2017–2018 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROBERT "BOB" HENDERSON

MAY 2018



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As Of April 25, 2018

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District Commander

- 20 Flowers, Jr.
- 7 Hoffman
- 9 Blount-Dancer
- 22 Gindler
- 25 Picou
- 19 Coventry
- 24 Welty
- 13 Kraut
- 18 Torbet
- 23 Huelsmann

Division Commander

- 5 ROSCOW
- 3 AARON
- 4 HOFFMAN
- 1 SICILIANO
- 2 ABDELNOUR

AMERICAN LEGION National Poppy Day MAY 25 2018

Honor the Fallen. Support the Living.

After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists attributed the growth to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew a beautiful red poppy. The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shed during battle following the publication of the wartime poem "In Flanders Fields." The poem was written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D. while serving on the front lines.

On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. In 1924, the distribution of poppies became a national program of The American Legion.

Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year members of The American Legion Family distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.

Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. The American Legion brought National Poppy Day to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day.

On May 25, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.

How to Participate:

- Wear a red poppy

 all day and tell everyone why.
- Distribute poppies to friends, co-workers and family and tell everyone why.
- Collect donations at your workplace to give to Poppy Program. (to order a Poppy can go to: http://emblem.legion.org)
- Tell the story on Facebook of who you are wearing your poppy to remember or support on National Poppy Day. Don't forget to tag us! #PoppyDay #AmericanLegion
- Accept a poppy and make a donation if you see a member of The American Legion Family in your neighborhood distributing poppies.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow Between the crosses row on row. That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

1:00

From The Desk of Department Commander Bob Henderson



MEMBERSHIP—MEMBERSHIP

his is what we need.

Membership is the BACKBONE of the AMERICAN LEGION. We need to get those MEMBERS so that we don't have to close Posts. We also need MEMBERS to keep our VA BENEFITS. There are veterans out there waiting to become members, all you have to do is get out there and sign up those veterans into the American Legion. They are out there waiting for you to get them, they are waiting to be asked to join.

Every Post in the State is very close to 100%, I know we can get there with a little hard work from our Division Officers, District Officers and Membership Committees. If you don't have a list to go by I will furnish you one because there are a lot of 2910 members out there all over the State. It does not have to be hard, I spent 3

hours out knocking doors the other night and signed up 8 members. That shows that it is easy, get off your duff and get some exercise getting membership. If you need bandages just get hold of the Sr. Vice Michael, he has got plenty.

When you look at the membership of the Posts, Districts and Divisions. What ever is needed to reach 100% just divide it by the number of weeks from now to June 22, 2018, that will give you what you need each week to reach 100% by June 22, 2018 CUT OFF DATE.

On a lighter note we had a revitalization in the 3rd District which went pretty well even though they have a lot more work to do. The DEC is over and we gave out the Gold Pins for the 95% cut off, to the Top Districts in each Division.

The Junior Auxiliary had their spring Conference, which went well.

I have been all over the state to different meetings and have had a very good reception everywhere I went.

There are a lot of things going on in May. There is the National Spring Committee and Commission Meetings May 5 thru 10, 2018. Then there is the Armed

Forces Day from May 15 to 19, 2018. May 25th is National Poppy Day, remember to wear a poppy. If you don't have one, you can buy them at Department.

On May 28 is Memorial Day. I hope everyone has a big Memorial Day Celebration planned to Honor the Veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for all America. I will be traveling the state for different meetings and hope that I can talk to Division, District and Post Officers about membership.

In June—please don't forget about Boys and Girls State. We still have time to get them registered. Youth Police school has limited space so get your registrations in. Also in June is Special Olympics, please consider helping setup, serve in and take down in the hospitality tent.

I want to thank you for all the work that you have done so far for The American Legion. Thank you for the work you are going to do to get this STATE 100% in Membership.

WE CAN REACH 100 %
THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Micheal Carder



egionnaires, at this writing. We have **Two Months** to get the job done. Our marathon is coming to the finish and we all need to kick it up a notch.

I congratulate all of those districts who are above 90% in membership, however, we have some districts who are sill below 90% and I wonder, why?

I ask this question of those districts and of the other districts as well. **Are**

you getting Bloody Knuckles, doing district revitalizations, post revitalizations, using emails if a post member has email address, have you called Chad Woodburn for member listings? Well, have you?

Folks, 100% membership is not specifically for me. It is for our fellow veterans who enjoy the benefits the American Legion has secured for them. Because if we present a strong membership which is growing, those who wish to diminish the VA Healthcare System, weaken our national defenses, lessen veterans benefits, and attack our personal freedoms

supported by the U.S. Constitution will find a force they do not want to face. Also, what will happen to the Legacy Fund, Emergency Relief Fund, scholarships for our youth?

OK, TEAM ILLINOIS let's do it, let's get off our duffs and finish strong. Keep knocking—I have plenty of Band-Aids.

Lets work hard to accomplish our goal and then in July we party!



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Marsha Haag





reetings from the American Legion
Auxiliary !!!

The 64th Annual Department Junior Conference has happened. I am very proud to tell you, the new Honorary Junior President Gabby Spangler and Honorary Junior Vice Presidents are from my Unit #122.

