thank them for their help in recruiting the young men. Also remind them that you will be in contact with them this fall about setting up dates to talk to the young men about the 2017 program. It is never to early to get this in motion.

The brochures and applications have been printed and are available from Department. Contact the Department HQ

Print shop or Joy Wilson for the ALIPBS materials.

Our fall meeting is in August at Department HQ. We will be discussing the 2016 session and begin preparing for the 2017 session.

We are pleased that our numbers increased this year, but we still need more participation. See if you can get one more young man to attend the 2017 session than you sent this year. The cost for the program remains at \$250.00. Unless we can continue to increase our numbers the cost will have to increase in the coming years.

Again, thank you for all you do for the American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State program. Because of the hard work of the Legion posts the program would not be successful.

The 2017 American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State Brochure & Application is now available

2016 Dept. Photo Contest Winners		
1ST DIVISION		
1ST PLACE	JOHN BROGAN	\$100
2ND PLACE	NO ADDT'L ENTRIES--NO AWARD	\$75
3RD PLACE	NO ADDT'L ENTRIES--NO AWARD	\$50
4TH PLACE	NO ADDT'L ENTRIES--NO AWARD	\$25
2ND DIVISION		
1ST PLACE	EMERY E. WOLFF	\$100
2ND PLACE	VIKKI MEYERS	\$75
3RD PLACE	RICHARD YNDESTAD	\$50
4TH PLACE	VIKKI MEYERS	\$25
3RD DIVISION		
1ST PLACE	DAVID A. SCOTT, SR.	\$100
2ND PLACE	DAVID A. SCOTT, SR.	\$75
3RD PLACE	LOIS E. BIGHAM	\$50
4TH PLACE	DAVID A. SCOTT, SR.	\$25
4TH DIVISION		
1ST PLACE	MELINDA BECK	\$100
2ND PLACE	NO ADDT'L ENTRIES--NO AWARD	\$75
3RD PLACE	NO ADDT'L ENTRIES--NO AWARD	\$50
4TH PLACE	NO ADDT'L ENTRIES--NO AWARD	\$25
5TH DIVISION		
1ST PLACE	JEFFERY ROSCOW	\$100
2ND PLACE	LOU PELUSO	\$75
3RD PLACE	PHILIP H. METTE	\$50
4TH PLACE	LOU PELUSO	\$25

2017 Calendar Winners			
MONTH	NAME	DIV.	AWARD
COVER	PHILIP H. METTE	5	\$75
JANUARY	DAVID A. SCOTT, SR.	3	\$75
FEBRUARY	JOHN BROGAN	1	\$75
MARCH	LOU PELUSO	5	\$75
APRIL	MELINDA BECK	4	\$75
MAY	VIKKI MEYERS	2	\$75
JUNE	EMERY E. WOLFF	2	\$75
JULY	LOU PELUSO	5	\$75
AUGUST	DAVID A. SCOTT, SR.	3	\$75
SEPTEMBER	RICHARD YNDESTAD	2	\$75
OCTOBER	LOIS E. BIGHAM	3	\$75
NOVEMBER	VIKKI MEYERS	2	\$75
DECEMBER	JEFFREY ROSCOW	5	\$75

Veterans Day at the Illinois State Fair

Veterans & their families are admitted to the grounds for free. A veterans parade and activities are some of the highlights for the day. Opening Veterans Day Ceremony is held on Lincoln Stage

August 14, 2016



9:30 AM—10:30 AM	MEMORIAL SERVICE 144th Army Band—5 Star Brass Quintet—Lincoln Stage
10:00 AM—4:00 PM	IDVA BENEFITS EXPO —The Shed
10:30 AM—12:00 NOON	JROTC EXHIBITION DRILL TEAM COMPETITION Armed & Unarmed—On street between Lincoln Stage and The Shed
10:30AM—11:45 AM	KIDS CORNER —Bounce House, Crafts, Face Painting, Balloon Animals Near Lincoln Stage
12:00 NOON—1:15 PM	OFFICAL PROGRAM Keynote Speaker—Dr. Ann E. Rondeau President College of DuPage, Vice Admiral (ret) United States Navy 144th Army Band—5 Star Brass Quintet—Lincoln Stage
1:00 PM—2:00 PM	LUNCH Served to Veterans and Families * Sponsored by USAA—The Shed
1:15 PM—4:00 PM	KIDS CORNER —Bounce House, Crafts, Face Painting, Balloon Animals Near Lincoln Stage
1:30 PM—3:00 PM	JROTC EXHIBITION DRILL TEAM COMPETITION Armed & Unarmed—On street between Lincoln Stage and The Shed
3:00 PM—3:30 PM	MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT Cicero Sisters—Lincoln Stage
3:30 PM—4:00 PM	JROTC DRILL COMPETITION AWARDS CEREMONY Lincoln Stage
5:00 PM	VETERANS DAY PARADE Illinois & Grandstand Ave.

