

Department News

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

THE AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY**



2016-2017 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CHERI L. STANTON

SEPTEMBER 2016



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
AUGUST 26, 2016

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District Commander

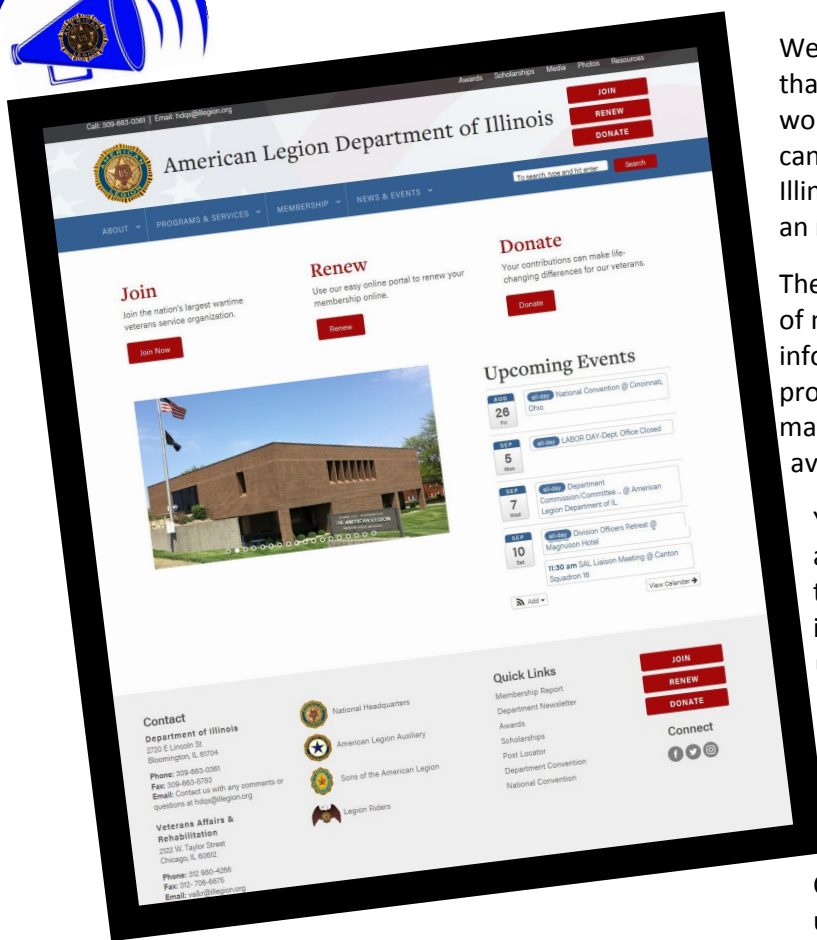
1	FREDERICK
17	NAGEL
18	MONROE
8	CHAMBERS
10	RISLEY
23	ROUNDS, II
16	TALASKA
13	KRAUT
14	TAYLOR
15	HAZZARD

Division Commander

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



Check out our **NEW** website



We are excited to announce that after months of hard work, the brand new American Legion Department of Illinois website is officially up and running.

The attractive new look, ease of navigation and multitude of information updated daily provides you with tools you may not have known were available.

You may also note there are quite a few new items that we hope you'll find informative and easy to use.

Take a look around and if you have trouble finding what you are looking for just let us know.

Check back frequently as updates are added daily.

www.illegion.org

Our Membership Director Chad Woodburn has been very busy updating the Departments of Illinois Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media pages. Below are the links. Check them out!



<https://www.facebook.com/TheAmericanLegionDepartmentOfIllinois>



<https://www.instagram.com/taldeptofillinois/>



Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/taldeptofillinois/>



From The Desk of Department Commander Cheri L. Stanton



What a great way to start off our new year! We have FIVE posts with 100% already. Instead of closing, New-ponset Post 875 got out and recruited 10 new members making them 266.7%. My FOUR other superstars are Joliet Post 241, Danforth Post 367, Athens Post 129, and Chestnut Post 848 with 100%'s/ It is AMAZING how many 50, 60, 70, 80 and 90% posts we have already!!!

