

Department News

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

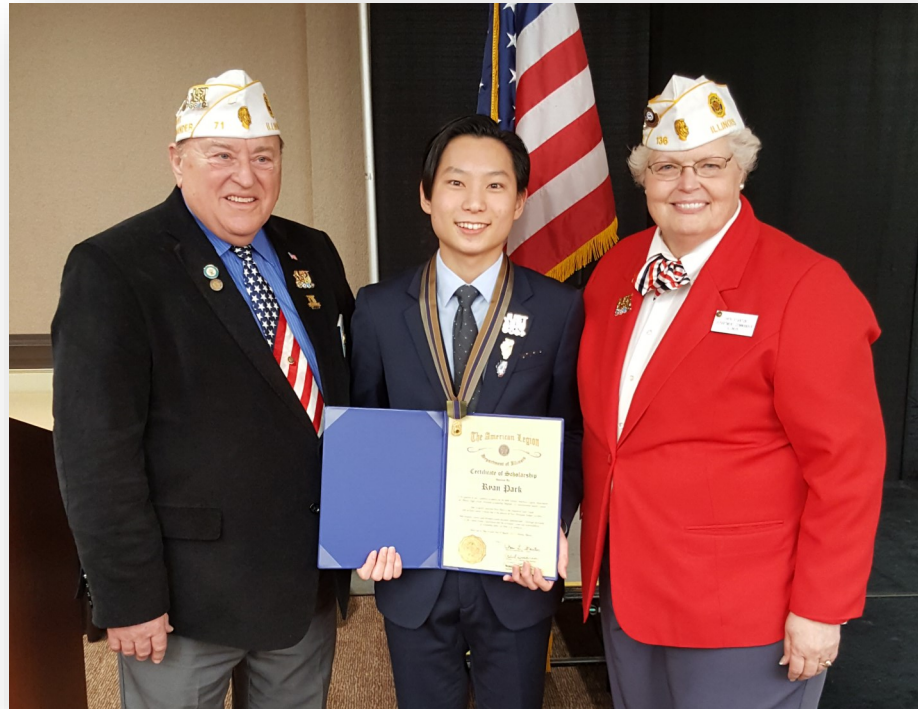


2016-2017 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CHERI L. STANTON

MARCH 2017



The Department of Illinois Announces 80th Annual American Legion Oratorical Winner and Finalists



Ryan Park of Naperville, IL

The 80th Annual American Legion Department of Illinois Oratorical Semi-Finals and Final Contests were held March 4th at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria, IL. This year we had 25 outstanding and dynamic orators who competed during the morning Semi-Finals with 5 finalists moving on to compete that afternoon in the Department Finals. We Congratulate all of our orators on a Job Well Done!

Pictured above L-R Department Sr. Vice Commander Bob Henderson, Department Winner Ryan Park a Junior at Naperville Central High School, and Department Commander Cheri L. Stanton.

Ryan will represent the Department of Illinois and participate in the National Finals Contest April 21-23, 2017 in Indianapolis, IN at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel.

Complete contest results is located inside on page 8-9.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
MARCH 3, 2017

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
7	LEPINSKI
5	DEARBONE
25	PICOU
19	LAUFHUTTE
15	HAZZARD
20	MASSEY
23	ROUNDS, II
17	NAGEL
18	MONROE
12	JOHNSON

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



From The Desk of Department Commander Cheri L. Stanton



If you didn't attend the Abraham Lincoln Pilgrimage, you really missed a great time. National Commander Charles Schmidt was there along with National President Mary Davis and National SAL Commander Jeff Frain. What a family event! We also had a lot of out of state visitors who were there because they won a membership event in their state.

We had so many super comments about the Lincoln Library. So far, I have been to two other Presidential Libraries and I have to admit, Lincoln's is the best. The details on the people the displays is so lifelike. I hope you can see the difference in the picture I enclosed for the article.

Post 32, Anthony Libri, and Mike Walton really went all out to make the Pilgrimage so enjoyable. They had helpers

to drive, fix food, man the hospitality room, and keep everything running smoothly.

Our staff was there too, making the membership event run without flaws. Thanks to Chad, Christy, and Dee the pictures for keepsakes were made, signed, and delivered to our winners as well as some out of state guests. We are lucky to have so many talented people at headquarters.

