



The American Legion Family



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2018

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
7	Hoffman
8	Lange
17	McCulley
13	Kraut
16	Rice
20	Flowers, Jr.
19	Walker
18	Rowe
11	Reece, Jr.
14	Schomer, Jr.

Division	Commander
4	NARGELENAS
3	DAVIS, III
2	BENIGNO
1	LAMPERT
5	MADSON



Past National Commander
Denise Rohan



Department Commander
Micheal Carder



Department Auxiliary President
Debra Lewis



SAL Detachment Commander
Eugene Gort

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY Membership Caravan

The Illinois American Legion is pleased to announce that Immediate Past National Commander Denise Rohan, will be our special guest during the 2019 Legion Family Membership Caravan. Find a stop near you to hear her enthusiastic and encouraging message for the Illinois American Legion Family. We all look forward to seeing you!



From The Desk of Department Commander Micheal M. Carder



Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and that everyone gave thanks for their family and the great country we live in.

November began with a speaking engagement at Evanston Illinois Vet Center commemorating the 100 years of service from the Veterans Administration. It was a great pleasure to elaborate on the 100 year history of The American Legion. Then it was on to Utica, Illinois to participate in their Veteran's Day weekend and their annual parade. I wish to thank Gene and Marian Thompson for their great hospitality. However, due to illness I was not able to participate in the Veteran's Day activities in Monticello, Illinois.

On November 15, it was onto Marion, Illinois for the annual Haven Jamboree. We were joined by Central

States National Vice-Commander, James Wallace who enjoyed the weekend activities greatly. As all know, my special project for this year is The Haven. We asked for donations to be sent to Department Headquarters, make sure to earmark your check "Commander Special Project. It was my pleasure at the Jamboree dinner to present Past National Vice-Commander, Bill Flanagan with the first of many checks in the amount of \$3,012.20 to begin the needed projects at The Haven. I wish to thank members EPCC for our great weekend and warm hospitality.

The following Monday, NEC Bernie Stegmuller, Sr. Vice-Commander Roy Weber and myself joined with members of the National VA & R Commission to conduct a System Worth Saving interview at the Marion VA Hospital. We spent 2 days interviewing leadership and the staff of the VA Hospital. A full detailed report will be released by National within the next several weeks.

Within the past month, a packet was sent to each Division and District Officer

containing NEC resolution #1 which expanded the eligibility dates of The American Legion. As of yet, there has not been any House or Senate bill number attached. Each officer is recommended to review this document. Once a bill number has been assigned Department will be disseminating the information accordingly.

I encourage all members to continue working to return our fellow blue cappers to the fold. Without them we can not continue to build the foundation of The Illinois American Legion.

I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and safe Holiday Season.



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Roy Weber



2018 is rapidly coming to an end as the Thanksgiving holiday is here. Our warm fall weather passed us by and the cold climate is here. Not sure I am ready for snow and freezing rain.

I just returned from our annual Haven Jamboree on Crab Orchard Lake. There was very good attendance this year and a successful fund raising event. Friday night steak supper had a record crowd with great food and comradery. The Saturday evening banquet featured NVC Jim Wallace as keynote speaker. Commander Wallace presented the vision our National Commander Brett

Riestadt for our 100th year of the American Legion.

I recently attended the Legions "System Worth Saving" site visit at the Marion VA Health Care System. It began Monday evening with a "Town Hall" meeting at the Herrin Post 645. Over 50 veterans attended and it was facilitated by our National VA&R Team of Robert Shreve and Edwin Thomas. The concerns of the treatment at the VA were expressed by those attending (both male and female veterans) and this information was presented to the Director of the VA facility and her staff.

On Tuesday Commander Carder and I attended briefings with all department heads and hospital supervisory team members. This included Clinical, Human Resources, Patient Safety, business office, contracting, women's health

and patient advocacy personnel. An "eye opener" for me to learn of the day to day concerns and problem solving by our VA Staff!!

Wednesday we had a tour of the hospital including the CLC where care and rehab of patients and the hospice ward are located. I found the staff members, we talked to, were dedicated to serving our veterans in every aspect of their stay at the Marion VA Hospital.

