

Department News

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

FAMILY



2016-2017 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CHERI L. STANTON

NOVEMBER 2016



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.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
OCTOBER 28, 2016

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District Commander

17	NAGEL
18	MONROE
13	KRAUT
5	DEARBONE
7	LEPINSKI
23	ROUNDS, II
22	HOBBS, Sr.
9	FUGGITI
20	MASSEY
14	TAYLOR

Division Commander

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

NEC Resolution No. 16 can be found on pg. 8
in this edition of the Department News
as well as on our website www.illegion.org



From The Desk of Department Commander Cheri L. Stanton



Pride in our country is what the American Legion stands for. Giving our voices to Congress to encourage them to do the right thing for our troops....give them more support and resources. That's why your membership is so important. We need to get as many members as we can for our Legion, Auxiliary, and Son's to help show that **WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN** and that we appreciate those serving.

Thanks to **EVERYONE** so far who have paid their dues and all the posts, units, and squadrons who keep working on the rest of your registers. Those members are the hardest to get. We are getting started this month on revitalizations and I hope we get lots of support from the local posts to knock on doors. It is important to have

you there to explain about the key points of your posts and make them feel welcome as a new member.

I went to Fall Meetings in Indianapolis and in the down time we all talked about the weather's effect on the coastal states. Do you know that if an area you live in is declared a disaster area by your Governor, and your house is completely totaled, you could be eligible for help? If you are a paid up member of the American Legion you can apply for \$3,000 from the **National Emergency Fund (NEF)**! This will help you and your family till your insurance kicks in. It's just another way your dues are important. **You must be paid for the current year to get the benefits.**

Another item we talked about is all the volunteer hours our organization donates to helping veterans at V A Hospitals. Our American Legion donated over 8 million hours nationwide and our **WONDERFUL AUXILIARY LADIES** are clocked in with 1.9 **BILLION** hours! When we go before Congress this is a leverage we can use to

get more funds for our V A Hospitals since they don't have to pay for extra staff.

I also traveled to Abilene, KS to lay a wreath to honor Dwight D. Eisenhower on his birthday. It was my honor to represent the Department of Illinois at this event. After the presentation, I toured the Presidential Museum. I went through rapidly looking at the pictures because we had a former post member, Al Lehman who was the personnel chef to Eisenhower during WWII. I didn't find a picture of Al as a young man, but I was honored to look at all the history of Eisenhower.

In the gift shop, I bought a copy of a Monopoly game like the one that was used during WWII and sent off to the Prisoner of War Camps. It was designed by Waddington's in England with the help of the British Intelligence Agency. A limited number were marked **with a special dot on the "get out of jail**

(Dept. Commander continued on page 7)



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Bob Henderson



Thanks for the work you have done on Membership, things are looking good so far this year. There are some Posts that are still not certified, the Division Commanders need to get out and do their homework. All the Division Commanders, District Commanders & Post Commanders should be calling members to get their Dues for 2017

The District & Division Membership Workshops went well on October 8th & 9th. I hope everyone learned something that will help them in their year as Commander. I also hope that all the Division & District Officers use what they've learned to benefit their Posts and Membership for 2017.

There are a lot of District and Division

Meetings in October & November. Please try and make your meetings, you can learn a lot by attending and listening to what is discussed. Ask questions on what you don't understand. That is how we learn. Bring a Member with you. That is how we get more members to those meetings and more members to pass along what they learned. Make sure that the Committee Chairperson for their program gives a report...A **"NO REPORT" COMMENT DOESN'T CUT IT !!!** Fall committee commission meeting reports can be found on the department website.

We have three revitalizations coming up in the next few weeks. The 5th District, and the 5th Division are holding a revitalization from the 20th of October thru the 22nd of October. The 21st District is holding a revitalization November 2nd thru November 4th. Get a hold of your District or Division Commanders and let them know that you can

help. There are still some times available that we can revitalize, so call Chad Woodburn and set one up, the sooner the better.

The Utica Veterans Day Parade is November 6th hope you can be there.

Veterans Day is November 11th, ask your Post Commander if there is something that you can do to help out. Remember ALL our Veterans, not just our fallen heroes. Take time to visit our home and nursing home bound.

November 18th, 19th & 20th we will be at the Egyptian Commander's Jamboree at the Heaven in Carbondale. Come join in the Fun there are Steaks at the Haven on the 18th and a dinner on the 19th.

AS THE HOLIDAYS APPROACH WE STILL NEED TO WORK ON MEMBERSHIP!. IT FEELS GREAT TO KNOW WE ARE GETTING CLOSER TO 100%. THANKS FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE SO FAR. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Luella Buske



I wish for you all a great Veteran's Day! We are so blessed to live in the Greatest Country in the World. I know we live in the land of the free because of the brave! Thank you for all you have done!

