

# AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS Department News



The American Legion Family



2018–2019 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER MICHEAL M. CARDER

MARCH 2019



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF  
MARCH 1, 2019

## TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

### District Commander

|    |              |
|----|--------------|
| 7  | Hoffman      |
| 8  | Lange        |
| 20 | Flowers, Jr. |
| 17 | McCulley     |
| 11 | Reece, Jr.   |
| 9  | Horn         |
| 23 | Devore       |
| 16 | Rice         |
| 18 | Rowe         |
| 13 | Kraut        |

### Division Commander

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| 3 | DAVIS, III |
| 4 | NARGELENAS |
| 2 | BENIGNO    |
| 5 | MADSON     |
| 1 | LAMPERT    |

## The Department of Illinois Announces the 82nd Annual American Legion Oratorical Winner



The 82nd Annual American Legion Department of Illinois Oratorical Semi-Finals and Final Contests were held March 2nd in Springfield at the Crowne Plaza. This year we had 17 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 is Department Commander Micheal M. Carder and Department of Illinois Oratorical Winner Caleb Maue who lives in Homer Glen and a junior who is Home schooled.

Caleb will represent the Department of Illinois and participate in the National Finals Contest April 5-7, 2019 in Indianapolis, IN at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel.

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

## From The Desk of Department Commander Micheal M. Carder



February has come and gone, cold, windy and a little bit of snow. But, this has not stopped the silver bullet from moving down the highway. We celebrated Abraham Lincoln's Birthday at Springfield during the Lincoln Pilgrimage. We were joined by National Commander Brett Reistad and The National Auxiliary President Kathy Dungan and the National SAL Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs.

It was also great to see and visit the leaders of many different departments.

The silver bullet headed to Washington DC for the annual Washington Conference. While at this conference many different meetings were held pertaining to finance, national security, legislative and VA&R issues. Naturally we were addressed by many politicians who are involved with

veterans issues and they addressed their support of veterans issues. It was heartwarming to hear the chairman of the senate VA committee state that he would not allow the VA to be privatized. However, he warned that we must be vigilant in the use of VA care and use.

Membership, membership, membership was announced many times in DC regarding Resolution No 1 pertaining to the enlargement of legion eligibility. It has gained a support within the Senate and the resolution has been introduced—Ref: SB 504. However, a representative from the House has not been secured yet. The attendees were addressed by the Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard and he thanked the American Legion for over \$1 million of support to the families of the enlisted coastguard personnel. He stated that when he was involved with the reenlistment of coastguard personnel, he would also encourage joining The American Legion.

Now, that was a shot in the arm nationally. However, the Department of Illinois received its own shot in the arm with

the Chartering of Post 1944 in Aurora and the establishment of the first college based post in Illinois Post 2019 which is comprised of veterans in the U of I. Unfortunately, our overall membership is slowing and I am concerned. I will not step on the toes of our Senior Vice Roy Weber who is doing a great job. But, I know historically membership slows down with the weather and stubborn members. I want every district commander to contact their Post CMDR and Post ADJ to contact their members.

I wonder, are districts using the membership vouchers? Are posts holding memberships to be turned in whenever? I for you to **COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE!**

**Remember, our membership is for the veteran, his family, and his children.** Folks let us kick our efforts up a notch. I know the Department of Illinois will respond. I have great faith that you will respond to this calling. **Look at it this way, who will support our veterans if Legion is gone? Think about it, really think about it.**

## From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Roy Weber



I am writing this article enroot to Washington Conference. We will meet with the leading candidate for National Commander 2019-20. We will receive the American Legion Agenda from our National Office and presenting this agenda to our legislative representatives on the HILL.

At the "Commanders Call" our membership body should be pumped up to keep this greatest veterans service organization viable and growing!

District and Division commanders are you satisfied with your current

membership percentages? At present we have only TWO Districts near our next goal (District 7 & 8). I want to thank those districts for their efforts of "Knocking for Membership."

Commanders, the year isn't over so gather your membership teams up and get those renewals. I know it isn't easy to motivate others, however that is the **RESPONSIBILITY** of the Leader. Those filling YOUR shoes will learn by your example. For the 2014-15 Incentive Program, an updated list including phone numbers and email addresses is available for all Districts to use. Get your team together and make contact ASAP with these past due members. If you need help, let us know. Reminder the deadline is 9 May. The reports from the POSTS to District Commanders ARE

mandatory for this incentive. This is the only way we can validate the usefulness of your efforts.