By now most if not all have the "Gifts to the Yanks" gifts in their possession. Take advantage of this most important American Legion program giving back to our veterans.

Membership---we are currently at 74.26% of our remember renewals,

(Dept. SVC continued on page 6)

From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Debra Lewis



Hello Legionnaires--The snow this week is a reminder that winter and the holiday season is upon us. I hope everyone sets aside time to serve veterans as part of your celebrations. Christmas Gift Shops and Gifts to the Yanks dates have been set, our Representatives and Deputies in the VA facilities and Veterans homes need all the help they can get to help make the holidays a little nicer for the patients. Hosting an activity at your Post for your local Veterans or at your local facility is another way to share your holiday

spirit. This is a difficult time of year for many, improve your spirit by serving.

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend The Egyptian Jamboree to benefit The Haven a few weeks ago. The Haven is a beautiful facility providing much needed respite and recreation for veterans provided entirely by the American Legion Family. If you have the opportunity to visit, I highly recommend it, they do wonderful work for our Veterans and can use all the support we can give them.

The American Legion Family Membership Caravan will be visiting your area in January. Please be sure to attend a stop near you. *(the caravan schedule is listed in this issue, exact times will be announced after the pre-drive by*

Membership Director Chad Woodburn)

It is a great opportunity to see old friends and make new friends. We are excited this year to have immediate Past National Commander Denise Rohan as our guest speaker this year. I highly recommend coming to hear her. She is a wonderful speaker.

In closing I share a quote with you from Donald Westlake;

“As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December’s bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation and people to whom we are worth the same.”

Happy Holidays to you and yours!



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Eugene Gort



Fellow Legion Family members, we are now full into the Holiday swing. On behalf of the Sons of the American Legion I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday season. It is during this period of time we see so many of the wonderful things that our American Legion Family does. Whether it is delivering “Gifts to the Yanks” gifts, hosting soldiers and veterans at your post, giving to the “Toys for Tots” program, or helping those in your community; Please remember to publicize the things your post or squadron is doing. This is a

great time to promote the American Legion brand, and to showcase all the great things we are doing especially being this is The American Legions 100th Anniversary.

Coming up very shortly will be the “Lincoln Pilgrimage” program held February 11-12, in Springfield (*details of LPP is in this issue of the Dept. News*). For the Sons this is a very important event because it will be the only time our National Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs visits our state. We will take him to visit St. John’s Hospital in Springfield where he will be presenting a check to CMN hospital along with Josh Dogs. We would greatly appreciate any help your

post, unit, or squadron could give us to increase our donation amount.

Donations can be mailed to our Detachment Finance Officer Bob Tharp 1455 Honeysuckle Ln. Farmer City, IL 61842. Checks can be made out to the Detachment of Illinois and put CMN in the memo. Your help in this endeavor is greatly appreciated, and remember together as a Family we can accomplish anything.





Did You Know?

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

That almost all of my articles over the years have dealt with what veterans should do. This month we will take a 180 degree turn and delve into what veterans and their survivors should **NOT** do. There are always two sides to a coin.