When this is published, we will have had our Spring meeting with Sr. and Jr. Vice commanders to work on strategies to complete this year and get a head start on next year. Every member should be so proud of our leadership and the hours they put in to make each year go so well. I want to thank each officer for their time and commitment to the American Legion. Most of you don't realize they are still active members of their own posts as well.

I've got to tell you I am so thrilled that there was such an overwhelming response to the Cardinal VS Reds game. Bill Kiefer

called and said that the seats for the game are sold out already! He said they had block seats for Missouri and Iowa, but the most were for Illinois residents. He was amazed that there were people from the Quad Cities, up by Chicago, all the way over by the Illinois-Indiana border. **It just goes to show our members the power of the information they can get on the Membership Caravan.**

Also, at the end of this month, I will travel to the Washington Conference to represent Illinois. As a delegation, we present a check to the leading candidate for National Commander, and go to many meeting preparing us to meet with our Congressmen and women to show them how serious we are about a WORKING VA AND PASSING THE FLAG AMENDMENT.

Don't forget to find the flyer in this paper about Veteran's Awareness Walk 22 and state getting donations. I am proud of the support our Legionnaires

(Dept. Commander continued on page 5)



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Bob Henderson



Went to Lincoln Pilgrimage 11th and 12th of February had a good time. Participating in the Pilgrimage was National Commander Charles Schmidt, National President Mary Davis, and National SAL Commander Jeff Frain. Also participating was Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin and our State of Illinois. We had a bust day on February 12th when we went to Abraham Lincoln's tomb to place the wreaths, then back to the hotel for a luncheon and program.

Illinois had a Gold Pin Awards ceremony on Saturday February 11th. There was only one District that received the large # 1 Pin, that was the 7th District.

All others received the small # 1 Pin, because they didn't get the percentage needed. The 4th Division also got the small # 1 pin because they didn't get the percentage.

February 18th we are going to have a mandatory Division and District Jr. & Sr. Vice Commanders training. This is to get them ready for next year when they become Commanders and Vice Commanders. Hope we get everything passed on, if not they can get in touch with me I will help them in any way needed. We don't want to forget this year, there are still four months to hit our goal this year, Cheri has a goal of 103%. Go out and get those members that haven't paid their **2017 DUES.**

We will be going to the Washington Conference, while there, we will be going to the hill to talk to our Senators and Representatives to push for better VA benefits. There will be a push to get

the wait time down so veterans get the care they need.

We got the Department Oratorical on March 4th. Next there is a need to work on getting the boys to boys state. We need to increase the participation in boys state, it has been going down for the last few years, lets get it turned around. Lets try and get 650 boys this year.

Don't forget about the 98th American Legion Birthday on March 15th, hope your post is doing something to celebrate.

We need to get out and get those stragglers that haven't paid their 2017 dues and try to get a new member. This is coming into the hardest part of the year to get members. I know that you can do it for your Post, County, District, and Division. **Thanks for what you have done so far this year.** We

(Dept. SVC continued on page 5)



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Luella Buske



A big thank you to Springfield Post #32 American Legion Family for all the hospitality and the chance to honor Abraham Lincoln on his birthday. It was once again a great success.

At this time 5 Legion Posts have requested an Auxiliary Unit, 4 have been chartered with another one expected to be completed by the middle of March. If your Legion Post does not

have an Auxiliary Unit and you would like to request one please contact the Auxiliary Department office.

I hope you are planning on attending the Patriotic Conference in Springfield on March 10th. Along with the speakers there will be a service project in the afternoon. We will be filling Socks of Love for the homeless and needy people here in Illinois. We are asking everyone to bring men's tube socks that will be filled with personal travel size hygiene items. Police departments will be picking up these socks to be carried by their officers who will be

giving them out. We are also asking that you take home socks to give to your local Police Department. We have received positive feedback on this project. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there. As a Legion Family we can make a difference.

I know several Posts are recruiting Auxiliary members, please remember to apply for the award from this president of \$100 to the Post signing up the most new Auxiliary members. The winner will be announced at Department Convention, so turn in your list by Flag Day, June 14.



Time Change March 12



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Shipley



To begin our Springtime, here are a few things you may not know about the Sons of The American Legion...

The Sons of The American Legion is a nationwide veterans service program of over 350,000 men that meet to develop activities and share information to serve Veterans and our local communities to make our country a better place.