REMEMBER...Premier Boys State will be here before you KNOW IT. Every Post should be in touch with your local high school juniors, with literature in hand. It's available at Dept. Remember to stress Leadership and scholarships when addressing the school and the students.

As a veteran service organization our veterans and their needs should be our priority. This means our membership and Legion Programs are the key to our service to them!

A big **THANK YOU** to all for the commitment of making the Department of Illinois a success.



## From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Debra Lewis



**H**ello Legionnaires!  
On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, let me be the first to wish you a very happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!! I hope to see many of you this month at birthday celebrations throughout the Department. We are so lucky to be in a time and place to commemorate the accomplishments of the first century of our Legion Family while building and planning for our next century of service. Let us always honor the Four Pillars providing our foundation by recommitting to the work of our predecessors. There is no greater way to show our gratitude and respect than by working for veterans, service members, children and our communities.

Please join us at our annual Patriotic Conference in Springfield, at

the Abraham Lincoln hotel, on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting will start at 9:00am with a special guest from the Fifth Street Renaissance Veteran's Transitional Living program. We will have a service project that morning to create welcome packets for the veteran families soon to be moving into the Sara St. Transitional program for homeless veteran's and their families. This will be one of the few programs in the state providing housing services exclusively for female veteran's and homeless veteran's with children.

Additionally, we will be holding a food drive to allow the transitional living program to provide food resources to needy veterans who live in the Springfield area. Other planned events for Patriotic include a performance by an artist from Illinois who competed in the National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival. It should be an interesting day, we hope you will join us.

It was such a privilege to attend the Department Oratorical contest; if you

have had the opportunity to attend, be sure to volunteer next year or just come over for the day and listen to the many wonderful speakers. These young men and women work so hard to prepare and present these orations. They are all wonderfully knowledgeable and show such a strong understanding of what it means to be a proud American. As we often see with our youth programs, despite all the negative news about the youth of our society, there are many young people who are truly doing wonderful things.

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, I close with the following Irish blessing; *"May God give you for every storm a rainbow, for every tear a smile, for every care a promise and a blessing in each trial, for every sigh a sweet song, and an answer for each prayer."* Let's get out there and be the rainbow after someone's storm!

## From The Desk of Detachment Commander Eugene Gort



**G**reetings Legionnaires,  
As Commander Mike would say, we have entered the bloody knuckle portion of our year. It's time to get out and push to keep our members for the American Legion Family. As I write this National Commander Brett Reistad is testifying before Congress on behalf of the American Legion. The most important thing to make sure we always have a strong voice in Washington, is to continue to work hard on our membership. If our membership con-

tinues to slide we will not be able to continue the positive impact we have had over the last 100 years. So please get out there and recruit or retain one more members. The continues prosperity of the veteran community depends on it.

While attending the Washington Conference, I was honored to be able to place a wreath on behalf of the Detachment of Illinois at the Vietnam Memorial. While we were there our National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs was able to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. As we were there driving to the Tomb, looking at the rows of headstones the one thing I contemplated was the face that each headstone had a

story. On each stone was the name of a man or woman, who at one point made out a check to the U.S. government for an amount up to and including their life, to help[ preserve the freedom of our country. Whether they were killed in battle, or were able to come back and raise a family, each stone has a story. And those stories of valor and courage are the reasons that today America is the greatest country in the world. I want to thank each and everyone of you, because as veterans you also have a story. I hope that you will share those stories, so future generations will know what it takes to remain a free country. God bless each and everyone of you.



# Did You Know?

Office: 312-980-4266 Email: [Raymond.Toczec@va.gov](mailto:Raymond.Toczec@va.gov)

That the American Legion VA&R Chicago office helps veterans and their dependents through many different means. We have walk-in hours, interviews by appointment; receive daily e-mails, telephone calls and regular mail. We also attend outreach events. Some of our contacts are routine e.g. follow up on claims, submitting new evidence or updating addresses or banking information. Other contacts involve much more and often times end up with our office filing a new or reopened claim. While we try our best to help all we serve we realize that we can't assist everyone. In those cases at least we will steer them in the right direction. Looking back at 2018 I want to highlight some of the more interesting and successful claims or situations we handled.