Luella and I have come up with a PERSONNEL AWARD for a little friendly competition. I will off \$100 to the post who signs up the most new Auxiliary members by Flag Day. The posts will be responsible to keep track of the list of new Illinois Auxiliary members they sign up and get it to me at Department before Flag Day to verify membership. Luella will do the same for recruiting American Legion members and Auxiliary

units will keep track, then send the list to Luella by Flag Day. We will announce and present money at Convention to be used by the post or unit for membership activities. So get with it Ladies and Gentlemen, let's have a little old-fashioned fun with this challenge....not to mention all those new members.

I have gone to lots of installations and everyone seemed excited about "the year of the family." We all need to realize working together is the only way to make our American Legion grow. Get younger veterans to come to our posts by including family activities is a starting point. With School starting, how about a game night and a soup supper. They could eat, (you could tell about one of our programs), then play board games with the kids. Everybody could bring their own board games and then challenge other families. The post and auxiliary members could bring school supplies as prizes and cook the soups for supper. Monday nights seem to be the best slow night of the week.

If your post or unit tries anything to entice new members, please call Department all tell me your ideas. We will post them so we can start a list of suggestions. YES, I KNOW WE HAVE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE--BUT HOW IS THAT WORKING FOR RECRUTIN NEW MEMBERS?

At the end of this month is National Convention in Cincinnati, OH. I am hoping we will have some great news to share when we get back.

There will be several training classes scheduled for September. It would be great to have all officers to attend so they will be informed about the strategies of the upcoming year. Even if you are a "recycled" officer, we all learn new things every day. You alone could be a great asset to the new officers with your advice.

I want lost of communication this year. No more guessing what your post is doing, We need a Communications Officer to send all the posts,

(Dept. Commander continued on page 6)



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Bob Henderson



Things are really heating up on Membership, Joliet Post # 241 & Chestnut Post # 848, both at 100%, GOOD GOING! We would love to see more post up there close to the 100% Membership mark. The Posts need to get in touch with their Membership and get them to pay their dues. That is what Joliet and Chestnut did to get to 100%. The District Commanders need to get their Posts in their Districts certified so they can get their 2017 CARDS. You can't get Membership turned in with no cards to give out. Don't forget that you can turn Membership in at the DEC on the 17th of September until 12:00

NOON.

We haven't gotten very many posts, counties, or District to turn in what they want to revitalize, we need to know so we can get them scheduled. Talk to your District or Division Commanders and let them know what you need to revitalize, the sooner the better. We attended the National workshop and learned a lot of new things, we will be giving this info out at the Division Officers Retreat September, 10th and 11th.

The American Legion Golf Tournament at Danville went well and everybody had a good time, there were 25 four person teams competing. The Veterans Day at the State Fair was really a great time and we seen a lot of veterans coming by our display. There was a lot of infor-

mation given out, hopefully it will help some of the Veterans that picked it up. The Parade went well after they got it lined out and NO RAIN.

The National Convention is August 26th thru August 31st, hope to see you there. The month of September is going to be busy. We Have the Division Officers Retreat on September 10th and 11th. The 16th is American Legion Day followed on the 17th with the Fall DEC and Department Commanders Home Coming at Monmouth, IL. Hope to see everybody in Monmouth, IL on the 17th of September. Also the Department Committee & Commission Fall meetings are at Dept. Head Quarters on September 24th and October 1st.

HELP YOUR POSTS TO GET THEIR MEMBERS TO PAY THEIR DUES.



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Luella Buske



What an exciting time July and August have been. I have attended Unit, District and Division Installations. Everyone has been so courteous and hospitable.

It is great the way the Units and Posts are reacting to the Auxiliary Law Enforcement theme of "Serving and Protecting Those Who Serve and Protect".

On August 6th & 7th the American Legion Auxiliary held the first Board Meeting of the 2016-2017 year. All the Officers and Chairmen presented their reports. I would like to thank Commander Cheri and Sons Commander Phil for attending. We all made friendly wagers on membership. Membership

Chairman Patti and I are confident in our ability to win!!! After the Board Meeting, the 21st District and the American Legion State Police Family hosted my homecoming. I was excited to see so many of the Legion Family present that day! A special Thank You to Troopers FOP Lodge and the Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation.

On September 14th I attended the Veteran's Day festivities at the State Fair. A big thank you to the Auxiliary members who worked our information table. To end the day, First Vice President, Marsha, Second Vice President Deb and others walked in the parade. It was a beautiful day!

