



**MEMBERSHIP
 UPDATE**

AS OF
 SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

**TOP 10 DISTRICT
 AND DIVISION RANKINGS**

District	Commander
1	Mittelsteadt
7	Bickley
8	Cooper, Jr.
4	Darnall
16	Hinton
10	Hellquist
13	Kraut
19	Coventry
18	Torbet
17	Helsel

Division	Commander
3	AARON
2	ABDELNOUR
4	HOFFMAN
1	SICILIANO
5	ROSCOW

Here's How Tricare's 2017 Changes Affect You

A series of sweeping Tricare changes could have a big impact on some of the military health care system's users -- including an extra three months of deductible-free coverage.

Are you one of them? Here's what you need to know.

The Basics

2017 has been a big year for Tricare. Congress passed a law in 2016 ordering the system to make changes to how it operates, including combining two of its programs, changing timing rules for those who want to switch plans or register a new child with the system, and temporarily adding a bonus three months without deductibles.

Meanwhile, a regular contract process has brought a shake-up to the system's regional contractors. It scrapped the three-region system, instead dividing all stateside users between Tricare East and West, and forcing those who pay premiums to update their payment information or risk coverage loss while causing an enrollment blackout.

Tricare for Life users are the only group not affected by any of the changes.

Coverage Freebies for Some Users

Currently, Tricare operates on the October to September fiscal year for most coverages. But that changes in 2018.

Starting Jan. 1, Tricare will instead operate on a calendar year. That means annual enrollment fees for some users, such as retirees, will be due Jan. 1 instead of Oct. 1, and all catastrophic caps and annual deductibles will reset on Jan. 1 instead of Oct. 1.

That means those on Standard and Tricare Reserve and some retirees who have hit their annual deductibles or catastrophic caps will get three extra months of coverage this year before their next cap reset.

However, those freebie months do not extend to those who pay enrollment fees. Tricare instead will prorate the annual fee you would normally pay Oct. 1, and let you know how much you owe for the remainder of the 2017 calendar year.

Contractor Changes

Rather than dividing the U.S. into three regions covered by three contractors, Tricare will be split into two regions starting Jan. 1, 2018: Tricare East and West.

Tricare East will be managed by Humana Military. Tricare West will be managed by Health Net Federal Services.

(Tricare continued on page 12)



From The Desk of Department Commander Bob Henderson



I want to thank everybody that attended my Homecoming. I think everybody had a good time and enjoyed the camaraderie. The food was very good and prepared by a gentleman I've known a lot of years. I want to thank Sharon Conatser, Pam Ray, Sandra Kirby, and Ann Flanagan for all the decorations and work they put in on the Dinner. I want to thank our Adjutant, Marty Conatser, for the splendid work he did as my Master of Ceremonies.

Labor Day is over and there were a lot of parades & luncheons that the Legion Posts participated in supporting their communities. The Fall DEC went well and we had a lot of membership turned in. Our Division Officers retreat was a good time for learning, The Membership Director, Chad Woodburn

and Department Sr. Vice, Micheal Carder did a great job. I am sorry that I had to miss it but had a death in the family.

The Department Committee and Commission fall meetings are over and thanks to everybody that came and participated. The first Caravan meeting went well now Chad will be laying out a route for the Caravan in January. If you got a letter asking if you would host a caravan stop please let Chad know what you want to do.

October starts out with the National Fall Committee and Commission Meetings at Indianapolis the week of the 7th thru the 13th. At the fall meeting we will learn new ways of recruiting Legion Members. There will be a lot of District and Division meetings this month, **so go to them.** I hope all the chairpersons of the Committees and Commissions will have good reports at these meetings. This is how we learn what is going on in the Legion our communities, communications are a key

to the Legions survival. We don't want to forget the District and Division Membership Workshop for Commanders & Sr. Vices on October 21 & 22 at Department. The 21st is 1st & 2nd Division and the 22nd is the 3rd, 4th, & 5th Divisions. **These are Mandatory Workshops.** Later in the month there will be a revitalization in the 22nd District, any Legionnaire's are welcome to help. I hope the District Membership Committee is there and ready to help!!!! Commanders if you are wanting a revitalization in your District Call Chad Woodburn and set it up. Commanders if you are not having a revitalization I hope you are utilizing your Membership Committee. That is why we set them up, to help the Commander and District with Membership.

I want to thank everybody for what they are doing for the American Legion this year.



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Micheal Carder



The month of September has been very busy, Commander Bob held his homecoming and what a great weekend it was with the Legion Family joining in the celebration. Also, the Fall DEC was held and it was a privilege to honor the District and Division Officers who led the way in membership. A heartfelt Job Well Done to each. I must also thank the blue cap legionnaires who worked hard to renew their post members, without your work the department would not be close to

60% and by the time this newsletter comes out we will be above that level.