1. A veteran wanted to file a claim for bladder cancer due to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam. He did two tours there while in the Army and was sure it was linked to that chemical. But the current Veterans Administration laws don't list that type of cancer so the claim would be denied. Luckily I talked with him further and discovered he was TDY to Camp Lejeune for a sixty day class on a new grenade launcher. Bladder cancer is on the list of conditions there due to the bad drinking water. We got him benefits.
2. A vet had a bad case of PTSD and felt that his sleep apnea was either caused by that or made worse. The VA doctor said "no way" and so we appealed it. It was on appeal for over six years and during that time the vet got several private doctors to opine that the PTSD did aggravate his apnea. He finally won at the Board of Veterans Appeals and is awaiting a nice retro check.
3. A 94 year old WWII veteran was rated 90% but couldn't get needed dental care at the VA. Vets have to be either 100% service-connected disabled or getting paid the 100% rate due to Individual Unemployability. He hadn't worked in 30 years and we were able to prove he still couldn't due to his service-connected disabilities. We got him 100% and he got his teeth fixed.
4. A veteran was rated 100% Permanent and Total. Her spouse had some really large bills for his medications. They were not aware of the CHAMPVA program "meds by mail" and now he is getting his meds "free!"
5. A nursing home contacted us. They had three elderly veterans without any relatives or children. On Medicaid they were only allowed \$30 spending money at the home. We applied for Non-Service Connected pension and we tripled their spending money to \$90 a month.
6. A Navy vet was trying to prove her PTSD was from witnessing a fire on board her ship. Three sailors were seriously burnt during that incident. The VA tried to verify that fire and sked the Navy to search the ship's records for August 1981. That drew a blank. We then noticed that the veteran's penmanship wasn't the best and when she wrote on her statement 1987 it looked like 1981. We asked the VA to try again with the correct date. That did it and she got her benefits.
7. And finally, a soldier was playing foosball in the day room in Germany, smashed his finger, it got infected and they had to cut it off. He didn't realize that even though he was on his own time that injury could be considered service-connected. A soldier is on duty 24/7. We got him benefits!

People are always asking me why I am still working part-time as an American Legion Service Officer. Didn't I have enough of the job with 33 years at the Veterans Administration? I simple reply that as long as I can continue to help my fellow veterans and have successful outcomes like the ones above I will continue to work and long as I can.

Our Service Officers have just returned from D.C. where they had their semi-annual Service Officer Training School. Will be talking to them and hope to learn some new things to pass on to you all. And with a New Year in full swing we all are getting a little older so just remember.

**Old age is not so bad when you consider the alternatives.**



## The American Legion Family



*The Illinois American Legion First Division is Proud to Host*

Armed Forces Day Dinner

Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

DES PLAINES ELKS LODGE NO. 1526

495 LEE ST. DES PLAINES, IL. 60016

Key Note Speaker

*National Commander*

*Brett Reistad*

\$30 per person

Social Hour starts at 5:00 pm (cash bar), Dinner at 6:30 pm

Family Style

London Broil, Baked Chicken, Oven-Brown Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Salad, Dessert, Coffee, Tea

Please contact the hotel directly to make reservations.

EDWARD HOTEL / CHICAGO

6600 N. Mannheim Road

Rosemont, IL. 60018

(847) 544-7500

Single Room Rate: \$112.86 (after tax) Per Night (Group Code: ARM)

Reservation Deadline: Friday May 10, 2019

NO WALK-INS

Table of 10 may be reserved by listing names of attendees on back of reservation form.

Questions? Contact: Al Pizarro at 708-655-5282

Reservations: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**THE AMERICAN LEGION – 100 YEARS YOUNG**



# AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS 2019 Semi-Final Oratorical Contestants



## 2019 AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL DEPARTMENT FINALISTS

*Pictured L-R—*

*Department Commander Micheal M. Carder*

**Caleb Maue, 1st Place**

**Regan Macwan, 2nd Place**

**John Toft, 3rd Place**

**Abril Hunter, 4th Place**

**William Meanes, 5th Place**

*Department Sr. Vice Roy Weber*





## CONTEST ROOM #1

*Contestants (pictured L-R)*

**ASHLEY BAKER-SHAW**, 3rd Place (1st Div., Chicago, IL); **WILLIAM MEANES**, 1st Place (5th Div., Fairview Heights, IL); **PATRICK KILCULLEN**, 2nd Place (2nd Div., Lindenhurst, IL).



