



The Department of Illinois Announces the 81st Annual American Legion Oratorical Winner



The 81st Annual American Legion Department of Illinois Oratorical Semi-Finals and Final Contests were held March 3rd in Springfield at the Crowne Plaza. This year we had 21 outstanding and energetic orators who competed during the morning Semi-Finals round. The 1st place winners from each Semi-Final contest room moved on to compete that afternoon in the Department Finals round. We Congratulate all of our orators on a Job Well Done!

Pictured above L-R Department Commander Bob Henderson, Department of Illinois Winner Patrick Kilcullen a freshmen at Grayslake North High School, and Department Sr. Vice Commander Mike Carder. Patrick will represent the Department of Illinois and participate in the National Finals Contest April 14-15, 2018 in Indianapolis, IN at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel.

Complete contest results is located inside on page 6-7.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
 MARCH 7, 2018

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
7	Hoffman
20	Flowers, Jr.
9	Blount-Dancer
22	Gindler
1	Mittelstaedt
18	Torbet
13	Kraut
16	Hinton
19	Coventry
24	Welty

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



From The Desk of Department Commander Bob Henderson



February along with the cold weather is over.

The Lincoln Pilgrimage Program is always a wonderful time as we celebrated President Lincoln's 209th Birthday. National Commander, Denise Rohan, National President, Dian Duscheck, National SAL Commander, Danny Smith joined us, along with all many of our Illinois American Legion Family members. If you didn't make it this year you can put it on your schedule to attend next year it's worth it.

February 17, 2018 was a day of training for the Jr. and St. Vice Commanders of the Division and District at Department HQ. This was directed by Sr. Vice Commander, Mike Carder, Membership Director, Chad Woodburn and the Dept. Membership staff. They had a working lunch and hopefully everybody learned what they needed to know for their next Offices.

Going to Washing DC is a must each year to make sure that our Representatives and Congress are doing their job to back the American Legion. In meetings with them we find out how they stand on backing our Veteran's and Veteran's families as well as getting more benefits for them. We keep watch so our Veterans don't lose what we currently have.

March is starting off with a big bang, the 1st is the start Fair meeting in Springfield. Then on the 2nd and 3rd is the Department Oratorical at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL.

UPDATE: *Congratulations to Patrick Kilcullen for winning the 2018 Oratorical Contest. He is from the 2nd Division and is a freshmen at Grayslake North High School. My Historian and I listened to several students give their speeches during the Semi-Final round and we heard all 5 in the Final round. What an impressive group of young people. Hope you were able to come listen, if not you should, you won't be disappointed.*

Also in March are District and Division meetings during the month. Invite your members to come to them to see what is going on.

March 15th is also the 99th Birthday of The American Legion. What is your Post going to do for the Veterans on that day?

Each District is going to have a mini Caravan from March 15, 2018 to April 6, 2018. They can hold it all that time or pick a time that will fit their schedule. This is the time to get those District Membership Committees working. We need to get cards and letters out to those members that haven't paid. We also need to get on the phone and talk to those same members. Then find out who your 2910 members are, talk with them and get them transferred to your Post.

We are on the downhill run to 100%. I encourage you to go out and knock on doors. Go out there and get those members for 2018. Keep on working for that ultimate Goal of 100%. I want you to know I appreciate what you continue to do for the American Legion and what you have already done. **THANK YOU!**

HAPPY 99TH BIRTHDAY AMERICAN LEGION



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Micheal Carder



Another Lincoln Pilgrimage has come and gone. What an inspiration it was to hear our National Commander speak on membership and The American Legion family. If you were not able to make it, check out our Department Facebook page for a link for some great pictures that were taken there. Legionnaires from 4 states received awards for their hard work in

recruiting and retaining membership. The Lincoln Pilgrimage continues to grow, and if you missed this year, please try and make next year.

The Division and District senior and Junior Vice Commanders came to headquarters and we had a great planning session or next year. There was a lot of good discussion on what we need to do to better the Department for next year.