We work to rid our country of homeless veterans, we support many

children's charities, and lobby our legislatures on all Veterans issues.

We make friends and have fun while serving others.

The Sons of The American Legion is a nationwide organization made up of descendants of US Veterans devoted to the concept of service above self through involvement in community, educational and charitable events. 350,000 men nationally share the vision of ...

- People helping veterans and their families in communities and nationwide.
- Making differences in the lives of all children.
- Social events of fun, friendship and fundraising.

The Sons of The American Legion is a service organization consisting of descendants of Veterans in over 5,000 squadrons around the US active in their communities and united on a mission to promote Americanism and the values of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy.

Some of its success stories are donations of over \$7 Million dollars since 1986 to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Donations to the "Legacy Scholarship Fund" for grants to the children whose parent gave their lives in service to our country, and the continued support of all Veterans that have serviced in the US Armed Services.



The American Legion Family



The Illinois American Legion First Division is Proud to Host

Armed Forces Day Dinner

Saturday, May 20th, 2017

TO BE HELD AT DES PLAINES ELK LODGE NO. 1526

495 LEE ST., DES PLAINES, IL 60016

Key Note Speaker

National Vice Commander

Paul Martel

\$31 per person

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

Family Style

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

Please contact the hotel directly to make reservations.

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Chicago / O'Hare

6600 N. Mannheim Road

Rosemont, IL 60018

(847) 544-7500

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

Deadline: Friday, May 12, 2017

NO WALKINS

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

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

Reservations: Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____

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

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

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



Did You Know?

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

Once again it's time to dispel some rumors that have been floating around out there. Thanks to those comrades who sent these to me to check out.

1. I'm going to be travelling to Germany this summer and I am 100% service-connected disabled. I don't have to worry about health coverage since I can stop into any military hospital. **FALSE.** Only active duty and some retired military can use that hospital system. However if you service-connected disabled condition acts up and you need emergency care that would probably be covered by the Veterans Administration but you would have to submit a claims form. This does not apply to treatment for non-service connected conditions. For example a veteran is service-connected disabled for diabetes and coronary artery disease. He or she is involved in a car accident and needs surgery. That would NOT be covered.
2. I have a claim pending now with the VA over a year. Since I am a member of the American Legion I want them to represent me on this issue and they **must** represent me. **MOSTLY FALSE.** If you have no power-of-attorney on file then we will be happy to assist you the best we can. However if you already have given your power-of-attorney to one of the other sister service organizations (DAV, VFW, AMVETS, etc.) then as a courtesy we will usually not allow you to switch. It would be like hiring a lawyer for a lawsuit. He then prepares the case, gathers the evidence, screens the jurors and is all ready for trial and you decide to get a new lawyer. Don't switch horses in midstream! Of course there are exceptions and our Department Service Officer can decide in unusual circumstances to allow a switch.
3. I just closed on a house six months ago and used my VA home loan guarantee benefits. I had to pay a "funding fee" at closing of over \$1,500. I was just awarded VA compensation benefits last week at the 20% rate for diabetes due to Agent Orange and I heard that I could get that "funding fee" returned to me? **TRUE.** If you are rated 10% service-connected disabled or more you do not have to pay the "funding fee" and can ask for a refund.
4. The recent tornados in Illinois went through part of our town cemetery and my grandfather's VA issued headstone was destroyed. It was placed there over 40 years ago and I was told I could get a replacement free. **TRUE.** The VA will always replace damaged, destroyed, worn or even stolen headstones and markers.
5. My spouse recently passed away and while she was alive we were getting an exemption on our property taxes here in Illinois. She was a service-connected disabled vet. I heard that I will lose that exemption now that she is gone. **FALSE.** As long as the surviving spouse doesn't remarry and continues to live in the property the property tax exemption passes on to them.
6. I was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer and they had to remove my prostate gland. The residuals of that surgery has affected my entire lifestyle and I find myself going through bouts of depression. Although I am getting VA benefits for the residuals of my prostate cancer (I was exposed to Agent Orange in Nam) I was told I can't get additional benefits for the depression since it didn't start while I was in service. **FALSE.** If your VA or private doctor opines that the depression is a direct result of your prostate condition the VA will grant you benefits for that depression as being secondary to the cancer.