I am excited to travel to Cincinnati for the National Convention. Once home, Vice President Marsha, Membership Chairman Patti and I will begin our Caravans to the Districts and Divi-

sions. We will be collecting membership and giving the members information on this year's programs. Maybe we will see you there!

In regards to membership, I will be giving a personal award of **\$100** to the Legion Post signing up the most new Auxiliary members by Flag Day. Commander Cheri will award **\$100** to the Auxiliary Unit recruiting the largest number of Legion members.

Send me a list of the new members and the Unit they joined before June 14, 2017. The winners will be announced at Department Convention.



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Shipley



Hello! My name is Phil Shipley and I am a proud member of the 4th Division, 19th District of the Sons of The American Legion and I bring you greeting from the Detachment of Illinois.

As a member of the American Legion Family and to generate interest in our goals for the coming membership year; we have once again designed a membership pin. You too may have one of these pins just by seeing me or one of my officers.

My pin was designed with a few things in mind I would like to explain.

It is in the shape of the State of Illinois and with the SAL emblem to remind everyone that we are part of the Illinois American Legion family.

On it you will find the logos of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and The American Legion Riders Legacy Scholarship Fund which are the two programs I am promoting this year.

In honor of our troops currently serving it has been colored in a military camouflage pattern.

At the bottom of the pin you will find the notation for the Bible book, chapter and verse for Genesis 27: 2-4. It reads...

"And Isaac said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; And make me savory meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee..."

As an avid Bow hunter for deer, this verse speaks to me and allows me

to bless the memory of the men that taught me to hunt and this verse also gave me the idea to use the Target with an arrow in the Bulls-Eye to reinforce my them of **"Shooting for Membership!"**

If you look close you'll see that the arrow has been split as in accordance with the legend of "Robin Hood". This symbolizes the second half of my theme **"Robin Hooding for Retention"**. Just as the arrow showed the Sherriff of Nottingham that a perfect shot can be made better; it also teaches all of us to never give up on reaching out to our past members and that we will welcome them back!

So join me and my band of "Merry Men" in **"Shooting for Membership"** and **"Robin Hooding for Retention"** this coming year!



Did You Know?

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

That twice a year your Chicago Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) staff attend service officers' school. Just recently our summer meeting of accredited service officers met in Indianapolis, Indiana for three days of intense refresher training as well as updates on the myriad of VA benefit and law changes. Starting at 8:00 in the morning and lasting till 8:30 at night (with breaks for lunch and dinner) our National VA&R people trained us in claims processing, techniques on conducting a personal hearing before the Decision Review Officers and travel judges, how and when to appeal cases and recent court decisions from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Legion service officers fly in from all over the United States and we share best practices as well as air our concerns and problems. At the end, a one hundred question certification test is taken and we return to our home states to put what we learned into practical application with the veterans we serve. Each year we also come back with some interesting tidbits. Here are just some examples:

- So far 81,000 vets from OEF, OIF, Operation New Dawn and Desert Shield and Storm have signed up for the Open Burn Pit Registry. If you have not done so go to the following site: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp>
- The Bd. for Correction of Military Records (BCMR) can now change a name on a DD 214 if the veteran had a sex change.
- With "Don't ask, don't tell, the BCMR can sometimes upgrade a bad discharge if the veteran got out only because of homosexual feelings but no illegal acts.
- The BCMR can change the vet's home of record on enlistment. This is important for those trying to get the Ill. Veterans Grant.
- To help with the appeals backlog the American Legion has a pilot program out of Minnesota. It is showing promise and may be rolled out to other states.
- Over 63,000 veterans are awaiting hearings on their appeals and this number may top 100,000 by the end of the year.
- New recruits are given the option of financial coaching so they won't blow their first paycheck on a new car or stereo equipment.
- Of the 21.8 million veterans in our country 1.6 million are female.
- From the last census a vet's median income is \$35,000, non-vet is \$24,500.
- A new scam are Pension Advance Companies. They give you a quick loan but then take payments out of your pension and charge VERY high interest rates.
- Vets must use a specific form to let the Veterans Administration know then intend to file. They can no longer write a simple letter saying they wish to file for Veterans Administration comp. or pension.
- If you lie to the Veterans Administration and then tell your American Legion Service Officer what you did in most cases we will revoke you as a client.
- Of all the prescriptions written in the world, 75% are for Americans.
- Over 100,000 Americans die each year from multiple drug interactions.
- Any vet with a joint injury e.g. shoulder, elbow, or ankle and who have some pain on movement of that joint should get a minimum rating of 10% for that joint.
- Even if you enter service with a pre-existing medical problem you can sometimes get Veterans Administration compensation if the service made it worse.