- If you are sent a flyer stating you can have a free meal if you just will listen to lawyers talk about the Veterans Administration Non-Service Connected pension benefit with aid and attendance be careful. They can't charge you for filing a claim for that benefit but they usually will talk you into setting up various trusts and wills which will cost your money. **DON'T** sign anything unless you know exactly what you are doing. If need be bring a son or daughter along.
- If you get a telephone call from someone claiming they are from the Veterans Administration hospital prescription department and they just need to confirm your Social Security number **DON'T** give it to them. That's a big scam to steal your identity. Or if they call and say your savings account was hacked and they need your account number **HANG UP**.
- When you get that call from a person asking for donations to help needy veterans **DON'T** make a contribution over the telephone unless you are 100% sure the group is on the up and up. If concerned, simply ask them to send you a request in the mail. Then when you get that info check them out at one of the many websites like www.givewell.org or www.charitywatch.org.
- If you are on the VA non-service connected pension program and someone asks you to collect their winnings for a lotto ticket or gambling casino-**DON'T**. Regardless of their excuse (lost wallet, left driver's license at home, etc.) by collecting the winnings for them, the IRS will be notified under your Social Security number and name. Later when the VA and IRS computers run their cross matches you will end up with a large debt.
- If you decide to appeal your Veterans Administration claim and hire a lawyer **DON'T** just accept any fee agreement. The lawyer must get their fees approved by the VA.
- If you have forgotten to take your medications and have a lot of pills left over **DON'T** give them to someone who has the same illness e.g. hypertension. Everybody is different and what is a valid dose for you could kill someone else or at the very least make them very sick.
- If you're like me and have dozens of passwords for various online accounts **DON'T** use the same password. If a hacker gets your password, they can have a field day with your other accounts.
- **DON'T** just notify the VA hospital or clinic when you move. You must also notify the VA benefits side, especially if you have a claim or appeal pending. These two large VA computer systems don't yet talk to each other. So if you don't notify both parts of the VA you may get your medicine and appointment info at the new address but important information on your appeal may be returned by the Post Office as undeliverable. PS The Post Office will still forward mail for at least six months and perhaps even up to a year.
- Safe deposit boxes are nice places to keep important documents but **DON'T** keep your only copy of your military discharge papers in it. Have another copy somewhere at home so that when you pass away your next-of-kin will have access to it. Most bank vaults are not open on weekends, nights and holidays. In most cases the Funeral Home only needs a clear, readable copy, not the original.
- Finally if you have been dating several months or having been living with someone for a while **DON'T** add them to your checking or saving account if your VA checks are on direct deposit. If you have a falling out or a lovers tiff that person can clean out your account and you have no recourse with the VA.

That was fun! And I'll leave you with one final tip; **DON'T** forget to read my article in next month's newsletter.



Those who have fought hard for their country and their families know what it is to value special times at home with loved ones.

Wishing you lots of joy this Christmas and plenty of happy times with your friends and family.

2019 AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY January 17 - 26, 2019 MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE: The Caravan Schedule is tentative until the pre-drive is complete (Dec. 12th). Please keep an eye on our website for any changes.

January	Div#	Dist#	Post #	City	Meal
JANUARY 17	3	16	1236	TREMONT	Dinner
JANUARY 18	3	15	644	FAIRVIEW	Breakfast
JANUARY 18	3	14	569	MILAN	Lunch
JANUARY 18	2	13	497	FRANKLIN GROVE	Dinner
JANUARY 19	2	12	181	SANDWICH	Breakfast
JANUARY 19	2	10	911	WAUCONDA	Lunch
JANUARY 19	2	11	57	ELGIN	Dinner
JANUARY 20	1	7	42	EVANSTON	Breakfast
JANUARY 20	1	2	923	FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT	Snack
JANUARY 20	1	3	220	ILLIANA	Dinner
JANUARY 21	CARAVAN OFF				
JANUARY 22	5	24	585	SHAWNEETOWN	Dinner
JANUARY 23	5	25	487	CHESTER	Dinner
JANUARY 24	5	22	110	NASHVILLE	Breakfast
JANUARY 24	5	23	252	BREESE	Lunch
JANUARY 24	4	21	554	CARLINVILLE	Dinner
JANUARY 25	3	20	152	PITTSFIELD	Lunch
JANUARY 26	4	19	102	DELAND	Breakfast
JANUARY 26	4	18	503	LODA	Lunch
JANUARY 26	4	17	79	LEROY	Dinner



Past National Commander Denise Rohan will be our special guest during the 2019 Illinois American Legion Family Caravan.

Please take time to come to one of the caravan stops nearest you and if you plan on attending the meal you will want to R.S.V.P. to the post.



Bring any membership cards with you that need to be turned in...even if it's just ONE.

December 31st

85%

TARGET DATE

(Dept. Sr. Vice continued from page 2)

which is just at the National average. Of course "Average" is not what we strive for. At last count 42 Posts of the 733 Posts in our Department are at 100%/ It puts the number in a new light, of course there are many of these Posts near the 100% mark. So let's get out there and get those renewals before the Christmas Holidays, as you know, it is tougher to do so in December and January. Congratulations to those at or near 100%. Thank you all for your hard work keeping our programs going. I also want to congratulate, the Division and District Commanders and Sr. Vices that received the #1 gold pins. They put the extra effort to have their Division and District on top. A big Navy, "Bravo Zulu" to the District Commanders in the Top 10. Keep up the good work!!