Illinois Hiring event matches employers with Job-seeking Veterans



Some 90 employers filled rooms at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Ill., on July 15 for a hiring event organized by The American Legion Department of Illinois.

"We've been doing this (job fair) for three years, and this is the first time we've had 90 employers. Last year it was somewhere around

70," said Gary Jenson, Assistant Adjutant for the American Legion Department of Illinois. "And this year we also have ... over 260 jobs that are available right now. Now we just need the veterans to come in and apply for these jobs."

Held in conjunction with the department's state convention, the hiring event was supported by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and Hero 2 Hired.

"I'd like to say a special thanks to The American Legion, who puts this together and asks the partners to help so that we can supply an opportunity for the people looking for jobs, and to highlight the fact that you are looking for qualified candidates to keep our America strong," Dolores Simon, IDES deputy director for business services, told employers at the start of the event.

Maj. Gen. Richard Hayes Jr., Adjutant General for the Illinois National Guard, also thanked employers for taking their "valuable time" to find veterans and other job-seekers to fill jobs in their companies.

"We're starting to see a lot of veterans come through the transition assistance centers looking for jobs (due to military downsizing). Veterans are looking for jobs ... they want to be utilized in a productive way," Hayes said.

While a later portion of the job fair was open to the general public, veterans were allowed in first to the free event.

Jenson noted that veterans have a lot of qualifications and skills beyond those of a civilian job seeker.

"A lot of our veterans are trained to work as a team, and they're also trained to do individual work. The military equipment that they are sometimes in charge of is multi-million dollar equipment that really the civilians have no idea how to manage or operate," Hayes said.

He also noted that requirements of serving in the military--not calling in sick, getting to work on time--can make veterans more reliable employees than some civilians.

Hayes echoed that to employers, telling them that veterans are "all mission-focused, so whatever you're trying to achieve, you lay it out to them, they're going to run to it."

Here is a break down on how our Hiring event this year went:

- 86 Employers/Service Agencies
 - 221 Job Orders
 - 233 Job Seekers of those ***101** were Veterans
 - 83 Surveys returned
 - 558 Resumes accepted
 - 114 Interviews were conducted
 - 9 Provisional / Conditional job offers
 - 33 Firm Offers extended
 - 254 estimated hires within the next year
- I think we were a good resource for our veterans in helping them find a job.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



American Legion Baseball
Regional Tournaments
August 3rd--7th

(Alton Post 126 Host)

~ ~ ~

American Legion Golf Tournament

August 6th--7th

Danville, IL

~ ~ ~

ALA--Fall Board Meeting

August 6th--7th

~ ~ ~

90th American Legion
Baseball World Series

August 11th--16th

Shelby, NC

~ ~ ~

Veterans Day @ State Fair

August 14th

Springfield, IL

~ ~ ~

American Legion Legacy Run

August 21st--25th

(INDY to CINCINNATI)

~ ~ ~

45th Ntl. SAL Convention

August 26th--29th

(Cincinnati, OH)

~ ~ ~

98th Ntl. Convention

August 26th--September 1st

(Cincinnati, OH)

~ ~ ~

Labor Day

Dept. Office Closed

September 5th

~ ~ ~

Dept. Commanders Cmte/Cmsn.

Appointments Meetings

With Division Cmdrs.

@ Dept. HQ

September 7th

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American Legion State Golf Tournament

Danville, IL

August 6 & 7, 2016

Entry Deadline: July 15th

(Late entries accepted if availability)



Harrison Park
GOLF COURSE

Brock Burton, GCSAA
1300 W. Voorhees St.
Danville, IL 61832
(217) 431-2266

Opening Ceremonies

Saturday, August 6

8:00 AM

Harrison Park Golf Course

American Legion Riders, Presentation of Colors,
Fly-Over, National Anthem, Marine Corps
League & Post Honor Guard

All Golfers need to register/check-in
at Harrison Park Golf Course
on Saturday!