The second renewal mailing will be October 10, 2017, you will have members who will get caught with receiving a membership notice due to the September 13, 2017 and they will voice their concern. Take some time and explain the situation at post, district, and division meetings.

On September 16 and 17, 2017, all Division officers met in Carlinville, IL with the department staff to discuss membership, leadership and methods to be used to help their divisions. Unfortunately, Commander Bob experienced a death in his family and could not attend. Please take some time to extend your condolences to him.

November is fast approaching and I want to remind posts, districts, and divisions that Veterans Day is a Target Date Goal of 75% membership for rewards for your hard work in renewing members.

Finally, districts divisions are you in need of a revitalization push? So far only the 22nd District has asked for revitalization help in membership. Surely, there are other district that need that push to help build their membership, call Chad Woodburn and arrange a time. We will saddle up and ride.



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Marsha Haag



Happy Fall Ya'!!! Greetings from the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois. Our ladies are busy on projects in their Units. The Fall Forums are taking place at various locations. We have been in Bartonville and New Baden and LaGrange. Upcoming will be Marseilles and Farmer City. Encourage your Auxiliary ladies to join us. We have a lot of topics being covered. Everyone is leaving with an abundance of information.

The American Legion Family winter caravan planning is underway. This is the perfect opportunity for everyone to get together, bring in membership and greet our guest from National. Please encourage your Auxiliary to come with you and bring in their membership. This is for ALL Legion Family. Our dues notices have

been sent so we are now busy processing our seniors and juniors. Unfortunately, our numbers are not as good as the Legion in paid membership. Our membership theme "Working together, we will build a strong team". We will and we can!

Commander Henderson had a wonderful Homecoming!! I thoroughly enjoyed the evening's dinner and entertainment. Wishing you a successful year Commander.

Our Auxiliary ladies will be busy collecting items for our "10 for Education". This is where we collect school supplies in increments of 10. I'm sure they'd appreciate your help, too. Soon after, we observe National Education Week. What a perfect time to honor the educators and staff who teach have such an influence on our children's lives.

Illinois is thrilled to host the National Mission Training and Junior meeting. October 14th is the magical day when we will be gathering at Crowne Plaza in Springfield. Members from the Central

gather for an informative day with presenters from National. There is still time for your Auxiliary members to make reservations. Please encourage your Juniors, it's a fantastic day and our National Junior Activity chairman has plans coming together for the girls. Deanna Woodburn, National Honorary Junior Central Division Vice President, will preside.

Plan to attend a program in your honor for Veteran's Day. Many school children work hard and are thrilled to share their excitement in your honor. I know you'll be heart warmed. Thank you for your service. My Unit President and I have activities planned at 2 elementary schools in our District and a program in the works for our High School students. What, you say, I still have a month left!

Have a safe fall. Speaking from a farm wife, in the rural areas, please watch for slow moving vehicles. They are someone's loved one out doing their job.

God Bless You.



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Paul A. Hayse



The American Legion National Convention has come and gone, with many new friends and new ideas shared. Our new Sons of the American Legion Commander Danny Smith's motto is "Following Their Footsteps Making History". Let us all try to make Danny proud with a great year.

Our own American Legion Commander Bob Henderson's D.E.C. and Homecoming was a great success. I want to thank him and all the help from the American Legion Auxiliary. We all had a wonderful time.

Our own fall D.E.C. will be over when this comes out. We still have many squadrons not certified. Take the time to send one email or make on phone call and try to get our detachment to 100% certification. After October 20th your benefits are no longer good and any officer is no longer instated.

Let us all remember the displaced brothers and sisters we have, not only in Texas from Harvey, but in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and other states from Hurricane Irma. Donations can be sent to Department Headquarters and earmarked for where you want it to go.

2017 - 2018 Detachment Meeting Schedule

Winter DEC - December 9, 2017
Edgewood Squadron 1168
810 Route 37
Edgewood, IL 62426

Spring DEC - March 17, 2018
Calumet City Squadron 330
950 Legion Drive
Calumet City, IL 60409

55th Annual Detachment Convention
July 13-15, 2018
Bank of Springfield Center
1 Convention Center Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

Detachment Commander's Homecoming
TBD

47th Annual National Convention
August 24-26, 2017
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Did You Know?

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

That one of the most misunderstood Department of Veterans Affairs entitlement programs are burial benefits. Some veterans have the mistaken impression that the VA will take care of everything and others feel they are not entitled to anything unless they get buried in a VA National Cemetery. Well here are your clear and easy to understand burial benefits. You will notice some NEW items.