That being said, we still have a long way to go and short time to there for this membership year. We need to roll up our sleeves and continue to

keep up our hard work. We are on track to hit our 90% goal but our knuckles are not bloody enough. We need to keep supporting Commander Henderson year in pushing for our 100% membership goal, which is well within our reach.

We need all Legionnaires to get with your post and district membership team, grab your unpaid membership list, and continue to go out knocking on doors check on unpaid members and get them back in the post. Remember TEAM, Together Everyone Achieves More.



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Marsha Haag



Where has the time gone? Seems like we were just installed and here we are quickly approaching the next Convention. Matter of fact, this weekend is the committee meeting. Mark your calendar and we hope to see you there!!

This past weekend was the Oratorical Contest. Wow, those young people are amazing. I had the privilege of serving as an escort in the afternoon. I know for a fact, I could not do what they did. Your Department coordinator and her staff did a fantastic job organizing and facilitating.

It was my pleasure to be at the Lincoln Pilgrimage and accompanying events. This year the format had changed and it was wonderful opportunity to visit with National Officers and our Department guests. Our National Commander and National SAL Commander were on hand for all events

and due to weather complications, the National President was able to join us on the 12th. We look forward to President Diane at our Annual Patriotic Conference on March 23rd.

Our visit to the Children's Hospital of Illinois was very nice. Our Department SAL made a monetary donation and presented them with the Josh Dogs. These children need things to help brighten their days and this little animal is the answer. Thank you.

Legionnaires, the Juniors are looking forward to their Annual Conference. If your Unit has juniors, even if they are not an active group, they can still attend the conference. Details can be found on our web site. Location: Chateau in Normal. Date: April 14 & 15.

There are 3 or 4 Posts that have been in contact with our Headquarters staff about chartering an Auxiliary. Thank you. We have ladies across the Department who can help. Once your Post has submitted the intention, Karen will send the paperwork and will be happy to come assist with completing, getting officers installed, and help get them started. If you are one of these Posts,

we look forward to them joining our Auxiliary. We need our current and all new members to keep our organization going to promote our programs.

ALA Illini Girls State is quickly approaching. It begins June 17th at EIU, Charleston. Auxiliary Units across Department have received information and applications. Perhaps the Posts can help promote the activity or sponsor a citizen. Last year we have around 425 citizens and we have room for more. It's a great experience and more information can be found on our web-site.

You won't be hearing from me til after Easter. Happy St. Patrick's Day, Happy first day of Spring, and Happy Easter. A few robins have been around in my yard but last night, so was snow.

Thank you to all for the invitations. I will do my best to be at your activity. There is a lot on the calendar from now til mid-July.

The 2018 Olympics are complete BUT we will continue to "Strive for Gold for our Veterans"



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Paul A. Hayse



Boy, did you miss a great 209th birthday party!!! Denise Rohan, our National Commander was there along with Diane Duscheck, National American Legion Auxiliary President and Danny Smith, S.A.L. National Commander. Triple threat of fun was had by all.

Many state were represented at the party also.

The tour of St. John's was cut short

because of the flu epidemic and we did our presentation in the lobby. It is always a good time to have your picture taken with Ronald McDonald.

We took Danny Smith on a tour of Abraham Lincoln's home in Springfield and the beautiful Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Anyone visiting Springfield should make a point to go see them.

The ceremonies and wreath placing from inside the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln at Oak Ridge Cemetery were inspiring to say the least. The 114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry guarded the tomb. With the ice storm the night before attendance to the tomb this

year was down some.

With this letter out we will be back from Washington Conference and the wreath laying at Arlington Cemetery.

March will be a busy month with State Oratorical and D.E.C. in Calumet City along with visits to posts.

We want to thank Springfield American Legion Post 32 for their warmth and hospitality throughout the Pilgrimage. It is always a privilege to visit with them.

Wishing good health and safe travels to all.



Did You Know?

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

Did You Know?