Caravans are coming to an end. First Vice Marsh Haag, Membership Chairman, Patti Williamson and I have enjoyed

traveling the state visiting the Districts and Divisions and presenting the programs of the Auxiliary. Thanks to all for the hospitality. We also enjoyed collecting the membership. We already have several Goal Units and are hoping for many more. It was such an honor to see Legionnaires at some of the caravans. Thanks for attending.

I am looking forward to the Egyptian Jamboree and the start of Christmas Gift Shops this month. Being the American Legion Auxiliary Department President is

an Amazing Experience. I cannot believe it is one quarter over already. I am looking forward to the next three quarters!!!!

I hope you all have a blessed Thanksgiving and get to spend time with Family! I am always Thankful for my time with my Family. If you know someone who does not have any Family to spend the day with, please make them a part of your day.



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Shipley



With the Fall season here and the approach of the Thanksgiving Holiday just around the corner; I wish each of you joyous time spent with your family and friends as we all give thanks for the blessings we have all received.

If twenty five years is considered a generation, then for almost 11 generations we have been supporting the four pillars the American Legion Family was founded upon. What a history, what a legacy, what a reason to be thankful!

Legacies are what I would like to talk to you about this month. Every single American Legion Post in the state of Illinois has something (a legacy) that they are famous for. It may be a yearly Hog Roast, a monthly Steak Dinner, the annual children's Halloween or Christmas Party, and of course the ever present games of "BINGO"! The list goes on and on as each post has that one thing that its members and members of the community look forward to each and every year. Add these events to all of the things that we do for our veterans and our children and it is easy to see all of the rich traditions we have created over

the years.

When I selected my theme for the year **"Shooting for Membership"**, it was with these types of events I was thinking of. For almost 90 years the Sons of The American Legion have been assisting in keeping all of these old and many future **"Legacies"** alive in posts all across this state of ours.

In 1932 The American Legion formed the program that was to become the Sons of The American Legion. This patriotic program was to be a vehicle to pass along all of the **"Principles for which the American Legion Stands..."** to the sons, grandsons, and great grandsons of our ancestors that proudly wore the uniform and answered our country's call to duty.

There are currently approximately 256 Sons of The American Legion Squadrons in the state of Illinois. There are approximately 803 American Legion Posts in the state of Illinois. That means that 547 posts could have an SAL squadron chartered to become part of their American Legion Family.

Let us, the Illinois SAL, help you and your post continue the **"Legacies"** your post is famous for. Let us be your eyes, ears, and the strength you need to work in the kitchen, set up and take down the tables, cut the grass, and work the club room so that you, our ancestors can take a well earned and deserved rest.

We, under your leadership, will continue the proud traditions you worked on for so very long.

Contact me or any our Detachment Officers and we can so you just how easy it would be to get a SAL squadron started in your post soon.

Do not forget that the Illinois American Legion Family National Membership Caravan will take place once again in January 2017. Stay tuned for more information on where you can join us to hear from our National guest and to bring in your last few membership cards for the year!

Let us **"Proud possessors of a Priceless Heritage..."** continue the successes built for us by our fathers as we strive to forever be **"Shooting for Membership!"**





Did You Know?

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

That it has been four years since I furnished a list of Patient Advocates for our VA hospitals and clinics. Our office constantly receive calls about various hospital problems e.g. why can't I get a certain prescription filled, how come the dentist won't give me implants, why do I only get one pair of glasses a year, etc. We also get complaints like I waited six hours to see my doctor or the VA mailed my medication to the wrong address again! Problems like these are best handled by the Patient Advocates. These are highly trained professionals who attempt to resolve concerns about any aspect of their care and also file complaints about poor service. Since the last publication of this list there have been several retirements, relocations and new faces. Here is the most recent list, use it.

- ★ Hines Hospital and the following clinics: Aurora, Elgin, Joliet, LaSalle, Manteno, and Oak Lawn. (Advocates rotate) 708-202-2716
- ★ Marion Medical Center: Deborah Walker 618-997-5311 ext. 55615; Mark Speers 618-997-5311 ext. 54124
- ★ Illiana Medical Center and the following clinics: Peoria, Decatur, Springfield and West Lafayette (IN).
Cynthia Knee 217-554-5013
- ★ Cpt. James Lovell Fed. Health Care Ctr. and the following clinics: McHenry, Evanston and Kenosha (WI).
Melvin Tolbert 224-610-4212x87510; Jennifer Corrao, Susan Stankis & Kim Jones 224-610-7505
- ★ Iowa City Medical Center and the following clinics: Galesburg and Quincy. James Flynn 319-339-7120;
Claudia Parham 319-338-0581
- ★ Chicago Jesse Brown Medical Center and the following clinics: Lakeside. Aaron Rice 312-569-7959
- ★ Chicago Heights: Donna Adams 708-756-5454
- ★ Crown Point clinic (IN): Donna Sanders 219-662-5120
- ★ Belleville clinic: Dorothy Adams 314-289-6373
- ★ Rockford clinic: Megan Devault 608-280-7182
- ★ St. Louis John Cochran: Dorothy Adams 314-289-6373
- ★ St. Louis Jefferson Barracks: Cindy Corkery 314-894-5712
- ★ Madison Hospital (WI): Megan Devault 608-280-7182

Please note however these advocates are not the place to complain about the unfairness of the various Veterans Administration laws regarding eligibility, means tests and other Federal laws. If you don't like certain current Federal laws bring it up at your Post meeting and write a resolution to try and get that law changed.