These are just a few of the interesting bits of information we gathered from our school. The Department of Illinois can be proud of its service officers. We are motivated, skilled, compassionate and always on a learning curve. If you should ever have a benefit question yourself or are approached by someone from your Post or District with a question don't hesitate to refer them to us. Our contact information is listed above. Remember, there is no stupid question, only a stupid answer!

People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men and women stand ready to do violence on their behalf

*On September 16th we proudly celebrate
American Legion Day*





From The Desk of the Membership Director Chad J. Woodburn



It's September already and membership is in full swing. Menard County Post 129 and Danforth 367 were the first two post's to reach the 100% goal, with Joliet 241 and Chestnut 848 hitting their 100% right behind them. Congratulations to those four motivating post's and their membership. There are many post's that are very close, keep up the great work. Just a reminder, for every post that hit's 100% there will be a one-time cash award.

Post Size	Post Size	Post Size
15-99	100-249	250+
11/14/16	11/14/16	11/14/16
\$100.00	\$1.00 member	\$1.00 member
12/31/16	12/31/16	12/31/16
\$0.75 member	\$0.75 member	\$0.75 member
01/31/17	01/31/17	01/31/17
\$50.00	\$0.25 member	\$0.25 member

Revitalizations are being planned throughout the State. If your District would like some help, please email me, cwoodburn@illegion.org, so we can try and work out some

dates. For national assistance we will need at least five weeks of lead time.

If your Post is not certified please do that as soon as possible so we can get your cards to you. Go to our website illegion.org, click on membership, certification forms and the post officer certification. Fill it out, fax, email, or snail mail it to department and you're done. It will take less than ten minutes to do. An instruction sheet is also there for you to look at if you have not completed one before.

Keep up the strong work and keep pushing forward!

*"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

High schools are back in full swing. I suggest that you contact the person at the school that has helped you recruit young men for the program. Set up a date this fall to talk to the young men about Premier Boys State for the 2017 session. This gets them thinking about the program. Use the 2016 participants to help in recruiting. They are a valuable resource in recruiting. The 2017 session will be June 10 to 16 at Eastern Illinois University.

Our fall committee meeting was held at Department HQ on August 13. Much was discussed. Everyone felt the 2016 session was a success. Our numbers were slightly and according to an exit survey the participants were very pleased with program.

With 2017 being the end of our contract with Eastern discussion centered on a new contract. Several universities were contacted about submitting bids for the program. After much discussion the committee voted to remain at Eastern for several years. The specifics of the contract will be worked out over the next few months. Again start to contact the high schools and begin the process of recruitment. The cost remains the same for 2017 and brochures and applications are available at Dept. Contact Joy Wilson for the materials. As always if you need any information or help[concerning Premier Boys State do not hesitate to contact a member of the committee.

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



Did you Know some 2016 Olympians were Military personnel

Sgt. Nathan Schrimsher—NM (Army)
Event: Modern pentathlon

LT. Edward King—MO (Navy)
Event: Rowing, lightweight men's four

2nd Lt. David Higgins—CA (Marine Corp, & Air Force Academy Class of 2016)
Event: 50 m rifle prone

Sgt. 1st Class Keith Sanderson—TX (Army)
Event: 25 m rapid fire pistol

Sgt. 1st Class Michael McPhail—WI (Army)
Event: 50 m rifle prone

Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Eller—GA (Army)
Event: Double trap

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Richmond—PA (Army)
Event: Double trap

Spec. Dan Lowe—WA (Army)
Event: 10m air rifle

Vincent Hancock—GA (Army)
Event: Skeet

1st Lt. Cale Simmons—CA (Air Force)
Event: Pole Vault

2nd Lt. Sam Kendricks—MS (Army)
Event: Pole Vault—**BRONZE MEDAL WINNER**

Staff Sgt. John Nunn—CA (Army)
Event: 50 K race walk

Spec Leonard Korir—CO (Army)
Event: 10,000 m run

Spc. Shadrack Kipchirchir—OR (Army)
Event: 10,000m run

Spc. Paul Chelimo—OR (Army)
Event: 5,000m run —**SILVER MEDAL WINNER**

Sgt. Hillary Bor—CO (Army)
Event: 3,000m steeplechase

Sean Furey—MA (Navy, civilian)
Event: Javelin

Regine Tugade (Incoming Naval Academy midshipman)
Event: 100 m sprint competing for Guam.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Labor Day

Dept. Office Closed
September 5th
~ ~ ~

Dept. Commanders Cmte/Cmsn.