Representatives from 1Pet1 Vet gave a demonstration and the Juniors had a parade of gifts for them. We received gift cards, monetary gifts and oodles of treats, toys, food and everything under the sun a pet owner uses. They will be joining us again at ALAIGS and Department Convention.

I attended the Vietnam Veterans Ceremony at U of I, Springfield with Commander Henderson and historian Paul. Our Governor, Bruce Rauner, was the keynote speaker with remarks from DVA Director Erica Jeffries. All Veterans received a commemorative lapel pin.

Our reporting is complete and totals will be tabulated. It's amazing to see all the hard work, hours, donations, etc. our members have done throughout the year. I am hoping Units share some of the "Out of the Box" things they've been doing so we can share ideas.

Patriotic Conference was AWESOME. We had remarkable speakers. I was overwhelmed with the kindness shown with the Buddy Basket donations. 106 baskets were put together to share for homeless veterans going into their own homes. We also collected a trunk load of items for 1Pet1 Vet which I dropped off the other afternoon.

Do you have your high school girls interested in ALAIGS? You can assist your Units with securing a spot for them to attend. There is an exciting week planned and we don't want anyone to miss out. If you have more girls than funds or more funds than girls, be sure to let the office know and we can help you.

Let's all work together to make this Poppy Day, May 25th, a huge success. All funds go to help our Veterans. Thank you in advance for your help.

Special Olympics can always use volunteers. I've heard from our C & Y Chairman Michelle that we may be in a

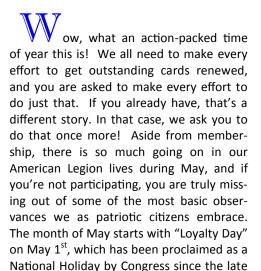
different location, but we will know in plenty of time.

As this year comes to a close while we are "Striving For Gold For Our Veterans", we are nearing the Finish Line for all our ALA Olympics. Department Convention we'll hear the good works we've accomplished as the "Team American Legion Family". After all, there is no "I" in team while we volunteer for our organization. Join our Legion Family to see the contest winners, mingle, rekindle friendships, meet new friends. Perhaps you can mentor a new member.

I've had the pleasure to meet many of you as I traveled around the state serving as President. Thank you for the invitations, courtesies, donations for my special projects, gifts, random acts of kindness and new friendships. There are a few more places to go. Truman Days in early May honors the birthday of the 33rd President, Harry Truman. I'll be at Armed Forces Dinner, activities while National Commander Rohan is visiting, Unit and District visits, Memorial Day events, Special Olympics, visits to Premier Boys State & Youth Police School, ALAIGS, and National President Diane's Homecoming. See you at Convention!!!

ETACHMIC

From The Desk of Detachment Commander Paul A. Hayse



1950's. Not familiar with that day? I urge everyone to look it up and get your Americanism juices moving! The 67th Annual National Day of Prayer will be observed on May 3rd. This doesn't cost a penny to observe, but will pay huge dividends! I look forward to attending the 2018 Spring National Executive Committee in Indianapolis, IN on May 6th and 7th, and look forward to bringing back news from the National level. On May 13th, I urge everyone to acknowledge V-E Day. This is a day of observance of our Victory in Europe day. Find a WWII vet and thank him or her no matter where they may have served. But most importantly, we all need to take this day to pay a special thanks to our mothers on Mother's Day. After that, we celebrate Armed Forces Day. The Second Division will host the annual event in Yorkville on May 19th. I know most of you will be volunteer-

ing to help with Poppy Day, which is a huge fund-raising event that supports our Nation's Heroes. Finally, the day that we know and need no reminder of, Memorial Day. Every person in America knows this day because for most, it represents a paid day off work. As members of the Sons, that is a plus, but the true meaning of the day goes to the heart of why we are members of the SAL, and why we are so proud to celebrate and display our patriotic pride to be counted as an American citizen. Many dedicated Sons are a part of a Color Guard, many more place flags on veteran's graves, and we all thank our Lord for the sacrifices our Nations' heroes have made and blessed the life we live because of those sacrifices. I am confident that all reading this will join in that most honored remembrance celebration and may God's blessing be with all those that do.

Did You Know?

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

That many veterans don't bother to file claims for service-connected compensation because their condition is minor and would probably result in only a 10% rating. They feel the paperwork is too complicated. Examples would be diabetes under control with diet, tinnitus, minor arthritis in a broken finger or hypertension under control with meds. When I run across these vets I tell tem that the paperwork is easy and our trained Service Officers will help with that and yes, they may only get 10% (currently at \$136 a month) but that rating opens up a cornucopia of other benefits.

Ten come to mind and they are:

- 1. Ten points civil service preference on government jobs.
- 2. Waiver of VA home loan funding fees (that could be a savings of thousands of dollars on the closing).
- 3. Free hearing aids and eyeglasses.
- 4. Possible retraining under the Vocational Rehabilitation program.
- 5. Free bus rides (at least in Chicago).
- 6. Discounts at our National Parks.
- 7. Free hunting and fishing licenses in Illinois.
- 8. No copayments for Veterans Health Administration outpatient visits.
- 9. Travel pay for that particular service-connected condition when using a Veterans Administration hospital.
- 10. Eligible for \$10,000 in Veterans Administration life insurance.