(By: **Raymond P. Toczek Legion Service Officer**)

312-980-4266 or raymond.toczek@va.gov

That after my last article in this newsletter I thought I had answered all the rumors circulating out there regarding VA benefits. To my surprise the calls and e-mails kept coming in from all over the state. I heard from Post 3336 (Peoples Gas) Post 236 (Elvin J. Carrey), 231 (William McKinley) and 687 (Stickney) to name a few. Just goes to show that our Department newsletter is well read by our comrades. I sorted through these recent rumors and have taken five more which I think will interest our members. As for the other Posts, keep them coming and I will publish them at a later date.

1. **I am receiving compensation at the 100% rate, if I return to work they will reduce my benefits.** Partially true. There are two types of 100% ratings; straight ratings and those based on individual unemployability. If you receive a straight 100% rating e.g. severe lung cancer, COPD, diabetes, etc. and you still wish to try work, there would be no reduction. But if your 100% rating is based on the fact that your conditions keep you from working and you return to work, you could be reduced (This can be somewhat technical so if you are in this situation contact our office for advice).
2. **I have been rated 100% service-connected disabled, I can't get any more VA compensation.** This is generally true, 100% is usually the most you can get. But there are exceptions and it falls under a unique benefit called Special Monthly Compensation or SMC. This is a fixed amount added on to your 100% rate based on special medical conditions. For instance, due to a stroke you lost your voice, or the use of your left hand or leg. Or your diabetic and you now suffer from erectile dysfunction. Or you are housebound and need someone to clean and bathe, dress and feed you. These are just some examples and the additional payment can range anywhere from \$136 a month more to over several thousand dollars.
3. **I am rated service-connected disabled for blindness, obviously I can't get the VA car grant.** False. As long as you are blind due to service you do qualify for the special car grant which can be up to \$20,000. You'll just have to have someone else drive the car.
4. **Veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan automatically are being granted 10% service-connection for PTSD and tinnitus.** It depends. Although many of our returning warriors do suffer the symptoms of PTSD (Flashbacks, nightmares, anger, sleep issues) and tinnitus (ringing or buzzing in the ears) they still need to be diagnosed with these conditions. Symptoms are a good leading indicator but medical records showing the actual medical diagnosis are helpful. We encourage all returning veterans from these areas to file their claim and let the VA set up an exam to determine if they qualify.
5. **I owe the VA money and have to pay it back; I can't list that as a debt if I declare bankruptcy.** This is false. Veterans may end up owing the VA money due to many reasons. The most common is a foreclosure on a VA guaranteed loan but debts can be created when veterans fail to timely report changes in their dependents e.g. the spouse dies or their son/daughter drops out of college. Debts also happen when veterans on the need basis pension program return to work and don't report it. The VA computers talk to the IRS computers twice a year and many debts are discovered this way. Although bankruptcy should be a decision of last resort if the veteran decides to go that route they should have their lawyer list the Department of Veterans Affairs as one of their outstanding debts. If the judge okays the motion then the VA must erase this debt.

Hope you found these five rumors enlightening. I will continue to look out for more rumors from our Posts. Keep your calls and e-mails coming and I'll check them out. In the meantime, as always, your VA&R staff is ready to assist you. Just contact me at the above telephone number or e-mail address.



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

www.illinoisboysstate.org

Greetings from the American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State Leadership Team!

We had a very busy January seeing that it was National Mentoring Month. That ties into our program so well because that is exactly what we do every session. We mentor our youth by leading with passion and care so that by the end of the week we have a few more future servant leaders in the great state of Illinois. But our program could never be successful without all of you.

So, all of our posts should be in full swing recruiting at all of the high schools, recreation centers, YMCA's, libraries and any events currently taking place. You have an enormous support group to assist you in whatever your needs are starting with our department headquarters. I ask that all of the district Boys State chairmen contact your respective posts to see how you could help[them in reaching their goals.

We have been getting several inquiries already from young men, as well as their parents, throughout the state. We are very excited to see which division will bring us the most boys this year. Remember, the more boys your area sends, the stronger your individual communities will become. Your dedication to our program assists us in strengthening our state one community at a time.