That's all for now. Just came back from the Washington D.C. conference and our semi-annual Service Officer Training. Will have lots of good stuff in the next issue.

If a man does his best, what else is there? George Patton

(Dept. Commander continued from page 2)

gave us last year fro the first walk...now let's double the second year.

Coming up in March is the Oratorical Contest on the fourth. I hope all of you can spend an afternoon to listen to these students. They are fantastic. Our own Joy Wilson spends many hours preparing for the event by getting judges, timers, escorts, and lots of other volunteers lined up. Next time you see her, be sure to thank her.

Also in March we have Auxiliary Patriotic Conference on the 11th and 12th. **Everyone is invited to attend.**

Don't forget to wish your Post a Happy Birthday! Spread the word in your Community that your American Legion is having a Birthday Party. For the smaller posts, how about an old fashion POTLUCK DINNER. Get your Community behind you and tell them your story.

(Dept. SVC continued from page 2)

can still make the 103% by June 23rd.

There is still time to have a revitalization so call Chad Woodburn and set one up in your District or Division. This is a good way to get Legion Members together and help get new and expired members.

Veterans Awareness Walk 22

Walk 2.2 miles for Veterans Suicide Awareness



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

Veterans Awareness Walk 22

Milan, IL

Registration Form

Date: May 13th 2017

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

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

Name: _____

Your mailing address: _____

Phone Number: _____

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

T-Shirt Size: _____

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

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

***Fill one registration form per person.

Thank you very much for your support.

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

**Thanks,
Rick Schomer**

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

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

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





*From The Desk of the
Membership Director
Chad J. Woodburn*



*American Legion Illinois
Premier Boys State*

www.illinoisboysstate.org

The membership year is on the downhill slide and we have made our 90% membership goal. Please continue to dig deep and keep pushing membership. If you are in the area of Aurora, March 16-18 we will be doing a revitalization in that area; and April 1-3 we will be doing one in the Antioch area. Please come out and help, even it's only for a few hours.

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

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

— Phil Jackson

It's March Madness, go time! Let's put the same excitement in promoting our program and show our young men and communities how much the American Legion invests in America's future! Reach out to your district and/or division American Legion Premier Boys State Chairman for their partnership in your respective areas. These individuals are great resources to assist you in recruiting, promoting and developing the crucial relationships needed in order to maximize our presence.

We would like to remind you that our goal is to top 500 boys this session. In order to do that we need every post to step out in their communities and educate our neighbors about our program and its 80 plus year history. If you are new to the American Legion or unsure about what our program is all about, please visit the website for the information needed in order to be successful. During your events throughout the year please also remember that our program relies on donations in order to ensure that every boy that applies WILL be able to attend.

As always, thank you for your commitment and hard work that each of you put into our program. We look forward to seeing you throughout the rest of the year leading up to our session.

**We are at
90%**

Way to Go

Department of Illinois!
Keep up the great work so we can get Illinois to 100% before June 23rd!

Illinois Senate Bill 87 and 1242

We have two bills pending in the Illinois Senate SB87 which corrects the standard homestead exemption for veterans with disability. The amendment would add the surviving spouse in the event the veteran dies before his claim is approved. Please have your members ask their Senator and Rep. for support.

The other bill SB 1242 will create a partnership between the IDVA and VAC by giving VAC's state accreditation. Currently Illinois is 10th in vet population, 16th in dollars coming back and 51st in avg compensation for disabled veterans. With the State and County working together we can do more outreach. VAC's are located in 47 counties and they work evenings and weekends. The Chicago regional office currently has 8,000 claims pending, 3,000 have no VSO representing them. Please support SB1242 and lets have the state and county together to better serve veterans and especially the surviving spouse. It will not cost the state a cent.

2017 Department Finalists



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS 2017 Semi-Final Oratorical Contestants



2017 AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST DEPARTMENT FINALISTS

Pictured L-R—Department Commander Cheri Stanton; Courtney Smith, 4th Place; Abril Hunter, 2nd Place; Ciclali Dominguez, 5th Place; Jadon Buzzard, 3rd Place; Ryan Park, 1st Place and Dept. Sr. Vice Bob Henderson.