AJ Shannon, PGA
332 E. Liberty Lane
Danville, IL 61832
(217) 442-8876

Entry Fee: \$125 per player

Includes: Sat & Sun rounds, cart fees, golf shirt, Saturday
Meal and Prize money

Meal for Significant Other is \$12 each

Format: 4-person scramble

(2 of 4 must be American Legion member in good standing)

Flighted after 1st day

Starting Times: Tee times begin at 9:00 AM (Sat & Sun, both courses)

Tee times will be arranged by preference and geographic distance

Days Hotel & Conference Center
77 N. Gilbert Street
Danville, IL 61832
(217) 443-6600

Tournament Rate: \$72.50 per night

Sleep Inn & Suites
361 Lynch Drive
Danville, IL 61832
(217) 442-6600

Tournament Rate: \$79.49 per night

American Legion
State Golf
PO Box 894
Danville, IL 61832



Tournament Director:

Gregg Alpers
(217) 274-3763

**For the Golf Tournament Registration Form go to: www.illegion.org
- or - contact Department Headquarters at 309-663-0361**

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Drawing July 16, 2016

1st PLACE	\$10,000	William Marquardt
2nd PLACE	\$5,000	Thomas Connelly
3rd PLACE	\$2,500	Brett Lovelace
4th PLACE	\$1,500	William Busby
5th PLACE	\$1,000	Kenneth Spear
6th PLACE	\$1,000	Thomas Berghold
7th PLACE	\$750	Jerry Farthing
8th PLACE	\$750	Cherie Flowers
9th PLACE	\$500	David J. White
10th PLACE	\$500	John Kovach
11th PLACE	\$250	Dale Brahm
12th PLACE	\$250	Ronald Rench
13th PLACE	\$100	Robert Will
14th PLACE	\$100	Richard Bauman
15th PLACE	\$100	William Reed
16th PLACE	\$100	Gene Surace
17th PLACE	\$100	Larry Curry
18th PLACE	\$100	John Stefancik
19th PLACE	\$100	Rhonda Johnson
20th PLACE	\$100	Dennis Howard
21st PLACE	\$100	Howard Griffith
22nd PLACE	\$100	Kandy Umdenstock
	\$25,000	

Department of Illinois Youth Police Program

Springfield, IL - The 2016 Youth Police School was held June 26th to July 1st with 48 cadets attending, 15 were girls. This is a joint venture with The American Legion Family, Illinois State Police, Department of Military Affairs and other police departments from the area. The cadets were from throughout the state and from many different backgrounds. Cadets had the opportunity to seek answers to questions that will help them better understand why police officers take certain actions. Youth ages 14, 15 and 16 are eligible to attend. The ISP Officers, Legion Family Members and others volunteer to be part of this program, and return year after year. There is a wide variety of class room instruction and demonstrations in areas of crime scene investigations, SWAT team along with Americanism and lots of opportunity for fun. It truly is life changing. Plan now to send youth to the 2017 school.





Commander Stanton Homecoming

Saturday, September 17, 2016

- ◆ Lunch is available @ Legion Post 136--1110 N. 11th
(north east corner of H 34 & N. 11th blue metal building across from airport)
Serving 11:00 AM--1:00 PM (at own expense)
(Hamburgers, fries, & coleslaw)

D. E. C.

- ◆ Department Executive Committee Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
(VFW--830 North G & West Harlem, across from Hospital)

Dinner with Commander

- ◆ Monmouth American Legion Post 136
1110 N. 11th Monmouth, IL 61462
- ◆ Cocktails begin at 6:00 p.m. & Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Entertainment following
- ◆ Business Casual Attire



Dinner Menu: Pork Chop or Rib Eye, Loaded Baked Potato, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Rolls & Butter, Texas Cake Chocolate or White, Coffee & Tea

Dinner: \$25 per person

Make check payable to: **Mary Dauma**

Dinner reservations should be sent to: **Mary Dauma 401 N. C St.
Monmouth, IL 61462**

Deadline: **August 22, 2016**

Questions? Contact Dinner Chairman: **Mary Dauma, 309-221-7786**

Name: _____ Division# _____ District# _____

Address: _____ Phone# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Choice of Meat: _____ Pork Chop _____ Rib Eye

(For Group Seating: Please List Names for table of 8)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Housing

⇒ **Americ Inn**

Monmouth, IL 61462
309-734-9958

Corner of 67 & 34 behind Petie's Restaurant
Individual attendees should make hotel reservations directly with the hotel; Reservation Code is under "American Legion--Cheri Stanton"
Cost is **\$94.90** for double room plus 13% tax.