Last session we slipped backwards and had less young men than the previous year. The goal, as in membership, is to grow our attendance every year to strengthen our communities. Since 1935 this has been an excellent program of the American Legion, it is up to all of us to continue this tradition. We will be adding to our program with a centralized transportation company, family night and various additions throughout the week. I encourage you to stop by and experience your program at least one day during the session.

We are confident in our Legionnaires to make this year the best attended in recent years. Remember, your district, division and department chairman are here to assist you in any way we can.

Legionnaire's Disease Update For Quincy Veterans' Home

QUINCY – The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) are reporting a fourth laboratory-confirmed case of Legionnaires' disease at the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy (IVHQ). The positive test result was confirmed earlier today. The resident is in stable condition.

Representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) returned to the home in Quincy last week, at the request of IDPH, to provide additional support and guidance. Staff from CDC are working with IVHQ and IDPH staff to:

- Conduct environmental and epidemiological assessments to identify potential exposure sources;
- Augment clinical testing protocols for individuals with respiratory symptoms to include not only testing for *Legionella*, but also influenza and other respiratory viruses;
- Conduct clinical and environmental sample testing at CDC;
- Identify important public health and infection control interventions; and
- Partner in communications with the local hospital to streamline testing.

In addition to infectious disease control and testing protocols, the teams will continue working to trace potential sources of *Legionella* bacteria and conduct additional environmental health testing.

Legionella bacteria occur naturally in the environment. As such, the source is rarely identified in cases of Legionnaires' disease. Approximately 300 cases of Legionnaires' disease are reported across Illinois each year.

The IVHQ completed an extensive renovation of its plumbing systems in response to the 2015 Legionnaires' disease outbreak. Renovations included construction of a water treatment plant capable of providing higher-quality water for the Home's sensitive population. IDVA continues to test and treat its water for harmful bacteria, including *Legionella*. Along with additional chlorine treatments, IVHQ maintains hot water at 150 degrees to prevent the growth of *Legionella*. Hot water is then mixed with cold water to a temperature of 110 degrees, which allows for the maximum control of bacteria while protecting residents from scalding.

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

2018 Semi-Final Oratorical Contestants



2018 AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL DEPARTMENT FINALISTS

Pictured L-R—

Abigayle Moser, 4th Place

Nicole Tong, 3rd Place

Bhavana Ravala, 5th Place

Patrick Kilcullen, 1st Place

Ryan Park, 2nd Place



CONTEST ROOM #1

Contestants (pictured L-R)

XHEMEL BARDHI, 5th Place (4th Div., Mackinaw, IL);
ALBERT STERNER, 2nd Place (2nd Div., Libertyville, IL);
NICOLE TONG, 1st Place (2nd Div., Lisle, IL);
COURTNEY SMITH, 3rd Place (5th Div., East St. Louis, IL);
YANNI MAKROPOULOS, 4th Place (1st Div., Mt. Prospect, IL).



CONTEST ROOM #2

Contestants (pictured L-R)

BHAVANA RAVALA, 1st Place (4th Div., Bloomington, IL);
WILLIAM MEANES, 2nd Place (5th Div., Fairview Heights, IL);
REGAN MACWAN, 2nd Place (2nd Div., Naperville, IL);
LONDON SELLERS, 4th Place (1st Div., Chicago, IL).



CONTEST ROOM #3

Contestants (pictured L-R)

PATRICK KILCULLEN, 1st Place (2nd Div., Lindenhurst, IL);
ABRIL HUNTER, 2nd Place (5th Div., Belleville, IL);
ALEXANDER LINDENFELSER, 4th Place (2nd Div., Normal, IL);
EMILY ROBINSON, 3rd Place (1st Div., Chicago, IL).