## CONTEST ROOM #2

*Contestants (pictured L-R)*

**CALEB MAUE**, 1st Place (2nd Div., Homer Glen, IL); **COURTNEY SMITH**, 2nd Place (5th Div., Belleville, IL); **SHANE SMITH**, 3rd Place (2nd Div., Plainfield, IL); **RICHYA GALLION**, 4th Place (1st Div., Chicago, IL).



## CONTEST ROOM #3

*Contestants (pictured L-R)*

**NICOLE TONG**, 4th Place (2nd Div., Naperville, IL); **KATE LI**, 3rd Place (2nd Div., Naperville, IL); **JOHN TOFT**, 1st Place (4th Div., Downs, IL); **BREANNA GOYEA**, 2nd Place (5th Div., Belleville, IL).



## CONTEST ROOM #4

*Contestants (pictured L-R)*

**LONDON SELLERS**, 3rd Place (1st Div., Chicago, IL); **APARNA RAMAKRISHNAN**, 2nd Place (2nd Div., Lisle, IL); **ABRIL HUNTER**, 1st Place (5th Div., Belleville, IL);



## CONTEST ROOM #5

*Contestants (pictured L-R)*

**REGAN MACWAN**, 1st Place (2nd Div., Naperville, IL); **ENSARA SEJKO**, 2nd Place (2nd Div., Downers Grove, IL); **MICHAEL COLES**, 3rd Place (5th Div., Edwardsville, IL).



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_



# SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

## Drawing February 12, 2019

|            |          |                               |
|------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| 1st PLACE  | \$10,000 | <b>George A Henderson</b>     |
| 2nd PLACE  | \$5,000  | <b>Dale Barnard</b>           |
| 3rd PLACE  | \$2,500  | <b>Mark L. Dillman</b>        |
| 4th PLACE  | \$1,500  | <b>Norm N. Hartman</b>        |
| 5th PLACE  | \$1,000  | <b>Charles L. Fredrickson</b> |
| 6th PLACE  | \$1,000  | <b>Dirley Pitchford</b>       |
| 7th PLACE  | \$750    | <b>Joseph M. Coulter</b>      |
| 8th PLACE  | \$750    | <b>Mervin E. Olson</b>        |
| 9th PLACE  | \$500    | <b>Edward Hildebrandt</b>     |
| 10th PLACE | \$500    | <b>Arnold R. Burger</b>       |
| 11th PLACE | \$250    | <b>Peter McNamara</b>         |
| 12th PLACE | \$250    | <b>Stephen E. Brereton</b>    |
| 13th PLACE | \$100    | <b>Steve Selsky</b>           |
| 14th PLACE | \$100    | <b>Ray J. Maynard</b>         |
| 15th PLACE | \$100    | <b>Terry L. Martell</b>       |
| 16th PLACE | \$100    | <b>Stanley A. Kubas</b>       |
| 17th PLACE | \$100    | <b>Marsha Williams</b>        |
| 18th PLACE | \$100    | <b>Gary Wesselmann</b>        |
| 19th PLACE | \$100    | <b>Dennis F. Wimberley</b>    |
| 20th PLACE | \$100    | <b>Larry R. Calwell</b>       |
| 21st PLACE | \$100    | <b>Sam E. Anderson</b>        |
| 22nd PLACE | \$100    | <b>Joseph P. Serbantez</b>    |

\$25,000

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S  
100TH BIRTHDAY  
MARCH 15TH

~ ~ ~  
St. Patrick's Day  
March 17th

~ ~ ~  
ALA Patriotic Conference  
March 22nd

~ ~ ~  
ALA Board Meeting  
March 22nd

~ ~ ~  
SAL DEC  
@ Franklin Park  
March 30th

~ ~ ~  
95% Target Date  
Gold Pin  
Cut-off @ 1:00 PM  
April 5th

~ ~ ~  
ALA Junior Conference  
April 6th--7th

~ ~ ~  
Spring D.E.C @ 1:00 PM  
Bloomington, IL  
April 13th

~ ~ ~  
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED**  
**APRIL 19TH**

