

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS Department News



The American Legion Family



2018–2019 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER MICHEAL M. CARDER

APRIL 2019



LEGION Act

Call to Action



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
MARCH 27, 2019

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
7	Hoffman
8	Lange
17	Elder
9	Horn
23	Devore
11	Reece, Jr.
20	Flowers, Jr.
16	Rice
18	Rowe
13	Kraut

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

A bill expanding membership eligibility for The American Legion was introduced March 8 in the House of Representatives. The Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act--also know as the **LEGION Act (H R 1641)**--is a bipartisan effort introduced by Congressmen Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va., with Rep. Gil Cisneros, D-Calif., an original co-sponsor.

The bill was introduced Feb. 14 in the Senate (**Senate Bill 504**) by Sens. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., and Thom Tillis, R-N.C.

The LEGION Act was a focus of American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad's Feb. 27 testimony before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs. He called on Congress to take action amending the charter, thereby giving tens of thousands of veterans access to American legion benefits and programs they are not currently eligible for.

"Our charter and membership eligibility have mirrored the eras officially recognized by the U.S. government to include the wars and conflicts such as Korea, Vietnam and the Global War on Terror," Reistad testified. **"However, these recognized periods fail to take into account the hostilities that occur between official war eras, in which nearly 1,600 U.S. military personnel were killed or wounded in places like Cuba, Iran and El Salvador."**

Because The American Legion's membership periods are congressionally chartered, the organization is prevented from expanding membership eligibility without an act of Congress. The act expands membership eligibility to honorably discharged veterans that have served on federal orders in unrecognized times of war since World War II.

Now is the time to contact your elected officials and ask them to co-sponsor and to support this effort to expand the eligibility dates for The American Legion.



From The Desk of Department Commander Micheal M. Carder



The month of March has been a busy one, starting with the Department Oratorical Contest at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL where 17 students from across the state participated in the contest. Caleb Maue was declared the winner. He will represent the Department of Illinois at the National Oratorical contest in April in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Then it was on to Decatur, IL to work with 19th District in revitalizing their membership. Approximately 40 Legionaires were brought back into the family. The number was good but it could have been better with more workers to cover the area.

The next week the Department Adjutant

Marty Conatser and myself attended the Topping Ceremony of the new VA facility in Chicago. *(photos included in this issue)* The ceremony was attended by local veterans, IDVA Director Linda Chapa LaVia, Senator Dick Durbin and Governor J.B. Pritzker. When finished this facility will provide shelter for approximately 200 vets.

The silver bullet then headed to Farmer City Post 55 to speak at their 100th Legion Birthday Celebration & Dinner. It was a great time.

Then it was south bound into the 5th Division to attend their division meeting where I addressed the legionaries and auxiliary members.

Then this past Friday the faithful silver bullet headed to Springfield to attend the Auxiliary's Annual Patriotic Conference. It was a very informative event and it was a joy to meet the fine ladies of the Auxiliary and to once again be with President Deb.

Then on Saturday the convention planning committee met at Springfield Post 32. FYI...your 2019 Department Convention will be a good one.

Then this past Sunday it was on to Farmer City again this time to address the 4th Division the legionaries and auxiliary members. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

The travel has been excellent, and along the way I have been able to learn about the dynamics in each division which is mostly good. However, I am concerned about the legacy of the Department of Illinois. As I have gone through each division I have noted that some district commanders have not or do not attend their respective division meetings with only a hand few of regular blue cappers in attendance. If it wasn't for the presence of past

(Dept. Commander continued on page 4)



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Roy Weber



March has been a very busy month for The American Legion. We witnessed another great Oratorical Contest on March 2nd in Springfield. All contestants gave their best and we heard some fantastic orations on our US Constitution. Congratulations to the winner Caleb Maue who advances to the National competition in Indianapolis in April. We wish him all the best!!