Appointments Meetings

With Division Cmdrs.

@ Dept. HQ
September 7th
~ ~ ~

Purple Heart Day
September 7th
~ ~ ~

SAL Fall D.E.C.
Canton, IL
September 10th
~ ~ ~

Division Officer Retreat
September 10th--11th
~ ~ ~

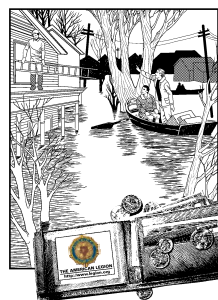
Patriot Day
September 11th
~ ~ ~

American Legion Day & POW/MIA Recognition Day
September 16th
~ ~ ~

Ntl. Children & Youth Conference
Indianapolis, IN
September 16th--18th
~ ~ ~

Fall D.E.C. @ 1:00pm
Monmouth, IL
September 17th
~ ~ ~

Department Commanders Homecoming
Monmouth, IL
September 17th
~ ~ ~
Gold Pin Cut-Off
@ 12 NOON
September 17th
#



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MONTH

(Dept. Commander continued from page 2)

auxiliary, SALs and rider's info to. He or she can organize what is given then post it on facebook or your posts email pages, or contact your local high school to ask for one of the students who need to do Community Service and let them be your Web Master. Lots of high schools require Community Service hours to graduate. In return take an ad out in the school paper advertising for boys state, girl state, youth police school, or the oratorical contest.

In this issue you can find an invitation to my Homecoming on September 17th in Monmouth. We will have a DEC meeting at 1:00, social hour at 6:00, and Dinner at 7:00. Please make your reservations as soon as possible so we have an idea of how much to fix. For entertainment we have "Guy's With Ties", a comedy club trio who will make us laugh. It will be a great way to start out a fun year. Hope to see you there.



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 deadline
has been extended
to September 7th*

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

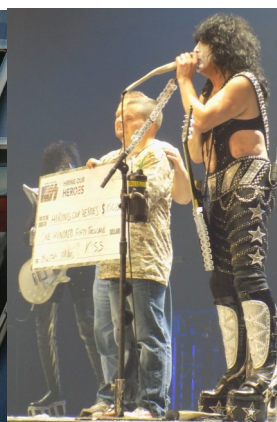
⇒ Quality Inn
907 W Carl Sandburg Dr.
309-344-5445

Book Early!

KISS "FREEDOM TO ROCK" TOUR



**Freedom to Rock Concert in Rockford, IL
August 20, 2016**



**Springfield, IL Post 32
August 17, 2016**

KISS announced its 2016 Summer American "Freedom To Rock" Tour. The epic rock tour kicked off July 7th in Boise, IA and will close September 10th in Huntington, WV. The KISS "Freedom to Rock" Tour visited Illinois with concerts in Moline, Springfield and Rockford. Color Guards from the Post & District were present in Springfield and Rockford.

The Kiss "Freedom to Rock" Tour is donating \$150,000 to the Hiring Our Heroes program.

**HIRING OUR
HEROES**



**Springfield, IL Post 32
August 17, 2016**

2016

gifts to the yanks

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Jogging Suit

Lined Adult Jacket

Gift Bag

Fleece Blanket

Order forms and work sheets are available online at
www.giftstotheyanks.org



Department Sr. Vice Commander Bob Henderson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Paul Woods of The News Gazette for his weekly article in the Champaign newspaper titled "For Those Who Served". Paul was recognized by Dept. Sr Vice Cmdr. on behalf of the PR/Information Exchange Committee.

AMERICAN LEGION STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT DANVILLE, IL AUGUST 6TH & 7TH



August 6-7, 2016 there were 26 teams who competed in the 2016 American Legion State Golf Tournament.