~ ~ ~  
Easter  
April 21st

~ ~ ~  
National Spring  
Committee & Commission Meetings  
Indianapolis, IN  
May 6th--9th

~ ~ ~  
Mother's Day  
May 12th

~ ~ ~  
Armed Forces Day  
May 18th

###

# American Legion 2019 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

## 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>

JOIN  
TEAM  
100  
TODAY

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

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



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 # \_\_\_\_\_





# Renew six members to receive Reistad's incentive pin



As of Jan. 14, American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad will award his "Membership Excellence: Team 100" incentive pin to any Legion Family member who renews six Legionnaires for the 2019 membership year. Renewals received prior to Jan. 14 do not count toward this incentive.

Reistad made this announcement during The American Legion's National Membership and Post Activities Committee meeting in Indianapolis last weekend.

"While it's essential for all of us to continue recruiting, it's just as important to renew our members," Reistad said during his remarks to the committee. To increase renewal rates, Reistad emphasized that "engagement is the key to renewals. Engagement is particularly important when we're dealing with DMS members and members that have signed up through our website. If you are not engaged with them

and put them into a local post, they are not going to renew."

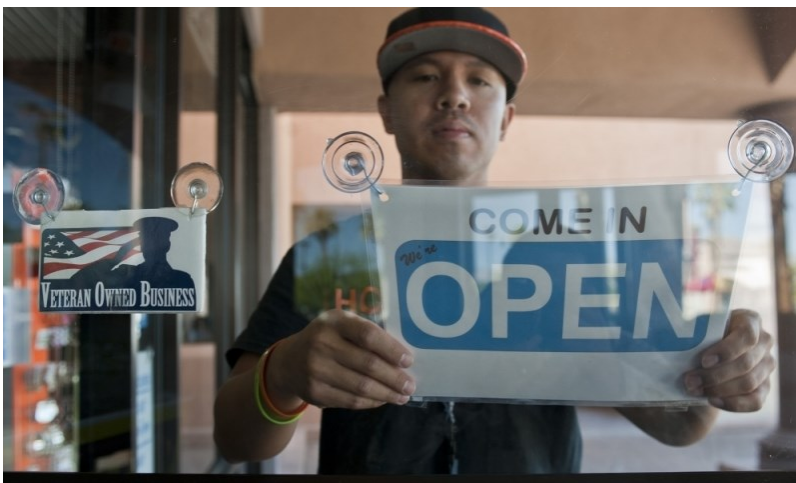
The commander's incentive pin also will continue to be awarded to any Legion Family member who obtains three new members into The American Legion. A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2019 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2018 membership year.

Download the new member and renewal form by visiting [www.legion.org/commander/pin](http://www.legion.org/commander/pin).

Leading candidate for national commander James W. "Bill" Oxford of North Carolina added that "we need to ensure the renewal of every member ... can we do it? I know we can. The future of The American Legion depends on it."

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## New law will help veteran entrepreneurs



Veterans entrepreneurs will benefit from a new law aimed at helping them grow their small businesses, create jobs and expand economic opportunity.

The **Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act** was signed into law by President Trump earlier this month. The legislation adds veterans to the list of eligible recipients for federal surplus personal property, such as office equipment and furniture to specialized apparatuses including scientific devices and heavy machinery.

Veteran small business owners now join women and minority small business owners and veterans service organizations (VSOs) as eligible recipients for federal surplus personal property.

The American Legion and other VSOs, including VFW and Paralyzed Veterans of America, supported the legislation. The Legion's National Executive Committee passed **Resolution 21** at the 2018 Fall Meetings to support legislation ensuring parity for veterans in all state and federal small business programs.

In a press release touting the legislation, Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., who introduced the bill with co-sponsors Sens. John Kennedy, R-La., and Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said "When our veterans return home from their service, they deserve our full support as they transition back into civilian life, and that includes supporting their efforts to build and manage a small business."