In addition, to the above I stress that their condition over the years may get worse and they can always apply for an upgrade. Many World War II, Korean and Vietnam veterans started with a minor 10% knee injury and over the years it got worse. Some have to undergo total knee replacements. This can increase their rating well beyond 50% in most cases.

Finally if they are still hesitant to file I pull my ace out of my sleeve and tell them getting this rating can protect their spouses and make it easier for them to receive survivor's benefits. That minor hypertension could result in a massive fatal heart attack or that diabetes could result in a deadly cardiovascular condition.

Once they realize all of the potential benefits we usually get them to file. <u>Are you one of those who hasn't yet filed?</u> If so contact our office and one of our Service Officers will help get the ball rolling.

You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.

Winston Churchill

YOUTH PROGRAM DATES TO REMEMBER

- **★ Boys State--June 9th-15th, 2018**
- * Illini Girls State--June 17th-23rd, 2018
- * Youth Police---June 24th-29th, 2018

(*new location—Camp Lincoln-Springfield)

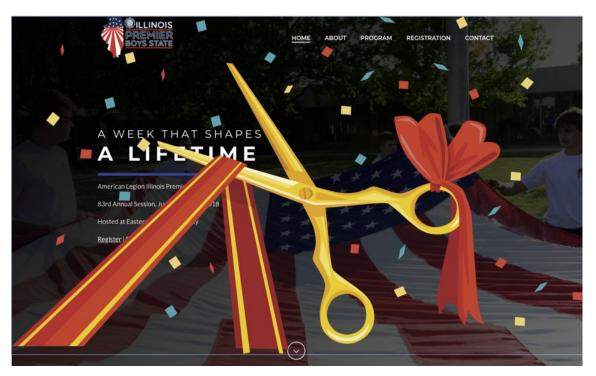




From The Desk of American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State Chairman, Christopher Benigno

www.illinoisboysstate.org

The American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State would like to invite you to visit our new website! Our new exciting site incorporates all of the information that you are accustomed to, in a whole new format that is in line with the way media is preferred to be viewed today. This new layout is easier to use on mobile devices so that viewers may search content wherever they are.



ILLINOISBOYSSTATE.ORG

Please share this site with everyone you meet to assist us in showcasing our program. It is up to all of us to preserve our way of life, we owe it to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Americanism is who we are, WE ARE THE AMERICAN LEGION.

Our 2018 Boys State citizens will be directed to go <u>www.IllinoisBoysState.org</u> then click on "2018 Participants" located on the home page. There the boys will find detailed information on where and when to report, what to bring, and other related information for the 2018 session. Some information shown is from the 2017 session. The final information for this session will be available on or around June 1st once the details of our 2018 program is finalized.

Keep recruiting your juniors to attend there is still time!

Although there is NO SET DEADLINE we do encourage applications to arrive before Memorial Day so the boys may receive their acceptance letter and have time to complete the Samsung Scholarship, if applicable.

And just so you know...Boys State will accept last minute/walk-in registrations.



The American Legion will return to the city that hosted its first National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota for the commencement of the yearlong Centennial Celebration.

The Joliet American Legion Band will be competing in the Senior Band Competition and Marching in the Convention Parade on Sunday, August 26, 2018. The Band has participated in our State Convention and we want to generate the same excitement for support at the 100th Annual National Convention. The Joliet American Legion Band has been the National Champion Band in the past and has the goal to bring the Championship back to Illinois.

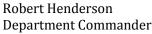
It is very expensive transporting and housing a band of 65-75 members including equipment and musical instruments. The Fundraising efforts have begun and the Department of Illinois is asking all Posts in Illinois to assist in this endeavor. Any contribution that your Post can offer would be greatly appreciated. Please make your checks payable to The American Legion Department of Illinois, noting the Joliet American Legion Band.

Your assistance in making this a great National Convention would be greatly appreciated by the Department of Illinois and the Joliet American Legion Band.

If you have any questions please contact me at the Department Headquarters. Thank in advance for your support.

Polent Hendreson

In Service,





Public Relations / Information Sharing Recognition Award



Public Relations and Information Sharing are primarily about the Image of The American Legion. At every level, it is our job to inform, enlighten,

persuade and convince our members, the media, local and national elected officials, community members and U.S. citizens about who we are and what we do.

Every year, posts provide assistance to veterans and their families, conduct fundraisers, sponsor sports teams, assist in community programs in time of need to name a few, which should be shared with the local Media to tell our story. If they are not shared, The American Legion has NO image in your area.

The Public Relations/Information Sharing Committee feels that by creating an annual Award to be given at the Department Convention will definitely increase the participation in telling our great story. The award will be given to recognize the winning submission of Post's achievements based on their membership levels and a local Media Source supporting The American Legion image in any area that they serve.

There are four awards that will be given to one Post in each level; 15-100 members, 101-200 members, 201-400 members and 401 plus members. The following criteria will be used to judge all entries and need to be sent to The Public Relations Committee at Department Headquarters no later than June 1st.

DETAILS: Each entry must include the completed Public Relations/Information Sharing Recognition Award form covering the outlined categories. If necessary, you may use no more than two (2) additional pages of supporting information with your submission.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL (optional): Submissions may include support material that corresponds to the particular Public Relations activities such as: Pictures, News Articles, Press Releases, Public Service Announcements, DVD's of TV or On Line Media support, etc.

Submission Deadline: June 1st at Department Headquarters.

Recognition Award Entry Form is located on the Department Website (Forms)

ATTENTION: Children and Youth Chairman

~ Please read at your post meeting ~

Special Olympics Summer Games Fund Want to know how your post can help!

Each year Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games are held at ISU in Normal, IL. For those of you who can't attend, there is still 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.

Here's what is needed:	PLEASE REMEMBER TO
Country Time Lemonade	Bring your donations to your C&Y District or Division chairmen, so we will have an idea of supplies and
Family Size Lipton Tea Bags	money. The Chairmen will bring them to the games.
Napkins	ALL donations should be at Dept. no later than the first week in June.
9 inch plates	With the whole Legion family involved (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL & Riders) we can make it a true Legion
Ziploc Sandwich Bags	Family Hospitality Tent!
8 oz. plastic cups	
Money donations*: Money donations Groceries— supplies to make dip, veggie trays, gallons of olives, g * Please have ALL monetary donations in by June 1st so su	
Volunteers: If you can help ple	ease let us know when you can be there.
Friday - From	To
Saturday - From	To
In addition, helpers are needed to set-up and take down additional tents used, as well as load and	Friday 10:00–4:00
unload supplies from the trailer and trucks.	Saturday 9:30–3:30

Thank you for your consideration...and Especially for your Donation!
We NEED HELPERS to set up and take down

Our aging Special Olympic Staff greatly appreciates all hands.

American Legion 2018 State Convention Book Application for Ad placement

BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION:			
CONTACT NAME:			
Address:	City:	State: Zi	p:
Phone Number:	Email Address:		
$[Post\ use\ only]$ American Legion Post	name:	Post	No
Slogan Choices: (three choiceschoose one)	Ad Choice: (please choose black & white or color)	Black & White Ad	Color Ad
1. We Are Proud To Be Part of The American Legion Family2. Helping The American Legion Help American's Veteran's3. We Proudly Stand Behind The American Legion	Medal of Honor (full page7-1/2 x 10 in.) Silver Star (half page7-1/2 x 5 in.) Bronze Star (quarter page3-3/4 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.)	\$230.00 \$120.00 \$90.00 \$75.00 \$60.00 \$25.00	\$125.00 \$95.00 \$80.00
Check (Make Check payable to: AMI	All credit information will be kept confidential ERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF IL) Dept. of IL 2720 E. Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 6	1704	
EXP Date: /	Security Code #:		



Card type: / MC / Visa / AmEx / Disc

Department Finance Secretary

- ♦ Book keeper with 3 to 5 years experience.
- ♦ Preferred accounting experience.
- Will handle accounts receivable, accounts payable and bank reconciliations.
- Must have working knowledge of Quick Books, Microsoft Word and Excel.
- ♦ Experience will determine the salary.

For further information or to submit resumes, please contact:
The American Legion Department of Illinois
2720 E. Lincoln St., Bloomington, IL 61704
(309) 663-0361

hdqs@illegion.org

"SWEET" Donation to Special Olympics



The Girls Scouts of America dropped off a donation over 100 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies at Department Headquarters. The cookies will be served in the American Legion Hospitality tent during the 2018 Special Olympic Summer games.

Children & Youth Chairman Cheri Stanton was very excited to receive this very generous donation.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA



CONTEST RULES:

- ★ Each photo <u>MUST</u> be accompanied by the Official entry form. (Photo copied entry forms are acceptable)
- ★ All photos <u>MUST</u> be of Legion events, supportive of Legion programs, or patriotic in nature. For Calendar photo submissions the preference is the photo is taken in Illinois.
- Photos <u>MUST</u> need to be printed on photo paper NOT on copy or typing paper.
- Digital photo images must have clarity of 300 dpi or better.
- All photos entered should be NO smaller than 5x7 to be entered for the calendar program.
- Each photo must have the name of the subject, location of where the photo was taken, approximate date of the photo, name of individuals in the photo (reading from left to right).
- ★ Calendar Program photos <u>MUST</u> be HORIZONTAL / LANDSCAPE (*see example) NO PORTRAIT / VERTICAL photos will be chosen or used in the calendar program.
- ★ All photos will become the property of the Department of Illinois and will not be returned.
- Failure to comply with all the preceding rules may disqualify an entry from winning any prize.

* example

HORIZONTAL LANDSCAPE

· / `	TERTICAL	
(PORTRAIT)
		У

JUDGING: Judging will be done by the Department Commander and/or Department Sr. Vice Commander. Judging will take place no later than the first Friday following the Department Convention at Dept. Headquarters.

PRIZES:

- ★ Cash prizes will be awarded in EACH of the Five (5) Divisions as follows: 1st Place \$100; 2nd Place \$75; 3rd Place \$50; 4th place \$25.
- \$75.00 will be awarded for photos selected for the Calendar Program—2019 the photographer will be given credit in a caption on the calendar.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIZE MONEY:

All Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members are eligible, but must be current, paid-up members. Entry forms <u>MUST</u> have the Post, District, and Division number and the entrant's membership I.D. number.