As always if you have any questions about your Veterans Administration benefits please feel free to contact me.

The only dumb question is the one not asked!

**THIS THANKSGIVING LET US NOT ONLY THANK GOD FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS
BUT ALSO OUR VETERANS FOR ALL OUR FREEDOMS**



Legion College Graduates part of 'distinguished blue line'



Legion College attendees get their diplomas during the Legion College graduation ceremony at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind., on Friday, October 28.

Photo by Tom Stratman/The American Legion

Legion Graduates from Illinois were Chad Woodburn and John Reece, Jr.

Fifty-nine Legionnaires earned their American Legion College diplomas Friday morning in the National Executive Committee (NEC) Room at National Headquarters in Indianapolis. In his congratulatory remarks, Past National Commander and Legion College Chancellor Dave Rehbein reminded the class of 2016 about the generation of Legionnaires who have stood before them in the NEC Room and recited the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution.

"They talk in the U.S. military academy about the long gray line; I think there is an equally long, equally distinguished blue line that this room has. You are now part of that line," Rehbein said.

The Legion College students spent nearly a week gaining institutional knowledge, developing leadership qualities, and understanding how to apply the PEOPLE (professionalism, empathy, optimism, partnership, loyalty, empowerment) principle as leaders within the Legion.

"Your (Legion) education is not over; it's only beginning," Rehbein said. "(Legion College) was the directed part of your education. For the rest of your American Legion career, your education will be self-directed. So I hope I see every one of you back in (the NEC Room) one day as a department commander, department adjutant, wearing a red cap... a productive, active, involved member of The American Legion. You have that potential."

Attending Legion College for Chad Woodburn was an extra step in following the Legion path of his late father, Terry, who was a longtime Department of Illinois adjutant and Legion Rider. "Growing up in the Legion I knew bits and pieces, but (Legion College) helped bring a lot of it together," said Woodburn, a member of Illinois State Police Post 1922. "This is definitely going to help me throughout my career in the Legion. And for my dad... to follow in his footsteps is pretty neat.

"It was a special week; it really was."



American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State

www.illinoisboysstate.org

We would like to extend an invitation to all of the Boys State Chairman at the post, district and division levels to join our staff for the 2017 session in order to directly impact our program and our youth. In doing so, you will gain more knowledge of our program and be able to excite and educate others into attending and recruiting our young men. This is a program of The American Legion which is run by not only by our members, but also members of our Sons of the American Legion, and Premier Boys State Alum, in which without, our program would not be possible.

This unique program assists in shaping our youth into servant leaders and better members of our communities. We would like to thank all of you for your continued support of our program throughout the years and the years to come in order

to once again become the most PREMIER Boys State program in the country.

The American Legion relies heavily upon dedicated Legionnaires and Legion family members to support and donate countless hours to the success of its youth programs—Baseball, Oratorical Contest, Boys State/Nation, Junior Shooting Sports, Scouting and Junior Law Cadet. And in an effort to continue enhancing the Legion's youth programs, and its protection of children and youth, The American Legion National Executive Committee (NEC) adopted [Resolution 4](#) during the 2012 Spring Meetings, which mandates a background check screening for staff and volunteers selected to be involved in American Legion's national youth programs.

For inquiries regarding next year's counseling staff:

counseling@illinoisboysstate.org

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

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A DISASTER?

American Legion National Emergency Fund

How we help ~ Resources ~ Requesting Assistance ~ Understanding NEF ~ Donate

As veterans, Legionnaires understand the value of readiness. In every town and city, American Legion posts should be seen as pools of leadership, expertise and resources. Recently the American Legion strongly encouraged people in the path of Hurricane Matthew, that was a Category Four hurricane, to evacuate and bring essential emergency supplies for at least three days. Water, non-perishable food, a battery-operated radio, flashlights and a first-aid kit are the basic requirements. Many faced devastation in the deadly aftermath of the storms that affected nearly the entire US. The American Legion and legionnaires stepped up to help everywhere.

The American Legion National website has a Disaster Preparedness Guide that can be found at:

http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/Disaster-Preparedness-Guide_0.pdf This guide offers the information necessary for your post to become fully involved in local disaster preparedness and response plans.

As the nation's largest veterans service organization with more than 13,000 posts, The American Legion has a foothold in communities all across the United States. American Legion posts, Auxiliary units and Sons of The American Legion squadrons

play critical roles in natural disaster response and recovery.

For example, American Legion posts can assist in communities where disasters strike. American Legion facilities can serve as shelters, food distribution locations, space for emergency inoculations or child care for first-responders.