On Veterans Day I had the honor of attending Monticello's annual parade in the evening as Keynote speaker. Although temps were in the thirties and windy it was a great event and the bowl of hot chili at the Deland Posts afterwards warmed me back up.

Remember our Family Caravan in January and bring those membership cards to the stops in your area.

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and didn't over eat as I surly did. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



2018-2019 DISTRICT & DIVISION COMMANDER'S & SR. VICE COMMANDER'S		
DIV.	COMMANDER	SR VICE CMDR
1ST	Joe Lampert	Georgiann Callaway
2ND	Christopher Benigno	Ray Powroznik
3RD	John Davis, III	John Gosney
4TH	Limey Nargelenas	Ron Shapland
5TH	Wayne Madson	Ben Picou
DIST.	COMMANDER	SR VICE CMDR
1ST	Michael Mittelstaedt	David Frederick
2ND	Clemente Rodriguez	Lawrence Hippert
3RD	Frank Thompson	Harold Toney
4TH	Robert Przybylinski	Rodolfo Acevedo
5TH	Detrall Dearbone	Richard Baker
7TH	Shawn Hoffman	John Wowk
8TH	Donald Lange	Rickie Mitchell
9TH	George "Doc" Horn	Dale Tippet
10TH	Layton Pennington	Robert Bucher
11TH	John Reece, Jr	Kevin Leonard
12TH	Raymond Gerkitz	Ascension Hernandez
13TH	Leon Kraut	VACANT
14TH	Richard "Rick" Schomer, Jr	George Howard
15TH	Jon Johnson	Steve Schlieper
16TH	Sam Rice	Deanne Nighsonger
17TH	Arthur "Art" McCulley	Nancy Elder
18TH	Annette Rowe	Layton Warsler
19TH	Cheryl Walker	Gregg Roberts
20TH	Norman Flowers, Jr	Barry Struse
21ST	Mary Kulavic	Richard Rump
22ND	Charles Mueth	Donald Scheyer
23RD	Tracy Devore	Stephen Owens
24TH	Carole Sandusky	Zula Summers
25TH	David Wright	VACANT

New membership Incentives for Departments and Posts

As an incentive to reach 100 percent membership department wide in celebration of The American Legion's 100th anniversary, posts and departments have a chance to earn money. American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad has announced two new Team 100 membership awards that provide an opportunity for departments and posts to earn financial means to support their programs while growing membership at every level of the organization.



Departments:

- \$2,500 will be awarded to each department that achieves 100 percent of its established 2019 membership goal by the Armed Forces Day (May 8, 2019) 100 percent target date.
- \$5,000, in addition to the \$2,500, will be awarded to each department that achieves 105 percent of its established 2019 membership goal by the delegate strength target date (30 days before start of national convention)

Posts:

- \$5 for every expired 2014, 2015 and 2016 member that renews for 2019 will be awarded to posts.

The expired members can be found by following these four steps:

1. Sign into www.mylegion.org
2. Click on "Reports/Labels" located on the left side of the page
3. Click on "Post Reports" folder
4. Open the "Revitalization" folder. Inside this folder you will find three reports where you can select expired members for letters, labels and rosters ("Unrenewed_Letters," "Unrenewed_Labels" and "Unrenewed_Roster").

If your post does not have access to MyLegion.org, visit www.mylegion.org and click on "Authorization Form" at the bottom of the page and complete the registration process. If you need assistance please call 800-433-3318 or send an email to mylegion@legion.org.

To receive credit for renewing a 2014, 2015 or 2016 Legionnaire, they must renew in your post and you have to use

their current membership ID number. The ID number will be on the expired listing downloaded through MyLegion or provided by your department. If the expired Legionnaire was not a member of your post, please transfer them into your post and then process their dues payment.

Additionally, the national commander is designating the week of The American Legion's 100th birthday, March 10-16, as "Week of Personal Engagement." He is calling on Legionnaires to make contact with veterans in their community to ask them

join and be a part of Team 100.