Cut off date is August 17, 2016.

⇒ **Super 8**

1122 N. 6th St.
Monmouth, IL 61462
309-734-8558

Corner of Highway 34 & 67 across from ShopKo next to County Market
Individual attendees should make hotel reservations directly with the hotel;
Cost is **\$69.88** for double room plus tax.

Cut off date is August 6, 2016.

Also there are three hotels that are on the north edge of Galesburg at 34 & 150 next to the Mall & Target:

⇒ Country Inn & Suites--2284 Promenade Ct.
309-344-444 Have to have a min of 15 rooms for a block with discounts--tell them limited amount of rooms--**call & book early.**

⇒ Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
901 W Carl Sandburg Dr.
309-344-1911

⇒ Quality Inn
907 W Carl Sandburg Dr.
309-344-5445

Book Early!

Governor Rauner Signs Legislation to Expand Driver's License Designation for Veterans



SPRINGFIELD – At the 98th Annual American Legion Department of Illinois Convention in Springfield today, Governor Bruce Rauner signed Senate Bill 2173 to allow National Guard members and reservists to obtain the veteran identifier on their Illinois driver's license.

"Some National Guard members and reservists were concerned when they learned that they did not meet the requirements to receive the veteran identifier on their driver's license," said Governor Rauner. "This bill rights that wrong and ensures that they receive the same benefit as active duty veterans, as they, too, have served and worked to protect our freedoms."

In 2015, the Secretary of State implemented a new law that allowed individuals to have a veteran identifier added to their driver's license to offer a form of tangible recognition for their service to this country.

In order to receive that designation, veterans were required to present a copy of their certificate of release or discharge from active duty, certified and stamped by the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), to the Secretary of State. This left some National Guard members and Reservists unable to have their status verified.

"This bill ensures that every man and woman who has served this state and nation is recognized," said Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Erica Jeffries. "Our veterans have given so much for us, and I am glad Illinois is taking this step to expand designations."

Senate Bill 2173 allows the IDVA to approve additional forms of proof of a veteran's status so that a member of any reserve component or National Guard unit can receive the veteran identifier.

"This legislation is a common-sense way we can connect both active and non-active veterans with the resources they've earned because of their service," said Sen. Pam Althoff (R-McHenry). "Whether they served in active duty or not, their service to our country is beyond what we can ever repay. This is just a small way we can help support them for their sacrifice."

The veteran designation is no additional cost for first-time driver's license applicants and driver's license renewals. If veterans choose to add the designation before their renewal date, they may obtain an updated driver's license for \$5 and an updated ID card for \$10. Veterans over the age of 65 can obtain an updated state ID card at no cost.

SB 2173 is effective immediately.





★ VETERAN DRIVERS LICENSE



Former members of the Guard and Reserve who do not have any periods of active duty other than their initial active duty for training and annual training are now eligible to receive Veteran on their driver's licenses.

In order to receive that designation, veterans of the Guard and reserve are required to present a copy of their certificate of release or discharge from initial active duty, certified and stamped by the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), to the Secretary of State.

Prior to receiving this stamp they must provide documentation of satisfactorily completing the time for which they were contracted to attend monthly drills and annual training.

Presentation of one of the following documents will be accepted as proof of service.

Army or Air National Guard

NGB 22 Report of Separation and Record of Service

Army Reserve

DARP FM 249-2E Chronological Statement of Retirement Points

Navy Reserve

NRPC 1070-124 Annual Retirement Point Record

Air Force Reserve

AF 526 Point Summary Sheet

USMC Reserve

NAVMC 798 Reserve Retirement Credit Report

Coast Guard

CG 4175 Coast Guard Reserve Annual or Terminal Statement of Retirement Points

Veterans are encourage to contact or visit a local IDVA office to obtain assistance obtaining any of the above documents.