CONTEST ROOM #1: Contestants

CICLALI DOMINGUEZ, 1st Place (2nd Div., Island Lake, IL)
REAGAN TIBBS, 2nd Place (4th Div., Middletown, IL)
SHIVANSH GUPTA, 3rd Place (2nd Div., Naperville, IL)
WILLIAM MEANS, 4th Place (5th Div., Fairview Hgts., IL)
DIANA VASQUEZ, 5th Place (2nd Div., Round Lake Beach, IL)

CONTEST ROOM #2: Contestants

RYAN PARK, 1st Place (2nd Div., Naperville, IL)
WILLIAM SVOB, 2nd Place (4th Div., Bloomington, IL)
CHRISTEL THOMPSON, 3rd Place (2nd Div., Addison, IL)
ALEXA LEWIS, 4th Place (5th Div., Shumway, IL)
LONDON SELLERS, 5th Place (1st Div., Chicago, IL)

CONTEST ROOM #3: Contestants

JADON BUZZARD, 1st Place (2nd Div., Joliet, IL)
REGAN MACWAN, 2nd Place (2nd Div., Naperville, IL)
RHAYA MONTOYA, 3rd Place (2nd Div., Round Lake Beach, IL)
JACOB MARTIN, 4th Place (5th Div., Swansea, IL)
BREANNA GOYEA, 5th Place (5th Div., Belleville, IL)

CONTEST ROOM #4: Contestants

COURTNEY SMITH, 1st Place (5th Div., East St. Louis, IL)
BHAVANA RAVALA, 2nd Place (4th Div., Bloomington, IL)
RYAN RUSCH, 3rd Place (2nd Div., Lake Villa, IL)
SAM BERKLEY, 4th Place (5th Div., Smithton, IL)
AUGUSTINE BERRY, 5th Place (1st Div., Chicago, IL)

CONTEST ROOM #5: Contestants

ABRIL HUNTER, 1st Place (5th Div., Belleville, IL)
NICOLE TONG, 2nd Place (2nd Div., Lisle, IL)
SPENCER BAUMRUCK, 3rd Place (2nd Div., Green Oaks, IL)
SAM CLEMENT, 4th Place (2nd Div., Normal, IL)
ABDUL FANOUS, 5th Place (5th Div., O'Fallon, IL)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



ALA Patriotic Conference
 Springfield, IL
 March 11th--12th
 ~ ~ ~

98th American Legion Birthday
 March 15th
 ~ ~ ~

SAL Spring DEC
 Franklin Park
 March 25th
 ~ ~ ~

Gold Pin Cut-off
 1:00 PM
 March 31st
 ~ ~ ~

Spring D.E.C
 1:00 PM
 Bloomington, IL
 April 8th
 ~ ~ ~

ALA--Junior Conference
 April 8th--9th
 ~ ~ ~

Good Friday
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
April 14th
 ~ ~ ~
 Easter
 April 16th
 ~ ~ ~

National Spring Committee &
 Commission Meetings
 Indianapolis, IN
 May 8th--11th
 ~ ~ ~

Armed Forces Day
 Cut-off
 May 12th
 ~ ~ ~

Mother's Day
 May 14th
 ~ ~ ~

Armed Forces Day
 May 20th
 # # #

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Drawing February 12, 2017

1st PLACE	\$10,000	Brian P. Clark
2nd PLACE	\$5,000	John Kostelny
3rd PLACE	\$2,500	Cletus H. Gross
4th PLACE	\$1,500	Robert J. Myslinski
5th PLACE	\$1,000	Frank F. Painter
6th PLACE	\$1,000	Scott Peterson
7th PLACE	\$750	Charles J. Markee
8th PLACE	\$750	Harry E. Davis
9th PLACE	\$500	Carol Knutson
10th PLACE	\$500	Michael L. Klitzing
11th PLACE	\$250	Marion D. Hollingsworth
12th PLACE	\$250	Eldon W. Shuck
13th PLACE	\$100	Dennis Deihl
14th PLACE	\$100	Walter M. Heinz
15th PLACE	\$100	George J. Baker Sr.
16th PLACE	\$100	Daryl W. Hornecker
17th PLACE	\$100	Paul L. Grise
18th PLACE	\$100	Charles A. Jackson
19th PLACE	\$100	Norman A. Vuillaume
20th PLACE	\$100	Henry Fransen Jr.
21st PLACE	\$100	Deborah L. Ferguson
22nd PLACE	\$100	Clarence E. Barringer Sr.