National Emergency Fund brochures are a great source of reference material on what to do before, during and after a natural disaster. They can be found on both the National and Department of Illinois website.

The American Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF) helps Legionnaires, Legion posts and Sons of The American Legion recover in the immediate aftermath of disaster. Since its inception, NEF has provided more than \$8 million to victims of natural disasters.

Important reminder, you must be a member in good standing to receive these benefits.

Information on how to apply for an NEF grant – up to \$3,000 for individuals and up to \$10,000 for posts is listed below. To download the NEF application go to:

<http://www.legion.org/emergency/apply>



To download the NEF application go to: http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/NEF_Application.pdf

Eligibility

1. Eligibility open to Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members (up to \$3,000) Legion Posts (up to \$10,000).
2. Applicant must have been displaced from their primary residence due to a declared natural disaster and provide proof of out-of-pocket expenses.
3. Not meant to replace or repair items, only to meet most immediate needs (i.e., temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.)
4. Does not cover insurance compensation or monetary losses from a business, structures on your property (barns, tool sheds, etc.,) equipment or vehicles.
5. Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.

Application requirements

1. Application must be received within 90 days of disaster.
2. Disaster must be a "declared" natural disaster for Legion Family members.
3. Supporting data (photos, receipts, repair estimates, etc.) should be included if at all possible or statements (testimony) from post/district/department officers attesting to damages.
4. Only one grant per household.
5. Post grants must derive from a declared natural disaster and substantiating documentation must provide that The American Legion post will cease to perform the duties and activities in the community due to losses sustained.

free” section. These limited board games had special game markers including a small working compass, then mixed into the wrapped monopoly money was real money for that area, and a special silk map of the area the game was sent to. It was hidden in the bottom of the board and could be stored until needed. The object being if you got a chance to escape, you would have a compass, money, and a map of the area. This information was unclassified in the 90's and I was fortunate enough to get a copy of the game board-not the classified kind.

During September, I went to Cullom Post who was having a fundraiser. They did a murder mystery dinner theater. The actors said they would come to other post for a fee. They have 5 situations to choose from. A great time was had by all. Call Rocky Haglock: Day: 312-886-7700 or cell 312-350-5389 if your post would like to try something new for your area.

I hope everyone has tickets for the Egyptian Past Commanders weekend to support the Haven. It helps the Marion VA patients have a place to go and relax. A little touch of home while recuperating. There is more information in the newsletter.

One reminder to all, many men and women died or were wounded so you could have the right to vote. **You are allowed to choose your own candidate, but in remembrance of ALL**



2016 FREE VETERAN'S DAY MEALS

Military I.D.'s are required at all participating restaurants. Check official site for rules.

Applebee's—limited menu for Veteran's Day.

Baker's Square—Free breakfast

Bandana's BBQ—Eat free (up to \$10 value)

Black Angus Steakhouse—Free Top Sirloin Dinner

Bob Evans - Free select menu items + 10% discount Nov. 12 - Dec. 31.

Bonanza Steakhouse—Free buffet

Buffalo Wild Wings—small order of boneless wings and fries

Carrabba's - Free Appetizer

Cheeseburger in Paradise—Free Burger and Fries—Dine in only.

Chili's—Free meal

Country Buffet—free dine-in lunch @participating locations

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store—Free Dbl. Choc. Fudge Coca-cola cake

Denny's- Free All You Can Eat Pancakes

Friendly's - Free Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner

Golden Corral—Monday, November 14th, 5PM-9PM

Hoss's Family Steak & Sea House - Free Meal

Hometown Buffet—Free dine-in lunch

Hy-Vee—Free Breakfast

IHOP-Free RWB Pancakes or Breakfast Combo

Krispy Kreme—Free donut and coffee @ participating locations

Little Caesars—Free Crazy \$5 HOT-N-READY Lunch combo 11am-2pm @ participating locations.

Longhorn Steakhouse - Free Appetizer

Max & Erma's - Free Cheeseburger Combo Meal with Dessert

Mission BBQ—Free sandwich and cake (while supplies last)

O'Charley's - Free Meal

Olive Garden - Free Meal

On The Border - Free Entree

Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt—one free cup of froyo, up to 11 ounces.

Outback Steakhouse - Free Bloomin' Onion® and a beverage—Discount of 15% off the total check valid for military members and their families.

PDQ - Fresh 3 piece Tenders or Sandwich

Ponderosa Steakhouses - Free buffet @ participating Ponderosa locations.

Primanti Bros.—Free sandwich from 4 PM to close

Red Lobster - Free Appetizer or dessert

Red Robin—Free Burger & Fries

Rock & Brews—FREE Pulled Pork Sandwich and side. Dine in only.

Shoney's Offers -Free All-American Burger

Smokey Bones—Free Meal

Starbucks—Free tall coffee

Texas Roadhouse—Free lunch

TGI Friday's—Free Lunch

Tony Roma's—Free Ribs

Village Inn - Free Breakfast—

Wienerschnitzel—ONE FREE Chili Dog, small fry and drink.