"The American Legion soared from zero to 685,000 members in its first eight months," Reistad said. That was without direct mail or internet. "The Legion was built on personal contact and engagement. Let's do our founders proud by moving with strength and momentum into our second century."

There are two new public service announcements from Reistad about these new membership incentives and personal engagement week. View and share on social media

<https://www.legion.org/legiontv>.

ATTENTION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS:

As you read in the article on this page our National Headquarters has authorized a five dollar rebate for every non renewed member from membership years 2014, 2015, and 2016 that you renew in your post for 2019. Department Commander Carder wants to take this promotion one step further and offer a five dollar rebate from the Department level.

So instead of sending in Thirty One Dollars (\$31) in per capita you only send in Twenty One Dollars (\$21) for every 2014, 2015, 2016 you renew for the 2019 membership. This offer is only good for those three years.

Within the next couple of weeks (following the letter from National) Department will send a letter along with a list of non-renewed members of your post and the headquarters post near your area for these years. By going through this list it will serve two purposes; you will be reaching out to expired members, reconnect with them and get them excited about rejoining your post. Additional, this will allow us to remove prior members that have moved on to post everlasting.

When you renew a prior member don't forget to use their eight digit ID number currently assigned to them.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Department Headquarters and talk to Department Membership Director Chad Woodburn or Department Adjutant Marty Conatser.



The American Legion
Department Staff
and VA&R Staff
wish you all a very
Merry Christmas

Department Commander Micheal Carder
Department Sr. Vice Commander Roy Smith

Marty Conatser

Chad Woodburn

Christy Rich

Dee Dalton

Jerry Lynn Gaddis

Caroline Beal

Marsha Nalley

Tina Abdelnour

Joy Wilson

Dorothy Wagner

David Scott Jr.

Carolina Conteras

Ray Joczek

Joy Jenkanchang

Marlene Kuhl

Jason Girard

Bill Sliden



Continue to share new national commander PSAs

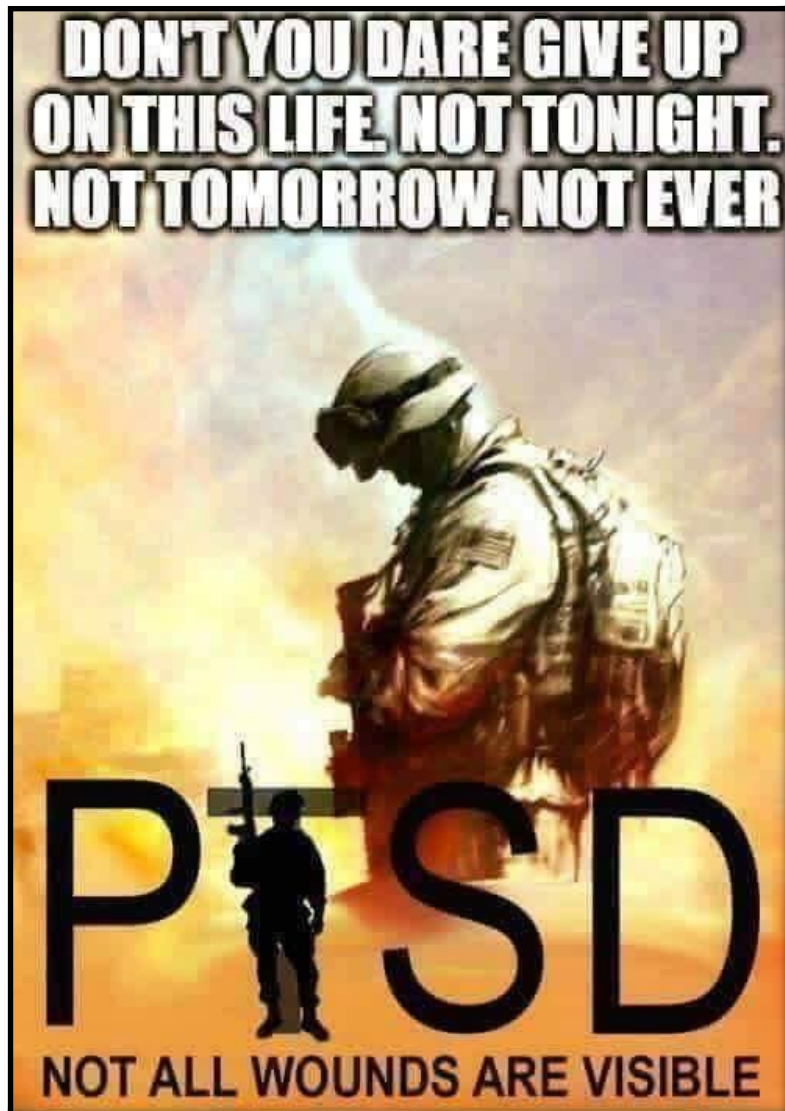
American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad calls on veterans to join the organization, shares why Legionnaires serve, how donations support The American Legion, and more in new public service announcements (PSAs) that are available on the Legion's Vimeo channel and LegionTV for promotional efforts.