CONTEST ROOM #4

Contestants (pictured L-R)

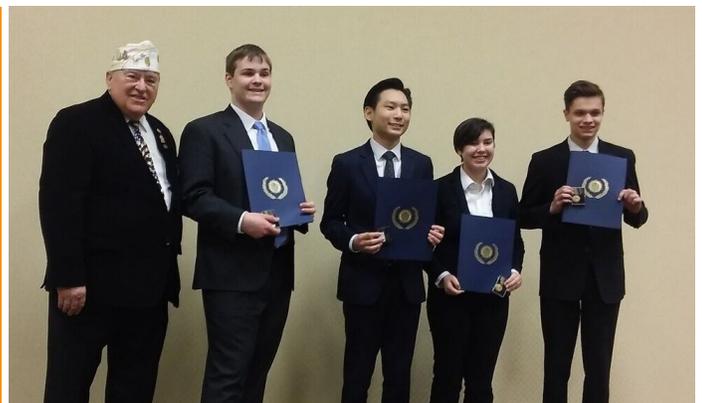
ANDY WANG, 4th Place (2nd Div., Naperville, IL);
BREANNA GOYEA, 3rd Place (5th Div., Belleville, IL);
ABIGAYLE MOSER, 1st Place (2nd Div., Clarendon Hills, IL);
WILLIAM SVOB, 2nd Place (4th Div., Bloomington, IL).



CONTEST ROOM #5

Contestants (pictured L-R)

SAM CLEMENT, 2nd Place (4th Div., Normal, IL);
RYAN PARK, 1st Place (2nd Div., Naperville, IL);
ALEXA LEWIS, 4th Place (5th Div., Shumway, IL);
MICHAEL COLES, 3rd Place (5th Div., Edwardsville, IL).



SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Drawing February 12, 2018

1st PLACE	\$10,000	Kent R Terry
2nd PLACE	\$5,000	Alonzo A Hart Jr.
3rd PLACE	\$2,500	Lonnie Satterlee
4th PLACE	\$1,500	Allen E Synder
5th PLACE	\$1,000	Dr. Robert E Johnson
6th PLACE	\$1,000	Ellen Lange
7th PLACE	\$750	Bill Wampler
8th PLACE	\$750	Larry B Weber
9th PLACE	\$500	Douglas J Fikeys
10th PLACE	\$500	Anthony J Siciliano
11th PLACE	\$250	Donald L Patterson
12th PLACE	\$250	Mary R Hammond
13th PLACE	\$100	Paul Ziemnisky
14th PLACE	\$100	Ray Barsztaitis
15th PLACE	\$100	Donise M Schrader
16th PLACE	\$100	Kenneth R McMullen
17th PLACE	\$100	Jeffrey Johnston
18th PLACE	\$100	Connie Gregory
19th PLACE	\$100	Mark E Stepien
20th PLACE	\$100	John W Fox Sr.
21st PLACE	\$100	William E Kruse
22nd PLACE	\$100	Jesse E Bennett Jr

\$25,000

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

99th American Legion Birthday

March 15th

~ ~ ~

SAL Spring DEC

Calumet City Post 330

March 17th

~ ~ ~

ALA--Patriotic Conference

March 23rd--24th

~ ~ ~

Gold Pin Cut-Off

@ 1:00 PM

March 29th

~ ~ ~

Good Friday

DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED

March 30th

~ ~ ~

Easter

April 1st

~ ~ ~

Gold Pin Cut-Off

95% Cut-Off

@ 1:00 PM

April 6th

~ ~ ~

Spring D.E.C.

Radisson Bloomington

@ 1:00 PM

April 14th

~ ~ ~

ALA-Jr. Conference

April 14th--15th

~ ~ ~

National Spring Committee &

Commission Meetings

May 7th--10th

Indianapolis, IN

~ ~ ~

Armed Forces Day

Cut-Off

May 11th

~ ~ ~

Mother's Day

May 13th

###



The Illinois American Legion Second Division is Proud to Host
Armed Forces Day Dinner

Saturday, May 19, 2018

*TO BE HELD AT YORKVILLE AMERICAN LEGION POST 489
 9054 VETERANS PARKWAY in YORKVILLE, IL*

Key Note Speaker

***National Commander
 Denise Rohan***

*Social Hour starts at 5:00 pm (cash bar), Dinner at 6:00 pm
 \$30 per person*

Dinner is: Beef Tenderloin with wine sauce and Cranberry stuffed Chicken Breast. All are served with Romaine Salad w/ strawberries & oranges, seasoned mashed potatoes, whole green beans w/ almonds, and Dessert

Please contact the hotel directly to make housing reservations.

- ☆ Hampton Inn (Yorkville) 630-554-9090
- ☆ AmericInn Lodge and Suites (Oswego) 630-553-9805
- ☆ Holiday Inn Express (Morris) 815-941-8700

- ◇ *Deadline: April 7, 2018*
- ◇ *Seating is limited to 200 people*
- ◇ *Only full tables of 8 may be reserved, list names on back of reservation form.*
- ◇ *Pick up tickets at the door*
- ◇ *Questions? Contact: 2nd Div. Cmdr. Terry Abdelnour at (815) 721-0605*

Reservations: **Name:** _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ *I am reserving a table of 8 (please provide names)*

Checks are to be made payable to: American Legion 2nd Division

Mail reservations to: Ray Powroznik 33236 N. Cove Rd., Wildwood, IL 60030



From The Desk of the Gifts to the Yanks Committee

We would like to thank all of the Posts, Auxiliaries, Sons of the American Legion and Legion Riders that helped raise funds throughout the year. The committee would also like to thank the volunteers that help distribute the gifts to veterans at Christmas time.

Our 5th District chairman was contacted by the daughter of a veteran requesting a blanket for her father. His wish was to be buried with his Gifts to Yank blanket that he received many years ago when he was hospitalized. Over the years the blanket fell apart and was thrown out. He gladly gave her a new blanket for her father.

This program is funded by donations. To continue this program we need funds to cover the gifts we give to the veterans. The five chairmen discussed ways to raise funds for the program. We came up with 2 ways Posts can help the program. We would like to encourage the Posts that sell alcohol to take the first dollar they make each day they are open and donate it to the Gifts to Yanks program. Another option discussed was to ask the Posts to donate \$100.00 with the funds being split 4 ways;

- \$25.00 Gifts to Yanks
- \$25.00 Premier Boys State
- \$25.00 Special Olympics
- \$25.00 Oratorical Contest

We also discussed asking the public for donations. The 5th Division did a trial run with canisters. After obtaining permission, he placed canisters in various businesses during October, November and December 2017. The results were promising. This may be a good way to raise funds for the program. If you would like more information on doing this in your area, please contact Francis "Dutch" Jancek at 618-654-3867. He would be happy to share what he has learned about the process.

Many times we hear how long it has been since the veteran has had a visitor. Our time and the gifts mean so much to them. Can you help us continue this wonderful program?

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 before June 19, 2018. You may make your reservation by completing and mailing in this form along with your credit card information or first nights deposit including tax or by following the instructions for your assigned hotel, which are listed below. NOTE: ALL cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to arrival date. Failure to cancel by that date will result in billing of one night's room rate.

PARKING IS INCLUDED IN THE RATE AT BOTH HOTELS

Table with 3 columns: HOTEL, DIVISION/S.A.L., RATE. Row 1: WYNDHAM SPRINGFIELD, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and S.A.L., \$107.00 plus tax (currently 13%). Row 2: City Centre, (\$120.91 per night with tax), 700 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/789-1530

Reservation- Mail this form to the Wyndham Springfield or via internet and linking up to www.wyndhamhotels.com/groups/american-legion-2018 or you may also call 217/789-1530 and select the RESERVATIONS OPTION and advise the reservationist of Group Code 07097027AL and/or the group name "American Legion 2018"

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPRINGFIELD

Table with 3 columns: HOTEL, DIVISION/S.A.L., RATE. Row 1: (A Doubletree by Hilton), 3rd Division & Auxiliary, \$107.00 plus tax (currently 13%). Row 2: 701 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/544-8800, (\$120.91 per night with tax)

Reservation- Mail this form to the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield or via internet by visiting the Department of Illinois website and linking up to:

http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/S/SPIASDT-ALS-20180710/index.ihtml?WT.mc_id=POG and using the Group Code of "ALS". You may also phone the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield directly at 1/866-788-1860 or 217/544-8800.