Illinois Department of
Veterans Affairs

www.illinois.gov/veterans

1- 800-437-9824

Some American Legion Illinois State Convention Highlights



The Hall of Fame Award went to Ruel Neal Post 79 for "A Week of Remembrance" by hosting the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall in LeRoy, IL— July 21-27, 2015. Community Service Chairman Lomac Payton presented the award to Post Commander Art McCulley and Post Adjutant Wes Payton



Department Chaplain Virgil Oikion places the cap over the rifles in memory of those who have gone onto Post, Squadron and Unit Everlasting during the Memorial Service.



The Terry L. Woodburn American Legion Rider of The Year Award went to Jim Watts, Canton Post 16 (I) , ALR Chairman Wayne Erickson presented this inaugural award.



The Department of Illinois Legionnaire of The Year Award went to Philip Mette, Effingham Post 120 (c), Dept. Cmdr Paul W. Gardner (I), and 5th Div. Cmdr. David Harris (r) both presented the award.

(ALA President continued from page 3)

Soon First Vice President Marsh Haag, Membership Chairman Patti Williamson and I will travel the State on Caravans. We will be informing our members about our programs and collecting membership. Membership is the lifeblood of the organization. Please help us with this. The next time you sign up a new legionnaire, also sign up his Mother, Wife, and Daughters in the Auxiliary. With your help we can be a Goal Department... This will also help with the National Goal to reach a million members! Thank you for your help and I look forward to meeting all of you!

(SAL Detachment Cmdr. continued from page 3)

of the American Legion Family. Imagine that conventions, meetings, dinners, fundraisers, and installations, have been taking place somewhere every year for the past 85 years! **WOW !** Veterans helping veterans, SONS helping children, the entire Legion Family supporting the four Pillars for almost 100 years!

During the coming year, I have decided to focus our support on two American Legion programs.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation: Thanks to the dedicated efforts of all of our members, we will once again be promoting donations to the Child Welfare Foundation, "For the Betterment of Children Everywhere!". **Our Goal? \$10,000.**

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund: The Legacy fund now most identified with American Legion Riders all across this country, is the second program on which we have set our sights. This fund provides college scholarships for the children of veterans who have given their lives in service to our country. Our Goal? \$10,000 I am humbled by your confidence in me to serve as your Detachment Commander this coming year. Please follow me as together we will continue to serve our communities, our children and our Veterans, **"Shooting for Membership!"**



Fillman Family Reunion

Attends Illinois State Convention

Celebrating With Our Newly Elected Commander Cheri B. Stanton



This year the 2016 Fillman Family Reunion took place in Springfield, Illinois. Approximately 75 members of Cheri Stanton's family drove from all parts of the United States for their annual reunion. This reunion had extra special meaning for Cheri, as her family witnessed her being elected The American Legion Department of Illinois Commander.

The Fillman family stated that they all couldn't be more proud to be part of, and happy witness this special event. Especially, Cheri's son Andy, and his family, who drove from Texas. He said there was no way he would have miss this event. Placing the Commander cap on his mom, the first female Department Commander, was a great honor.

The Fillman family members had a terrific time touring many of the monumental sites in and around Springfield. Their family stories, tricks, and games are certainly one of kind. What a hoot this family was, they sure know how to have fun.



Oregon, Illinois youth claim 2016 Legion air rifle titles



Emma Thompson from Illinois takes aim at the Junior Shooting Sports competition sporter division at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado Saturday July 23, 2016. Thompson placed first. Photo by Clay Lomneth.

The precision and sporter champions approached the firing line for The American Legion's 26th annual Junior 3-Position National Air Rifle Championship in Colorado Springs, Colo., July 19-23 in first place with a combined 30-point lead over the next competitor in line. Both girls held their position to win their first Legion air rifle national titles and set records in the process.

Taylor Gibson of Salem, Ore., captured the precision title with an overall score of 2,476.7, and set the Legion's national record for a precision final score of 104.7. And Emma Thompson of Freeport, Ill., captured the sporter title with an overall score of 2,365.1, and set the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps and the Legion's national record for sporter individual three-position score of 575-24x. Gibson and Thompson both received a \$5,000 scholarship provided by the Legion and Sons of The American Legion.

The top eight finalists in both the precision and sporter category shot 10 times in the standing position for the final round of the competition inside the USA Shooting Range at the Olympic Training Center on Saturday morning. Thompson had a significant point lead over her competitors coming into the finals but that wasn't the same for 15-year-old Gibson--there was only a four-point difference between the top precision shooters. With nerves peaking, Gibson mentally prepared by imagining she shot a 10 each time, which she did to maintain her first place status going into the completion.