To share the commander's PSAs on social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, click <https://www.legion.org/legiontv>.

And for promotional efforts within your community, visit the commander's PSAs on Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/album/4174471>.

For additional American Legion PSAs and promotional videos that highlight Team 100, Legion programs and more, <https://vimeo.com/album/4174471>.

These short PSAs and videos on the Legion's Vimeo channel can be shared via mobile devices or downloaded onto a computer hard drive and shared without the need for Internet connection. Use these videos to tell the Legion's story, as well as aid in membership recruiting, fundraising efforts, support for programs and events, and more...Each one is very informative.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Christmas

**DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
DECEMBER 24TH-26TH**
~ ~ ~

85% Target Date
December 31st
~ ~ ~

2nd 100% Post Cash Award
December 31st
~ ~ ~

New Year's Eve
December 31st
~ ~ ~

**New Year's Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
JANUARY 1ST**
~ ~ ~

American Legion Family
Membership Caravan
January 17th--26th
~ ~ ~

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
JANUARY 21ST**
~ ~ ~

90% Target Date
January 31st
~ ~ ~

Cut-Off for
Lincoln Pilgrimage
Cut-Off @ 1:00 pm
January 31st
~ ~ ~

Lincoln Pilgrimage
Springfield, IL
February 11th--12th
~ ~ ~

Lincoln's Birthday
February 12th
~ ~ ~

Valentine's Day
February 14th
###

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

American Legion Department of Illinois

4 Pillars Pin



\$100 each

100% of the money will be distributed evenly to four American Legion Department of Illinois programs.

- ★ Special Olympics
- ★ Boys State
- ★ Gifts to the Yanks
- ★ Oratorical Contest

A certificate of program support will be included with each purchase.

(This stylish pin will be a 1.5" inch dual plated gold & silver 3D pin with gold and blue stones inserted in each pillar)

100 Years of Service ~ Department of Illinois ~ 4 Pillars Pin

Please complete this form and mail with payment to:

American Legion Department of Illinois, 2720 E. Lincoln Street, Bloomington, IL 61704

Post Number _____ Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Total Cost \$ _____ Payment type: VISA MC Discover Check number _____

Credit Card Number _____ CVC _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

Veteran's Day Sweepstakes ~ Gun Raffle Winners ~

1ST PLACE: Mark Dietrich (*Waukegan*)
2ND PLACE: William Ayres (*Geneseo*)
3RD PLACE: Larry Meeks (*Chrisman*)

The drawing took place on November 13th at Department Headquarters. All three winners opted to take the cash prize instead of the gun.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ENTERED & CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!



Department Commander Micheal Carder at the Friday evening steak fry during the 82nd Annual Haven Jamboree held November 16-18



Commander Micheal Carder at the Banquet on Saturday during the 82nd Annual Haven Jamboree November 16-18



Dept. Sr. Vice Commander Roy Weber attending the Flying Aces Hockey game in Bloomington, IL on Military Appreciation night.



During the Cold Temperatures PLEASE don't forget to check on our comarades who are alone or can not get out!



Take a few minutes
to make sure they are
warm and have food



Everyday Veterans Discounts and Services

Discounts for Military (Active, Reserves, Guard Members),
Retirees, Veterans and Dependents

Qualifying proof in most case will be one of the following documents. Active Duty ID card, Reserves/Guardsman ID card, Military Retiree ID card, Veterans Affairs ID card, Veterans Affairs ID card stamped under picture service corrected, and State Driver's License over stamped "VETERAN".