1. HONOR GUARD: The Department of Defense will furnish, based on availability, a 2-3 person honor guard, of which, one of the members will be from the branch of service of the deceased veteran. The arrangements are made by the undertaker and they will need a legible copy of the veteran's discharge papers or equivalent.
2. BURIAL FLAG: A burial flag is folded by the honor guard and presented to the next-of-kin or placed in the casket based on the family's wishes. The funeral director will pick up this flag at a local Post Office prior to the burial.
3. TAPS: The honor guard will play military taps and where possible a gun salute.
4. BURIAL PLOT: Based on space availability the veteran can be buried in a VA National Cemetery. The VA will furnish the plot, grave liner, open and close the grave, order a headstone and take perpetual care of the grave. (NEW) Vets can now apply ahead of time using a pre-need application 40-10007 to confirm their (and spouses) entitlement.
5. HEADSTONE OR MARKER: If the veteran is buried in a private cemetery the VA will furnish a government headstone. They come in bronze, marble, slate and granite and will be shipped, free of charge, to any cemetery in the world. Besides the standard engraving there is room for an additional 25 characters and there are over 30 religious symbols to choose from. (NEW) stones damaged by flooding or hurricanes, etc. are replaced free.
6. PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE: An engraved certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. It is mailed from the White House once the VA has been notified of the veterans passing. (NEW) more than one can be issued.
7. MONETARY STIPEND: If at the time of the passing, the veteran was receiving a monthly VA compensation or pension check or died in a VA hospital or nursing home the VA will pay approximately \$300, \$1,000 or up to \$2,000 depending on the cause of death. This is in addition to the Social Security stipend of \$255 and includes prepaid burials.
8. BRONZE MEDALLION: If a commercial headstone is purchased this medallion can be placed on the stone. It will reflect the branch of service and come in sizes ranging from 1 ½ inches, 3 inches and 5 inches. (NEW) This medallion is now available to veterans from as far back as World War I.
9. NATIONWIDE GRAVESITE LOCATOR: The veterans burial information will be placed in this locator and will reflect their name, branch, date of death and location of burial.

Well there you have it, an easy to remember checklist of the burial benefits. As mentioned above be sure to have readily available for the undertaker, a legible copy of your military discharge papers or its equivalent. As always if any questions please contact me at the above telephone number or e-mail address.

Correction to September Did You Know article. The dates of Agent Orange use at the DMZ in Korea should have read 4/1/68 to 8/31/71. Thanks goes out to Melvin Colberg for catching this error.



CALL DEPT. HQ
TO APPLY TODAY

**NOW
HIRING!**
JOIN OUR TEAM TODAY!



THE AMERICAN LEGION

**DEPARTMENT
OF ILLINOIS**

Veterans Day dinner promotional resources online

Promotional materials to help posts, units and squadrons serve up a bigger-than-ever Family First! Veterans Day dinner Nov. 11 are now available online at www.legion.org/publications, in the area of the national website that hosts brochures, manuals, customizable ads and more from across the Legion's scope of activities. They are also available at www.legion.org/nalpa/resources, in the area dedicated to the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA).



American Legion National Commander Denise Rohan is calling on the Legion Family nationwide to invite community members to the dinner in order to share The American Legion and to begin raising awareness of the coming 100th anniversary of the organization.



Resources include:

- ⇒ A suggested timeline for planning the event, tips on getting local sponsors involved, and a set of message points that can be presented, and localized, at the dinner or to the press.
- ⇒ Sample letters of invitation to local groups to attend and participate in the dinner, a press release, a sample media advisory, a downloadable flyer with fields for posts to provide local information, social media posts (hashtag #LegionFamilyDinner) and a radio PSA.

Even after the Veterans Day Dinner, ideas can be taken from the materials as needed to be used in future events, such as a celebration of the Legion's birthday in March or a Memorial Day get-together in May.

The American Legion - Pillowcase Project

The American Legion family recently worked a pillow case project at a MOB pre-deployment event in Springfield, IL.

- **What is the Pillow Case Project (Pre-deployment)** - We take a photo of the service member and his/her family, print it out on special photo transfer sheets, iron it onto pillow cases, and present one photo pillow case to each person in the family. The service member takes his/hers overseas, and each family member here at home can enjoy the comfort of a **"hug"** from their deployed spouse, dad or mom. Funding for the Pillow Case Project is from the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion here in Illinois. It is a humbling and rewarding project to be a part of. To volunteer or donate for Pillowcase Project supplies contact The American Legion Department of Illinois Headquarters at 309-663-0361.



UPDATE: Approximately 800 people crowded into the LRS Hanger of the Springfield Capital Airport to see off about 135 Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers who will deploy to Kuwait. The deployment ceremony for the 3637th Support Maintenance Company based in Springfield, Illinois, took place on Sunday, Sept. 24. Following the ceremony, the Soldiers boarded an aircraft and departed for Fort Hood, Texas where they will train for a brief time, before deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Spartan Shield. "The 3637th has a long standing history of awards and maintenance excellence," said Capt. Kenneth Sprague of Urbana, Illinois, commander for the 3637th. "In addition we have pulled together some of the best Soldiers in the state and have become a family." The company will be responsible for maintenance and support to nearly 40 units deployed to the region. "Our Soldiers continue to train and deploy to the Middle East to ensure our country is safe from terrorism," said Maj. Gen. Richard Hayes, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard. "Many of these Soldiers have put their family life on hold and deployed multiple times to the Central Command region." The unit is expected to be deployed for approximately 10 months, returning during summer 2018. This is the largest single unit deployment of Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers in three years.

