

Department News

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

THE AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY**



2015–2016 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER PAUL W. GARDNER

MAY 2016



Remembering and Honoring Our Past & Present

2016



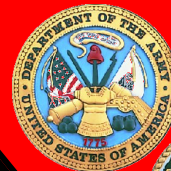
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF THURSDAY
APRIL 28, 2016

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

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

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



From The Desk of Department Commander Paul W. Gardner



I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the 160 Posts that now have 100% or more in membership and the 101 Posts that have achieved 105% or more in membership. There are many more Posts that are on the verge of 100% and there are many that are now cards away from 105%. Job well done. The year isn't over, keep going. You are the leaders, the workers who took the responsibility to get it done. Take pride in what you're doing.

Congratulations to District #7 and Commander Joe Piento for being the first to reach 100%. Keep working your membership Joe because there are Districts right behind you.

Al Pizarro, 9th District – 99.55%
John Reece, 11th District – 99.36%
Michael Wheat, 4th District – 99.15%
Dave Johnson, 12th District – 98.88%
20th District's Matt Lawson has been consistent all year and shows no sign of slacking off.

The same goes for Lee Kraut of the 13th District, Richard Johnson of the 10th District, James Goss of the 16th District & Allen Helsel of the 17th District.

I thank each of you and 105% is now closer than ever.

Behind these Districts are Commanders that I know haven't given up and are putting every effort in achieving first 100% and then 105%. They have time and they have the desire to accomplish their mission.

To all District and Division Commanders: Letters regarding the Retention Surge were sent to you and all Posts March 18th.

Information on non-renewal's from the Posts thru the Districts and then to Divisions and finally to me were due April 15th. District Officers should have been following up with the Posts in their Districts all along. Some did many didn't. Division Officers should have been doing the same with their Districts. Some did some didn't.

Another report from Division Commanders is due May 15th. I am asking that all District and Division Officers not only follow up on this but help where help is needed. Getting these non-renewals signed now is a necessity for the future of our Programs and the Veterans and their Families we serve.

Memorial Day Should be Every Day. God bless the men and women who gave their lives to keep us free.

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



Huge congratulations to the 7th and 11th Districts for making 100% PLUS! It took lots of hard work from several in the district to motivate their members to renew. We also have a multitude of districts who are 95% plus that need "just a few more." **Operation: Retention Surge** was designed to keep posts, districts, and divisions in touch so they could all help retain members. This is the hardest time of the year, but with all of us working on the same goal of membership, WE CAN DO IT!

I actually ran across a gentleman who saw my shirt and thought I was an Auxiliary lady. I asked for his hand and shook it, then I told him I was a dual member of both Legion and Auxiliary. Then I told him I was Department Senior Vice and in July would probably be elected as the first woman Department Commander. That

stunned him for a minute-then he said "It's about time." I mention this because a lot of our members don't go to Post, District, or Division meetings so they need to be informed about what's happening with our American Legion Programs. Those of you who do attend need to go back to your post meetings and let them know what each program does. You might extend your post meeting a few minutes, but you would have an informed membership.

It's been a busy month for me in traveling. I went to Schiller Park for the 1st Divisions Past Commanders and Past Presidents Luncheon. The turnout was amazing and the food was too! Then it was off to Bloomington for membership director interviews. Back to Monmouth to get my taxes done and help serve a luncheon. Back to Bloomington to give greetings to Committee and Commission meetings, then got to present membership awards at DEC. (Always a highlight of my day.)

This next week I get to attend Junior Conference at the Chateau. Always a

pleasure to see the young members conduct a meeting and use proper rules of order. On April 23rd is a Legion Leadership Meeting at Franklin Park. We are very fortunate to have several Legionnaires who present this information and I go away learning something new every time. Just listening to what other posts do gives one ideas to try at your post.

The last week of this month I have the 5th District Revitalization at Marion and Carbondale. Then off to Milan for the Veteran's Awareness Walk 22. It should bring awareness that every day, 22 veteran's commit suicide. We are trying to raise money to get Illinois Veteran's some help. If you can't walk and would like to contribute, send to Awareness Walk PO Box 1066 Milan IL 61264.

I will leave for Indianapolis for Spring Meetings the first of May. Then on May 7th, I will go to Independence, MO to represent Illinois in laying a wreath on Harry Truman's grave.