Membership has been very stagnant lately. We **must** engage our membership teams even more now to accomplish our Department goal by close of books June 21st. We still have many 2910 members that can be

transferred into our local posts as well as the renews from 2014-2015-2016. **May 9th is the deadline for these renews to get the \$10.00 discount per capita fee.**

Remember...if every Post would just renew last years members we would go a long way to achieve our goal!! There are prospective new members at every community activity and we have to **"Just Ask"**.

I was honored to attend several 100 year celebrations in March. I had a great time at each event. I hope every Post has an event to celebrate the milestone of the American Legion's 100th year.

The 19th District had a revitalization in Macon County March 7-9. Our membership team for Department, District Officers and local Post members had a successful three days even though the weather did not co-operate.

I had a great time attending the Patriotic Conference in Springfield. The auxiliary is supporting a homeless women's shelter opening soon in Springfield. What a great accomplishment by our Legion Family!

I will be attending the SAL DEC and Eugene Gort's homecoming later this month. I am looking forward to the meeting and Eugene's social event. Working closely with our entire Legion family is important to keep our programs strong.

Thank you to those going the extra mile to attain our membership goals. **Reminder:** 15 April is the deadline for the 100% Post Award with National Commander Reistad. We are very fortunate to have our National

(Dept. SVC continued on page 10)



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Debra Lewis



Hello Legionnaires!

Happy Spring greetings from your American Legion Auxiliary. April is in the middle of some very busy months in our American Legion Family. It was an honor to see many of you at Legion birthday celebrations across the Department. April will bring opportunities to honor our Past President's and Commanders and I hope to see many more of you at these events. As past leaders of our organization it is imperative we continue to mentor new leaders and guide our Posts and Units in making decisions in the best interest of our organization while allowing others to offer new and innovative ideas. If we as leaders are open to trying new things and support younger members offering their contributions and talents to our deliberations and events we can cultivate an environment of growth in our meetings. This is what we must

strive to achieve in order to create a vibrant successful Legion Family for another century.

Thank you to all who attended Patriotic Conference in Springfield, on March 22nd. What a privilege it was to hear from Penny Harris-Powell of the Fifth Street Renaissance about the coming Veteran's Family Transitional Living program. Our service project created over 200 welcome packs for the families soon to be moving into the program for homeless veteran's and their families. We collected over 400 pounds of food, and an abundance of cleaning supplies and small appliances to be distributed to needy veterans in the Springfield area. Our speakers shared how we can better reach out to at-risk Veterans in our communities and how we can support Veterans struggling with mental health challenges. It is important as a Legion family we support normalizing talk surrounding mental health. Currently, in the US approximately 22 Veterans daily commit suicide. Stigma is a silent killer, we must become skilled and comfortable talking about this challenging issue if we want to curb

Veteran suicide. No Veteran should every feel so alone, ashamed and afraid that they choose to end their life. As caregivers and supporters, we can help by being brave enough to ask honest and hard questions and connecting those struggling with appropriate resources and supports to help them work through their challenges.

Please consider joining us at Grizzly Jack's Resort in Utica, April 6th-7th for our Annual Junior Conference. It will be the official visit of our National President Kathy Dungan. Plans are underway for a fun time for our Juniors, we would love to have more Veterans there for our young ladies to meet and mingle with. They love their Veterans and enjoy getting to know more about the experience of service members. In closing, I leave you with this Spring quote by Doug Larsen "Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush." I hope you will dump that slush out of your shoe and start whistling those patriotic tunes while you work for our Veterans.



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Eugene Gort

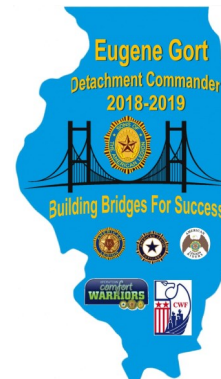


Greetings Legionnaires!