Not every establishment offers a discount, but it never hurts to ask, when in doubt ask the manager. Go to link below for complete listing.

<https://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/military-veteran-discounts>

The American Legion Membership Application

(Name) (Phone)

(Mailing Address) (Date)

(City) (State) (Zip) (Post #)

(Membership ID# former member) (Email Address) (Dues)

Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below

- Aug 2, 1990 – cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Government
- Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990
- Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984
- Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975
- June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955
- Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946
- April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Navy
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Marines
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Merchant Marines 12/7/41 – 12/31/46 (only eligibility)



I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Signature of applicant Name of recruiter

30-009 (2012)

Receipt of Dues *(Please Print)*



From _____ for 20____ Post # _____
\$ _____
Recruiter's Name _____
Recruiter's Signature _____
Recruiter's Phone # _____

JOIN
TEAM
100
TODAY

Springfield Post #32, The American Legion

1120 Sangamon Avenue - Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853
www.springfieldamericanlegion.com spfldpost32@outlook.com

85th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln February 11 & 12, 2019

The 85th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln will be held in Springfield, Illinois, on **Tuesday, February 12, 2019**. Springfield Post #32, Auxiliary Unit #32 and Sons of The American Legion Squadron #32 extend a most cordial invitation to you to attend and participate.

National Commander Brett Reistad, National President Kathy Dungan, SAL National Commander Greg Gibbs, our Illinois Department Commander Micheal Carder our Department President Debra Lewis and our Detachment Commander Eugene Gort, will be attending and participating in the activities. Additionally, many other Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L., and state and local dignitaries will be in attendance to honor President Abraham Lincoln on this very special day.

The Commemoration begins on Monday evening, February 11, 2019, with The American Legion Family Leadership Reception, 4:30 – 6 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel. From 5 p.m. – 1 a.m. everyone will journey to an Open House at Springfield Post #32, 1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield. A **FREE shuttle** will run continuously between the Wyndham and Post 32 from 5 p.m. – 12 a.m. A delicious Buffet Dinner service will be available at the Mess Hall Restaurant located inside Post 32, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended. An “FREE open juke box” will play your favorites from 8 p.m. until 11:00. To place Monday evening dinner reservations phone 217/523-3415 to reach the Mess Hall Restaurant. We will have plenty of fun, refreshments and a chance to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. The National and Department Officers will be at the Open House to greet everyone. A special 85th Anniversary Lincoln Day Pilgrimage Commemorative PIN will be available for purchase.

The headquarters hotel is the Wyndham City Centre, 700 East Adams Street, in downtown Springfield. Room rates are \$105.00 per night, single or double occupancy, and the rate includes free parking. **Reservations can be made by telephone at 217-789-1530 (press 1 when prompted)** Remember to tell the clerk that you are reserving a room for the American Legion Lincoln Pilgrimage to receive this special rate. **All hotel reservations must be received by January 19, 2019.**

The following program has been planned for February 12, 2019:

- 8:00 a.m.** **American Legion Family Breakfast** with our National Commander Brett Reistad, and our key note speaker for the breakfast event will be the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary Kathy Dungan, Wyndham, Springfield.
- 10:00 a.m.** **Pilgrimage** departs Wyndham Hotel for journey to Abraham Lincoln’s Tomb.
- 10:30 a.m.** **Ceremonies and wreath placing** from inside Mr. Lincoln’s Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois.
- 12:30 p.m.** **Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon** with Distinguished Guests and National Commander Brett Reistad as the keynote speaker. Wyndham Ballroom.