"Countless veterans are entrepreneurs and small business owners making contributions to their communities, but many struggle with the costs of starting a new business idea," said Durbin. "With the Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act now signed into law, veterans can access GSA's federal surplus property program, which can help them save costs as they open new businesses and store fronts."

The American Legion Department of Illinois

101<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION JULY 8-13, 2019

-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 18, 2019. 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, 3rd & 5th Divisions and Sons of The American Legion, \$109.00 plus tax (\$123.17 per night with tax). Row 2: City Centre, 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/hr/2019-american-legion-state-convention or you may also call 217/789-1530 and select the RESERVATIONS OPTION and advise the reservationist of Group Code 07097027ALC and/or the group name "American Legion 2019"

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPRINGFIELD

Table with 3 columns: HOTEL, DIVISION/S.A.L., RATE. Row 1: (A Doubletree by Hilton), 4th Division & Auxiliary, \$109.00 plus tax (\$123.17 per night with tax). Row 2: 701 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/544-8800

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-ALM-20190709/index.jhtml?WT.mc\_id=POG and using the Group Code of "ALM". 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 18, 2019.

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 12<sup>TH</sup> - COMMANDER'S AND PRESIDENT'S DINNER, SATURDAY, JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>



## Meet The National Commander

Join us at the Haven on Saturday May 11 to meet National Commander Brett Reistad. There will be a social hour from 4:00 to 5:00 pm and a steak dinner to follow that begins at 5:00 pm. The cost will be **\$15.00** per person which includes baked potato, salad, and dessert. To make reservations contact Bill Flangan by May 4th. His phone number is 618-978-5752 or email at flangan812@charter.net

**Department Chaplain Virgil Oikion is looking for a bugler to volunteer to play Taps during the Memorial Service at the 2019 Dept. Convention.**

**Contact Virgil at 815-483-5555 - or - kingbear43@yahoo.com**

## HAVEN RUN / MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

ALL VEHICLES WELCOME

Saturday, May 4 & Sunday, May 5, 2019  
\$25.00 per person with T-shirt included

- May 4, 2019: Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Vandalia American Legion to register and for the beginning of the Run  
Stops will be as follows: Beckemeyer American Legion  
Columbia American Legion (Lunch)  
Chester American Legion  
Marion American Legion (Dinner)
- May 5, 2019: Start at Marion American Legion  
Stops will be as follows: Metropolis American Legion (Lunch)  
Harrisburg American Legion  
End at The Haven

Join us for the full 2 day run or join/leave us anywhere along the route.

Hotel Reservations can be made at:  
Country Inn & Suites in Marion, Illinois  
618-997-2444  
Mention "American Legion Haven Run" for \$85.00 rate - King or Queen Room  
Reservations must be made by April 5, 2019 to get this group rate

The Vietnam Moving Wall will also be at the Marion VA Medical Center May 2 through 5, 2019 and we invite everyone to make time to stop by while we are in Marion - we may even plan to stop by as a group

Contact Fifth Division Commander Wayne Madson with any questions - (618) 806-1408

Funds being raised to help support The Haven!!!  
Don't forgot membership cards!

## Instate Legacy Run

Please join us for our Instate Legacy run dates are for

- ★ First Leg --(June 22-23) Leg one goes through the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Divisions.
- ★ Second Leg— (June 29-30) through the 4th and 5th Divisions.
- ★ We will be riding for Legion Charities.
- ★ The registration fee will be **\$25.00** per bike.