SPECIAL NOTES: The Calendar Program is a Department of Illinois fund raising project. All Photos submitted may or may not be used in the Calendar Program—2019, Legion programs and/or brochures. However, we must have permission of the photographer and the persons or organization therein. ** See entry form.

DEADLINE: Entries submitted must be received at Department Headquarters the Friday <u>prior</u> to the State Convention. (not post-marked by)

Submit photo entries to:

the American Legion, Dept. of IL Department Photo Contest 2720 E. Uncoin St. Bloomington, IL 61704 (C/O: Dept. Asst. Adjutant)

Individuals (from left Name of Subject(s) Approximate Date Taken hereby granted by the photographer to use this photo and the persons therein in Official Illinois American Legion (if additional space is needed please write on a separate piece of paper, attach and send with official entry form) Member I.D.

AMERICAN

LEGION

РНОТО

/ CALENDAR

CONTEST

ENTRY

FORM





ATTENTION:
American Legion
Family Members

SPEND A WEEKEND ON THE GREENS

All proceeds go to Dept. of IL American Legion programs



Kids in Danger Program Receive National CWF Grant

Pictured from left to right are Kids in Danger Board member Julius Rhodes, Executive Director of Kids in Danger Nancy A. Cowles, Department Commander Bob Henderson, and Department Adjutant Marty Conatser presenting a National CWF grant check.

National Oratorical Contest

Department of Illinois Americanism Chairman Philip Mette attended the 81st annual American Legion's National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis April 14-15.

There were 53 high school orators who spoke on the U.S. Constitution for quarter final contest. Department of Illinois contestant Patrick Kilcullen competed in the room with the Departments of California, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania. Competition was tough and Patrick did a great job. Nathan York of California won this contest round going on to compete in the Semi-Final contest round against Georgia and Florida.

Nathan York won the Semi-Finals round and moved on to compete in the Finals round with Carlissa Frederich of Kentucky, and Emily Parker of Minnesota Sunday April 15th. Each will have the opportunity to win first place and an \$18,000 scholarship. Second and third place will earn \$16,000 and \$14,000, respectively.

Carlissa, a first time competitor, earned her a first-place finish and an \$18,000 scholarship in The American Legion's 81st annual National Oratorical Contest. Congratulations to Carlissa.

Speaking of first timers, Patrick Kilcullen is a freshman, we are certain we have not seen the last of his energetic spirit.

The 2019 Department Oratorical Contest will be held in Springfield, March 2, 2019.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

National Spring Committee & Commission Meetings May 7th--10th Indianapolis, IN

~ ~ ~

Armed Forces Day Cut-Off May 11th

~ ~ ~

Mother's Day May 13th

~ ~ ~

Armed Forces Day May 19th

~ ~ ~

Department Commander Bob Henderson's Birthday May 23rd

Memorial Day DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED May 28th

CPR Form Deadline
June 1st

~ ~ ~

Illinois Premier Boys State EIU-Charleston, IL June 9th--15th

> ~ ~ ~ Flag Day

June 14th $\sim \sim \sim$

Special Olympics @ ISU--Normal, IL June 15th--16th

~ ~ ~

Father's Day June 17th

~ ~ ~

Illini Girls State EIU-Charleston, IL June 17th--23rd

~ ~ ~

CLOSE OF BOOKS

June 22nd

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Calling All Legionnaires

Fellow Legionnaires you are needed. Let your voice be heard. Please contact your local Representatives regarding Bill S.2679. https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/IL#senators then click in the Representatives tab.



S. 2679

To provide access to and manage the distribution of excess or surplus property to veteran-owned small businesses.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 16, 2018

Mr. Durbin (for Ms. Duckworth (for herself, Mr. Durbin, and Mr. Kennedy)) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To provide access to and manage the distribution of excess or surplus property to veteran-owned small businesses.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. ACCESS TO SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 32 of the Small Business Act (<u>15 U.S.C. 657b</u>) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) ACCESS TO SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services, shall provide access to and manage the distribution of surplus property and foreign excess personal property returned to a State for handling as surplus property owned by the United States to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans (as verified by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 8127 of title 38, United States Code) pursuant to a memorandum of understanding between the Administrator, the Administrator of General Services, and the head of the applicable state agency (as defined in section 549 of title 40, United States Code) for surplus properties."

District Outstanding Chaplain Award Nominate yours today

TO: DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Under the direction of Department Chaplain Virgil Oikion, with the sanction of the Religious Emphasis Committee and the delegated authority of the Department Commander Bob Henderson, Chaplains who have done an outstanding job during the past Legion year will be awarded the Chaplain's Cross or Star of David. Department Commander Henderson and Department Chaplain Oikion will present the award to the selected chaplains at the Department Convention Memorial Service which will be held on July 14, 2018. Each District Commander, with the advice of their Executive Committee, is requested to select one individual from their district who is serving in the capacity of a Post, County, District or Division Chaplain and who has specifically gone beyond merely performing his or her normal obligations of leading prayers at meetings.