This year I have been inspired by how much I see the American Legion Family work together gives me great hope for our next 100 years of service. Does your post have an active Sons Squadron and Auxiliary Unit? If not, what is keeping you from starting one? It is my personal goal to see every Post within Illinois to have a complete Legion Family within 20 years.

The American Legion has just celebrated its 100th birthday, and it is up to us to make sure we are around to celebrate 200. Over the past 100 years the American Legion has accomplished many great things. These include starting the V.A., creating the G.I. Bill, and promoting Americanism within our communities. Even with all of our accomplishments we will have many things to deal with now and in the future. Some of the current issues we are dealing with include: making sure the V.A. is fully funded, dealing with suicides in the veteran community, getting diseases related to burn pits recognized

for disability, and making sure we always have a strong defense. As an American Legion Family we will be able to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Please continue your hard work and dedication to our great organization.





Did You Know?

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

...that I have been on the Department VA&R Commission for over 25 years. During that tenure our Commission has reviewed over 200 resolutions submitted by our various Posts and Districts. As our State Convention draws near I want to point out some that were actually implemented into practice or the law was changed.

A Post in the Moline area had a widow of a former POW whose claim for survivor's benefits was denied. Her husband passed away in 1997. The VA law at that time said widows were eligible only if the POW died on or after Sept. 11th 2001. A resolution was submitted, passed at State Convention and went on to become a Public Law. The date was changed from 9/11/01 to 12/7/41. She got her benefits.

A Post near Peoria had a veteran whose case was on appeal for seven years. During that time he died and the widow carried on with that appeal. It was won but the law at that time said accrued benefits on appeal could only go back 2 years. A resolution was submitted, passed at convention and became law. The 2 year restriction was removed and she got 7 years of back payment.

A veteran from a Post in Springfield had visited California and noticed that drivers in that state could have "veteran" placed on their driver's license. His Post did a resolution, that was passed and the State of Illinois now allows "veteran" designation on driver's licenses.

A Post downstate near Marion had a member who was a caregiver for his WWII disabled father. He applied for assistance under the VA Caregiver Act. He was turned down as the law only covered vets disabled on or after 9/11/01. The resolution came to our Commission was passed and later became law. The VA is now in the process of updating caregiver assistance back to WWII vets.

Several Posts in the Chicago area had Navy veterans who were being turned down Agent Orange benefits because they only served within 12 miles of the coast of Vietnam and never had "boots on the ground". Resolutions were submitted, passed and there is now a recent court ruling which will probably go into effect this fall covering these Navy vets. Stay tuned for details.

So, if your Post has been discussing a topic or benefit which you feel should be changed or updated please prepare a resolution, pass it at your next Post meeting and send it to Department for consideration at the next State Convention. Who knows, it may become law!

If you need help preparing a resolution or need the forms visit our National website at

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

and you will find a plethora of information. Our Commission looks forward to your ideas.

No idea is too small, and all sorts of ideas have potential to change the country as we know it for the better.

(Dept. Commander continued from page 2)

district and division commanders the attendance would most likely not have a quorum.

I continue to state that Division must communicate with Districts and the Districts must communicate with the Posts to get the message of the legion out. I wonder if that is being done, if not it should because our membership is several thousand members behind from previous membership totals for this period. **This is Bloody Knuckle time folks, you must get out and be one to one** with those members who have not renewed.

By the way were posts active during the Week of Buddy Check? I know there are **posts you cannot transfer members into, however the HQ 2910 Post makes it easy to transfer renewals or new members into**, if we reach and get them then perhaps we would reach our 2019 membership goals. Time is getting shorter folks, we honestly must get out and touch base with those stubborn members and members who think we just don't care. The American Legion legacy and programs of The Department of Illinois rests on the shoulders of every member of the department. We are the lucky ones who came home from war. Many of our brothers and sisters did not. We came home and made this country better, but, what about the families of the fallen? Who is helping make their lives better? It needs to be us—The American Legion—who work to help all of our comrades who ARE in need. Remind them how important Legion benefits are— but you can't use them if you are NOT a member. We can only do this through strength and you know what that is. I ask you...Do you really care about the veteran and their families as well as the families of the fallen? I ask you again...**Do you REALLY care? Do YOU really CARE?**

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 _____



The American Legion Family



The Illinois American Legion First Division is Proud to Host

Armed Forces Day Dinner

Saturday, May 18th, 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

National Commander Visit

March 2019

Post Commanders;

Would you like to have dinner with the National Commander? If your post membership is 100% by 15 April 2019 you will win an invitation for dinner and a picture with the National Commander.

Any Legionnaire is welcome, if they would like to attend they are more than welcome at their own cost.

The date, time and dress code for the event has been listed on the enclosed flyer.

If you have any questions you may call your Division Commander or the Department Membership Director Chad Woodburn (309) 663-0361 cwoodburn@illegion.org.

Come out and enjoy a great evening with our National Commander!

Respectfully submitted,

Micheal M. Carder
Department Commander
The American Legion
State of Illinois



National Commander's schedule listed below

Join the 1ST DIVISION on Saturday May 18th, 2019 for dinner with National Commander Brett Reistad

Dinner will be at the Des Plaines Elks Lodge 495 Lee St. Des Plaines

Dinner will be \$30.00 per person. Social Hour Starts at 5:00 PM, Dinner Starts at 6:30 PM. Dress: Coat and Tie
All 100% Post Commander's by 15 April 2019 will receive a dinner coupon and a picture with the National Commander.

Please RSVP to Al Pizzaro pzodad2@gmail.com No Later Than May 10th 2019 to reserve your seat

Join the 2ND DIVISION on Wednesday May 15th, 2019 for dinner with National Commander Brett Reistad

Dinner will be at Post 589, 3S371 Mignin Dr. Warrenville

Dinner will be \$15.00 per person. Social Hour Starts at 5:30 PM, Dinner Starts at 6:30 PM. Dress: Coat and Tie
All 100% Post Commander's by 15 April 2019 will receive a dinner coupon and a picture with the National Commander.

Please RSVP to Kevin Leonard (630) 461-8875 krleonard68@gmail.com No Later Than April 15th 2019 to reserve your seat.

Join the 3RD DIVISION on Tuesday May 14th, 2019 for dinner with National Commander Brett Reistad

Dinner will be at Post 979 4501 S. Airport Rd. Bartonville

Dinner will be \$15.00 per person. Social Hour Starts at 4:30 PM, Dinner Starts at 5:30 PM. Dress: Legion Casual
All 100% Post Commander's by 15 April 2019 will receive a dinner coupon and a picture with the National Commander.

Please RSVP to Bob Zimbelman (309) 697-2507 or Post 979 (309) 697-2432, No Later Than April 15th 2019 to reserve your seat.

Join the 4TH DIVISION on Sunday May 12th, 2019 for dinner with National Commander Brett Reistad

Dinner will be at Post 1922 5880 S. 6th St. Springfield (FOP Lodge 41)

Dinner will be \$15.00 per person. Social Hour Starts at 4:00 PM, Dinner Starts at 5:00 PM. Dress: Legion Casual
All 100% Post Commander's by 15 April 2019 will receive a dinner coupon and a picture with the National Commander.

Please RSVP to Luella Buske (217) 556-9555 or luellabuske@yahoo.com No Later Than April 15th 2019 to reserve your seat.

Join the 5TH DIVISION on Saturday May 11th, 2019 For a steak fry with National Commander Brett Reistad

Dinner will be at the Haven, 10289 Haven Rd. Carbondale, IL 62901

The steak fry will be \$15.00 per person. Social Hour Starts at 4:00 PM, Dinner Starts at 5:00 PM. Dress: Legion Casual
All 100% Post Commander's by 15 April 2019 will receive a dinner coupon and a picture with the National Commander.

Please RSVP to Bill Flanagan (618) 978-5752 No Later Than April 15th 2019 to reserve your seat!

ALL DISTRICT AND DIVISION OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND


ATTENTION: Children and Youth Chairman

~ Please read at your post meeting ~

Special Olympics Summer Games Fund

Want to know how your post can help!


Each year Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games are held at ISU in Normal, IL. For those of you who can't attend, there is still a lot of preparation for the American Legion and Auxiliary Hospitality Tent. We feed over 4,000 athletes and their families each year. Posts donate lots of items to help out each year.

 Here's what is needed:

- _____ Country Time Lemonade
- _____ Family Size Lipton Tea Bags
- _____ Napkins
- _____ 9 inch plates
- _____ Ziploc Sandwich Bags
- _____ 8 oz. plastic cups

_____ Money donations*: *Money donations are used for the renting of the tent, (\$900 alone) Groceries— supplies to make dip, veggie trays, gallons of olives, gallons of dill pickles, crackers, fruit, and popsicles.*

* Please have ALL monetary donations in by June 1st so supplies can be purchased.

 _____ Volunteers: *If you can help please let us know when you can be there.*

Friday - From _____ To _____.

Saturday - From _____ To _____.

In addition, helpers are needed to set-up and take down additional tents used, as well as load and unload supplies from the trailer and trucks.

Hours Open:
Friday 10:00– 4:00
Saturday 9:30– 3:30

Thank you for your consideration...and Especially for your Donation!

We NEED HELPERS to set up and take down!

Our aging Special Olympic Staff greatly appreciates all hands.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO...

Bring your donations to your C&Y District or Division chairmen, so we will have an idea of supplies and money. The Chairmen will bring them to the games.

ALL donations should be at Dept. no later than the first week in June.

With the whole Legion family involved (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL & Riders) we can make it a true Legion Family Hospitality Tent!

The Illinois Veterans' Home Project Tops Off

On March 15th the Illinois Veterans' Home Project held a topping off ceremony – representing the culmination of decades of effort by the State of Illinois and Designer HED.

Located on an urban site on Chicago's north-west side just 13 miles from downtown, the Illinois Veterans' Home project will be the very first such facility to be built within the city of Chicago. It features non-age-restricted, licensed skilled care programming and features a strategic adjacency to the Read Mental Health Center.

As the first newly constructed veterans' home in Illinois in over 20 years, the Illinois Veterans' Home is also the first such facility in the state to incorporate the federal Community Living Center (CLC) guidelines, meaning it resembles "home" as much as possible while providing skilled nursing and medical care.

"This project embodies a paradigm shift in how the State of Illinois approaches veteran care," says HED Principal and Studio Leader Susan King, "Using the CLC guidelines, which was mandated by the Federal Veterans Administration for all newly constructed projects in 2011, we've created a facility that incorporates small house design at a large scale."

King continues, "The dining program utilizes a hybrid approach with central and residential format kitchens in each household to serve the population appropriately. Medical features and spaces such as nursing stations were approached through a hospitality lens, with finishes that recall a household environment."

Expected to be completed in Winter of 2020, this facility will soon provide a home for 200 veterans.

###

Pictured top to bottom signing the roof of the building is:

Department Cmdr Carder, Department Adj. Conatser & VA&R Director Contreras. Also pictured with Contreras is IDVA Director Linda Chap La Via and IL Gov. J.B Pritzker.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

~ ~ ~

**MEMORIAL DAY
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
MAY 27TH**

~ ~ ~

American Legion Premier
Illinois Boys State
EIU--CHARLESTON
June 8th--14th

~ ~ ~

Illinois Legacy Ride Part 1
June 8th--9th

~ ~ ~

Flag Day
June 14th

~ ~ ~

Father's Day
June 16

###

Job hunters should do this critical thing before applying for a job

When was the last time you posted to LinkedIn? Are you as active with your Facebook friends today as you were when you first connected? Do you still have an old MySpace account lurking on the Internet?

Recruiters and hiring managers will most certainly look at your digital footprint to complete their assessment of your viability as a job candidate. Take the time today to start cleaning up what they'll find online about you.

Here are suggestions to clean up your online presence:

1. Sweep for consistency. Do you show up as the same person on LinkedIn as on Facebook? It's OK to be more social on Facebook since it's a more social platform. But if your language, comments, photos, and tone reflect a very different persona than I'd find on another platform--or in person--it can be confusing.
2. DO a sweep of your contacts. Are they still in your life today? Sometimes, we connect with colleagues or friends we make in previous jobs (i.e. your military service) who we don't want to be connected to for our future pursuits. If this is the case, purge these people from your contacts. If you know them well and need to remove them because they post content that's not consistent with your values, contact them and let them know in advance.
3. Delete posts or comments that show you in a negative light. Sure, this doesn't remove them from the Internet forever, but it would be hard for a recruiter to find a negative comment or offensive joke you made two years ago...if you remove it today.
4. Update your LinkedIn profile. Be sure it includes your current job, with a bulleted list of your key responsibilities and achievements. You also want to update your volunteer activities and any certifications or training you've received since your last update.

5. Review your headline and summary sections on LinkedIn. Do they reflect who you are today and the job you're looking for? Are you using the right keywords to attract desired employers?
6. Update your profile photo on all platforms, if needed. Particularly on LinkedIn, you should reflect a current and polished appearance. On Facebook, Instagram, and other platforms, strive to show consistency in your image while highlighting the more social side of your personality.
7. Look through the recommendations you've received on LinkedIn. Are they current or 10 years old? Do they speak to your roles in the military or other aspects of your career? Make sure all recommendations are relevant to the jobs you want and include keywords to get you noticed.
8. If you don't have any (or many) recommendations, ask for some. Offer to provide a draft copy that the recommender can modify and personalize. This way, you can include keywords and drive the narrative the way it suits you best.
9. Take inventory of what you're posting and how often. Posting too many times per day on LinkedIn, for instance, can be intrusive. Posting once a month on Facebook gets you forgotten. Look over the past few months of your posts--what number of posts gets you the most interactions (likes, comments, shares) and set a goal to continue that.

Social media is like any part of a marketing plan. You have to assess and re-work the plan from time to time to keep it current and relevant. Particularly when it comes to a job seeker's digital footprint, the more current, timely and relevant you make online profiles to what recruiters and hiring managers are looking for, the better.

Dept. SVC continued from page 2)

Commander with the Department for an entire week!

Now is the time to be going to your local high schools to speak to the Juniors about attending Premier Boys State as well as Girls State in June! These important programs stress community involvement and leadership for those that will attend. We need to talk to prospective students age 15 through 17 to attend our Youth police School June 23 to 28.

Don't forget we have our DEC in Bloomington on April 13th at 1:00 P.M. See you there!





VA Canteen and ShopVCS

Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) is excited to announce a new benefit. On November 13 2018, VCS is launched ShopVCS.com, an online shopping site exclusively available to Veterans and their families.

Veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare are able to shop VCS online at ShopVCS.com. This new exclusive shopping experience offers deals on thousands of products from hundreds of top brands with the ability to easily and securely shop from any device. The site features an expanded catalog of products to include: Veteran-Owned brands, Made-in-USA items,

military items, sportswear, jewelry, health and beauty, home goods, electronics, outdoor gear, travel options, event tickets, and much more.

Registration is free and Veterans enrolled in VA and their family members eligible to register at ShopVCS.com as authorized customers. Proceeds from your purchases are given back to the Veteran community in support of VA programs such as: National Rehabilitation Adaptive Sports Games, Vets Crisis Suicide Prevention, Fischer House, Women Veteran Programs, National Disaster Relief, Homeless Veterans programs, and much more.