Lets keep these men & women and their families in our thoughts and prayers.



POPPY ORDER FORM

THE AMERICAN LEGION—DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS—POPPY COMMITTEE

Please Submit a Phone Number

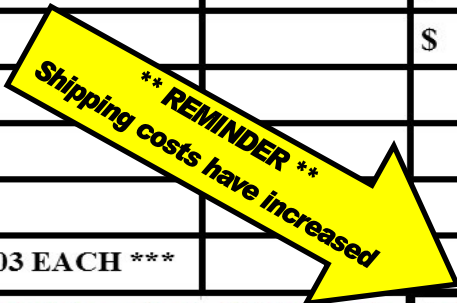
IMPORTANT—Please Print

DIVISION DISTRICT

ORDER SUBMITTED BY	
NAME OF POST or UNIT	POST/UNIT #
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY	ZIP CODE
PHONE NUMBER	

ORDER TO BE SHIPPED TO	
NAME OF POST or UNIT	POST/UNIT #
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY	ZIP CODE
PHONE NUMBER	

ITEM	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
POPPIES— \$135.00 Per Thousand		\$
POPPIES— \$145.00 Per Thousand *** 5th DIVISION ONLY ***		\$
POSTER—\$1.50 EACH		\$
CLUB CARDS—N/C		
CAN LABELS—N/C		
RECOGNITION CITATION—N/C		
BOOK MARKERS—N/C UP TO 500 *** ADDITIONAL .03 EACH ***		
<i>Add shipping costs if order is to be mailed</i>		SHIPPING \$ 8.00
<i>Make All Checks Payable To: <u>The American Legion, Dept. of Illinois</u></i>		TOTAL \$



Do NOT send Cash!

CREDIT CARD # _____

CHECK ONLY ONE: VISA MC AMEX DISCVR CHECK CHECK # _____

Credit Card Exp. Date _____

Credit Card Holder Signature _____

Security Code # _____

Please bring this order form when picking up your Poppies at the **DIVISION POPPY SEMINARS**

OR

Mail this order to:
The American Legion
Department Poppy Committee
P.O. Box 2910
Bloomington, IL 61702
309/663-0361

OR

Division 1: Send all orders to Department for Processing
Division 2, 3, 4, 5: Orders may be sent to your Division Chairman for processing.

SIGNATURE OF PERSON REQUESTING THIS ORDER _____

DATE _____

DEPT. OFFICE USE ONLY	Date received	Finance received	Shipping Dept. received	Date Shipped

Revised JUNE 2017



Grunt Fest 6 - Chicago - Windy City Wild Card

We are excited to announce that Grunt Fest is coming home to the Chicagoland area where it all began! Grunt Fest 6, Windy City Wild Card, will be at the home of the Kane County Cougars in Geneva, IL just outside the city. We took the party to the burbs so we have more room for activities and activities is exactly what we are bringing you all! We invited all of Grunt Style's brands out to join us in this madness and they followed through in a huge way!

We don't want to give away all of the secrets we have in store for you, but here is a little taste.

- Club Grunt Style presents the Club House.
- Grunt Style Outdoors presents Special Forces Laser Tag.
- Grunt Style Motorsports presents Old Skool Races.
- Grunt Style Fitness and Grunt Fit present the O-course.
- Grunt Style Professional and Merica Bourbon present The Speakeasy.
- Grunt Style Golf presents Golf Darts.
- Alpha Outpost presents The Outpost.

What is Grunt Fest without music???

We are bringing back the infamous DJ Scandall to get the party started! We are proud to announce that Canaan Smith will be the headlining artist for Grunt Fest 6!

We have a few more secrets in store for you, but the only way to find out what those are is to get some tickets and come join us for the party of a lifetime! If you love America, hate ISIS, support our troops, and bleed Red, White, and Blue then this is the party for you! Come help us celebrate the incredible Freedoms we have as Americans!

This We'll Defend!