This will be the 28th year that the Chaplain's Cross or Star of David will be awarded to outstanding Chaplains at the Department Convention. It is the Department Commander's and Department Chaplain's expectations that each District will nominate an individual worthy of its receipt.

Each District Commander is requested to complete the Nomination Form with an optional short narrative about the chaplain's work. If you determine that there is no one in your District to nominate, please indicate that on the nomination form, sign it and return it to Department Headquarters before June 7, 2018.

May God bless you and your Chaplains in your selection and nomination process. If you have any questions, please contact Department Chaplain Virgil Oikion at (815) 302-3015.

<u>District Chaplain's Award Nomination</u> <u>Form for 2017-2018</u>

	(Name of Nominee)
f Post # Chaplain from s	for recognition as an outstanding aid District.
\Rightarrow	We have no one to nominate.

This form <u>must</u> be signed by the District Commander and sent in to the American Legion Department Headquarters Office in Bloomington, Illinois

MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JUNE 7, 2018

Nominations are accepted by mail only. Please <u>DO NOT</u> call in your Nominations.



100 YEARS OF VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

American Legion Department of Illinois

Centennial Coin



Coins are numbered 001 - 500



NOW AVAILABLE

Order one today!

Coin number not Guaranteed

(309)663-0361

Call Department Headquarters today to order this one of a kind collectable coin!



100th Annual Department Convention July 11 - 15, 2018 Springfield, Illinois



The American Legion Department of Illinois

100th Annual Department Convention July 10-15, 2018

-SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS (Mr. Lincoln's Hometown)-

HOUSING RESERVATION FORM

All reservations MUST be made directly with the hotel housing your Division/S.A.L. on or

		pleting and mailing in this form
		including tax or by following the
		NOTE: ALL cancellations must be made
24 hours prior to arrival date. Failure		
	INCLUDED IN THE RATE A	
HOTEL	DIVISION/S.A.L.	RATE
WYNDHAM SPRINGFIELD		\$107.00 plus tax (currently 13%)
City Centre 700 E. Adams Springfield, IL	(\$120.91 per night with tax) 62701 217/789-1530	
Reservation- Mail this form to the		
		y also call 217/789-1530 and select
the RESERVATIONS OPTION and		Code 07097027AL and/or the
group name "American Legion 20	18"	
PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCO	OLN SPRINGFIELD	
(A Doubletree by Hilton)	3rd Division & Auxiliary	\$107.00 plus tax (currently 13%)
701 E. Adams Springfield, IL	62701 217/544-8800	(\$120.91 per night with tax)
Reservation- Mail this form to the	President Abraham Lincoln Sprin	gfield or via internet by visiting the
Department of Illinois website and	d linking up to:	
http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/gro	oups/personalized/S/SPIASDT-ALS-20	180710/index.ihtml?WT.mc_id=POG
and using the Group Code of "AL directly at 1/866-788-1860 or 217/5		ident Abraham Lincoln Springfield
Special Notes: All rooms are s	ubject to the applicable sales to	ax. All reservations must be
made with credit card or advan	ced deposit. Remember, if re	serving the room with a personal
check, be sure and include the	rate including tax as listed abo	ve.
Also, the cut-off date	e for ALL RESERVATIONS is To	lesday, June 19, 2018.
If you select a hotel that your Div	ision is not housed in, you may be n	noved to your Division assigned hotel.
PLEAS	E PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFOR	MATION
Division District	Legion/SAL Title	
Hotel	Type of room (circle) 1 Bed 2 Beds
Disabled Access	Please note: All Hotel Rooms in	Springfield are Non-Smoking.
(Please note room types are a r	request and are not guaranteed. The ho	tels will attempt to accommodate.)
Other Special Requests		
Name		
Address	City	
StateZip Code	Phone Co	ell
E-Mail	Fax	
Name(s) of additional people in room		

Departure Date

FREEDOM FEST, FRIDAY, JULY 13TH - COMMANDER'S AND PRESIDENT'S DINNER, SATURDAY, JULY 14th

Expiration Date

Arrival Date

Credit Card #

Department of Illinois American Legion Family Cordially Invites You to the Annual Commander and President Dinner Honoring













Department Commander Bob Henderson Auxiliary President Marsha Haag Detachment Commander Paul Hayse

On Saturday, July 14, 2018

Wyndham Springfield ~ Main Ballroom

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

Mare	cnecks payable to:	'ine Americai	n Legion Department	of 1uinois
Mail Reservations to:	Dinner Chairman,	Pam Ray ~	6410 Wind Hill Dr.	~ Springfield, IL 62707

Name:		Division#	
Address:		District#	
City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone #	No. of Person(s)	_ or Table(s)	
(Chicken Saltimbocca Dinner @\$41) - (Whiske	y Glazed Salmon Dinner @\$41) - (Prime Rib Dinner @\$45)
Check Total \$ Make checks paya	ble to: The American Legion Depo	artment of Illinois	
Please list names of each person when reserving a table of	f 8:		
			·,

<u>Menu Selections:</u> Choice of: <u>Chicken Saltimbocca Dinner</u> – OR – <u>Whiskey Glazed Salmon Dinner</u> – OR – <u>Prime Rib Dinner</u> All are served with Bacon & Chive stuffed potato, Vegetable (Chef's Choice), and Tossed Salad w/ choice of 3 dressings, dinner rolls, and Assorted Desserts. Coffee, Decaf and Iced Tea.