Keep talking to our renewals, at least now you have something to tell them.



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Kathy Bisna



This year is flying by so quickly! The American Legion Auxiliary does so much to serve Veterans, Their Families, and Their Communities. It has been an amazing year traveling the state and witnessing all of the hard work and service done by our members.

We just finished a very successful Junior Conference. Honorary Department President Nicole Whiteside did a fabulous job.

She presided with dignity and grace. It was a pleasure serving with her this year. Congratulations to all the award winners. Congratulations also to newly elected Junior President Nikki Kuhl. I know you will have a fantastic year.

The next three months are very busy for members of the Legion Family. We have Poppy Days, Armed Forces Day, Special Olympics, Boys & Girls State, The Sons of The American Legion Convention and the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Convention. I look forward to all these events and hope to see and visit with many of you there.

The American Legion Auxiliary is very

close to stopping the Membership slide in Illinois this year. We only need around 1500 members to do that. Do you know someone who has not yet renewed for 2016? Please reach out to them. We are an American Legion Family and if we all work together I know we can all grow in membership. Thank you so much for your help.

This year the Illinois American Legion Auxiliary is offering "Purrfect Service to Our Veterans. In an attempt to make our organization more pleasing to all members we are attempting to Purr More and Hiss Less! Try it!



From The Desk of Detachment Commander William Geary



Once again, Greetings from the Detachment of Illinois. April has been relatively quiet for us as far as travel. We attended the Auxiliary Junior Conference on the 16th in Bloomington. This was an interesting and fun experience as I have never attended this Conference in the past. My Daughter Melanie and her daughter Katie also attended and had a great time as did I. At the end of April we will be attended the National Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis. This is always interesting, learning new things about the Sons and the American Legion Family. Our National Commander Kevin Collier presided over the meetings. Commander Kevin has been doing a great job this year and we in Illinois have been very fortunate to have him visit us twice. Now we are getting very close to the end of our term as Detachment Commander. By the time you receive this Newsletter, there will be about 7 weeks left until our 2016 SAL Convention and the election of a new Detachment Commander. This year, our Convention will be held at my home Post 911 in Wauconda. What a great honor for all of us in Wauconda. We will do our best to be great hosts for all of the American Legion Family. We have a lot

of fun things planned including bowling, golf, karaoke, and our own Waucondafest annual festival. All of the American Legion Family is invited. I hope we can get our Convention flyer in this Newsletter. If not, please e-mail me commander@il-sal.org and I'll send one.

OUR PILLARS - OUR PURPOSE, our Detachment slogan and **R O C K E D**, "Remembering Our Commitment - Keeping it Every Day", National SAL Commander Kevin Collier's slogan this year, are the guide we are using to accomplish our goals. I learned in the Army that repetition is the best teacher. So, if you have heard these slogans before it's because I refer to them every month. As members of the American Legion Family we have a purpose and a commitment to that purpose. The four pillars show us our purpose. Veterans, Defense, Americanism, and Youth. All of our American Legion programs fall under those pillars. If you haven't had a fundraiser or are planning a fundraiser for one or more of our American Legion Programs, please let's get it done. The Sons need to help fund our American Legion programs. The National Emergency Fund (NEF) the National Endowment Fund, the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), the Legacy Scholarship Fund, Comfort Warriors, Josh dogs and Children's Miracle Network (CMN), Boys State, Boy Scouts, Junior Shooting Sports, American Legion Baseball, High School Oratorical Contest, Gifts to the

Yanks Who Gave, and more. These are our American Legion Programs. We have a purpose and a commitment to assist with these programs. Pick one or two and do your best to promote and fund these programs. These are the Pillars of service of our American Legion Family. Let's get the job done. Please mail your donations to our Finance Officer Bob Tharp in care of Department Headquarters, P.O. Box 2910, Bloomington, IL 61702.

Post Adjutants and Squadron Adjutants have all received two very important documents which must be completed and returned to Headquarters. Squadrons will not receive their 2017 membership cards unless they send in their Certification of Squadron Officers form. Do this immediately after your Squadron election of Officers. Post Adjutants also have this duty. I know this because I have been a Post Adjutant for many years. Possibly an even more important document is the Post or Squadron Consolidated Report form. The Department, the Detachment, the National SAL and American Legion, and all of our veterans depend on those forms being completed. Why all veterans? Our National American Legion team in Washington goes to Congress and the Administration and tells them how important our work is to our veterans, our youth, and our communities. The more

(SAL Detachment Cmdr. continued on page 5)



Did You Know?