To order tickets go to: <https://www.eventsprout.com/event/gf6>

Grunt Fest 6 - Chicago 34W002 Cherry Lane, Geneva, IL.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Natl. Fall Cmte & Cmsn. Meetings
Indianapolis, IN
October 8th--12th
~ ~ ~

District & Division Membership
Workshop Div. & Dist. Cmdrs
9 am--3pm @ Dept HQ
Div. 1 & 2 on October 21st
Div. 3, 4 & 5 on October 22nd
~ ~ ~

National Legion College
Indianapolis, IN
October 29th--November 3rd
~ ~ ~

Veterans Day
November 11th
~ ~ ~

75 % Target Date
November 13th
~ ~ ~

1st 100% Post Cash Award
1:00 PM Cut-off
& Gold Pin 1:00 PM Cut-off
November 14th
~ ~ ~

Egyptian Past Commander's
Jamboree
(THE HAVEN--CARBONDALE)
November 17th--19th
~ ~ ~

Thanksgiving Day
DEPT OFFICE CLOSED
November 23rd--24th
~ ~ ~

SAL Winter D.E.C
Effingham Post 120
December 9th
~ ~ ~

Christmas Day
DEPT OFFICE CLOSED
December 25th--26th
~ ~ ~

85% Target Date
December 31st
#

81st Anniversary Haven Jamboree

Sponsored by the:



EGYPTIAN PAST COMMANDERS

AND

PAST PRESIDENTS CLUBS

November 17-19, 2017

The E.P.C.C.'s has as its main responsibility, the support and maintenance of THE HAVEN which is located on Crab Orchard Lake, off Route #13, Carbondale, Illinois. THE HAVEN is an important part of the rehabilitation work in the 5th Division. Our main sources of income are: Donations, Annual Dues, Annual Post Per Capita Assessment, Annual Jamboree Raffle, Special Projects and Poppy Money. There is no income from any government entity at any level. We are on our own. That is why your support is so important.

JAMBOREE RAFFLE AND DONATIONS

The operation of THE HAVEN is no small undertaking. With your help, the E.P.C.C. has been able to maintain THE HAVEN since 1950. Participation in the Annual Jamboree Raffle will help support THE HAVEN for another year. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the Jamboree. If you would like to purchase tickets in advance contact: William J. Flanagan/Treasurer, 409 E. Oak St., New Baden, IL 62265.

JAMBOREE HOUSING FOR 2017

We will again enjoy accommodations at the Country Inn and Suites, 1306 Halfway Road, Marion, IL, 62959. Please make your own reservations by calling 1-618-997-2444. Be sure to mention The American Legion block of rooms when making your reservations coded HAVEN JAMBOREE for the weekend of 11/17 through 11/19. Your reservations must be received by November 1, 2017. The rate for the rooms will be \$85.00 plus tax.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17:

- 1:00 PM Tour of the Marion Veterans Administration Medical Center
- 5:00 PM—8:00 PM Evening Steak Fry at The Haven—Cost \$15.00 per person. Reservations needed.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18:

- 1:00 PM—3:00 PM Flag Pole Dedication and Open house at The Haven
- 5:00 PM—6:30 PM Cocktail Hour (*Courtesy of the 5th Division American Legion*) Country Inn & Suites
- 7:00 PM Buffet Style Banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1601 W. White St., Marion.
- Cost \$25.00 per person. Reservations are required.

The menu will be: Roasted Pork Loin, Chicken Au Vin (wine sauce), Mashed Potatoes, Caesar Salad, Green Beans, Vegetable Medley, rolls w/butter, dessert, coffee, tea, water.

Directions to the Knights of Columbus Hall will be available at Hotel. Cash bar available.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19:

- 9:00 AM Egyptian Past Presidents Club—Board Meeting at Country Inn and Suites
- 9:30 AM Egyptian Past Presidents Meeting at Country Inn and Suites
- 10:00 AM Annual Meeting of The Egyptian Past Commanders' Club at The Haven

**Send all Reservations to
William Flanagan 409 East Oak St., New Baden, IL 62265**

Boys State alumni share appreciation for the Samsung Legion scholarship

Calvin Isch would like to believe that his good grades, community service and participation in American Legion Boys State helped earn him the Samsung American Legion Scholarship two years ago. But the truth is, "that's just not the case. It was because of my grandfather (Hubert Isch) who answered the call and served in the Korean War," said the 19-year-old Isch of Bluffton, Ind., to attendees of the Legion's National Children and Youth Conference Sept. 15 in Indianapolis. "He was patriotic and he fought for our freedom. Unfortunately, my grandpa passed away the year before I attended (Hoosier) Boys State so he never got to see how far his service paid for me personally. I know that he would be so happy and proud that I got (the Samsung American Legion Scholarship) for his service."

Isch is one of nearly 2,000 students who have received the scholarship since Samsung bestowed a \$5 million endowment to the Legion in 1995 for the establishment of a scholarship fund for family members of U.S. citizens who are war veterans. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is available for high school juniors who participate in the current session of Boys State or Girls State and are direct descendants (or legally adopted children) of wartime veterans eligible for American Legion membership.