"I was just going through the match in my head; I wanted to focus on the mental part because shooting is 90 percent mental," Gibson said. "So (before the competition) I was standing without my rifle and going through each individual shot and my shot process; imaging shooting a 10 each time. I've never shot finals like that before, so it was really cool. That was definitely the best I've ever done."

Gibson realized at the ninth shot that she had a chance of claiming the precision title and "got teary eyed, I can do this," she said. "I had never done anything this big before."

Gibson's father, Rob, put a BB gun in her hands at the young age of 5, shooting bottle caps in their backyard, and realized she had a chance of going far with the sport. After a hiatus, Gibson picked up the sport two years ago with the Colonel Allison Junior

Rifle Club. She initially said no to joining the club because she thought shooting was "boring." But her father made her at least try it, and it only "took the one time," Rob said.

Gibson's goal is to go to the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, and the Legion's competition has given her the confidence in her shooting ability to achieve her dreams.

"Coming here definitely mad me realize you have to have confidence; I've always doubted myself," Gibson said. "But I got here, I won, and I set a (personal record), and I never thought I could. I've gained a lot of confidence through this match."

For the 16-year-old Thompson, making it to the Legion's national air rifle competition "has been a lot of hard work, and it's a big milestone winning the (sporter) competition," she said. "it's a big reward for working so hard and pushing myself to get here."

Thompson joined her high school's air rifle club with a friend and realized she had talent with shooting when she went to competitions as a freshman and sophomore in high school that only upper-class competitors were attending. She credits her success to her coach and team, and her determination and hard work.

"Shooting take a lot of determination and hard work and a lot of practicing- just not giving up in practice," she said. "knowing to get to the better place in shooting or to progress you need to put in the hard work."

When asked what she thinks about 24 out of the 30 air rifle competitors being girls, Thompson said, "it means that anybody can do it. It's not a single-gender sport. Whoever has the determination to practice and get to a good point, it doesn't matter if you're a girl or a boy, it doesn't matter if you're strong, it doesn't matter if you're tall or short. It's just all of what you have inside of you."

All 30 of the Legion's air rifle competitors agree that the program creates a family environment, and you leave with new friends. It's true for precision shooters Samantha Peterson of Ham Lake, Minn., and Kayla Gaden of Seward, Neb., who were both top-eight finalists and will be roommates come this fall at the University of Nebraska and will compete on the air rifle team.

"This competition shows you how supportive The American Legion is of shooting," Peterson said. "You are connected to everybody who is out here. This match brings you closer to people."

Gaden agreed. "You come out here, and you're treated like superstars," she said. "It's just an honor to be here and shoot amongst the top shooters in The American Legion."

A \$1,000 scholarship, provided by the Auxiliary, was also awarded to the second-place finisher in each category. Gibson and Thompson will attend The American Legion's national convention in Cincinnati Aug. 26-30 and be honored alongside other Legion youth program champions.



American Legion Ntl Cmdr Dale Barnett and PNC and Chief Range Officer David Rehbein congratulate the winner of the sporter competition Emma Thompson at the Junior Shooting Sports competition at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado Saturday July 23, 2016. Photo by Clay Lomneth.



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Meet Our Department of Illinois Membership Director



Chad Woodburn—The American Legion Department of Illinois welcomes new Membership Director, Chad Woodburn.

Chad is an 18 year Legion member. Chads family is currently very involved with the Indiana Legion family, and looks forward to transferring to the Illinois Legion Family.

Chad served a 24 year military career, retiring as a Senior Master Sergeant Air National Guard. He also served active duty Marine and Army National Guard.

Chad begins his new role as Membership Director July 1st and looks forward to meeting with the Illinois Legionnaires and hopes to see many of you at the Department Convention.

NAME CORRECTION—Photo (L-R) —Chad's wife Michelle, Chad, their daughter Deanna, in front, their son **LUKE**.