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

That in the last six months as Service Officer I have attended three District Revitalization programs? The first one was held in Franklin Park, a northwestern suburb of Chicago. The second one took place in the inner city on the south side of Chicago and the third was at Morton Grove just north of the windy city. Each day of these events either I or my coworker, Terry James, would be available to answer questions on the various VA benefit programs. Fellow Legionnaires who were calling members to suggest transferring from Post 2910 to a local Post mentioned our availability and if interested their name and telephone numbers were passed to us. We then called back within 24 hours and assisted them. Those who went into the field knocking on doors also let the veterans know we were available and their names and phone numbers were also passed along to us for follow up. All of these events were successful in that many 2910 and expired members were transferred. From my perspective as a Service Officer we also met with some good results. Here are just a few examples.

1. A veteran was told by the government that his DD 214 was burnt up in a fire in St. Louis. We were able to get him a replacement copy from other sources. He will consider paying his lapsed dues.
2. The VA hospital denied a veteran enrollment because her net worth was too high. This was in 2011. We advised her that the VA hospital no longer counts net worth and she got enrolled. She also paid her lapsed dues.
3. A veteran was denied compensation for Agent Orange related diabetes back in 1983. He was unaware that the law was changed in the 1990's. I started a claim and he should be getting a favorable decision. He was already a member but signed up a friend as a new one.
4. A female veteran rated 70% service-connected was unaware of the new state law which eliminates property taxes. I advised her how to file for that. Oh yeah, she transferred into a local post from the 2910 list AND bought a PUFL.
5. A veteran was retiring to Florida and thought his Veterans Administration home loan benefits were only good one time. I set him straight and he will probably use it again down in that state.
6. A veteran didn't know that she could have "veteran" status placed on her Illinois drivers' license. She was given the procedures to follow and the documents needed. She will be visiting her local Secretary of State office next week.
7. A veteran was out of work for over a year and thought he was too old to still use his veterans' school benefits. As an Illinois veteran he was completely unaware of the Illinois Veterans Grant. He will start checking out a local state school and may return to college this summer semester.

These are just a few examples of our success. If your district is planning on having a revitalization project in the near future be sure you have your district or division service officer available for a few hours each day. It is really a very valuable membership tool.

Strength and growth in membership comes only through continuous effort and struggle.



One month left!!!!

Are you excited? If not, you should be. The month leading up to the American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State is one of the most anticipated months of the year, not only for the boys, but also for the staff! This is crunch time! Let's make a hard push throughout our communities to make this one of the most well attended sessions in years! We are planning an exciting, rewarding, most memorable week for our future community leaders. If you would like to be part of our success please ensure that your post is sending at least two boys. If you need any assistance in promoting the program please reach out to your district chairman.

It takes all of us working together in order to make this year truly "A Week That Shapes A Lifetime".

Written by Christopher Benigno
Illinois Premier Boys State Chairman

LEGIONNAIRES:

Only six weeks until the start of the 81st session of American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State. While applications are coming we need help to reach our goal of six hundred. Continue to contact schools to recruit the young men. There are a lot of young men that will want to attend the program if they are contacted and told of the program. The cost of the program has not changed for several years. It remains at \$250.00.

We are experiencing some young men wanting to attend but are having trouble finding sponsors. Donations are always welcome and they are tax deductible. Any help is appreciated both in recruiting and sponsorship. It is a great Legion program and it needs your support. While talking to the young men emphasize the leadership and scholarship parts of the program. Thank you for your support. Should you need any help please do not hesitate to contact one of the committee members or myself. Joy Wilson, at Department HQ, has all kinds of information available. Contact her if you need help.

Written by Joe McCraith
Illinois Premier Boys State Vice Chairman

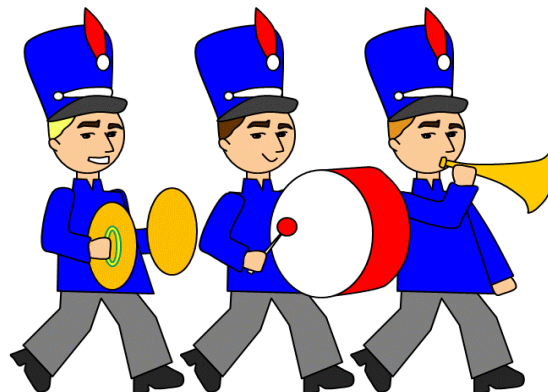
(SAL Detachment Cmdr. continued from page 3)

information they have from these reports, the more powerful is our voice, and the more Congress will listen and act upon the American Legion's recommendations for the good of our Veterans, our Troops and our Country. That makes reporting very, very important. Legionnaires and SAL members please encourage your Adjutants and Commanders to get this done.

Our membership drive for 2016 will end at our Detachment Convention June 25th. Our goal this year as every year is to get 100% and more of last year's total membership. As of this writing we are nearly at 94%. We need those Squadron who are below that number, and those below 100%, to step up and get the job done. Why are we always harping on membership? There are a number of reasons, but two major reasons are: First, we cannot fulfill our mission (our purpose) without increasing our membership. Simply put, we need people to do the work. Second, if we do not maintain and increase our membership on the National level, our voice in Washington becomes less important and our veterans, troops, and our Country as a whole will suffer the consequences. Membership is the heart of our organization. Please let's get the job done. Recruit and retain those members. Thank you.

Memorial Day Word Search

W O S K I A V F H M A G G R Z E
M R N R O G J I O K C A J E G D
C T E U A H K N X V I L V I C A
I I H A T T U R Q L R F H D K R
R B N G T M S P S L E U L L X A
W L W C E H O S E W M U L O D P
A U S N I E V A R G A D B S N L
E E T J O P U A E T I H W R E D



AMERICA
BLUE
FLAG
GRAVE
MONUMENT
PARADE
PICNIC
RED
SOLDIER
STARS
WHITE
WREATH

NEF Letter from National Commander

Dear Legion Family Members and Friends,

Natural disasters can strike at any time. Tornadoes, super-storms, floods and fires can obliterate a family's home and cause unimaginable stress and despair. They occur in communities big and small from coast to coast.

Victims of these disasters need our help. When their lives are turned upside-down, they are left to ask: Where do I find shelter? How will I pay for meals? How can I put my life back together?

The American Legion provides immediate relief for victims through **its National Emergency Fund**. Legion Family members quickly assist with funds and volunteer help, working alongside community leaders and Team Rubicon veterans to provide shelter and meals in their local communities.

Since it was formally adopted in 1989, The American Legion's NEF program has provided immediate cash grants for veterans and posts that have been affected by tornadoes, floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

To date, the Legion has provided more than \$8.5 million in NEF grants. These generous gifts in times of need are made possible by your donations. I encourage you to **help keep the fund viable** in times of disaster by making a donation as part of my \$1 million fundraising initiative.

In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, qualified recipients are eligible for up to \$3,000 and Legion posts can receive up to \$10,000. There are countless stories of how NEF grants have helped disaster victims.

Take Willie Scott, whose **home was demolished by a tornado in Birmingham, Ala.**, nearly five years ago.

"Thank God for The American Legion," Scott says. "It means a hell of a lot that there are organizations that aren't all about taking; they are about giving. I'm proud of the Legion and I'm proud to be a member of the Legion."

No matter how widespread a disaster turns out to be, The American Legion and its National Emergency Fund will be there when the need is greatest.

Duty. Honor. Country.



Dale Barnett
National Commander

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



National Spring Committee &
Commission Meetings

May 2nd--4th
Indianapolis
~~~

Mother's Day  
May 8th  
~~~

Armed Forces Day
May 21st
~~~

Department Office Closed  
Memorial Day  
May 30th  
~~~

American Legion Illinois
Premier Boys State
June 11th--17th
EIU Charleston
~~~

Flag Day  
June 14th  
~~~