Isch attended Hoosier Boys State in 2015 and said if he had to describe the program in one word, it would be "awesome." Among many things, during the week-long program Isch said he learned how the state and federal government works, gained more insight into the military, was instructed on how to properly fold a U.S. flag and made life-long friends.

"I woke up early every morning to the sound of a trumpet. I enjoyed that way more than my alarm clock believe it or not," Isch said. "What goes into the military is something I never got to appreciate until I went to Boys State."

The Samsung scholarship helps pay for room and board,

tuition and books, and for many recipients it has allowed them to choose the college of their choice.

Dallas DeBruin, a 2013 American Legion Ohio Buckeye Boys State alum and Samsung scholarship recipient, told conference attendees that the scholarship allowed him to choose the University of Dayton. "Because of Boys State and the Samsung American Legion Scholarship, I gained the confidence to be who I am and have the freedom that many students do not. I have the freedom to not worry about the super high cost of college because I have this great scholarship," said DeBruin of Greenfield, Ohio. "And I have the freedom to know that there are people out there willing to help. The American Legion family is one that I can always rely on."

Besides his participation in Boys State, DeBruin earned the scholarship thanks to his grandfather's military service in the Korean War, which he was honored for during the Department of Ohio's winter conference in 2013. "It very much brought my grandfather to tears," DeBruin said.

Isch is a sophomore at Indiana University in Bloomington, where he received a full ride from the Samsung scholarship and others he received. Having no college debt allowed Isch to travel through Europe this summer. During his travels, he had one big takeaway that he shared with conference attendees – "People all over the world still love America. So many people I met said they couldn't wait to visit America; they love America and want to be here. We are still this great country."

"I want to say thank you to all of you. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to go to Boys State. I know many of you have stories like my grandpa and have impacted people in ways you will never know. You have been a hero to many people, and I want to thank you so much for keeping our country free and keeping it the amazing place that people still want to go visit."



The 2018 American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State application and brochure are BOTH now available.

DIVISION OFFICERS RETREAT

(L) Department Adjutant Marty Conatser describing the Department of Illinois Centennial coin during the Division Officers Retreat.

(Below) Division Officers at the Retreat ready to lead and Light the Way.



NEW BADEN HOLDS LEADERSHIP TRAINING MEETING

Approximately 70 legionnaires and SAL members were in attendance for the Leadership Training Meeting recently held in New Baden.



CARAVAN PLANNING MEETING

First meeting was held at Department with Legion, Auxiliary & SAL leadership for the 2018 American Legion Family Membership Caravan.

The Caravan will travel through the state January 11th—20th, 2018.

Protecting your identity after the Equifax data breach

If you were one of the many servicemembers and their families affected by the recent Equifax data breach, it is time for you to secure your identity. Thankfully, active-duty servicemembers and veterans have special tools at their disposal from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, like **active duty alerts** or a **security freeze**, to reduce the risk of **identity theft**.

Here is everything you need to know about the Equifax data breach:

1. The personal information of a reported 143 million people has been stolen, including many servicemembers.
2. Criminals with stolen information may attempt to use credit cards or open new accounts in your name. It can be hard to notice if you are a victim of identity theft until you review your reports or statements and see charges you didn't make, or are contacted by a debt collector about a debt that you don't recognize.
3. You should closely monitor your financial statements and credit reports. If you see anything out of the ordinary, no matter how small, you should take action immediately. To do so, you can:
 - Review your free credit reports for signs of fraud or identity theft.



- Sign up for an active duty alert on your credit report.
 - Consider placing a security freeze on your credit.
 - Review any free credit monitoring services offered by the company affected by the data breach. Read the fine print, but never give your credit card information for a "free" product.
4. If you're run into problems taking these actions, you can submit a complaint to the CFPB online or by calling (855) 411-CFPB (2372).
 5. For help handling financial challenges at every step of your military career check out the CFPB's.

(Tricare continued from page 1)

The new East region will include the District of Columbia; Alabama; Arkansas; Connecticut; Delaware; Florida; Georgia; **Illinois**; Indiana; the Rock Island Arsenal area of Iowa; Kentucky; Louisiana; Maine; Maryland; Massachusetts; Michigan; Mississippi; the St. Louis, Missouri, area; New Hampshire; New Jersey; New York; North Carolina; Ohio; Oklahoma; Pennsylvania; Rhode Island; South Carolina; Tennessee; most of Texas; Vermont; Virginia; West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The new West region will include Alaska; Arizona; California; Colorado; Hawaii; Idaho; all of Iowa except the Rock Island Arsenal area; Kansas; Minnesota; all of Missouri except the St. Louis area; Montana; Nebraska; Nevada; New Mexico; North Dakota; Oregon; South Dakota; west Texas; Utah; Washington and Wyoming.

Enrollment and Plan Change Blackout

Were you planning to switch Tricare plans or enroll in the program during December or late November? Better think again.

