



## American Legion Family Presents Illinois' 2020 Four Pillars of Service Pin



### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

### TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

#### District    Commander

8	Mitchell
13	Nichols
10	Bucher
16	Nighsonger
20	Flowers, Jr.
4	Przybylinski
17	Elder
14	Schomer
7	Wowk
18	Rowe

#### Division    Commander

3	<b>GOSNEY</b>
2	<b>POWROZNIK</b>
4	<b>SHAPLAND</b>
1	<b>CALLAWAY</b>
5	<b>PICOU</b>

During our 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration Illinois had a special 4 Pillars pin. It was a great success in raising funds for specific program within The American Legion. This year the **American Legion Family** will again have a special pin, with 100% of the money raised going to **American Legion Family programs**.

The American Legion Auxiliary will receive \$25.00 to raise funds for needed items for Illinois State Veterans Homes, the Sons of the American Legion will receive \$25.00 for Child Welfare and the Legion will receive \$25.00 each for Boys Scouts and Youth Police School. We are encouraging individual members of The American Legion Family, Legion, Auxiliary and Sons, to show support for our programs by purchasing this special pin.

Posts, Units and Squadrons of all sizes can show their support by purchasing a Four Pillars of Service Pins for \$100.00. All administrative cost will be covered by the organizations and 100% will go to the programs. A special certificate will be sent with Four Pillars of Service Pin.

## Please show your support for The American Legion Family Programs

## From The Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber



**M**y fellow Legionnaires',  
First I want to thank everyone that attended the Fall DEC and my Homecoming event. I think everyone had a pleasant evening and a comfortable stay at the hotel. There was plenty of good food and enough hospitality to go around. A special thank you to Ann Flanagan for handling the reservations and to the ladies that ensured the banquet setup and decorations were in place. I know it takes a lot of time and effort to make it look so nice. Several Legionnaires pitched in after the DEC to change out the tables and chairs. Thanks to all for your help.

Our Division Officer's retreat was a great learning experience for all those present. New ideas for membership, holding proper meetings and formulating plans to keep our great programs alive and active were presented and discussed. Membership Director Chad Woodburn, Department Adjutant Marty Conatser and Dept. Sr. Vice Wayne Fisher did an excellent job presenting and keeping all members engaged.

The Department Committee and Commission meetings will be over as you receive this newsletter. I look forward to having meaningful meetings on September 28th and October 5th.

October weekends are busy with the 5th Div./Dist. Officer training. I expect to see all of our officers on these weekends. These Training seminars are **mandatory** and will determine

the success of this coming year for membership, as well as our programs success.

We do have some revitalizations scheduled for October. Please attend those in your District with the District Officers and local posts to help in contacting Legionnaires. If you do not have one scheduled in your District please make plans for one. You can contact Membership Director Woodburn to make it happen. If you are not planning, a revitalization, use your membership committee for retention and prospective members in YOUR area!

I am looking forward on attending as many Division and District meetings as possible.

*(Dept. Commander continued on page 7)*



## From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Wayne L. Fischer

**M**y fellow Legionnaires, we are well into our 2019-2020 American Legion Year and seeing great opportunities to get our Membership moving forward. As you all know by now, the Legion Act has opened a huge opportunity for everyone to step up and sign up new Veterans for the American Legion that were not eligible prior to this because of how Congress set up the eligibility dates. Now when you visit with these eligible Veterans and they ask, "Well, why should I join now, you never wanted me in the past" you can clear the air. Plus, they will be eligible for many of our American

Legion benefits. It is up to each and **EVERYONE** of us to reach out and encourage them to join our Great Organization, The American Legion. To my knowledge there is no master list of these eligible Veterans, so it comes down to each current Legionnaire to search out these men and women who have served their country and now can support their fellow Veterans even more. As a member they would also be eligible for the many benefits the Legion offers.

Also, as our Membership Goal for this year is 77,082, we must encourage our Posts to get their renewals in prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> for their members to be eligible for the Legion benefits. Yes, our Membership Year is from July 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 30<sup>th</sup>, but all who are current by the end of the calendar year are eligible for additional benefits.

When I flew helicopters in the Marine Corps in 1967 and 1968 in Vietnam, we would take our seriously wounded Marines out to a Hospital Ship off-shore near the fighting. This was especially true for head and eye wounds. Once we landed on the landing pad at the fantail of the ship, there was a sign posted in front of our chopper and it read **"You find 'em; we'll bind them-Open 24 hours"!!!** Maybe we all can adopt something similar, like **"You find 'em and sign 'em -Open 24 hours"!!!** Oh, one more thing- we always were given Dixie cups of vanilla ice cream to enjoy once we departed the USS Sanctuary or the USS Repose. The Navy always ate well. Maybe in part our Commander Roy's motto of **"Can Do"** came from that-HA!!! Either way, we can make our goal of 77,082 when we **ALL** step up and **"sign 'em up"!!!**





## From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Sue Cunniff Coughlin



**A**utumn Greetings to all of our Legionnaires and their families!

Our Fall Forum team has been busy through the month of September. We have completed four of our six planned Forums. Special thanks to the Units and their Legion Families in Rockton, Edgewood, Lockport and Franklin Park for hosting the meetings. We appreciate everyone's hospitality and the work that went into hosting the events.

Commander Roy's homecoming was a wonderful evening. The entertainment was a Barber Shop Quartet and they were excellent! It was a relaxing evening as we were able to spend time visiting with our Legion Family. The following morning, many of us stopped

at Commander Roy's home Post, Teutopolis, for breakfast. Roy, Phil and I are really looking forward to working together to support our Legion Family.

During the month of October, we will be completing our Fall Forums. We also have Make a Difference Day on October 26th and the beginning of the Christmas Gift Shops at the VA Hospitals and Illinois Veterans Homes. We would greatly appreciate any assistance from Legionnaires and Sons at the Christmas Gift Shops. If you are interested in helping at one, please let us know and we will gladly connect you with our local Facility Representatives.

**Our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday is November 10, 2019.**

*(AUX. President continued on page 14)*



ABOVE: Lockport Attendees

BELOW: At every Fall Forum Auxiliary does a project for the veterans—Lockport decorated pumpkins.



## From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander



**I**'d Like to extend a BIG Welcome to Riverside Squadron 488. First Division Commander Kevin O'Connell presented their new charter Friday evening September 6th. We have also received charters for Squadron 192 and Squadron 227. As soon as possible we will present these two charters to them. There is one more new squadrons currently in the works. If your post does not have a squadron, why not? The Son's of the

American Legion are here to help. Please contact our Membership Chairman Jim Peters [jpeters.ilsal@yahoo.com](mailto:jpeters.ilsal@yahoo.com) or Myself [pstander@att.net](mailto:pstander@att.net). We will help in any way to assist you in getting a Squadron started at your post.

Are you looking for a place to volunteer? Many destinations exist within the family where your participation is welcomed and needed. If you have time available, please look up information on a program that you may be passionate about and get involved. Boy's and Girl's state, Special Olympics, Oratorical, Baseball and Jr. shooting sports are just a few that come to mind.

The Detachment Fall DEC was held at the Haven in Carbondale on Sept. 7th. All committees are hard at work setting goals for the year and enacting a plan to achieve the goals set forth. Information on the Haven can be found at <https://www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare/photos/235069/department-illinois-haven>.

**With a good "CAN DO" attitude we can "CELEBRATE THE PAST AND AWAKEN OUR FUTURE" while making sure "THE DRIVE IS ALIVE"**

# Engage the millions of newly eligible American Legion Family members



Dear American Legion Family and Friends,

While the LEGION Act ushered in an opportunity to grow our membership, it wasn't the only recent significant change to eligibility in The American Legion Family.

During our 101st National Convention, [a change to The American Legion's National Constitution and Bylaws](#) was approved to welcome "spouses" rather than just "wives" as members of an American Legion Auxiliary unit. The LEGION Act alone creates an opportunity to engage and [add up to 4.2 million new members](#) who were not eligible under the previous standards set by Congress. And, of course, the LEGION Act also means that sons and grandsons of these new eligible veterans are now able to become members of Sons of The American Legion.

Thanks to these changes, The American Legion Family should be able to grow our total membership well beyond the current number of roughly 3 million members.

Just think what more than 3 million American Legion Family members will be able to do for their communities across the nation.

More of our nation's veterans will receive the assistance they need from The American Legion.

More children will learn about patriotism, appreciate flag etiquette and receive mentorship.

More wounded servicemembers will receive care, support and essential equipment to boost their recoveries.

More veteran-friendly legislation will pass through the bodies of Congress and Statehouses across our great nation.

The list goes on and on, of course. But what is vital to note is we have an unprecedented opportunity in front of us. It is not an understatement to say that every single living U.S. veteran with an honorable discharge is eligible for membership in The American Legion. And the spouses of these veterans are also entitled to join The American Legion Auxiliary.

Through the LEGION Act and bylaw changes, The American Legion is truly building a foundation for the future.

For God and Country,

James W. "Bill" Oxford  
National Commander

# Commander Oxford's new recruiting goal: HOW DO WE GET THERE?

By Internal Affairs & Membership Division

The excitement and rejuvenation we feel coming out of the 101st American Legion National Convention is evident. There were some notable achievements that set conditions for a truly remarkable 2020 membership year.

If all things had remained consistent coming into convention, 100,000 new members would have been seen as a difficult road ahead. However, looking at initiatives that surfaced during 2019 have Legionnaires from around the globe convinced that we will surpass the national commander's goal.

First, is the Buddy Check. The Buddy Check is not a membership drive, but rather an opportunity to get back to taking care of our fellow veterans. Veterans get the help they need and communities see an active post taking care of their own. The Buddy Check helped us get back to our roots and vindicate our purpose *to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.*

Second, is the monumental legislative achievement of the passing of the LEGION Act. The LEGION Act extends the current recognized war era back to Dec. 7, 1941, to honor military members who served their country with honor but whose service fell in gaps between war eras. This opens up membership eligibility and pays respect to 1,600 U.S. servicemembers who were killed or wounded during previously undeclared periods of war.

The following is a four-step recruiting process to help The American Legion and our commander achieve our goal.

1. **Know the history of the organization.** All of the armed forces were born from necessity, but made storied by rich history. The history of each military service branch formed the foundation of its culture, and the culture is one of the many facets that appealed to us. Upon joining, we knew we had an obligation to continue the proud legacy of those that wore the cloth of our nation before us—and so we did just that! It seems obvious, then, that knowing the rich history of The American Legion is the minimum requirement for recruiting new members. This is why, at a minimum, every Legionnaire should take the Basic Training course. In order to have a vision for the future, we must know our past and remain committed to the strategic purpose of the organization.

2. **Sell the history, but paint a vivid picture of the future.** While it is important to know our rich history, it is even more important to understand our significance to the future of this great organization. A quick glimpse of the road behind us inspires pride and confidence in what we have done, but the road ahead reminds of the challenges and obstacles still ahead. In the process of looking for new members, identify veterans with the same interests and passion that will move us forward. Then paint a vision of what the grand future of The American Legion could be with their talents in our member ranks. If a prospective member can visualize themselves working with The American Legion, giving back and finding purpose in life, they will join.
3. **Satisfy the real needs of prospective members.** Selling an organization is complex. To gain appeal, The American Legion needs to satisfy the needs of the prospective members who believe the organization can truly deliver on its many promises to veterans and their communities. That may be a need for camaraderie, a need to belong, a need to fulfill purpose, a need to help fellow veterans, a need to share burdens and demons, a need to advance community relations, or countless other subjective needs. Of course, as is true with everything in life, there is no achieved perfection or ability to satisfy everyone's wants and needs. However, the more accommodating we can be to the real needs of the member, the more confident that we can be that we are selling truth!
4. **Under promise and over deliver.** The simple reality is this: the biggest threat to recruiting is selling a lie. If you promise rainbows and butterflies and deliver dungeons and dragons, there is your first leadership failure — a broken promise. Selling the rich history of the collective body [and what it could be with their membership] can help to inspire them not only to join, but to be the necessary agents of change to advance us into our next century. After all, we all wanted to have a positive impact on our service and did — and so holds true for the future of The American Legion if we cultivate the young veteran talent. The foundation for being a Legionnaire is serving others before self, but human nature is to make the best "mutually beneficial" decision. Show the potential member how their participation in our organization can improve us, while also helping them with their own personal and professional growth.





## *Did You Know?... By Ray Toczec O: 312-980-4266 E: Raymond.Toczec@va.gov*

...That when I was in High School in the late 60's if I needed to write a term paper I would have to take the bus downtown to the main Chicago Public Library to do my research. I would first look up articles in the

Periodic Index, write down the reference numbers, give them to the librarian and wait for these large volumes of back issues of magazines to be located and brought to the reading room. Needless to say a simple term paper would take the better part of a day to complete.

Computers and the Internet have certainly made our lives easier, especially when you need to find information. As an accredited Service Officer we are no exception and use the Internet daily to assist in VA claims processing. Here are just some of the sites we use and they are free to the public!

### **GOVERNMENT FORMS**

<http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>

Often times we get calls from clients asking for a particular form. We can certainly send it by "snail mail" and they will get it in 3-4 days or they can go to the above site, download the form and they are good to go. This site not only has all VA forms but also includes Department of Defense (DOD), Standard Forms (SF) and General Service Administration (GSA) forms. All are just a click away.

### **TELEPHONE BOOKS**

[www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com)

We use this one a lot. It has a database drawn from all the telephone directories published in the United States. You can search for a person using their name only, or add a state search or localize it to a particular town. Especially useful in trying to track down old military buddies to get affidavits for VA claims. This site also includes reverse look up.

### **NATIONAL GRAVESITE LOCATOR**

<https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/index.html>

Your family wants to visit the gravesite of your favorite uncle or aunt who served during the Korean Conflict. This site can often times help locate where they are buried and will include the veteran's branch of service, date of birth and date of death.

### **PERSONAL VA ACCOUNTS**

**(BENEFITS)** [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)

This site lets you set up your own account so you can track your claim or appeal anytime. Need a certificate of eligibility for a VA

loan, change your direct deposit info, a civil service preference letter or proof of service? This is the place to go.

### **PERSONAL VA ACCOUNTS (HOSPITAL)**

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home>

This site is used to check your upcoming hospital appointments, schedule one, contact your VA provider and review your medical tests.

### **CONTACT US AT THE CHICAGO VA&R OFFICE**

[VAVBACHI.AML@va.gov](mailto:VAVBACHI.AML@va.gov)

When Post members have a VA benefit question and prefer to e-mail us rather than call. Our questions run the gamut from how to obtain a replacement military discharge to how to file a claim for service-connected disabled compensation or Non-Service Connected pension. We monitor this site daily and one can expect a return reply from one of our Service Officers within 1-2 days.

### **OUR NO COST ACCIDENTAL LIFE INSURANCE**

<https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare>

With your membership comes a free \$1,000 accidental death insurance policy. It's \$5,000 if traveling on official American Legion business. Be sure yours is current. If your dues lapsed even for a few weeks it was inactivated and you have to activate it again.

### **VA EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS**

<https://www.va.gov/education/>

Here you can check your Post 9/11 GI bill, transfer them, changes schools, review past payments and change your direct deposit info.

### **FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS**

[https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)

Here you can see a brief summary of all Veterans Administration benefits, common acronyms and all Veterans Administration facilities (hospitals, clinics, Regional Offices, cemeteries and vet centers.)

### **AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE**

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/>

Learn about the registry health exam, related diseases, exposure in Korea, Thailand, C-123 aircraft and Navy or Coast Guard ships in Vietnam.

# Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act

The Blue Water Navy (BWN) Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (PL 116-23), signed into law on June 25, 2019.

Veterans who served on vessels operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, between **January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975** may file a claim for presumptive conditions.

The bill also covers veterans who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone between Sept. 1, 1967, and Aug. 31, 1971, as well as children born to veterans who served in Thailand between January 1962 and May 1975 who have spina bifida.

The law takes effect January 1, 2020. Final decisions will not be made until after January 1, 2020.

Any previously denied Veterans will need to reapply for compensation and may be eligible for a retroactive effective date.

Widows of Veterans that passed of Agent Orange presumptives are also encouraged to file a claim for benefits.

The following are Agent Orange presumptives:

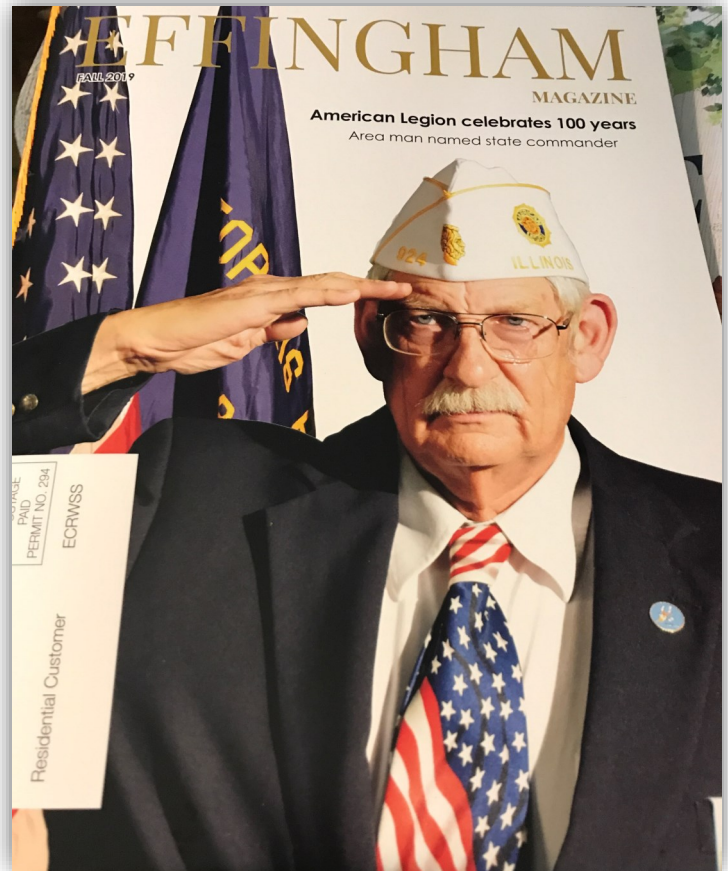
- ◆ **AL Amyloidosis**
- ◆ **Chronic B-cell Leukemia's**
- ◆ **Diabetes Mellitus Type 2**
- ◆ **Hodgkin's Disease**
- ◆ **Ischemic Heart Disease**
- ◆ **Multiple Myeloma**
- ◆ **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**
- ◆ **Parkinson's Disease**
- ◆ **Prostate Cancer**
- ◆ **Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer)**
- ◆ **Soft Tissue Sarcomas**
- ◆ **Porphyria Cutanea Tarda** (must have appeared within one year of exposure to herbicides)
- ◆ **Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)** (must have appeared within one year of exposure to herbicides)

All above health conditions are described in the VA website at the link below.

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions>

Please contact our VA&R staff or your VA benefits representative.

VA&R staff 312-980-4266  
or by email [VAVBACHI.AML@va.gov](mailto:VAVBACHI.AML@va.gov).



## A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION...

Department Commander Roy Weber is featured on the front page along with an nicely written article in the fall edition of the Effingham magazine. The article features the history of the Legion and Commander Weber's history in service.

Several businesses in Effingham celebrated centennial years as well.

*(Dept. Commander continued from page 2)*

I will be attending the National Fall Committee and Commissions' meetings at Indianapolis from October 12-17.

Our first Caravan meeting is October 28th. So keep in mind the posts you would like visited in your Division.

It is not too early to put out the word for Oratorical, Boys State and Youth Police School, at your local schools. Plant the ideas early to have great success and participation next spring. The Americanism Essay and above program flyers are available (or will be in a week or tow) so get a hand full of them to your local schools ASAP for participation.

Remember the membership incentive for \$ 1.00 per member payback if 100% by Nov 11. Be sure to mail those cards early enough to be received before deadline!

**Keep up that  
CAN DO ATTITUDE!!!**





*Commander's Homecoming highlights include Aux. President Sue using her step stool Commander Roy gave her as she gave him his gift; the amazing cupcakes Kate Weber had made for dessert at the Homecoming dinner; the Barbershop Quartet; and SAL Commander Phil giving Roy a beautiful handmade Navy quilt.*



*Down time after the Division Officers Retreat in Carlinville.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Department  
Commission & Committee  
Fall Meetings @ Dept. HQ  
October 5th  
~ ~ ~

2020 National Renewal Date  
October 7th  
~ ~ ~

55% National Target &  
2020 Membership Cutoff Date  
October 9th  
~ ~ ~

ALA--Forum  
Wyoming, IL  
October 12th  
~ ~ ~

1st DIVISION  
Div. & Dist. Officer Training  
October 12th  
Districts: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9  
Morton Grove Post 134  
Morton Grove, IL  
~ ~ ~

National Fall Committee  
& Commission Meetings  
October 14th—17th  
Indianapolis  
~ ~ ~

3rd DIVISION  
Div. & Dist. Officer Training  
October 19th  
Districts: 14, 15, 16, 20  
Bartonville Post 979  
Bartonville, IL  
~ ~ ~

2nd DIVISION  
Div. & Dist. Officer Training  
October 20th  
Districts: 10, 11, 12, 13  
Wauconda Post 911  
Wauconda, IL  
~ ~ ~

ALA--Forum  
Farmer City, IL  
October 26th  
~ ~ ~

5th DIVISION  
Div. & Dist. Officer Training  
October 26th  
Districts: 22, 23, 24, 25  
Effingham Post 120  
Effingham, IL  
~ ~ ~



4th DIVISION  
Div. & Dist. Officer Training  
October 27th  
Districts: 17, 18, 19, 21  
Clinton Post 103, Clinton, IL  
~ ~ ~

1st Caravan Meeting  
October 28th  
~ ~ ~

40% ALA TARGET DATE  
October 31  
~ ~ ~

Halloween  
October 31st  
~ ~ ~

**NOVEMBER IS  
MEMBERSHIP RETENTION  
MONTH**  
~ ~ ~

Legion College  
November 3-8  
Indianapolis  
~ ~ ~

**AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY'S 100TH  
BIRTHDAY  
November 10th**  
~ ~ ~

50% Illinois Target Date  
November 11  
~ ~ ~

**Veteran's Day  
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED  
November 11**  
~ ~ ~

1st 100% Post Cash Award  
(1:00 PM cut-off)  
November 13  
~ ~ ~

65% National Target Date  
November 14  
~ ~ ~

2020 National Renewal Date  
November 15  
~ ~ ~

Egyptian Post Commander's  
Jamboree  
November 15-17  
THE HAVEN  
Carbondale, IL  
~ ~ ~

Thanksgiving Day  
November 28th  
**DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED  
November 28th & 29th**

# Legion updates Auxiliary eligibility criteria from 'wives' to 'spouses'

As American Legion national commander during 2017-2018, Denise Rohan traveled all over the nation visiting American Legion posts. And at many of her stops she heard from female Legionnaires married to non-veterans that there was no place for their spouses in the American Legion Family.

That's no longer the case. During the recent American Legion's 101st National Convention, delegates approved changes to the Constitution and Bylaws to replace the word "wife" with "spouse," related to the membership criteria for the American Legion Auxiliary.

The American Legion, which was chartered by Congress, created the ALA. For that reason, the ALA operates as a separate corporation and does not need congressional approval for an eligibility change. The American Legion's bylaws have always set the eligibility requirements of the ALA.

"We are happy to welcome eligible male spouses of veterans and servicemembers to the American Legion Family," ALA National President Nicole Clapp said. "This is consistent with our longstanding legacy of embracing military families and supporting them any way we can."

The ALA expects to begin taking applications for new potential members Sept. 1.

## The change to Article XIII now reads as such:

*The American Legion recognizes an auxiliary organization, known as The American Legion Auxiliary.*

## Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the:

- 1) *grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and*
- 2) *grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and any time after December 7, 1941, who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;*
- 3) *grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and*
- 4) *to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.*



In August, Denise – a member of American Legion Post 385 and Auxiliary Unit 385 in Verona, Wis. - watched as her fellow U.S. Army veteran husband Mike became a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

# COMMANDER WEBER'S SPECIAL PROJECT

**N**EF grants provide immediate financial assistance for American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members who have been affected by the natural disaster. Legion posts also qualify.

The NEF provides up to \$3,000 for Legion and SAL members with an active membership who have been displaced due to damages to their primary residence, and up to \$10,000 for posts that have been damaged by a natural disaster and whose programs and activities within the community are impacted.

"In these tough times, The American Legion's National Emergency Fund provides much-needed financial support to help American Legion Family members recover from tragedy.

When the federal government shut down last winter, servicemembers in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines continued to receive their paychecks. But on Jan. 15, 2019 members of the U.S. Coast Guard - *which falls under the Department of Homeland Security* - did not get paid.

That's when The American Legion stepped in, delivering **\$1,000,500** in Temporary Financial Assistance grants, assisting 3,120 children of 1,173 active-duty Coast Guardsmen service-members who were financially affected by the shutdown. That total was a record amount for a single-month of TFA grant distribution.

**Illinois Can Help!** Department of Illinois Commander Roy Weber is asking for your assistance by donating, *be it large or small*, to the replenishment of the National Emergency Funds thus ensuring these funds are available for the next persons time of need.

## How Can Illinois Help?

**DONATE  
TO THE NATIONAL  
EMERGENCY FUND**

### TO RAISE MONEY:

NEF relies on donations to help Legionnaires, posts and Sons recover from disaster.

Fundraisers such as motorcycle runs, fish fries or raffles are great ways to gather donations.

Proceeds from fundraisers may be donated to NEF. A full 100 percent of donations to NEF are turned into grants. Donations are not used to cover administrative and promotional costs.

To request a grant, download the form at [www.legion.org/NEF](http://www.legion.org/NEF)

### Contribution Form for Department Commander Weber's Special Project

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL OR POST: \_\_\_\_\_

POST #: \_\_\_\_\_ DIV #: \_\_\_\_\_ DIST #: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Check -or- \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card

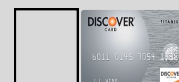
Please Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on my Credit Card



Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_



Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Required)

☆ Please make checks payable to the Department of Illinois earmarked "Commander's Special Project - NEF Donation"

☆ Send contributions to:  
**The American Legion—Dept. of Ill**  
**2720 E. Lincoln St., Bloomington, IL 61704**

**CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**



**WE'RE  
HIRING!**

## Department Employment Opportunity

American Legion Department Headquarter Position available:

### ★ Membership Assistant

Part-time Membership Assistant needed (flexible hours). Contact Department Adjutant Marty Conatser for an employment application and information of duties.



On September 24th thirty-four Illinois veterans began a 5-Day 500-Mile cycling journey to remember 34 Illinois National Guardsmen that lost their lives while on duty.

Day 1 started in Marseilles and ended in Pontiac. Day 2 they left Pontiac heading to Peoria, with a pit stop in Bloomington. They stayed at the Armory in Peoria. Day 3 they left Peoria to head to the Quad Cities, the on day 4 leaving the Quad Cities in their tiny rear view mirrors traveled on to Rockford. The final day, Day 5 was Rockford to St. Charles.

At each stop shouts of **"ALWAYS REMEMBER, NEVER FORGET"** were loud and proud. The cyclists, Gold Star Mission team, and volunteers shouted several times in honor of each local veteran who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their service to our great nation.

The Gold Star Mission, a non-profit organization works to create scholarships in honor of fallen heroes as they raise funds for veterans across the state. "I'd really like to know 10 years from now, that some young lady or some young man is sitting around the kitchen table telling their family they were able to get a scholarship in college," said President & Founder of Gold Star Mission, David Helfrich.

The scholarships are not just for the families of the fallen vets, but for everyone who is willing to apply.

At the stop in Bloomington, Gold Star Mom, Vonda Rodgers said "Our sons went international, and they fought for global freedoms." "Locally we can fight for financial freedoms by contributing dollars. By offering the scholarships, we not only keep our fallen heroes alive, we also promote financial freedom and that's what it is all about."

So far, the Gold Star Mission has given away \$100,000 in scholarship money.

## ALWAYS REMEMBER, NEVER FORGET



Arriving for their 20 minute stop



Riding for our Fallen Heroes



Mother's of local Fallen Heroes



and their off...Ride Safe!



# 83rd Anniversary Haven Jamboree

Sponsored by the:

**Egyptian Past Commanders' Club**

OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, INC.  
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

**EGYPTIAN PAST COMMANDERS**

*AND*

**PAST PRESIDENTS CLUBS**

**November 15-17, 2019**

The E.P.C.C.'s has as its main responsibility, the support and maintenance of THE HAVEN which is located on Crab Orchard Lake, off Route #13, Carbondale, Illinois. THE HAVEN is an important part of the rehabilitation work in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. Our main sources of income are: Donations, Annual Dues, Annual Post Per Capita Assessment, Annual Jamboree Raffle, Special Projects and Poppy Money. *There is no income from any government entity at any level. We are on our own. That is why your support is so important.*

## **JAMBOREE RAFFLE AND DONATIONS**

The operation of THE HAVEN is no small undertaking. With your help, the E.P.C.C. has been able to maintain THE HAVEN since 1950. Participation in the Annual Jamboree Raffle will help support THE HAVEN for another year. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the Jamboree. If you would like to purchase tickets in advance contact: William J. Flanagan/Treasurer, 409 E. Oak St., New Baden, IL 62265.

## **JAMBOREE HOUSING FOR 2019**

We will again enjoy accommodations at the Country Inn and Suites, 1306 Halfway Road, Marion, IL, 62959. Please make your own reservations by calling 1-618-997-2444. Be sure to mention The American Legion block of rooms when making your reservations coded HAVEN JAMBOREE for the weekend of 11/15 through 11/17. Your reservations must be received by October 31, 2019. The rate for the rooms will be \$85.00 plus tax.

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15:**

- 1:00 PM Tour of the Marion Veterans Administration Medical Center.
- 5:00 PM—8:00 PM Evening Steak Fry at The Haven—Cost \$15.00 per person. Reservations needed.

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16:**

- 11:00 A.M. – Sons of the American Legion meeting at The Haven
- 1:00 PM—3:00 PM Open house at The Haven.
- 5:00 PM—6:30 PM Cocktail Hour (*Courtesy of the 5th Division American Legion*) Country Inn & Suites
- 7:00 PM Buffet Style Banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1601 W. White St., Marion.  
Cost \$25.00 per person. Reservations are required.

*The menu will be: Roasted Pork Loin, Chicken Au Vin (wine sauce), Mashed Potatoes, Caesar Salad, Vegetable Medley, rolls w/butter, cheesecake, coffee, tea, water.*

*Directions to the Knights of Columbus Hall will be available at Hotel. Cash bar available.*

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17:**

- 9:00 AM Egyptian Past Presidents Club—Board Meeting at Country Inn and Suites
- 9:30 AM Egyptian Past Presidents Meeting at Country Inn and Suites
- 10:00 AM Annual Meeting of The Egyptian Past Commanders' Club at The Haven

**Send all Reservations to**  
**William Flanagan 409 East Oak St., New Baden, IL 62265**  
**Make one check payable for everything to EPCC**



# Gifts for the Yanks. Place your orders today!



<https://www.orders.giftstotheyanks.org>



S-3XL

## Gifts To The Yanks Jogging Suit

### Crewneck Sweatshirt

- 8.0 oz., 50/50 cotton/polyester
- Seamless body with set-in sleeves
- 1x1 rib collar, cuffs and waistband with spandex
- Double-needle stitched at stress points
- Screen printed with the Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave logo on the left chest

### Sweatpant

- 8.0 oz., 50/50 cotton/polyester
- No side seams
- Two-needle covered waistband with inside drawcord
- Elastic bottom leg openings
- Screen printed with the Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave logo on the left hip

The above product attributes may vary based on availability.

## Gifts to the Yanks Fleece Blanket

- 365 GRAM WHIPSTITCHED 60" X 80" FLEECE BLANKET
- Heavyweight nylon stadium carrying strap Whipstitched edges
- Embroidered with the Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave logo



## Gifts to the Yanks Jacket

- \* PLEASE NOTE: Color may vary between Navy and Royal.
- Embroidered with the Gifts to the Yanks logo on the left chest.

## Gift to the Yanks Veterans Gift Bag

The perfect gift for a veteran where size may be a problem.

Gift bags include:

- hat
- socks
- puzzle book
- deck of cards
- hankies etc.



Men's



Women's



# 2019—2020 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
09/18/2019	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	LINCOLNWOOD POST 1226	LINCOLNWOOD
09/20/2019	10TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	DEERFIELD POST 738	DEERFIELD
09/26/2019	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	PARK FOREST POST 1198	CHICAGO HEIGHTS
10/6/2019	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DUPO POST 485	DUPO
10/13/2019	12TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	BELVIDERE POST 77	BELVIDERE
10/13/2019	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	DELAVAN POST 382	DELAVAN
10/13/2019	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	WATSEKA POST 23	WATSEKA
10/13/2019	20TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	WINCHESTER POST 442	WINCHESTER
10/13/2019	24TH DISTRICT	11:00 AM	FLORA POST 14	FLORA
10/16/2019	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	GEO. W. BENJAMIN POST 791	NORTHBROOK
10/20/2019	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	LIMESTONE POST 979	BARTONVILLE
10/20/2019	4TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	RANTOUL POST 287	RANTOUL
10/20/2019	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	LENA POST 577	LENA
10/20/2019	17TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	SPRING BAY POST 1115	SPRING BAY
10/20/2019	23RD DISTRICT	11:00 AM	EFFINGHAM POST 120	EFFINGHAM
10/20/2019	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MARION POST 147	MARION
10/23/2019	9TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	FRANKLIN PARK POST 974	FRANKLIN PARK
10/24/2019	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	@ THE VETERANS GARAGE, HOSTED BY POST 854	POSEN
10/27/2019	2ND DIVISION	UNKNOWN	GENOA POST 337	GENOA
10/27/2019	14TH DISTRICT	12:00 N	STRONGHURST POST 765	STRONGHURST
11/15/2019	10TH DISTRICT	6:00 PM	GURNEE POST 711	GURNEE
11/13/2019	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
11/15/2019	10TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	GURNEE POST 771	GURNEE
11/20/2019	9TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	DES PLAINES POST 36	DES PLAINES
11/21/2019	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	GLENN MAKER POST 1160	CHICAGO RIDGE



## Halloween Safety Tips:

Pin a piece of paper to your child's costume that features their home or parents' phone number, home address, and to dial 911 for an emergency or 0 for an operator.

- ◆ Don't assume the right of way with traffic and always watch for vehicles backing out of drive-ways.
- ◆ Adhere to trick-or-treating hours in your community.
- ◆ Have fun and be safe!
- ◆ Donate candy

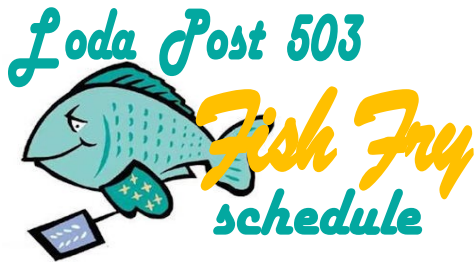
Don't throw away excess Halloween candy! Ask your local American Legion post if they would like it. Many posts will put it in goody bags that they either send to the military men and women serving overseas or provide to homeless or hospitalized veterans.

(AUX. President continued from page 3)

Many Units, Districts and Divisions are working on the planning for their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. There will be celebrations throughout the year and I hope that everyone will be able to attend at least one celebration.

Remember to celebrate and enjoy the fall as nature is displaying her gold. I hope to see many of you during my travels this year.





107 N. 600 East Rd., Loda, Illinois

## October Schedule

**11th**—Friday at Loda Post 503

**25th**—Friday at Loda Post 503

The serving times will be from 4:30PM to 7:30PM on Friday evenings unless specified.

The menu includes Fish (Pollack), Chicken, livers, gizzards, French fries, Baked beans, Green beans (with potatoes, bacon, and onions,) Coleslaw, and Potato salad.

Price (at the Loda location) is **\$8.00** for all you can eat. Children under 8 years old eat free.

## UTICA VETERANS DAY PARADE

**Utica Parade will be held on Sunday, November 3rd**

If you would like to be part of the parade, please let Gene or Marian Thompson know so they can put you in the program for the parade.

Contact Marian @ 815-795-6950. Also let us know if you plan to stay over night before and would like to join the group of us go to dinner. We join in with The Utica American Legion (at our own expense) and they require reservations.

**Special Note:** Overnight will be at The Best Western in Oglesby, Saturday, November 2nd for those who want to stay.

Room rate is \$93 plus tax. Call 815-883-3535  
For a discounted rate mention Gene Thompson  
or the Veterans rate.

The Thompson's host a hospitality  
room at the hotel in room #200

**VOTED THE BEST VETERAN'S DAY PARADE  
IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS**



7 Little Words Answers: 1. UNALTERED 2. BILLIARDS 3. GEAR 4. MAGAZINE 5. ENTRÉE 6. CRIME 7. ANTLERS

## Sons of the American Legion Officer Training NOVEMBER 2, 2019



5th Division @ Salem Post 128

Open to All Squadrons

Lunch provided

**RSVP no later than October 25th  
with Wayne Madson 618-806-1408 or  
email [madsonwsr@gmail.com](mailto:madsonwsr@gmail.com)**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
BLOOMINGTON, IL  
PERMIT No. 18

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY \*

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

Department Commander Department Editor  
ROY WEBER MARTY CONATSER

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

\* One year Subscription to the Department News  
\$10.00 for 11 issues

Newsletter articles must be at Department Headquarters by the  
15th of each month for it to be in the next month's issue.

Department of Illinois ~ Official Member of The National American Legion Press Association



Visit our website!  
Scan Here

## 7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

### CLUES

1 off the rack (9)

2 "rack 'em up" game (9)

3 rack-and-pinon component (4)

4 publication on a rack (8)

5 rack of lamb, perhaps (6)

6 racketeering, for one (5)

7 male deer's rack (7)

### SOLUTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

LTE	LIA	TR	BIL	EE
RDS	NE	ZI	AR	TL
UNA	GE	EN	ME	GA
RED	AN	ERS	MA	CRI

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

ACORN  
APPLE  
AUTUMN  
CHESTNUTS  
CHILLY  
CIDER  
COBWEB  
FALL  
FOOTBALL  
GOURD

HALLOWEEN  
HARVEST  
HAY BALE  
HAYRIDE  
LEAVES  
MAIZE  
NOVEMBER  
NUTS  
OCTOBER  
PUMPKIN

QUILT  
RAKE  
SCARECROW  
SEPTEMBER  
SLEET  
THANKSGIVING



7 Little Words Answers on pg. 15