Father's Day
June 19th
~~~

Girls State  
June 19th--25th  
EIU Charleston  
~~~

Youth Police
June 19th--24th
Springfield, IL
~~~

**CLOSE OF BOOKS**

**June 24th**  
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SAL Detachment Convention
June 24th--26th
Wauconda, IL
###

2016 Detachment Convention June 24th-26th



Baymont Inn & Suites Mundelein

517 East IL Highway 83
Mundelein, IL 60060
847-566-5400

The Hotel information for the upcoming S.A.L. Detachment Convention to be held at the

Wauconda American Legion Post 911 on June 24th, 25th, and 26th at 515 South Main Street, Wauconda, IL.

The price of the rooms is \$114.00 plus tax. Please make your room reservations as early as possible because rooms are limited and the deadline is May 23rd. Tell them it is for the Sons of the American Legion. Our hospitality room will be open Friday and Saturday evening.

If you need any additional information please contact
George Koop at 847-526-2946 or 847-532-1805
georgekp1@sbcglobal.net

We will have a golf outing on Friday June 24th at the Village Green Golf Course, 2501 Midlothian Rd., Mundelein, IL. Tee times will

begin at 9 AM. **Please let us know ASAP if you will be golfing.** If you have a foursome, great, if not we will pair you with other Legion Family golfers. The cost for 18 holes with cart is \$32 and \$25 for Seniors. Pay at the course, but **let us know** you are coming so we can have enough tee times. If you are coming in Thursday evening, rooms are available at the hotel and we have Burger night at the Post. Please join us.

We are planning to have the Pre-Convention DEC on Friday evening. After the DEC we will celebrate Detachment Commander Geary's Homecoming and the 2015-2016 SAL year. Dinner and entertainment (Karaoke) will be served by the Post 911 American Legion Family. The hospitality room will also be open at the hotel.

Saturday, we will have the Convention Committee meetings in the morning and the First Convention Session will begin at 1 PM. Around 3:30 or 4 PM we will recess for the day. There will be bowling at Wauconda Bowl for those interested in bowling. There will not be any contest just bowling for fun. Also available for your entertainment is the Annual Waucondafest. This event includes food, beer, rides, arcade, and entertainment. This is located about a mile north of the Post at 600 N. Main Street. Again, the hospitality room will be open at the hotel.

Sunday morning will be the SAL Memorial Service led by Detachment Chaplain Jim Borgman at our Wauconda Memorial Park. After the Service the Convention will resume at the Post. All of the American Legion Family is welcome. Please join us for the entire three days.

American Legion State Convention Program Book Application

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)	Ad Choice: (please choose black & white or color)	Black & White Ad	Color Ad
_____ 1. We Are Proud To Be Part of The American Legion Family	Medal of Honor (full page--7-1/2 x 10 in.)	\$230.00 _____	\$250.00 _____
_____ 2. Helping The American Legion Help American's Veteran's	Silver Star (half page--7-1/2 x 5 in.)	\$120.00 _____	\$125.00 _____
_____ 3. We Proudly Stand Behind The American Legion	Bronze Star (quarter page--3-3/4 x 5 in.)	\$90.00 _____	\$95.00 _____
	Purple Heart (3-3/4 x 3-3/8 in. "Business card")	\$75.00 _____	\$80.00 _____
	Commander Salute (3-3/4 -1-11/16 in.)	\$60.00 _____	\$65.00 _____
	Flag Page (1-3/4 - 1 in.)	\$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



*The American Legion,
Department of Illinois
Cordially Invites You to the
Annual Commander and President Dinner*

*Honoring
Department Commander Paul W. Gardner*

and

Auxiliary President Kathy Cisna

On Saturday, July 16, 2016

Wyndham Springfield ~ Main Ballroom

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Menu Selections: Choice of: **Chicken Breast** w/mushroom sauce, wild rice pilaf & broccoli sauté; – OR – **Grilled Salmon** w/ champagne dill sauce & corn risotto; – OR – 6oz **Grilled Beef Tenderloin** w/ herbed red wine sauce, au gratin potatoes, green beans. All are served with Classic Caesar Salad and Dessert.

Reservation Deadline: To guarantee your reservation, mail your check and dinner reservation form no later than **June 30, 2016**. Those that desire a table for eight (8) should list their names on the dinner reservation form provided below.

Questions: Contact Dinner Chairman, Tina Abdelnour (815) 721-0124 or email: tabdelnour1@yahoo.com