To get ready for the contractor change, Tricare officials are putting in place an enrollment blackout starting Nov. 21 and running through the end of the year.

That means you need to finish any new enrollment or enrollment changes -- including primary care provider updates -- before Nov. 21.

If you are a National Guard or Reserve member who wants Tricare coverage starting in January 2018 but you do not become eligible to enroll in Tricare Reserve Select until December, you cannot enroll early, Tricare officials said.

They said they are in the process of developing a solution for that group.

Update Your Payment Information

If you pay an annual or monthly fee to use Tricare, you will likely need to change where that goes, thanks to the contractor change.

Tricare officials said the regional contractors will contact you to update payment information.

For more info go to: <http://www.military.com/daily-news/2017/09/22/heres-how-tricare-2017-changes-affect-you.html>



**The American Legion
Department of Illinois**

2720 E. Lincoln Street, Bloomington, IL 61704-6010



Enter to WIN

An M-15™ Carbine Rifle and other great prizes!

All Prizes are Proudly Made in Illinois

Dear Fellow American Legion Member:

Once again, we are delighted to include you in our exclusive 2017 Veterans Day sweepstakes, which offers you a chance to enter to win an M-15™ Carbine Rifle or up to a \$2,000 cash prize.

As your Department Commander and on behalf of the Finance Commission, we are very proud of what we've accomplished as an organization. This is truly a unique opportunity and a great way to support our very important Department of Illinois programs at the same time!



When you return an optional donation of \$5 per ticket, \$20 for 6 tickets or \$25 for all 12 tickets – you'll carry on our time-honored tradition of service to our troops and veterans.

On Monday, November 13, 2017, winners will be selected. You do not need to be present to win. Your help and support is truly needed, so please act today! Every single gift is vital and each gift is appreciated by all of us and by those we serve.

Please mail your Sweepstakes Tickets as soon as possible, but no later than November 3, 2017 to be eligible to win any of these great prizes:

Grand Prize: An Armalite M-15™ Carbine Rifle AND a Springfield Armory 1911 Champion™ Operator® Lightweight Pistol (or \$2,000 Cash)



Second Prize: A Springfield Armory 1911 Mil-Spec Pistol AND an XD® Pistol with Thumb Safety (or \$1,200 Cash)



Third Prize: A Springfield Armory 1911 Range Officer® Pistol (or \$900 Cash)

Your sweepstakes tickets give you a fair chance to enter to win one of these great prizes. And when you send an optional donation with your sweepstakes tickets, your generosity will be put to work immediately to help veterans in need.

So please, return your sweepstakes tickets as soon as possible, but no later than November 3, 2017, to be eligible to win. The tickets have been addressed for your convenience. Please be sure your name and address are correct, and include your daytime phone number on each ticket, as legibly as possible. Should you decide to make a donation, please make your check or money order payable to "The American Legion, Department of Illinois."

Thank you and God Bless America,

Robert Henderson
Department Commander
The American Legion, Department of Illinois

P.S. No purchase or donation is necessary to enter. A purchase or donation will not improve your chances of winning. Must be 18 years or older to participate. Good luck to all who participate and a very sincere "Thank You."

Recent fundraising letter mailed to all Legionnaires. Commander Henderson asks for your support. Contact Department Headquarters if you want or need tickets.

2nd Annual Haven Legacy Run

October 7th & 8th, 2017

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 7th

Depart from Louisville Post 914, 590 S. Main St., Louisville IL at 9:00 am, arrive at Effingham Post, 200 W Washington, Effingham at 9:30 am, depart Effingham at 10:00 am, arrive at New Baden Post, 105 E. Illinois St., New Baden for lunch at 11:30 am, depart New Baden at 12:30 pm, arrive at Prairie DuRocher Post, 509 Henry St., Prairie DuRocher at 1:30 pm, depart Prairie DuRocher at 2:00 pm and arrive in Marion at 3:45 pm. We'll finish the day at the American Legion Post 147, 11720 Longstreet Road, Marion, for Dinner at 5:00 pm, Entertainment featuring "Repeat Offenders", Dancing, 50/50, Silent Auction, Legion Punch Ceremony & Comradery! Lodging is available at Country Inn & Suites, 1306 Halfway Road, Marion, IL 618-997-2444, Call ASAP, Ref: Haven Run for 15% off room rate.

Day 2, October 8th

Coffee and donuts at 9:00 am at Marion Post 147, depart Marion for the Haven at 10:00 am 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 at 618-339-2369,

Carla Gibson 217-663-6589, or Maribeth Whitsell 618-751-1631

Let's Ride for the Haven!