<u>Reservation Deadline:</u> To guarantee your reservation, mail your check and dinner reservation form no later than <u>June 29, 2018</u>. Those that desire a table for eight (8) should list their names on the dinner reservation form provided below.

Questions: Contact Dinner Chairman, Pam Ray (H) 217/698-8571, (C) 217/741-6849 or email: sparkle1979@hotmail.com



2018 AMERICAN LEGION HIRING

Bank of Springfield Center 1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701

Veteran Preview: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM General Public: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The American Legion is organizing a Hiring Event for veteran job seekers and military spouses. This event will include employers and resource agencies. Please join us on July 13, 2018 at the Bank of Springfield "BOS" Center in Springfield, IL.

THIS WILL BE A FREE HIRING EVENT FOR EMPLOYERS. JOB SEEKERS, AND MILITARY SPOUSES,

This Hiring Event is being conducted by The American Legion, Department of Illinois and is being supported by The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) National Guard Employment Support Program (ESP)

IDES CONTACTS:

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

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

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

Danita Lust-BSC Phone: 217-278-5732 Danita.Lust@Illinois.Gov Phone: 618-277-8938

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

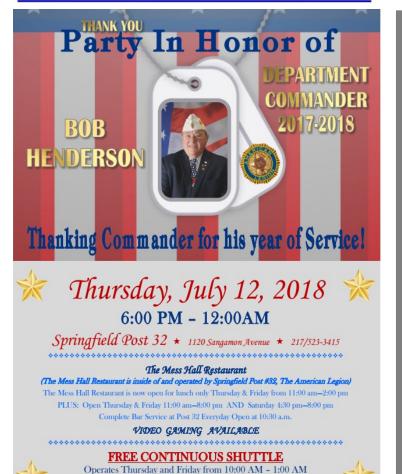
Department of Illinois 2720 E. Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 61704 Office (309) 663-0361 Fax (309) 663-5783













Friday, July 13, 2018 6:00 PM - 11:30 PM

> 700 Block of East Adams Downtown Springfield in the roadway between the two convention hotels

Live Music 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM



NO COVER CHARGE ★ EVERYONE IS WELCOME BEER ★ SODA ★ FOOD

Everyone is invited to help Commander Bob, ALA President Marsha & SAL Commander Paul Celebrate their conventions and their year of service.

COME CELEBRATE THE AMERICAN LEGION'S CENTENNIAL YEAR

Chaplain's Conference Thursday,



THE CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER MANUAL

July 12, 2018 10:00 AM ~ 11:00 AM

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

between the hotels, Post 32 and Post 809







Springfield Welcomes the 100th Annual American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary **Department Conventions**

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY CONVENTION

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & 212 North 6th St. Springfield, Illinois

Come visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Visiting Hours: Daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Handicap Accessible

\$7.00 person, and the History of Hollywood exhibit is an additional \$3.00 This Special Rate of will be given to the American Legion Family during the 100th Annual Convention ~ July 11th-14th, 2018

To receive this rate attendees MUST show their American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary Convention Badge (i.e: Delegate or Alternate or Guest) This would be a great low cost vacation opportunity for the Legion Families to enjoy the historic sites of Springfield and at the same time enjoy the conventions. (rate subject to change)

Illinois State Military

Illinois State Military Museum at Camp Lincoln

1301 N. MacArthur Blvd. Springfield, Illinois 62702



Features compelling stories about Illinois soldiers. This attraction easily accessible through the American Legion's FREE Shuttle Route.

- Handicap Accessible
- ♦ Open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



The American Legion Convention HOSPITALITY LOCATIONS 2018

Rendezvous Room

(Mezzanine Level Wyndham)

Plaza 3

(Mezzanine Level Wyndham)

VISTAS 1 - 3

(29th Floor Wyndham)

VISTAS 4 - 5

(29th Floor Wyndham)

Embassy Room

(Lower Level Wyndham)

PLAZA 1 & 2

(Mezzanine Level Wyndham)

VISTA 6

(29th Floor Wyndham)

1st Division (Commander Anthony Siciliano)

Note: Room has bar and refrigerator. Will get ice from machine in Plaza 3 Room.

11th District (Commander Michael E. Westerhausen)

3rd Division Hospitality

(3rd Division Commander Michelle Aaron)

4th Division (Commander Ronald Hoffman)

Note: Ice Machine and refrigerator located in attached kitchen

5th Division (Commander Jeff Roscow)

Note: Refrigerator is located in Ambassador Room kitchen.

2nd Division & 12th District

(Division Commander Terry Abdelnour; 12th District Commander Ashley C. "Dave" Davis)

Note: This room will get ice from ice machine in Plaza 3.

If available, a Refrigerator will be placed in this room by Wyndham.