Breakfast tickets are \$25.00 each, and luncheon tickets are \$35.00 each with tax and tip included. Luncheon tables of eight (8) will be assigned and may be reserved by sending your check for \$280.00 to the below listed address, all other seating is “open seating”. If you are from Illinois, please indicate your Illinois District number on all luncheon reservations. Checks should be made out to **Springfield Post #32, The American Legion**. Tickets, reservations and further information please write to: American Legion Lincoln Day Pilgrimage, ATTN: Barb Lush, Ticket Chairman, 1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853. Phone 217/523-3415. Post 32 e-mail is spfldpost32@outlook.com **SPECIAL NOTICE: All meal checks and/or reservations must be received or canceled by February 4, 2019. No refunds can be made after that date. Please make your plans and reservations early, as we may not be able to seat you if you do not order your meal tickets early.**

We sincerely hope that you will be able to be with us to honor our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, on his birthday in his “Hometown”, and that you make time to visit the beautiful **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library**, which is only three short blocks from the Wyndham - Springfield. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum will be offering their Group Rate to our attendees by merely showing your membership card on Feb 10, 11, 12, 2019.

Tony Libri
General Chairman

2018—2019 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
12/07/2018	8TH DISTRICT	6:00 PM	GLENN MAKER POST 1160 (HOLIDAY HOP)	CHICAGO RIDGE
12/09/2018	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	LOUISVILLE POST 914	LOUISVILLE
12/19/2018	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	IWASZUK-CETWINSKI POST 943	CHICAGO
01/06/2019	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	VENICE-MADISON POST 307	GRANITE CITY
01/13/2019	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	DUPO POST 485	DUPO
01/16/2019	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
01/20/2019	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	THE HAVEN	CARBONDALE
01/23/2019	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	PALATINE POST 690	PALATINE
01/24/2019	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	REHFELDT-MEYER POST 474	MATTESON
02/03/2019	23RD DISTRICT	10:00 AM	BLUFORD POST 1193	BLUFORD
02/17/2019	12TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	SYCAMORE POST 99	SYCAMORE
02/17/2019	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	BYRON POST 209	BYRON
02/20/2019	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
02/24/2019	11TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	HUNTLEY POST 673	HUNTLEY
02/27/2019	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN PARK POST 974 (AMERICANISM)	FRANKLIN PARK
02/28/2019	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EVERGREEN PARK POST 854	EVERGREEN PARK
03/03/2019	17TH DISTRICT	11:00 AM	MT. PULASKI POST 447	MT. PULASKI

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 1-2, 2019 (Springfield, IL)

Boys State--June 8-14, 2019 (Charleston, IL)

Illini Girls State--June 16-22, 2019 (Charleston, IL)

Youth Police---June 23-28, 2019 (Springfield, IL)

100th Anniversary Handgun raffle at Springfield Post 32, on Legion Birthday, March 17, 2019.

It is #32 of 100 and comes with a beautiful wooden case. Do not have to be present to win.

If anyone would like to purchase a ticket(s) they are \$20.00 each and they can mail their check made out to Springfield Post #32, The American Legion to:

American Legion Post 32
 Attn: Gun Raffle
 1120 Sangamon Avenue
 Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853



Springfield American Legion Post 32
 100th Anniversary Handgun.
 Auto Ordinance 1911 .45 ACP #32 of 100
 Finished with high polished nickel and 24kt. gold
 Valued at over \$3,000
 Tickets \$20 each
 Drawing on American Legion 100th birthday March 17th, 2019, 6 p.m.
 Need not be present to win, must have valid FOID card
 Tickets available at American Legion Post 32 1120 Sangamon Ave.
Sangamon County Raffle License #2818-00341

Ticket stub/receipt will be mailed back to purchaser.

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

Department Commander MICHEAL M. CARDER
Department Editor MARTY CONATSER

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DECEMBER TRIVIA?

1. What was the only U.S. battleship to be present at both the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941 and at the D-Day invasion, on June 6, 1944?
2. Who was the first American congressman to don a uniform following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941?
3. What military firsts were achieved by Benjamin O. Davis Sr. and Benjamin O. Davis Jr?
4. Where did Adolf Hitler's sister-in-law work during World War II?

1. The U.S. Nevada.
2. President-to-be Lyndon Johnson, who served in the Navy.
3. In 1940, Davis Sr. became the first black general in U.S. Army history; in 1954, his son Davis Jr. became the first black general in U.S. Air Force history.
4. For British War Relief in New York City. Bridget Hitler was the Irish-born wife of Hitler's older half-brother, Alois.

ANSWERS:



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O P R I N L I G G Q Q R G L U N H Z E F
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