Opening ceremonies began with the dozens of American Legion Riders rumbling in, the presentation of Colors was given by several American Legion Posts and Color Guards. At 8:20 AM a WWII P-51 Mustang Fighter Plane flew over Harrison Park Golf Course (Courtesy of Owner Butch Schroeder and Pilot Craig Davidson). The AMBUCS Veteran's Initiative Chairperson Diane Carlton presented an AmTryke to local veteran Robert Shipley. Mr. Shipley said he was blessed to receive this wonderful gift. The hospitality of Danville Convention Area & Visitors bureau and Danville Mayor Scott Eisenhower was phenomenal. The Mayor emceed the opening ceremonies, and announces each and every golfer as they tee off at the 1st hole.



The Marine Corp League attended the flag on the 9th hole on both Harrison Golf Course and Turtle Run Golf Course. They retrieved and placed the special American Flag during play for each team.

A steak, chicken or rib dinner followed Saturdays play at Danville Post 210 for all Golfers.

During the opening ceremony State Golf Chairman Gregg Alpers was overwhelmed so much that he was at a loss for words of how the Illinois American Legion State Golf Tournament is beginning to grow and how truly grateful he is to everyone who'd supported this years event including our very own "American Legion Paparazzi". Gregg stated "this is just great, the American Legion is great, this country is great, this event is great. This was a dream of mine and it's finally coming true, thank you everyone".

2016 1st place State Winners [Champion Flight] were Prosisie, Green, Pennington, and Silver

(A list of all group pairings, results, and photos can be found on www.illegion.org under photos/2016 state golf tournament)

Dept. Adjutant Marty Conatser said, "This event was truly an outstanding, fun filled, professionally planned American Legion Family event. I look forward to seeing this event grow in numbers and to play again next year." Speaking for NEXT YEAR, mark your calendars August 5—6, 2017. State Golf Tourney—information coming soon. Whether you're a novice or a professional to the fairway you should attend this event!



Tournament Chairman
Gregg Alpers



**2016 American Legion State
Golf Tournament Winners**



Dept. Adjutant
Marty Conatser

THE MILLENNIALS HAVE TAKEN OVER: A PRIMER FOR THE MILITARY'S GENERATIONAL SHIFT

They demand praise.

They question authority.

How they are disrupting your Navy.

Are younger service members — so-called ‘millennials,’ born in 1980 or later — soft?

Are they too reliant on technology? Are they buried so deep in social media that face-to-face communication becomes impossible? Are they too busy questioning orders to follow them?

It's not uncommon to hear such complaints from members of the Old Guard, some of whom are quick to stereotype the new breed as too desperate for praise and too ill-disciplined.

Across the services, leaders certainly are scrambling to adapt to the millennial mindset, even as the generation is taking over.

◆ The Army is looking to expand the role of drill sergeants and insert them back into Advanced Individual Training. This means new soldiers will have more time with tough-talking soldiers, beyond basic. Why?

“The problem that we do have is that right now the generation we have coming in is not as disciplined as we would like them to be,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gragg, the senior enlisted soldier for the Center for Initial Military Training, earlier this year. “So we have to provide them with discipline over a longer period of time.”

◆ At the service academies, students have complained the military's rigid career tracks and “up or out rules” discourage continued service. Complaints like these from cadets at West Point helped hasten the Defense Department's current plans to reform the promotion system and allow more flexibility in recruiting, assigning and promoting officers.

◆ While recruiting in the short-term has not suffered, leaders have warned of a looming crisis.

In the 1990s, almost half of young Americans had parents with some military experience. Today that has dropped to about 15 percent, Stephanie Miller, the Pentagon's director of accessions policy, said in an interview earlier this year.

“This military-civilian disconnect does create this particular challenge for us,” Miller said.

Social media is also creating new complexities for recruiters. Years ago, a successful strategy entailed some television ads and sending individual recruiters out to high schools for face-to-face conversations.

Now, that's changed as prospective recruits spend endless hours connected to smartphones.

“It is difficult to be able to get their attention in a world where social media and so many other different types of activities are pulling at their attention,” Miller said.

The takeover is here—

As of 2014, the last year for which a full Defense Department-produced demographics report is available, about 4 in 5 active-duty service members were 35 years old or younger. Only 14.4 percent of the enlisted force was age 36 and up, and more than half the active-duty officer corps fell in the millennial bracket.