For additional locations go to: <http://militarybenefits.info/veterans-day-discounts-sales-deals-free-meals/#ixzz3q3h7HoLp>

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION No. 16

Rendering Proper Respect

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Important
DATE!*

Election Day
November 8th
~ ~ ~

Veterans Day
Dept. Office Closed
November 11th
~ ~ ~

1st 100% Post Cash Award
(1:00 PM Cut-Off)
November 14th
~ ~ ~

Egyptian Past Commander's Jamboree
THE HAVEN--CARBONDALE
November 18th--20th
~ ~ ~

Thanksgiving
Dept. Office Closed
November 24th--25th
~ ~ ~

SAL Winter D.E.C.
Carmi, IL
December 10th
~ ~ ~

Christmas Day
December 25th
~ ~ ~

Christmas
Dept. Office Closed
December 26th
~ ~ ~

New Year's Eve
December 31st
~ ~ ~

New Year's Day
January 1st
~ ~ ~

2nd 100% Post Cash Award
(1:00 PM Cut-Off)
January 2nd
~ ~ ~

National Membership & PA Workshop
Indianapolis, IN
January 6th--7th
#

November is Gifts To The Yanks Who Gave month



GIFTS TO THE YANKS WHO GAVE 2016 CHRISTMAS DELIVERIES



By the time you read this all of the orders would have been received as of November 1.

Your Division Chairman has set a date, time and has arranged for a place for your Division order to be delivered. Check with him and make plans to pick up your orders.

We will start filling orders the first of November until all have been filled and delivered.

You should have a copy of your order with a confirmation order number, if there is any question call 1-800-408-8337 you must have the confirmation order number.

If your confirmation order does not have the contact information for both Legion representative and Hospital, or nursing home please email information to design@minervapromotions.com

Your 2016-2017 Division Chairmen are:

1st Div. Joe Hedrick, phone 847-965-1774

2nd Div. Jeff Cox, phone 630-553-9108 (Vice Chairman)

3rd Div. John Gleckler, phone 217-779-7515

4th Div. Ron Umdenstock, phone 309-264-6228 or 309-822-8912 (Chairman)

5th Div. Francis (Dutch) Jancek, phone 618-654-3867

NOVEMBER IS GIFTS TO THE YANKS MONTH

Great time to do some fund raising project for GTTY, all donations need to be sent to the Department Headquarters ear mark for GTTY. We do not want our comrades forgotten at Christmas. Set your plans in motion for fund raisers. We are now expecting contributions for Christmas 2017.

"Remembering our Comrades at Christmas"

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE GIFTS TO THE YANKS PROGRAM!



Gifts To The Yanks Who Gave Fund

Send Donations To: Gifts To The Yanks Who Gave
Department of Illinois
2720 E. Lincoln St.
Bloomington, IL 61704



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

POST# _____ DISTRICT# _____ DIVISION# _____

Shooting Sports program chairmen share best practices



Lawrence Behling, Department of New York's JSSP Committee chairman, spoke to attendees of the Legion's second annual JSSP Conference in Indianapolis on Saturday.

Over the past 25 years, The American Legion Department of New York's Junior Shooting Sports Program tournament has grown from 21 youth air rifle competitors to nearly 130. The two-day American Legion tournament is held at Post 787 in Cicero, N.Y., in February, and 21 air rifle teams are expected to compete for the 2016-2017 program year.

"The Junior Shooting Sports Program is one of the best kept secrets in The American legion; we need to talk to everyone about it," said Lawrence Behling, Department of New York's JSSP Committee chairman to attendees of the Legion's second annual JSSP Conference in Indianapolis on Saturday.

Behling, along with Department of North Carolina JSSP Committee Chairman Harry Flynn, shared best practices on how to start up a Shooting Sports program at the post level.

Locate program space. For posts that don't have the required space (33-feet from target to edge of the firing line) to host an air rifle program, speak with community members who do. Several schools in New York have allowed Legion Shooting Sports programs to utilize their space for training.

Identify leadership. The program needs Legion volunteers and a certified shooting club leader to teach the basics of gun safety and marksmanship. A certification can be obtained through the National Rifle Association, Civilian Marksmanship Program or USA Shooting.

Raise funds. Support the post program through fundraisers such as dinners, apply for available grants, or ask local businesses for support.

Obtain equipment. The equipment needed includes traps, safety glasses, hearing protection, kneeling roles, shooting mats, spotting scopes, pellets, slings and air rifles.

Recruit shooters. Ask post members' sons, daughters or grandchildren; advertise in schools and newspapers; contact local gun clubs; and reach out to youth programs such as Boy and Girl Scouts and 4-H clubs. "You can be successful in your recruiting efforts if you explain that air rifle safety is the foundation of our

program, and that shooting activities complement many other youth activities," Flynn said.

Practice. Decide the day and time that works best for the post, air rifle competitors and parents. "Many programs practice one day a week, but if you can increase by one more day your program grows and your competitiveness grows," Behling said.