Make checks payable to: The American Legion Department of Illinois

Mail Reservation to: Dinner Chairman: Tina Abdelnour ~ 815 Van Buren St. ~ Belvidere, IL 61008

Name: _____ Division# _____

Address: _____ District# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # _____ No. of Person(s) _____ or Table(s) _____

Chicken Breast Dinner @\$40 _____ / Grilled Salmon Dinner @\$40 _____ / Grilled Beef Tenderloin Dinner @\$54 _____

Check Total \$ _____ *Make checks payable to: The American Legion Department of Illinois*

Please list names of each person when reserving a table of 8: _____,

_____, _____,

_____, _____.

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS FIND A JOB



2016 AMERICAN LEGION HIRING EVENT

The Prairie Capital Convention Center
1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701

July 15, 2016 Veteran Preview: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
General Public: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The American Legion is organizing a Hiring Event for veteran job seekers and military spouses. The event will be held at The Prairie Capital Convention Center at 1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield, IL on July 15, 2016.

This will be a FREE hiring event for employers, job seekers and military spouses.

This Hiring Event is being conducted by The American Legion, Department of Illinois and is being supported by The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), and Hero 2 Hired (H2H).

IDES CONTACTS:

Sheila Cutright-LVER
Phone: 217-524-7837
Sheila.Cutright@Illinois.Gov

Randy VanVickle-LVER
Phone: 217-442-0296 X-102
Randy.Vanvickle@Illinois.Gov

Donald Niebruegge-LVER
Phone: 618-277-8938
Donald.Niebruegge@Illinois.Gov

Equilla Simms-BSC
Phone: 217-782-1296
Equilla.Simms@Illinois.Gov

Danita Lust-BSC
Phone: 217-278-5732
Danita.Lust@Illinois.Gov

Tory Davis-BSM
Phone: 309-671-4976
Tory.Davis@Illinois.Gov

The American Legion
Department of Illinois
2720 E. Lincoln St.
Bloomington, IL 61704
Office (309) 663-0361
Fax (309) 663-5783
Web: www.illegion.org



IDES
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY



ESGR
EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF
THE GUARD AND RESERVE



Nominate your District's Outstanding Chaplain Award

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 Paul W. Gardner, 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 Paul W. Gardner and Department Chaplain Virgil Oikion will present the award to the selected chaplains at the Department Convention Memorial Service which will be held on July 16, 2016.

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 26th 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 6, 2016.**

Chaplain's Award Nomination Form for 2015-2016

District # _____
(Name of Nominee)

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

_____ *I have no one to nominate.*

(District Commander)

(Date)

*This form **must** be signed by the District Commander and sent to The American Legion Department Headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois*
TO BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JUNE 6, 2016

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

Chaplain's Conference



**Thursday,
July 14, 2016**

**10:00 AM
~
11:00 AM**

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


THE AMERICAN LEGION

**THE
CHAPLAIN'S
PRAYER
MANUAL**



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Centennial Celebration
100 Years
1919 2019

PLANNING SEMINAR
Presented at Department Convention

National Headquarters Staff will offer information on how to organize your community's American Legion Centennial event.

It is highly encouraged for each post to have a representative present.

Walk-ins are welcome, however it is preferred that you call in to Department HQ to reserve your seat.

Call 309-663-0361

Start Planning

- Get Organized
- Use the tools
- Share the Legacy
- Advance the Vision

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Lunch provided)

PRAIRIE CAPITAL CONVENTION CENTER
ROOM B11 - B,C&D

7th Annual Department Convention Bike Show Hosted By The American Legion Riders

**American Legion Riders
Hosting Bike Show
Saturday, July 16th**

Judging is by attendees 10:00AM –NOON



**Department Convention at entrance to
convention center**

Signup 9:00AM -10:00AM

\$10.00 entry fee

**Register at the ALR Booth
inside the convention hall**

Classes will be -