So if you're a card-carrying Generation X-er, you're outnumbered. Millennials will be moving into and up the ranks for the foreseeable future (although the next generation is coming; see sidebar), and love them or find them frustrating, we've asked some experts for ways to reach them.

Before the leadership advice, a few quick caveats. First, the debate over what makes a millennial is far from settled, though the majority of experts mark the generation's birth dates between 1980 and 2000.

Second, all of the experts, at least to some degree, stressed that all of the tendencies, traits, habits, preferences and so on attached to millennials don't apply to every single one. The blanket statements are especially ill-conceived for a self-selected group such as service members — because it's not a random sample, some traits that may be in the minority of the overall millennial population (high fitness levels or high work ethic, according to some studies) would likely be in the majority among those in uniform.

For instance, “this [trend toward a low work ethic] is an average trend,” said Jean Twenge, a psychology professor who authored “Generation Me” in 2006 and updated it in 2014, primarily to discuss how those born from about 1980 to 1994 are adapting to the workplace. “There's going to be exceptions. So, No. 1, find those who don't fit that trend.”

That's not always an option for military leaders. Some tips for how to manage millennials of all stripes — suggestions that can apply to all services:

1. Throw out your “shoes.” Having empathy for, and a desire to relate to, your subordinates isn't a bad thing, but some leaders have the wrong starting

point.

“If you assume that millennials think just like you ... they'll walk,” said retired Army Lt. Col. Leonard Wong, a research professor in the Strategic Studies Institute at the U.S. Army War College. “[The idea of,] ‘Think about it when you were in their shoes,’ that's a mistake. When we were their age, we thought differently.”

An example: Gen X and baby boomer troops may have been motivated to remain in service for access to health care and, down the line, a retirement income. That might not work for millennials, many of whom have been raised to accept, or at least not fear, late-life career changes.

Wong said such calculations should weigh on Pentagon leaders as they consider plans for overhauling the military retirement system — millennials may be more willing than previous generations to accept a small pension and get out before the 20-year mark. It's not a new problem for long-serving leadership.

“Boomers thought, ‘If I leave the Army, I might not get a job,’” Wong said. “[Gen] Xers thought, ‘If I leave the Army, I'll get a job, no problem.’ Boomers didn't understand that.”

2. Learn to love the Why. Some leaders may take offense when subordinates seek clarity on orders. They are missing an opportunity, said Air Force Col. Timothy Sundvall, commander of the 35th Fighter Wing out of Japan's Misawa Air Base.

“I find with the younger generation that they are used to asking why,” said Sundvall, who co-wrote a 2015 piece for Air & Space Power Journal on leading millennials along with Col S. Clinton Hinote. “They want to know why. If you can't explain to them why you're doing it, then for crying out loud, don't do it. If you don't know why you're doing it, stop.”

Answering such questions not only suggests willingness to engage with younger troops, but it provides them with needed flexibility should the original order be overcome by events.

Without that extra step, Sundvall said, “when the situation changes, they aren't going to be able to adjust to it, because they don't know why they're doing it in the first place.”

“Concentrate more on the why, more on the vision, and then let them go. When the situation changes, they're going to be able to adapt to it.”

Another reason to engage, per Navy Lt. Matthew Hipple, is that if millennials don't get an answer from their chain of command, they're likely to seek one somewhere else.

“Why has always been important, it's just now more people have that ability to ask that question more loudly,” said Hipple, 30, who in addition to his surface warfare duties is the president and co-founder of the Center for International Maritime Security think tank. “They have access to more information that lets them question that why, or come up with their own reasons for that why. And also they're curious, because they know that information is available.”

“It has nothing to do with them being millennials, it has to do with the resources at their disposal.”

3. Go hands-off. Another benefit to a good answer to “why” is the ability to unleash skills of younger service members that could go underutilized if orders are too specific or aren't explained.

Capt. Jon Rodgers, commanding officer of the amphibious assault ship Makin Island, recalled how he asked his younger crew members to improve on the “ergonomically handicapped” bridge setup, which limited the CO's ability to operate in a suddenly hostile environment.

“We've got to make this more functional, to be able to fight the ship from the bridge, if we have to,” Rodgers recalled telling his sailors and junior officers. “If I had to run from the bridge to combat to fight the ship, that's about five minutes we don't have.”