Promote the program. Attend American Legion county and district meetings to educate members about JSSP, and have business cards available to hand out when talking about the program. Within two years of starting a Shooting Sports program, Post 942 in Webster, N.Y., produced an American Legion national champion – Andre Gross won the sporter category in the Legion's 2014 Junior 3-Position Air Rifle National Tournament in Colorado Springs, Colo. "That shows where your program can really go," Behling said.

Flynn reminded conference attendees that for Legion posts unable to host a Shooting Sports program, they can sponsor an existing club.

"The benefits of sponsoring an existing Shooting Sports program are tremendous – the instructor is trained, the program already has the required equipment and facilities, and the program has the participants," he said.

To download the Legion's brochure on how to join an air rifle club go to:

<http://www.legion.org/publications/229403/junior-shooting-sports-join-club>

And for more details on starting a post-level Shooting Sports program, download the Legion's "[How to Start a Club](#)" booklet at:

<http://www.legion.org/publications/229402/junior-shooting-sports-how-start-club>



NOVEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP RETENTION MONTH

RETENTION AWARD

New Membership Award Opportunity

💰 (CASH AWARD) 💰

Posts that renew 100% of the previous membership year's paid members by **December 15** of the current membership year will receive a **\$1.00 rebate** per renewed member.

NOTE:

- ☆ Deceased members will not count against the 100% Renewal Percentage.
- ☆ Members that transfer to a different Post before the start of the NEW Membership Year will not count against the 100% Renewal Percentage.



Brochures & Forms are now available online:

- ❖ American Legion Rider of the Year form (Terry L. Woodburn Award)
 - ❖ Americanism Essay Brochure
 - ❖ Boy Scout Forms
 - ❖ Premier Boys State Registration Form / Brochure
 - ❖ Children & Youth Forms
 - ❖ Community Service & Publicity Program
 - ❖ Education & Scholarship
 - ❖ Firefighter of the Year form
 - ❖ Gifts To The Yanks Brochure/Forms
 - ❖ Law Officer of the Year Form
 - ❖ Oratorical Scholarship Program
 - ❖ Poppy Sales /Poppy Poster Contest
 - ❖ Public Relations/Information Exchange Brochure/Form
 - ❖ Youth Police School Program
- ⇒ Fall Committee / Commission meeting reports are also available online.



www.illegion.org

Heroes With Hearing Loss® Program

Hamilton CapTel® 840i



Hamilton CapTel® 2400i



Talk about making the right choice

- I prefer traditional buttons when navigating on-screen menus
- I like the size and feel of a traditional phone
- The Hamilton CapTel 840i is right for me!
- I prefer touch-screen navigation for on-screen menus
- I like the size and feel of a contemporary phone
- The Hamilton CapTel 2400i is right for me!

Thanks to the Heroes With Hearing Loss Program, you're just a few steps away from amazingly clear phone conversations.

Designed to supplement existing hearing loss solutions, the Hamilton CapTel phone is the most advanced captioned telephone available, making it possible to listen and read word-for-word captions of everything said to you on the phone – similar to captions on television. The result is clarity and confidence on every call.

Right now, through the Heroes With Hearing Loss Program, you're eligible to receive a Hamilton CapTel captioned telephone at no-cost.*

Simply choose the Hamilton CapTel phone that's right for you (see above), complete the Certificate of Hearing Loss/Order Form with a qualified Independent Third-Party Professional (see next page) and follow the instructions for submission. We'll even cover the shipping costs!



* Independent third-party professional certification required.

The Hamilton CapTel 840i and 2400i require telephone service and high-speed Internet access. WiFi Capable.

Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS) is regulated and funded by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and is designed exclusively for individuals with hearing loss. To learn more, visit www.fcc.gov.

HeroesWithHearingLoss.org



Heroes With Hearing Loss Program is here to raise awareness and initiate meaningful dialog about shared hearing loss experiences among veterans, their families and friends — the Heroes With Hearing Loss program is a platform of engagement, providing insightful solutions and successful lifestyle-focused results. For more about this program visit. **HeroesWithHearingLoss.org**

Pictured above during a recent veterans event, VA & R Director Wayne Macejak shared with everyone the Hamilton CapTel phone veterans with hearing loss use in the Chicago Office. Learn more today by visiting **HeroesWithHearingLoss.org**



National Commander Charles Schmidt with the women veterans that have been elected this year to lead The American Legion in their respective states. Among this group in ILLINOIS we are honored to have Cheri Stanton Department of Illinois.

Families of deployed troops still need our help

The third week of November is National Family Week and during this time the National Commander encourage posts to communicate with local military families about the needs they may have if a loved one is deployed. As the nation's largest veterans service organization, our commitment to the men and women of our armed forces and their families never wavers. Together, we must act to ensure that no military family endures unnecessary hardships caused by service to their country. By doing so, we ensure that The American Legion is serving its veterans, service members and their families.