Special Notes: All rooms are subject to the applicable sales tax. All reservations must be made with credit card or advanced deposit. Remember, if reserving the room with a personal check, be sure and include the rate including tax as listed above.

Also, the cut-off date for ALL RESERVATIONS is Tuesday, June 19, 2018.

If you select a hotel that your Division is not housed in, you may be moved to your Division assigned hotel.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

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 request and are not guaranteed. The hotels will attempt to accommodate.)

Other Special Requests _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____ Fax _____

Name(s) of additional people in room: _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

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

100 YEARS OF VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

American Legion Department of Illinois

Centennial Coin

NOW AVAILABLE

Order one today!



Coins are numbered 001 - 500



Coin number not Guaranteed

(309)663-0361

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

American Legion 2018 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 _____
\$120.00 _____	\$125.00 _____
\$90.00 _____	\$95.00 _____
\$75.00 _____	\$80.00 _____
\$60.00 _____	\$65.00 _____
\$25.00 _____	\$25.00 _____

Method of Payment (please check one) All credit information will be kept confidential

____ Check (Make Check payable to: AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF IL)

Send Check to: American Legion, Dept. of IL 2720 E. Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 61704

____ Credit Card _____

EXP Date: ____ / ____ / ____ Security Code #: ____

Card type: / MC / Visa / AmEx / Disc

Lincoln's Legacy Remembered at Pilgrimage



America's most popular president was honored Monday during American Legion Post 32's 84th annual national pilgrimage to the tomb of President Abraham Lincoln.

"The annual pilgrimage is now an American Legion Family tradition and one that would please Mr. Lincoln were he to join us today," said Bob Wesley, a Legionnaire from Post 32 in Springfield, Ill. "Our family is reunited here again today. With pride, we note the national officers of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion in attendance to honor Mr. Lincoln and this tradition. Post 32 is humbled that our leaders and members from states

across the nation join us in Springfield to honor our state's favorite son and our nation's greatest president."

National Commander Denise H. Rohan was among those honoring the 16th president on his 209th birthday. "Often underestimated by opponents as a country lawyer, whose political experience consisted only of a single term in the House of Representatives and service in the Illinois legislature, the importance of the Lincoln presidency cannot be overstated," she said after placing a wreath at his tomb. "Freeing the slaves and preserving the Union paved the way for an industrial revolution which would ultimately make America the world's leading superpower."

His legacy also inspired another important movement, according to Rohan.

"One hundred years after Lincoln came another great American, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," she said. "Dr. King inspired us with a Civil Rights movement and dream that he perfectly annunciated in a most appropriate place, the steps of the Lincoln Memorial."

Pilgrimage organizers believe it is the longest running celebration of Lincoln's birthday in the nation. A number of dignitaries pointed out that Lincoln's support for veterans is a value shared by The American Legion Family.

"As we follow in the steps of Lincoln, we want to make sure that our heroes need to be honored," Auxiliary National President Diane Duscheck said at a luncheon that followed the ceremony at the tomb. "As Legion Family members, we wake up in the morning and gratefully sow seeds, we want to ask what we can do for others and want to let the veterans, the military and their families reap the harvest."

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner told the American Legion Family at the luncheon that the day was a celebration. "Today we celebrate the birth of America's greatest president. Today we celebrate the birth of America's most inspirational leader. Today we celebrate the birth of Illinois' favorite son," he said.

While Lincoln promised in his second inaugural address to "care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan," his life was famously cut short before the vision could be fulfilled. Rohan pointed out that The American Legion began to deliver on the promise more than half a century later.

"It really took another huge war to give us the Lincoln-esque vision, this time from the ranks of the military itself, needed to deliver on his ambitious promises," Rohan said. "Men like Theodore Roosevelt Junior, George White, Eric Fisher Wood, Bill Donovan and later, Harry Colmery, would never let America forget its debt to veterans."