- **Touring**
- **Sport**
- **Custom**
- **Cruiser**
- **Trikes**



*There will be a Commanders Choice
selected by the outgoing and incoming*

*Commander along with the
Ladies Auxiliary President.*



CONVENTION PARADE

Friday, July 15th

**There will be a parade as a kickoff
to the Freedom Fest.
All Legion Riders are
encouraged to attend!**

- **Line up at Horace Mann parking
lot at 5:00 p.m.**
- **Step off at 5:25**
- **Head South on 7th St. to Adams**
- **Turning between 2 hotels heading
the wrong way**
- **Disband at PCCC**

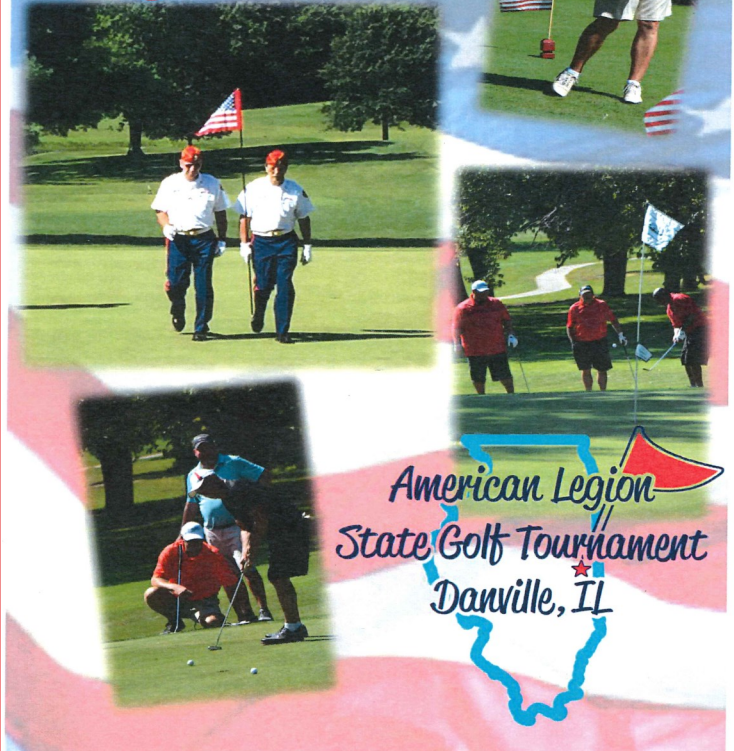
**Entry Fees will
support the
Legacy
Scholarship Fund.**



Veterans' History Project Volunteers Needed

Once again it is time to start gathering volunteers for the Veterans' History Project booth at the Department of Illinois American Legion Convention held in July in Springfield. The booth on Thursday, July 14th, will be just to sign up Veterans for their interview and to share information about this rewarding project. Court reporters will be available on Friday and Saturday to record the interviews. Volunteers are needed to work booth Wednesday afternoon Thursday and Friday and also to serve as interviewers (the questions are written out for you) or Friday and Saturday. Please email Jill Layton at Jill.LaytonALA@gmail.com or call her at [217-849-3653](tel:217-849-3653) if you are available to volunteer or if you would like more information! **Attn: Veterans!!** **Please stop by the Veterans' History Project (VHP) booth and sign up for your interview.** You will receive a verbatim transcript of your story, your piece of history, and a copy will be sent to the Illinois State Library and to the Library of Congress in DC. It is a wonderful way to pass down to your family your part in American history.

Save the Date!
August 6 & 7, 2016



**American Legion
State Golf Tournament
Danville, IL**



98th Annual Department Convention

July 12 – 17, 2016 Springfield, Illinois



FREEDOM FEST



Friday, July 15, 2016
6:00 PM - 11:30 PM

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

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

BEER, SODA, FOOD

LIVE MUSIC 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

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

Featuring the band

“OUT OF THE WOODS”

Party In Honor of

Department Commander Paul W. Gardner

Thanking Commander for His Year of Service!

Thursday, July 14, 2016 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Springfield Post 32

1120 Sangamon Avenue 217/523-3415

Everyone Welcome

The Mess Hall Restaurant



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

The Mess Hall Restaurant open for

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

98TH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION JULY 12-17, 2016

-SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS-

HOUSING RESERVATION FORM

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

<u>HOTEL</u>	<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>RATE</u>
Wyndham Springfield	1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th	\$105.00 plus tax (currently 12%)
City Centre (formerly Hilton Springfield)		
700 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701	217/789-1530	(\$117.60 per night with tax)

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

President Abraham Lincoln Springfield

(A Doubletree by Hilton)	5th Division & Auxillary	\$105.00 plus tax (currently 12%)
701 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701		(\$117.60 per night with tax)

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

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

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

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

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Division _____ District _____ Legion Title _____

Hotel _____ Type of room (circle) 1 Bed 2 Beds

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

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

Other Special Requests _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____ Fax _____

Name(s) of additional people in room: _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

FREEDOM FEST, FRIDAY, JULY 15TH - COMMANDER'S AND PRESIDENT'S DINNER, SATURDAY, JULY 16TH

DuPage County Executive Committee Honors their 100% Posts



The DuPage County Executive Committee honored 10 of their 14 Posts at their April 13th, 2016 meeting held at Cantigny Post 556. All of these 10 Posts were at 100%+ by April 1st of this year. Each Post Commander or Adjutant representing these Posts in attendance received a special certificate recognizing their high achievement. Their combined effort put DuPage County @ 100%+ and well on their way to their 105% membership goal for the Department. Commander Don Lindsey along

with Bill Schoenberg led this outstanding effort in supporting all of the Posts in Dupage County. In addition, Don presented "Eagle Awards" to John Reece, 11th District Commander and Wayne Fischer, 2nd Division Commander for their leadership and support this year.

National Guard Spring Family Event

Post 208 and AUX unit helped support the event by getting a face painter for the kids. In the picture left to right Donna Locher Unit 208 secretary, Natl Guard Easter Bunny, Cindy Hall Unit 208 President, and Gary Jenson. Thank you ladies and Post 208 for your support.



2015—2016 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
5/01/2016	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	THAWVILLE POST 700	THAWVILLE
5/09/2016	2ND DISTRICT	5:30 PM	CZECH PLAZA	BERWYN
5/14/2016	14TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	MONMOUTH POST 136	MONMOUTH
5/15/2016	12TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	PECATONICA POST 729 (CONVENTION)	PECATONICA
5/15/2016	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	ROCK FALLS POST 902 (CONVENTION)	ROCK FALLS
5/15/2016	17TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	SPRING BAY POST 1115	SPRING BAY
5/15/2016	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CARLINVILLE POST 554	CARLINVILLE
5/15/2016	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	LEIGHTON EVATT POST 365 (CONVENTION)	COLLINSVILLE
5/18/2016	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134 (POST EVERLASTING)	MORTON GROVE
5/19/2016	5TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	BELLWOOD POST 500	BELLWOOD
5/20/2016	10TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	LAKE REGION POST 703 (CONVENTION & POST EVERLASTING)	FOX LAKE
5/21-22/2016	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CHAMPAIGN POST 24 (CONVENTION)	CHAMPAIGN
5/22/2016	15TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	ABINGDON POST 381 (CONVENTION)	ABINGDON
5/24/2016	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	TREMONT POST 1236 (CONVENTION)	TREMONT
5/25/2016	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN PARK POST 974	FRANKLIN PARK
5/26/2016	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EVERGREEN PARK POST 854 (POST EVERLASTING)	EVERGREEN PARK
6/5/2016	2ND DIVISION	1:00 PM	GURNEE POST 771 (CONVENTION)	GURNEE
6/5/2016	3RD DIVISION	10:00 AM	ABINGDON POST 381 (CONVENTION)	ABINGDON
6/5/2016	4TH DIVISION	11:00 AM	DANVILLE POST 210 (CONVENTION)	DANVILLE
6/5/2016	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	STEELEVILLE POST 480	STEELEVILLE
6/8/2016	2ND DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT POST 923	CHICAGO
6/12/2016	5TH DIVISION	UNKNOWN	EFFINGHAM POST 120	EFFINGHAM
6/15/2016	7TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	HUERTER-WILMETTE POST 46	WILMETTE
6/16/2016	5TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	COMMODORE BARRY POST 256	BERWYN
6/22/2016	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	TATTLER POST 973	CHICAGO
6/23/2016	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	MARS-MEYER POST 991	WORTH
8/25/2016	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	BLUE ISLAND POST 50	BLUE ISLAND

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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MAY TRIVIA DID YOU KNOW?

1. What amendment in the U.S. Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of religion, speech and the press?
2. Who was dubbed "Lenin's left leg" during the early stages of Russia's Marxist movement?
3. What doctor came to court dressed as Thomas Jefferson, who was also thought to favor helping the terminally ill commit suicide?
4. What country was ruled from 827 until 860 by Egbert, Ethelwulf and Ethelbald?
5. What did Elizabeth I. have removed from her palaces when her hair thinned and her cheeks hollowed?

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THE AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY**



ANSWERS:

1. The First Amendment.
2. Joseph Stalin.
3. Jack Kevorlian.
4. England.
5. Mirrors.