GET OUT THE VOTE



The Legion's role in the voting process

Among the freedoms many Americans enjoy is the right to vote for our elected officials. This year, of course, is generating intense interest because a new president will be elected. Additionally, voters will elect every single member of the U.S. House of Representatives and one-third of the U.S. Senate.

Right now we are entering a critical and exciting juncture as the two major political parties begin to hold primaries and caucuses to determine the front-runner for their nominations. Strong opinions can be found everywhere. Unfortunately, so too can some mis-truths. Many political groups were created specifically to spin facts, distort reality and twist words to propel their candidates into office. The American Legion, as a nonpartisan organization, assumes a role of neutrality amid the storm of political rhetoric and images.

As individuals, we are free like anyone to vote as we wish and support the candidates we think best.

But as Legionnaires, we have **a duty to participate in the election process** and encourage others to exercise one of the most important freedoms we, and those who served in uniform before us, fought to protect: the freedom to vote.

On the local level, an American Legion post can take on a greater role in its community by organizing and hosting a political forum or debate among candidates. Remember that any such event must be open to all who are running for a particular office, and the Legion cannot promote any one candidate. When posts are using

their facilities for such events, they should remove the emblem and Legion flag to avoid the impression of endorsement for any candidate. (Note that renting out hall space to a political campaign is still fair game, as long as it is not presented as an American Legion sponsored event.)

Here are some reminders from the Legion's **Get Out the Vote brochure**:

1. When hosting a voter registration drive, information and applications must be offered and available to all eligible voters.
2. Legionnaires may express partisan views, but they must do so when they are not wearing the Legion cap or other Legion attire, and without a direct connection to an American Legion post.
3. American Legion posts may coordinate forums or debates. However, posts cannot endorse or oppose a candidate, or coordinate activities with a candidate without giving his/her opponent the same opportunity.

Following these guidelines will keep the Legion above the fray without sacrificing any member's right to participate in the democratic process. It is my hope that each of you do participate in the election process individually, and posts take the lead in their communities by arranging fair debates or "meet the candidates" forums to help all of our citizens fulfill a right too often taken for granted.

NO LEGION CAPS WORN



AT POLITICAL EVENTS!

NO LEGION CAPS WORN AT POLITICAL EVENTS

Use of The American Legion's caps and/or emblem for a political endorsement is totally prohibited and can involve both the individuals involved and the department in serious legal and tax issues. This means that The American Legion does not endorse candidates. Article II, Section 2 means checking your Legion cap at the door of any political rallies, fundraisers, or conventions.

Follow Rules of Nonpartisanship

The American Legion shall remain nonpolitical and will not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor the promotion of any candidate. Failure of a post to abide by these rules may endanger its non-profit status. This does not mean that members are forbidden to show partisanship. Legionnaires may express partisan views, but they must not do so without wearing the Legion cap or other Legion attire and without a direct connection to an American Legion post.

DO NOT:

Favor a candidate. Posts cannot endorse or oppose a candidate; coordinate activities with a candidate; contribute money, time or facilities to candidates; or manage, fund or organize a political action committee.

Wear campaign buttons. Volunteers working on a Legion-sponsored registration and voting drive should not wear campaign buttons or communicate their personal views about candidates, parties and issues.

Visit the Legion's Legislative Action Center at <http://legion.capwiz.com/election/home/>

Bloomington Thunder Military Appreciation Night



Military Appreciation Night

November 18th • 7pm

\$10 tickets for all veterans and their families

**Bloomington
Thunder
Hockey Team
Bloomington, IL**

TO ORDER TICKETS GO TO:

http://bloomingtonthunder-com.3dcartstores.com/Military-Appreciation-Night-Ticket-Special-1118_p_45.html



Pride and joy

Sam's Club proudly supports all military personnel and their families.



Join or renew your Sam's Club® membership to receive up to a \$25 gift card* and save up to \$36 on Fresh Baked Desserts*



Italian Crème Cake

Your Choice - Free Cake

Choose one:
• Italian Crème Cake #702489
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• Carrot Cake #93669
Limit 1

Must scan item at checkout to redeem FREE cake and pie offer



Holiday Sampler Pie

Your Choice - Free Pie

Choose one:
• Holiday Sampler Pie #147084
• Caramel Apple Pie #194087
• French Silk Pie #147077
Limit 1

Share the joy of a Sam's Club membership and tell your military family and friends about this great offer.*