19th District (Commander Ronald D. Coventry)

Per authority of Department Commander Robert Henderson

Mike Walton, Convention Director

UPDATED Per Commander Henderson January 9, 2018 October 23, 2017

Please Note: Wyndham Springfield City Centre will supply refrigerators <u>if available</u>.

If they have to "rent" them, the Person/Division/District will be responsible for the rental fee.

American Legion Family Postings

ROCHELLE AMERICAN LEGION GETS THE MEDIA INVOLVED



Rochelle American Legion accepting applications for the 83rd annual session of Boys State

ROCHELLE — The American Legion Illinois Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of instruction in the operation of government for high school students.

It is a participatory program in which students learn by doing and become part of the operation of city, county, and state governments.

Boys State was founded in Illinois in 1935 and is now a national program of the American Legion. (The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women called Girls State.)



Nation's veterans, communities & future.

At Boys State, scheduled for June 9 through June 15, participants learn the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizenship. Although fictional political parties are created and the citizens are randomly assigned to one, Boys State is nonpartisan in the sense of U.S. or Illinois political parties.

The hands-on political and governmental elements of the program center around creating and facilitating city, county, and state governments.

Boys State activities include various levels of legislative sessions, political party caucuses, four different election cycles, general assemblies, band concerts, law enforcement presentations, and recreational programs. It is often said that the lessons learned and the informal interactions in this program create a week that shapes a lifetime.

American Legion posts select high school juniors to attend the program in June right after their junior year. In most cases, individual expenses are paid by a sponsoring Legion Post, a local business, or another community-based organization. Parents and grandparents are also able to sponsor a participant to attend this summer opportunity.

Information and an application can be obtained at http://illinoisboysstate.org/. Contact Post 403 Commander Steve Korth.

2017—2018 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST./ DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
05/05/2018	3RD DISTRICT	11:30 AM	CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	CHICAGO
05/06/2018	12TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	SANDWICH POST 181	SANDWICH
05/06/2018	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	TREMONT POST 1236 (CONVENTION)	TREMONT
05/06/2018	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	GREENUP POST 566	GREENUP
05/06/2018	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CHATHAM POST 759 (CONVENTION)	СНАТНАМ
05/16/2018	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE 134	MORTON GROVE
05/18/2018	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	LAKE REGION POST 703 (CONVENTION)	FOX LAKE
05/20/2018	3rd division	10:00 AM	LIMESTONE POST 979 (CONVENTION)	BARTONVILLE
05/20/2018	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	PROPHETSTOWN POST 522 (CONVENTION)	PROPHETSTOWN
05/21/2018	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CHAMPAIGN POST 559 (CONVENTION)	CHAMPAIGN
05/23/2018	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	UNKNOWN (ELECTION OF OFFICERS)	UNKNOWN
05/24/2018	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EVERGREEN PARK POST 854	EVERGREEN PARK
06/02/2018	3RD DISTRICT	11:30 AM	CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	CHICAGO
06/03/2018	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	COLLINSVILLE POST 365	COLLINSVILLE
06/03/2018	23RD DISTRICT	9:00 AM	BREESE POST 252 (CONVENTION)	BREESE
06/03/2018	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	FLORA POST 14	FLORA
06/03/2018	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	EVANSVILLE POST 1172 (CONVENTION)	EVANSVILLE
06/10/2018	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	MARION POST 147 (CONVENTION)	MARION
06/15/2018	10TH DISTRICT	6:30 PM	WAUCONDA POST 911	WAUCONDA
06/20/2018	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
06/27/2018	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	HOWARD H. RHODE POST 888	NORTHLAKE
06/28/2018	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	MARRS-MEYER POST 991	WORTH

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).

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Phone: 309-663-0361 Email: hdqs@illegion.org

Fax: 309-663-5783 Web: www.illegion.org

Department Commander ROBERT "Bob" HENDERSON

Department Editor MARTY CONATSER

Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

themust be at Department Headquarters by conth for it to be in the next months issue. Subscription to the Department News \$10.00 for 11 issues * One year each Newsletter I5th of

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MAY TRIVIA?

- What type of aircraft was used to drop bombs in the first German air raids on London in 1915?
- In 1996, which country's army became the last in the world to disband its carrier pigeon service?
- In World War II American army slang, what was a GI Moe?
- How many times did the nuclear submarine USS Triton surface during its historic 1960 underwater circumnavigation of the globe?
- Who was issues ID number 01 when the U.S. military started issuing dog tags in 1918?

General John J. Pershing.

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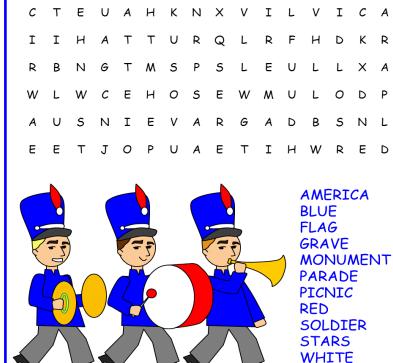
in 1521 during his circumnavigation of Philippines, where the explorer was killed Magellan on the island of Mactan in the ber, and once to pay tribute to Ferdinand Twice--one to remove a sick crew mem-

An army mule. 3. 7

Switzerland's. .nil9qq95 A

ANSWERS:





Memorial Day Word Search