FISH FRY

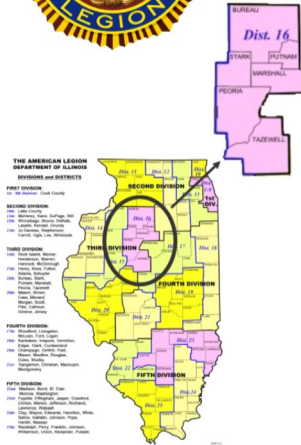
\$9.00 ~ Meal includes Walleye & sides
(Kids under 6 yrs. eat free)

OCTOBER 28, 2017 1:00 PM ~ 7:00 PM

Marine Corps League, Detachment 085
13370 Garmen Rd. Pekin, IL
(309) 346-8888



16th District AMERICAN LEGION Fundraiser



AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAMS

- ★ Youth Programs
- ★ Baseball
- ★ Boys State / Nation
- ★ Oratorical Contest
- ★ Scholarships
- ★ Scouting
- ★ Junior Shooting Sports
- ★ Youth Cadet Law Enforcement
- ★ Children & Youth
- ★ Family Support Network
- ★ Temporary Financial Assistance
- ★ Legion Riders
- ★ Operation Comfort Warriors
- ★ Gifts To The Yanks
- ★ Poppy Day
- ★ POW/MIA
- ★ National Emergency Fund
- ★ Homeless Veterans
- ★ Volunteering
- ★ Amateur Radio Club
- ★ Walk For Veterans
- ★ Legislative
- ★ Flag Advocacy
- ★ National Security



Utica Veterans Day Parade & Air Show

November 5th at 1:00 PM

Downtown - Utica, IL

Come honor veterans from all over the area
and see the spectacular Lima Lima Air Show,
and much, much more.

This is one parade you don't want to miss!

2017—2018 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
10/01/2017	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	NASHVILLE POST 110	NASHVILLE
10/07/2017	3RD DISTRICT	11:30 AM	CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	CHICAGO
10/08/2017	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	AROMA PARK POST 1019	AROMA PARK
10/08/2017	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	WEST SALEM POST 658	WEST SALEM
10/08/2017	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	ORIENT POST 1961	ORIENT
10/15/2017	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	ABINGDON POST 381	ABINGDON
10/15/2017	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	METROPOLIS POST 306	METROPOLIS
10/15/2017	12TH DISTRICT	TBA	MAZON POST 352	MAZON
10/15/2017	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	NEWMAN POST 201	NEWMAN
10/18/2017	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	GEO. W. BENJAMIN POST 791	NORTHBROOK
10/20/2017	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	MCKINLOCK POST 264	LAKE FOREST
10/22/2017	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	GALENA POST 193	GALENA
10/26/2017	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	CHICAGO HEIGHTS POST 131	S CHICAGO HEIGHTS
10/29/2017	4TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	RUEL-NEAL POST 79	LEROY
11/04/2017	3RD DISTRICT	11:30 AM	CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	CHICAGO

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

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).

YOUTH PROGRAM DATES TO REMEMBER

★ Oratorical Contest--March 3, 2018*

(*new location—Crowne Plaza-Springfield)

★ Boys State--June 9th-15th, 2018

★ Illini Girls State--June 17th-23rd, 2018

★ Youth Police---June 24th-29th, 2018



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
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Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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Scan Here

NATIONAL ANTHEM TRIVIA?

1. What was the original name of "The Star-Spangled Banner"?
2. What year, and which President signed the bill that made the song the national anthem?
3. In 1862, what sporting event heard "The Star-Spangled Banner" for the first time?
4. For who did the U.S. House of Representatives pass a Resolution honoring him for originating the custom of rising and standing with head uncovered during the rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner"?

ANSWERS:

1. "The Defense of Fort Mchenry"
2. 1931, President Herbert Hoover
3. Baseball game—Brooklyn, NY
4. Rossell G. O'Brien



**REMINDER:
District & Division Commander
Workshop at Department HQ
October 21- 22, 2017**

Oct. 21st—Division 1 & 2; Oct. 22nd—Divisions 3, 4, 5
9:00 AM—3:00 PM

HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH

Halloween		Y W I T C H D Y R A C S J W K
October		W J A C K O L A N T E R N C D
Spooky		L H E G G H O S T H S K A R E
Scary		N R E T S N O M A P K L O E I
Ghost		O O S U E D R L I R B J P B B
Vampire		T O U V M R L D P S E Z V O M
Werewolf		E B O Z V O E G B G H C A T O
Witch		L A H L W R I E N A W F M C Z
Zombie		E T D E Y A R A Y E Y J P O S
Skeleton		K S E T A E R T R O K C I R T
Monster		S N T K K O Q E Y I O T R J O
Black		I Y N X L U W D P X O Z E O Q
Orange		K M U E S O N T I N P S K F B
Candy		M N A U L A L V C M S X K C P
Trick or Treat		J E H F C T F J K T G B N N B
Haunted House		
Jack O' Lantern		
Boo		
Spider		
Bats		

Chicken Scratch NY