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.

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 #



The American Legion Department of Illinois

101st 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 12TH - COMMANDER'S AND PRESIDENT'S DINNER, SATURDAY, JULY 13TH

2018—2019 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
04/06/2019	14TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	REYNOLDS POST 1166	REYNOLDS
04/17/2019	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
04/24/2019	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	SCHILLER PARK POST 104	SCHILLER PARK
04/25/2019	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	ORLAND MEMORIAL POST 111	ORLAND PARK
04/28/2019	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	TOULON POST 416 (CONVENTION)	TOULON
05/05/2019	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	GEORGETOWN POST 203	GEORGETOWN
05/11/2019	15TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	CANTON POST 16 (CONVENTION)	CANTON
05/15/2019	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134 (POST EVERLASTING)	MORTON GROVE
05/17/2019	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	FOX LAKE POST 703 (ELECTIONS)	FOX LAKE
05/19/2019	11TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	WARRENVILLE POST 589 (CONVENTION)	WARRENVILLE
05/19/2019	12TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	ROCKTON POST 332 (CONVENTION)	ROCKTON
05/19/2019	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	STERLING POST 296 (CONVENTION)	STERLING
05/19/2019	14TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	MOLINE POST 246 (CONVENTION)	MOLINE
05/19/2019	17TH DISTRICT	11:00 AM	LINCOLN POST 263 (CONVENTION)	LINCOLN
05/19/2019	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	RANTOUL POST 287 (CONVENTION)	RANTOUL
05/19/2019	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	SPRINGFIELD POST 809 (CONVENTION)	SPRINGFIELD
05/19/2019	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	COLLINSVILLE POST 365	COLLINSVILLE

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 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).*



Teutopolis Post 924 celebrated the American Legion's 100th birthday on March 9, with a dinner at the post home for members and guests. The post received their charter on March 10, 1946, and the last charter member Paul Runde died in October of 2018.

Department Senior Vice Commander Roy Weber spoke on the history and accomplishments of the American Legion and post 924.

Korean war veteran Jim Esker was recognized as serving as post commander in 1959.

Twenty seven past post commanders plus current commander Tom Johnson were present and are pictured above.

seated l-r: Jim Waldhoff, Bob Deters, Jim Esker, Ron Esker, Philip Mette, George Westendorf, and Norbert Lohman.

second row: Fred Meyer, Dave Behl, John Burford, Joe Weis, Joe Thoele, Larry Pruemmer, Charlie Kroeger, Mike Wentz, Leroy Krone, Dick Kreke, and Tom Johnson.

back row: Roy Weber, Mike Funneman, Zale Rohwedder, Allen Rexroat, Jerry Goeckner, Ralph Ruholl, Don Brown III, Doug Deters, Aaron and Krista Mette.

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



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
P.O. BOX 2910
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61702

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Department Editor MARTY CONATSER

Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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APRIL TRIVIA

1. What unsung role did William Dawes and Samuel Prescott play in American History?
2. You may remember the Alamo, but do you know what the word means in Spanish?
3. During the Civil War, how many states fought for the Union; and how many for the Confederacy?
4. What actor has attained the highest U.S. military rank in history for an entertainer?
5. What rank did Russian czar Peter the Great give himself in the Russian Army?

ANSWERS:

1. They accompanies Paul Revere on his celebrated midnight ride to warn their countrymen that "the British are coming."
2. Cottonwood.
3. For the Union, 23; for the Confederacy, 11.
4. James Stewart, who rose to the rank of a brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.
5. None. He served as a common soldier in the artillery.



EASTER WORD SEARCH

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

Easter Basket	Jellybeans	Spring	Bonnet
Bunny	Celebration	Candy	Fun
Hide	Decorate	Hunt	Sunday
Eggs	Chocolate	Lily	Parade
	Flowers	Chick	Lamb



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