* This offer is limited to active and former U.S. military and their spouses. Proof of service is required. Military welcome package offer good 30 days from date of sign-up or renewal. Individual offers can be redeemed one time only. Limited availability. No substitutions or rain checks. No cash value. Offer cannot be combined with other offers. Military special offer includes: Your choice of a FREE Italian Crème Cake, Chocolate Layer Fudge Cake or Carrot Cake (limit 1) and FREE Caramel Apple Pie, Holiday Sampler Pie or French Silk Pie (limit 1) from the bakery. Special offer packages are instant savings items and are subject to availability, valid dates and limits per membership. All terms and conditions apply. Club Insider Savings and Instant Savings collectively "Instant Savings" are subject to availability and valid dates. Select Instant Savings are available online. For Club Pickup purchases, Instant Savings can be redeemed at point of sale at the club with the primary membership card. State and local laws may require sales tax to be charged on the pre-discounted price of an item within Instant Savings offer. Prices shown are pre-tax amounts. No money shall be returned to member if price of offer is below zero dollars after application of Instant Savings. To view your Instant Savings account, visit Sam'sClub.com/InstantSavings or download the Sam's Club app. Member must have a registered email on Sam'sClub.com in order to access the Instant Savings account page online. Visit Sam'sClub.com/InstantSavings for program details and terms and conditions. Items and prices may vary in-club. Instant Savings offers shown are valid in U.S. stores with a U.S. membership, excluding Puerto Rico. Instant Savings may take up to 14 days to load to a membership account. Offers in Puerto Rico may vary, see local club for details. Offer valid November 1 - 30, 2016.

** This offer is limited to active and former U.S. military and their spouses. Proof of service is required. Join or renew as a Sam's Plus® Member and get a \$25 gift card, or join or renew as a Sam's Savings® or Sam's Business® Member and get a \$15 gift card. You must be 18 or older to purchase a membership, and membership is subject to qualifications. Gift card will be provided at the time membership is purchased and card is issued. This offer may not be combined with any other offer or promotion. Only one gift card per primary member. Gift card cannot be used toward membership fee, travel purchases or select services, and must be claimed within 30 days of membership sign-up or renewal connected with this program. Membership cards are non-transferable and are valid at all Sam's Club locations worldwide. Walmart® and Sam's Club associates are not eligible for this offer. Primary memberships are valid for one year from the date of issue. Offers are not valid at Sam'sClub.com or by mail. Visit Sam'sClub.com/giftway to view our privacy policy. For a limited time only. One-time use only. Offer valid November 1 - 30, 2016.

Sam's Club Advertised Merchandise Policy - It is our firm intention to have every advertised item in stock. Occasionally, however, an advertised item may not be available for purchase due to unforeseen difficulties. We reserve the right to limit quantities to normal retail purchases or one-per-member or household, and to exclude resellers. We have done our best to ensure all information in this piece is accurate and up-to-date. Errors and omissions occasionally occur and are subject to correction. Pricing and item availability may vary by location and in Alaska, Hawaii, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Wisconsin and in Sam'sClub.com. No rain checks.

November 1-30, 2017

Commander Stanton in Abelen, Kansas celebrating the 126th birthday of Dwight D. Eisenhower



2016—2017 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	HOST POST	CITY
11/06/2016	17TH DISTRICT	12:00 PM	GRIDLEY POST 218 (MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN)	GRIDLEY
11/09/2016	2ND DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT POST 923	CHICAGO
11/16/2016	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
11/16/2016	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	IWASZUK-CETWINSKI POST 943	CHICAGO
11/17/2016	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	GLENN MAKER POST 1160	CHICAGO RIDGE
11/18/2016	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	GURNEE POST 771	GURNEE
11/23/2016	3RD DISTRICT	7:00 PM	LTC CHARLES J. BLACKWOOD SR. POST 800	CHICAGO
12/03/2016	8TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	EVERGREEN PARK POST 854 (HOLIDAY HOP)	EVERGREEN PARK
12/11/2016	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	OKAWVILLE POST 233	OKAWVILLE
12/21/2016	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DES PLAINES POST 36	DES PLAINES
12/28/2016	3RD DISTRICT	7:00 PM	SOUTH DEERING POST 1238	CHICAGO
01/08/2017	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	SPRINGFIELD POST 32	SPRINGFIELD
01/16/2017	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	OLNEY POST 30	OLNEY
01/18/2017	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
01/20/2017	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	SHARVIN POST 397	NORTH CHICAGO
01/25/2017	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MERLE GUILD POST 208	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
01/26/2017	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	REHFELDT-MEYER POST 474	MATTESON
01/28/2017	3RD DISTRICT	7:00 PM	GEO. L. GILES POST 87	CHICAGO
01/29/2017	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	NEW HAVEN POST 1141	NEW HAVEN
01/29/2017	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	THE HAVEN	CARBONDALE
02/08/2017	2ND DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT POST 923	CHICAGO
02/15/2017	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
02/17/2017	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	LAKE ZURICH POST 964	LAKE ZURICH

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

★ **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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NOVEMBER TRIVIA?

1. Where in Beijing did Chinese students build a Goddess of Democracy in May of 1989?
2. What author moved some 56 times in the six months after he was issued a death threat?
3. What Connecticut resident was the first woman in U.S. history to be elected a U.S. governor without inheriting the office from her husband?
4. What secretary of defense admitted the Vietnam War was a "mistake" in 1995?
5. What nation's 90-man army is the world's oldest, dating back to 1506?

ANSWERS:

1. Tiananmen Square
2. Salman Rushdie
3. Ella Grasso
4. Robert McNamara
5. Vatican City's



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