\$25,000

National Executive Committee Resolution No. 16



Rendering Proper Respect

ATTENTION ALL POSTS

Important Notice

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

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

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

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

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

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

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted By: Americanism Commission

(As amended)

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

Special Olympics

In June we help Special Olympics State Games over Father's Day Weekend in Normal, IL. The American Legion supports a Big Circus Hospitality tent for the athletes. We furnish shade, fruits, vegetables, cookies, and popsicles for 3,700 athletes, coaches, their families, and all the volunteers. We could always use extra people to pass out the food.

All our people are volunteers but they put in a big work day. On Friday night, the athletes have opening ceremonies just like the BIG OLYMPICS. The police have a torch run and the athletes march in, with their sponsors.

If you would like to be a part of that day, you are welcome to help at the American Legion Hospitality Tent.

ATTENTION: Children and Youth Chairman

~ Please read at your post meeting ~

Special Olympics Fund

Each year Special Olympics State Games are held at Normal, IL. For those of you who can't attend, that means a lot of preparation for the American Legion and Auxiliary Hospitality Tent. We feed over 4,000 athletes and their families each year. Posts donate lots of items to help out each year.

Could your post help too?

We need:

_____ Country Time Lemonade

_____ Napkins

_____ 9 inch plates

_____ Ziploc Sandwich Bags

_____ Family Size Lipton Tea Bags

_____ 8 oz. plastic cups

_____ Money donations: *Money donations are used for the renting of the tent, (\$900 alone) popsicles, groceries (to make dip, veggie trays, gallons of olives, gallons of dill pickles), and crackers.*

_____ Volunteers to be there:

Friday - From _____ To _____.

Saturday - From _____ To _____.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO...

Notify your C&Y Division chairmen of your donations, so we will have an idea of supplies and money.

Send (or take) donations to Department by the first week in June. With the whole Legion family involved (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL & Riders) we can make it a true Legion Family Hospitality Tent!

**Thank you for your consideration...
and Especially for your Donation!**

Hours:

Friday 10:00– 4:00

Saturday 9:30– 3:30

Helpers are needed to set-up and take down additional tents used

AWARD PROGRAM DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING

All forms are available online at www.illegion.org/awards

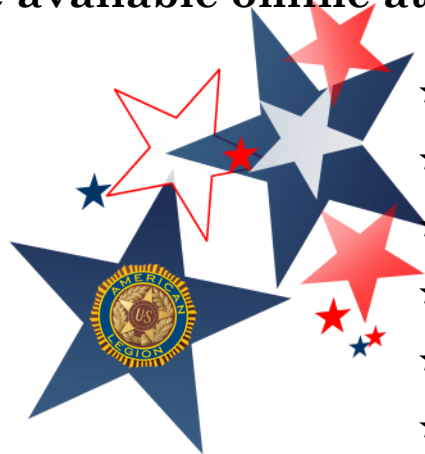
These awards are available to all American Legion posts.

Each program has an outline and criteria to meet for each award. Details and submission instructions are available online or simply call Department HQ for a paper copy.

All winning Posts will be notified and receive recognition at the Department Convention this July in Springfield.

Be sure to check the deadline for all award submissions.

Each year, less and less submissions are sent in. There are nearly 800 posts. Don't miss the opportunity for your post to be recognized.



- ★ Legionnaire of the Year Award
- ★ Firefighter of the Year
- ★ Law Officer of the Year
- ★ TLW Legion Rider of the Year Award
- ★ Chaplains Cross/Star of David Award
- ★ Community Service Award
- ★ Hall of Fame Award
- ★ Commander's Award
- ★ Public Relations Award
- ★ Photo Contest & Calendar Contest

American Legion 2017 State Convention Book Application for Ad placement

BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

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

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

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

Slogan Choices: (three choices—choose one)

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

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

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

Black & White Ad

Color Ad

\$230.00 _____	\$250.00 _____
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Send Check to: American Legion, Dept. of IL 2720 E. Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 61704

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
1ST DIVISION
 Present

Hockey Night with the Chicago Wolves



April 9th 4:00 pm
 Allstate Arena
 Proceeds benefit the



\$35.00 Donation includes game ticket
 Buy pair of tickets receive free food voucher
 Additional giveaways based on ticket sales