25th Annual Canoe Float

On the Mackinaw River

Hosted by the Deer Creek American Legion

SAL Squadron #1276

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2018

Sign up from 9:00 AM—12 NOON

pre-registration from 1:00 PM—5:00 PM at

Deer Creek Post #1276

\$25.00 per person, includes commemorative shirt and food after the float.

Participants are responsible for providing their own canoe and paddles, plus floatation devices for each person in accordance with State Law.

Primitive camping is available on site.

All proceeds go to St. Jude Midwest Affiliate

Tickets are available to win an Old Town "Saranac" canoe, complete with paddles and 2 floatation devices.

For more information contact the Legion at
309-447-6776

**Get a Partner and We will See you
On the River!**



90 Year old Korean War Veteran Honored



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
1st DIVISION
Present

Hockey Night with the Chicago Wolves



VS.



Vegas Golden Knights AAA Team Winnipeg Jets AAA Team

April 15th 4:00 pm
Allstate Arena
Proceeds benefit the



\$32.00 Donation includes game ticket, free hat and food voucher

Additional giveaways based on ticket sales

Please RSVP by April 8th

Cash payment or make checks payable to Sons of the American Legion
Squadron # 986
For more information contact Sergio Senese at
(773) 909-3072 or sergiosenese@hotmail.com

The Governor came to Republican Dinner at my post after attending American Legion Lincoln Day pilgrimage. I thanked him for his words about Lincoln and he offered to get a picture with the kitchen staff. He also sang Happy Birthday to a 90 year old Korean War veteran we honored last night.

2017—2018 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
03/11/2018	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	WASHINGTON POST 100	WASHINGTON
03/16/2018	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	ROUND LAKE POST 1170	ROUND LAKE PARK
03/18/2018	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	PITTSFIELD POST 152	PITTSFIELD
03/18/2018	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	RIDGWAY POST 596	RIDGWAY
03/19/2018	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	FARMER CITY POST 55	FARMER CITY
03/21/2018	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
03/22/2018	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EDWARD SCHULTZ POST 697	LANSING
03/25/2018	4TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	IRA OWEN KREAGA POST 384	HOOPESTON
03/25/2018	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	O'FALLON POST 137	O'FALLON
03/25/2018	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	AVISTON POST 1239	AVISTON
03/28/2018	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DES PLAINES POST 36 (POST EVERLASTING)	DES PLAINES
04/07/2018	3RD DISTRICT	11:30 AM	CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	CHICAGO
04/08/2018	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	NASHVILLE POST 110	NASHVILLE
04/15/2018	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	ANNA POST 344	ANNA
04/18/2018	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON

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

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

(*new location—Camp Lincoln-Springfield)



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Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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MARCH TRIVIA?

1. What U.S. president's State of the Union address lasted a record 81 minutes?
2. What U.S. president was born William Jefferson Blythe IV?
3. What 1970's president openly discussed his battle with hemorrhoids?
4. What U.S. president had the shortest life?
5. What former president was on an African hunting trip when his enemy J.P. Morgan quipped: "Let every lion do his duty?"

ANSWERS:



1. Bill Clinton's.
2. Bill Clinton.
3. Jimmy Carter.
4. John F. Kennedy.
5. Theodore Roosevelt.

Basket Bonnet Bunny Chocolates Daffodils

Easter Eggs Flowers Gumdrops Hopping

Hunt Jellybean Lily Parade

Rabbit Spring Sunday Tulips

A T B H
E B E N N U
R F B G C G P N
N E L O G H N A G T
A T O N S O I R N I
Y E S W N L C P A I B S
N B A E E I O P D R B F
N Y E R T D L O E P A E
U L L S N O A H K S R A
B L I P H F T U L I P S
A E L D F F E N O H P B
R J Y I B A S K E T S F
H P O R D M U G J B
S Y A D N U S R
E B S T