“I didn't prescribe how I wanted it done, just here's the ‘why.’ These young millennials, they opened up. They felt privileged, unleashed. They were not shy about coming forward with their ideas. They did the work, and it was a lot of pride.”

Rodgers performed a similar exercise while in command of the afloat forward staging base Ponce, where he commanded a combined civilian-military crew and became a de facto expert on multigenerational leadership: His sailors ranged from age 17 to 75.

FOR FULL ARTICLE GO TO: <http://www.militarytimes.com/story/military/2016/07/31/millennials-have-taken-over-primer-militarys-generational-shift/87303140/>



State of Illinois
Department of Veterans' Affairs

★ 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

09/06/16, 07:19

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.

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 mistruths. 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 impres-

sion 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.

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/>



The American Legion Department of Illinois Publication Project is about to begin!



Starting soon, Publishing Concepts (PCI) will be contacting you via mail, phone, and email to request that you update your information.

We understand security and privacy are concerns, but please know that PCI is a trusted partner of the American Legion Department of Illinois. Don't miss out on the opportunity to be included!

PCI not the big company

www.publishingconcepts.com

1st Annual Haven Run

October 1st & 2nd, 2016

**Benefit Run for the Haven Veteran's Retreat
on Crab Orchard Lake in Southern Illinois**

Sponsored by

5th Division, Department of Illinois American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary,
Sons of the American Legion & the American Legion Riders

2 Wheels – 3 Wheels – 4 Wheels Welcome!

Day 1, October 1st

Depart Effingham American Legion, 200 W. Washington Ave., Effingham, IL. at 9:00am. We'll make a stop at an American Legion Post every 50 miles or so, heading east, southwest, north & south, and finish the day at the American Legion Post 147, 11720 Longstreet Rd., Marion, for Dinner, Entertainment featuring the Dave Caputo Band, Dancing & Comradery!

Lodging is available at Country Inn & Suites, 1306 Halfway Rd., Marion, IL 618-997-2444, Ref: Haven Run for 25% off any room.

Day 2, October 2nd

Depart Marion American Legion at 9:00am, heading east, southwest, south & north, making stops at American Legion Posts along the way. We'll arrive at the Haven at approximately 2pm to present donations before heading home!

\$20.00 donation per Rider, \$15.00 donation per Passenger

Free T-Shirt for each Registered Rider. 50/50 Drawings, Silent Auction.

For information, please contact Roy Smith, 618-339-2369,
Carla Gibson 217-663-6589 or Maribeth Whitsell 618-751-1631

Let's Ride for the Haven

NATIONAL CONVENTION



@ Illinois Party Thanking the
2015-2016 Legion Family Officers



2016 National Convention
Community Service Project



National Parade - Illinois Delegation & Joliet Band



National President Sharon Conatser on the
American Legion Legacy Ride w/ Chad Woodburn

CONGRATULATIONS

Joliet Band wins the National Band Competition



LEGACY RUN

total reaches:

\$1,155,363

Amazing job everyone!

2016—2017 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
09/18/2016	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	BETHALTO POST 214	BETHALTO
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
10/15/2016	14TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	ALEXIS COMMUNITY CENTER POST 189	ALEXIS
10/16/2016	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	THOMSON POST 1025	THOMSON
10/16/2016	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	BREESE POST 252	BREESE
10/16/2016	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	HARRISBURG POST 167	HARRISBURG
10/19/2016	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	GEORGE W. BENJAMIN POST 791	NORTHBROOK
10/23/2016	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MURPHYSBORO POST 127	MURPHYSBORO

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

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY *

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

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CHERIL L. STANTON MARTY CONATSER

Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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SEPTEMBER TRIVIA DID YOU KNOW?

1. What U.S. president died 79 days after being shot?
2. What outfit's National Intelligence Daily has a circulation of about 200?
3. What leader said in 1942: "Never before have we had so little time in which to do so much"?
4. What child name's plunge in U.S. popularity was attributed to a famous 1974 scandal?
5. What 1970 hit movie was banned on military bases for "reducing the conventions and paraphernalia of war to total idiocy"?



Visit our website!
Scan Here

ANSWERS:

1. James Garfield.
2. The Central Intelligence Agency's.
3. Franklin D. Roosevelt.
4. Richard's.
5. M*A*S*H.



on the third Friday of September
we remember prisoners of war (POW)
those who are missing in action (MIA),
and their families