Please RSVP by April 1st

Cash payment or make checks payable to Detachment of Illinois

For more information contact Sergio Senese at
 (773) 909-3072 or sergiosenese@hotmail.com

3RD ANNUAL **R.E.D. RIDE**

REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED

DATE: APRIL 22ND
TIME: 09:30AM

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



**WEAR RED
 AND SHOW
 YOUR SUPPORT**

Start and Registration will be at
 Pekin American Legion Post 44
 718 Court St, Pekin, IL
KICKSTANDS UP AT 11:30am

Food - Chicken Dinner \$9.00 (Discount for Veterans)
 Provided by: Tremont American Legion Post 1236
 Entertainment - Karaoke

Ride to feature 2nd Annual
 "Hunt the Terrorist Run"
 Winner Receives
DPMS PANTHER ORACLE 5.56 16"
W/ 10 ROUND MAG. & MAGPUL FRONT FLIP SIGHT
RETAIL VALUE \$650.00 PLUS MAGPUL SIGHTS \$150.00
 Transfer provided by Midwestern Firearms

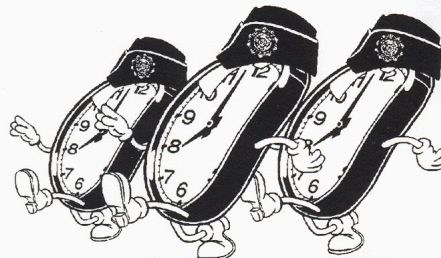


SPECIAL THANKS TO **MIDWESTERN FIREARMS COMPANY, INC.**



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**Don't Wait Until
 The Last Minute...**



**Re-new Your
 Membership TODAY!**

2016—2017 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	HOST POST	CITY
03/12/2017	4TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	SPRINGFIELD POST 809	SPRINGFIELD
03/12/2017	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	PRINCETON POST 125	PRINCETON
03/12/2017	20TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MENARD COUNTY POST 129	ATHENS
03/12/2017	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	O'FALLON POST 137	O'FALLON
03/15/2017	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
03/17/2017	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	ROUND LAKE POST 1170	ROUND LAKE PARK
03/19/2017	2ND DIVISION	1:00 PM	ROCK FALLS POST 902	ROCK FALLS
03/19/2017	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	MASCOUTAH POST 292	MASCOUTAH
03/22/2017	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DES PLAINES POST 36	DES PLAINES
03/23/2017	3RD DISTRICT	7:00 PM	HAROLD WASHINGTON POST 1987	CHICAGO
03/23/2017	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EDWARD SCHULTZ POST 697	LANSING
03/25/2017	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	COLONA POST 1233	COLONA
03/25/2017	15TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	CLAYTON POST 286	CLAYTON
03/26/2017	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	ALBION POST 590	ALBION
03/26/2017	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	BENTON POST 280	BENTON
04/01/2017	14TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	PLYMOUTH POST 912	PLYMOUTH
04/02/2017	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	SALEM POST 128	SALEM
04/12/2017	2ND DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT POST 923	CHICAGO
04/19/2017	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
04/21/2017	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	LIBERTYVILLE POST 329	LIBERTYVILLE
04/26/2017	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	SCHILLER PARK POST 104	SCHILLER PARK
04/27/2017	3RD DISTRICT	7:00 PM	ILLIANA POST 220	CHICAGO
04/27/2017	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	THORNTON POST 1070	THORNTON

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** ★

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

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DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
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Department Commander Department Editor
CHERIL STANTON MARTY CONATSER

Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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\$10.00 for 11 issues

Newsletter articles must be at Department Headquarters by the
15th of each month for it to be in the next months issue.

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

MARCH TRIVIA?

1. The American Legion is founded in what city and at the first caucus by members of the American Expeditionary Force on what date and year.
2. The U.S. Congress charters the American Legion on what date.
3. The American Legion convenes its first annual convention In what city?, date & year?
4. First National Convention Resolution # 2 was voted on Minneapolis Minnesota, 1919. What was the resolution all about?

ANSWERS:

1. Paris March 15--17, 1919.
2. September 16, 1919.
3. Minneapolis November 10--12 1919.
4. Employment for Discharged Service Men. It shall become a matter of responsibility for each post to assure itself that no member of such Post is unemployed.



Check us out on Social Media!