Marseilles American Legion Welcomes motorists



Members of the Marseilles American Legion Post 235 recently gathered to install reflective Legion Club Emblem signs welcoming motorists into Marseilles. Legion and Auxiliary signs were installed at the north, east and west entrances into the city. Pictured are (from left) Lance Sires, Mick Underhill, Greg Stock, Paul Feldt and Jim Mooneyham. Also helping out but not pictured was Chuck Erb. The project was made easier with a motorized post hole digger from the Seneca Ace Hardware. The Legion Auxiliary Unit purchased the signs with funds raised from previous years' raffle sales. The signs let travelers know the American Legion is in town and welcomes all military, nonmilitary, active and retired to stop in. The Legion Hall hosts bingo every Friday night, an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast the last Sunday of the month, and is open to the public Thursday evenings for social time. Hall rental also is available to the public for parties.



The American Legion Legacy Run to Cincinnati, August 21-25, 2016

American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett of Georgia will lead the 11th annual American Legion Legacy Run from the organization's national headquarters in Indianapolis to the 98th American Legion National Convention in Cincinnati in August 2016.

The Legacy Run will begin in Indianapolis with a gathering of riders on Saturday, Aug. 20, for safety training and dinner hosted by the Indiana American Legion Post 64. Sponsored by USAA®, The American Legion Legacy Run is one of the largest multistate, multiday cross-country motorcycle events held in the United States. More than 500 motorcyclists and passengers are expected to participate in the five-day event.

On the morning of Aug. 21, Commander Barnett will accompany the Riders through Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Ohio on the way to the site of the National Convention in Cincinnati. They will arrive at lunchtime on Thursday, Aug. 25, at the Yeager-Benson Memorial American Legion Post 199 in Harrison, Ohio.

Important Dates for 2016:

- Aug. 20: Assembly and final registration at Post 64, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Aug. 21-25: The American Legion Legacy Run. 1,300 miles through Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Ohio.
- Aug. 25: 1 p.m. arrival at Post 199, Harrison, Ohio.
- Aug. 25-28: Riders events, meals and runs hosted by Ohio ALR chapters and Post 199.
- Aug. 28: Riders lead off The American Legion National Convention Parade.
- Aug. 28-Sept. 1: The 98th annual American Legion National Convention, Cincinnati, Ohio.

2016—2017 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
08/13/2016	14TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	LAHARPE POST 301	LAHARPE
08/19/2016	9TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	MERLE GUILD POST 208 (INSTALLATION)	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
08/20/2016	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	ALEDO POST 121	ALEDO
08/21/2016	4TH DIVISION	UNKNOWN	GEORGETOWN POST 203	GEORGETOWN
08/25/2016	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	BLUE ISLAND POST 50	BLUE ISLAND
09/21/2016	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	LINCOLNWOOD POST 1226	LINCOLNWOOD
09/22/2016	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	PARK FOREST POST 1198	CHICAGO HEIGHTS
09/28/2016	3RD DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	ILLIANA POST 220	CHICAGO
09/28/2016	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	HOWARD H. RHODE POST 888	NORTHLAKE
10/02/2016	18TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	MANTENO POST 755	MANTENO
10/02/2016	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	VIRDEN POST 386	VIRDEN
10/19/2016	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	GEORGE W. BENJAMIN POST 791	NORTHBROOK

It's that time of year again. If your District or Division would like your scheduled meeting dates, time and location posted in the Department News please submit them to:
American Legion, Dept. of IL ~ P.O. Box 2910 Bloomington, IL 61702 ~ ATTN: JOY WILSON

If you have internet access you may email your schedule to:
joywilson@illegion.org OR Fax to: **309-663-5783**

NOTE: Please remember if any changes or updates regarding said posted meetings occur submit them as soon as possible to Joy Wilson in writing (or Email).

★ **DATES TO REMEMBER** ★

- ★ **Oratorical Contest—March 4, 2017**
- ★ **Boys State--June 10th--16th, 2017**
- ★ **Illini Girls State--June 18th--24th, 2017**
- ★ **Youth Police--June 25th--30th, 2017**

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AUGUST TRIVIA DID YOU KNOW?

1. Who distanced herself from politics by changing her last name to Davis at 22?
2. Who piloted the first airplane to suffer a passenger fatality, in 1908?
3. What river was Hernando De Soto the first white man to see and be buried in?
4. Who was known as "Tanya" after a 1974 San Francisco bank robbery?
5. What seventh king of Israel shares his name with a Herman Melville literary character?

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Veterans Day at the Illinois State Fair



ANSWERS:

1. Patti Reagan.
2. Orville Wright.
3. The Mississippi River.
4. Patti Hearst.
5. Ahab.