## 2018—2019 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

| DATE       | DIST. / DIV.  | TIME     | POST                    | CITY         |
|------------|---------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 03/10/2019 | 16TH DISTRICT | 10:00 AM | BRADFORD POST 445       | BRADFORD     |
| 03/10/2019 | 21ST DISTRICT | 1:00 PM  | KINCAID POST 905        | KINCAID      |
| 03/10/2019 | 22ND DISTRICT | 1:00 PM  | HIGHLAND POST 439       | HIGHLAND     |
| 03/10/2019 | 24TH DISTRICT | 1:00 PM  | ALBION POST 590         | ALBION       |
| 03/15/2019 | 10TH DISTRICT | 7:00 PM  | LIBERTYVILLE POST 329   | LIBERTYVILLE |
| 03/17/2019 | 5TH DIVISION  | 1:00 PM  | STEELEVILLE             | STEELEVILLE  |
| 03/17/2019 | 19TH DISTRICT | 1:00 PM  | MATTOON POST 88         | MATTOON      |
| 03/20/2019 | 7TH DISTRICT  | 7:30 PM  | MORTON GROVE POST 134   | MORTON GROVE |
| 03/21/2019 | 9TH DISTRICT  | 7:30 PM  | DES PLAINES POST 36     | DES PLAINES  |
| 03/24/2019 | 3RD DIVISION  | 1:00 PM  | MONMOUTH POST 136       | MONMOUTH     |
| 03/24/2019 | 4TH DIVISION  | 1:00 PM  | FARMER CITY POST 55     | FARMER CITY  |
| 03/24/2019 | 25TH DISTRICT | 1:00 PM  | HERRIN POST 645         | HERRIN       |
| 03/28/2019 | 8TH DISTRICT  | 8:00 PM  | EDWARD SCHULTZ POST 697 | LANSING      |
| 03/30/2019 | 15TH DISTRICT | 10:00 AM | COLONA POST 1233        | COLONA       |
| 03/31/2019 | 23RD DISTRICT | 10:00 AM | VANDALIA POST 95        | VANDALIA     |
| 04/06/2019 | 14TH DISTRICT | 1:00 PM  | REYNOLDS POST 1166      | REYNOLDS     |
| 04/17/2019 | 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](mailto: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 8-14, 2019** (Charleston, IL)

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

**\* Youth Police---June 23-28, 2019** (Springfield, IL) *CHANGE in LOCATION—2019 session will be held at the NATIONAL GUARD FACILITY (same as 2018).*





**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**1<sup>st</sup> DIVISION**  
 Present

Hockey Night with the Chicago Wolves



VS.



Vegas Golden Knights AAA Team Colorado Avalanche AAA Team

April 7<sup>th</sup> 3:00 pm  
 Allstate Arena  
 Proceeds benefit the



\$40.00 Donation includes game ticket, free hat, one free meal voucher and free parking

Children 14 and under \$30.00

Free prize giveaways

**Please RSVP by March 31<sup>st</sup>**

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](mailto:sergiosenese@hotmail.com)

## DETACHMENT COMMANDER EUGENE GORT'S HOMECOMING



Come out for a Great Evening.

- March 30, 2019 6:00pm—????
- 9757 Pacific Ave. Franklin Park, IL 60131
- 6:00pm—7:00pm: Cocktails
- 7:00pm: Dinner
- 8:00pm: Short program
- 8:30pm-????: Karaoke
- \$20 per person, all proceeds benefit Detachment Commander Gort's special projects; Operation Comfort Warriors and Child Welfare Foundation.
- Dress code: Legion casual
- For more information contact Eugene Gort via email at [eugenegort@yahoo.com](mailto:eugenegort@yahoo.com)

*PLEASE MAIL YOUR RSVP BY MARCH 15TH TO THE ATTN. OF PAT KOWALSKI. FRANKLIN PARK AMERICAN LEGION 9757 PACIFIC AVE. FRANKLIN PARK, IL 60131*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

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 The American Legion**

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Department Editor MARTY CONATSER

*Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag*

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Scan Here

# March 15th we are celebrate 100 Years of Service Happy Birthday American Legion!

## MARCH TRIVIA?

1. Who beat out Frank Sinatra as the favorite singer of American servicemen in Europe in a poll taken during World War II?
2. For what did General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing win a Pulitzer Prize in 1932?
3. What was the inspiration for the name Rough Riders- the name of the elite fighting unit Theodore Roosevelt organized for the Spanish-American War?
4. What is a military contractor referring to when talking about a "manually powered fastener-driving impact device?"

## ANSWERS:

1. Country singer Roy Acuff. During the war, correspondent Ernie Pyle wrote of a Japanese attack that was preceded by the battle cry: "Te hell with Roosevelt! To hell with Babe Ruth! Go hell Roy Acuff!"
2. History, for his book. My Experiences in the World War.
3. The Rough Riders Hotel in Medora, North Dakota, where Roosevelt had tried ranching.
4. A Hammer.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

1919 100 2019  
Years

VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA