

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Department News



The American Legion Family



2019–2020 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROY WEBER

NOVEMBER 2019



AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

2020

Membership Caravan

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
NOVEMBER 27, 2019

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
14	Schomer
13	Nichols
15	Schlieper
8	Mitchell
17	Elder
18	Tincher
20	Flowers, Jr.
10	Bucher
23	Owens
1	Radka

Division	Commander
3	GOSNEY
4	SHAPLAND
2	POWROZNIK
1	CALLAWAY
5	PICOU



National Vice Commander
Richard A. Heigert



Department Commander
Roy Weber



Department Auxiliary President
Sue Cunniff-Coughlin



SAL Detachment Commander
Phil Stander

The Illinois American Legion is pleased to announce that National Vice Commander Richard A. Heigert, will be our special guest during the 2020 Legion Family Membership Caravan. Find a stop near you to hear his encouraging message during the Illinois American Legion Family Caravan. We all look forward to seeing you ALL!



From The Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber



Congratulations to those POSTS that made 100% of membership by the Nov. 13th deadline. Checks will be sent out to those Posts. December the 31st is the next date to receive \$0.75 per member if your post is at 100%. There are over 50 POSTS that can reach that goal with just a few members to retain or sign up new. Our POST Commanders should be visiting or calling those members.

The Department of Illinois Membership seems to have a disconnect within its membership this year. We are behind in percentage more than many

previous years. Our membership teams **MUST** engage with **POST** visits and utilize the training they have received! If you don't understand the membership program, Please ASK someone that does.

Membership Retention is truly the life of our Great Organization. Only 7% of our POSTS are at 100%, I am asking for you all to get out there and renew our current and recruit our newly eligible Veterans before the snow flies and travel is rough. Remember we **CAN DO!**

REMINDER...If your dues are not paid before December 31st your legion benefits will expire too. You don't want to be caught in an emergency where The American Legion cannot help due to expired membership.

The American Legion is more than paying your dues, the benefits of your

membership offers back to you and/or your family is ...i.e. NEF, TFA, Support, Community Activities, Scholarships, and much, much more.

Speaking of, now is the time to get the Essays contests going in your area schools. Meet with Counselors and remind them about our Essay Contest, Oratorical Program, Boys State and Girls State as well as Youth Law Enforcement Program. All of these mentioned programs have scholarships opportunities, also be mindful of their deadlines.

Remember December 7th to commemorate the attacks that brought us into WWII. I know there are few survivors but we must always remember and never forget.

(Dept. Commander continued on page 7)

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



My fellow Legionnaires, we are now less than 30 days from the end of our 2019 year and we need everyone reading this, including all American Legion Post; County; District; and Division Officers within the Department of Illinois.

"MEMBERSHIP NEEDS EVERYONE'S ATTENTION AND ACTION, NOW!!!"

Yes, that is where we are at now in terms of turning our Membership around. Currently we are at over 2,000 Legionnaires behind than last year. We cannot let this year be another year of decline. But rather than talk about the

decline in membership, let's focus on stopping the losses and solicit help from **ALL** current officers from the top down including our Past Department Commanders.

Here are a couple of efforts **WE**, and I mean all of us, need to step up and focus on in December:

Reach out to all Posts that are on our delinquent **"30, 60, 90 Days Report"**. This report lists by all Posts with-in the District that fall into any one of these 3 Periods. This has already been forwarded to all District and Division Commanders asking them and their Membership Team, to reach out to these Posts **ASAP!!!!** Today I received a text from a Division Jr. Vice stating that a Post he had reached out to will be sending in 50 Renewals. And, there are more out there, maybe not with 50 cards, but with cards that need to be sent in, so those Legionnaires do

not get another Dues Notice from National even though they paid their Post dues.

Soon, all Posts will have received a letter from our Membership Director, Chad Woodburn, if they are 6 or fewer renewals from 100%. At last year's "Close of Books" we had a tremendous number of Posts within 5 members of 100%. This listing was handed out at our Division & District Officers Membership Seminars. If you were not able to attend because of previous commitments, please contact your Division Commander as they will have that list for you. Today, we are fewer than 50 Posts @ 100%.

The bottom line here is that we need an all-out coordinated Membership Push to get out Membership back on

(Dept. SVC continued on page 7)



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Sue Cunniff Coughlin



Season's Greetings Legionnaires!

The month of November was a busy month honoring Veterans. The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is a weeklong annual event that celebrates veterans, highlights their talents, and promotes the benefits of arts therapy for individuals recovering from or coping with physical and emotional disabilities. It is co-presented by the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). At the beginning of November, I finally had the opportunity to attend the Festival in Kalamazoo

Michigan. It was truly amazing! The majority of the award winning writers, artists and performers were present. The art was just unbelievable! The artists were happy to talk about their experiences, their art, sign autographs and some even took pictures with us. They were all very humble about their work as they made themselves vulnerable to the public through their art. The writers each had copies of their work and they too were very willing to share their experiences. There was a three-hour performance by veterans that you would have thought was a Hollywood production! If you have the opportunity to attend this event, please check it out. I am sure you will find it amazing too.



Veterans Day was a snowy day across our state. Regretfully, many of the events scheduled were cancelled or moved inside. I had the honor of attending Collinsville's Veterans Day. Thankfully, I was there the day before the snow or I would never have made it. Later that week, I had the wonder-

(ALA President continued on page 5)



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander



Greetings American Legion Family.

I'd like to extend a BIG Welcome to East Moline Squadron 227.

On 11/11/2019 it was an honor for me to have the opportunity to address those present for the Post's Veterans Day Celebration. I presented the new Squadron with their Charter and two of the younger members posted the Squadron colors for the first time.

On 11/22/2019 Second Division Commander, George Koop and I visited the Maple Park post and picked up their charter application and cards to send to National for their Squadrons Charter.



way to assist you in getting a Squadron started at your post.

I trust that everyone had a good Thanksgiving. I have heard of many ways The American Legion Family celebrates with those that cannot go home for the Holidays. Thank you to all of you that make this possible. Don't forget to post those photos and details on Snapshots of Service and Legion Town.

With the cold weather arriving remember to check on the sick and elderly. Make sure they stay warm and have the supplies they need to get through the winter.

I'd like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

The Sons of the American Legion Thank you all!

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

The Son's are working hard on retaining current members and expanding our support for the American Legion. 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 or Myself pstander@att.net. We will help in any





MERRY CHRISTMAS

*Holiday Wishes From
The American Legion Department Staff
and VA&R Staff*

*Department Commander Roy Weber
Department Sh. Vice Commander Wayne Fischer*

*Marty Conatser
Christy Rich
Terry Abdelnour
Terry Lynn Yielding
Joy Wilson
David Scott Jr.*

*Carolina Contreras
Joy Jenkanchang
Jason Girard*

*Chad Woodburn
Dee Dalton
Marsha Nalley
Tina Abdelnour
Dorothy Wagner*

*Ray Toczek
Marlene Kuhl
Bill Slider*



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

We held many Christmas Gift Shops at our VA facilities. I was able to attend a few and I was thrilled to see that the volunteers were from the various parts of our American Legion Family. I

am looking forward to attending a few more in December along with some Gifts to the Yanks events. One of the highlights of the Christmas Gift Shops was at the Captain James A. Lovell facility. We were able to sign Santa up in the American Legion Auxiliary! Thank you to Terry Waddell-Moenter for your service in the Air Force and for signing up your husband John Moenter (*Santa*).



The American Legion Family Membership Caravan will be visiting your area in January. Please be sure to attend a stop near you. Please invite the members of your American Legion Auxiliary Units, SAL Squadrons and Riders to attend. This is a Family event and I look forward to seeing many of you at our stops.

As the holiday season is reaching the end, if you are still looking for gifts to give, think about giving your eligible family members or friends a gift of membership in the Legion, Auxiliary or SAL. Share with them the wonderful benefits we get from our membership.

Here is a quote from Agnes M. Pharo that is appropriate for our theme this year. "What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace."

The members of the American Legion Auxiliary and myself wish everyone a wonderful and blessed holiday season and a happy and healthy new year!

CONGRATULATIONS to all who made 100% by the Veteran's Day cut-off. Those recognized below received the Post Cash Award.

Post	Dist.	Post Name
79	17	LeRoy
82	25	Valier
123	4	Leroy A. McCullough
229	14	Viola
325	23	Diesen - Winkler
343	1	Hellenic
347	25	Carterville
388	3	South Shore
422	5	Berwyn
433	19	Sidney
473	2	Lincoln Square
499	18	Gilman
501	10	Highwood
503	18	Loda
511	13	Paw Paw
529	11	Big Rock
553	13	Baughman-Diehl
565	22	New Athens
574	13	Tampico
609	18	Westfield
629	14	Hamilton
632	20	Harrell Mager
641	17	Roberts
663	12	Gardner
700	18	Thawville
702	22	Marine
711	14	Nauvoo
737	17	Kempton
751	20	Manchester
848	17	Chestnut - Beason
875	16	Neponset
877	18	Beaverville
961	22	Fairmont City
976	23	Bartelso
990	8	Posen
1049	19	Weldon
1072	13	Stillman Valley
1145	25	Percy
1147	22	Alhambra
1189	19	Waynesville
1224	13	Cedarville
1225	13	McConnell
1269	20	San Jose
1944	11	Walter E Truemper
1971	14	Eliza
2019	19	Shawna M Morrison Collegiate



That the topic of this article was first published in December of 2012. Many new readers to the Department newsletter have joined so I thought it is worth repeating with a few updates. The first five

suggestions on how to avoid Red Tape were in last month's article. Here are the remaining five.

SIX: Wait a reasonable time and follow up. Find out the averaging processing time a claim of your type will take to process and then contact the VA if you haven't heard anything. The claims process includes a series of letters from the VA asking for additional information, clarification of certain evidence and your "due process" rights. If the VA sends you these letters and no response is received, the claim could be closed. Periodic status checks on your claim can avoid this problem. Back when I worked at the VA we didn't have many of the computer programs that are now in place. To answer a callers' question we would have to get the claims file, review it and get back to the caller. This sometimes took 7-10 days. Today, thanks to the VA's VBMS (Veterans Benefits Management System) when a caller contacts the National Call Center (1-800-827-1000) asking about their claim, the VA employee can instantly access their file, see the last letter issued, print out a duplicate if needed, see what the issues are on the claim and see what evidence has been received and what is still needed.

SEVEN: Pay attention to time limits. If your VA letter states you have 30 or 60 days to file or respond-believe it! Hundreds of claims get delayed or denied yearly simply because evidence or information was not received on time. If you wait too long, an entirely new claim may have to be filed. If you are a procrastinator and drop your response in the mailbox on the last day it's due, there could be delays. If that day is Friday, the mail might not be picked up till Monday and not even postmarked until Tuesday. And by the time its delivered to the VA several more days may pass and the time limit is over. On the other side of the coin when the VA gives "due process" and allows 60 days for a reply if you respond and tell the VA to take immediate action they don't have to wait the entire sixty days and can move on with your claim.

EIGHT: Keep notes. If you visit or call the VA get the name of the person who assisted you or answered your question, the date of the contact and the advice given. Due to the NCC (National Call Centers) you may not always be able to deal with the same VA person each time. But knowing who you dealt with before can sometimes make the job easier for

the next VA employee who tries to help you. Notes are especially important if you need to file a complaint. A complaint about "someone" telling you to do something a certain way will carry less weight that if you say "On January 15th. Mr. Toczec advised me to submit VA form 21-986 to your processing center in St. Paul". With the specifics VA supervisors can get back to their employees and refresh them on procedural errors.

NINE: Know and use your appeal rights. All VA decisions (except for certain doctor's decisions on the course of treatment) can be appealed. All VA denials include an attachment spelling out the appeal process. With the new AMA (Appeals Management Act) there are now three ways or levels you can choose. It can get confusing. No government agency is 100% perfect and mistakes can be made. If your case is one of those "mistakes" and you don't appeal it, the only one who loses is you. And remember, if you have given the American Legion your Power-of-Attorney, one of our trained and accredited service officers will assist you without charge.

TEN: Share your knowledge. Once your claim has been satisfactorily processed, consider yourself a "mini-expert" in that area. If you know of someone else who might be in need of the same benefit share the experience you had with the VA. It is human nature for someone to more readily accept advice from a friend or relative than an informal government employee. And don't forget your staff at the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation office in Chicago is willing to assist them in all aspects of the claim.

There you have it. Between last month's article and this one you have ten concrete suggestions. There is no guarantee these steps will alleviate all problems and delays, but they are bound to improve most situations. These ideas will help you smoothly navigate the byways of what sometimes can seem a daunting process.

December 31st
85%
TARGET DATE



The Department of Illinois is well represented at the Naperville

Marines 244th USMC Birthday Ball

Our Illinois Department Commander, Roy Weber and wife Kate were special guests. They along with our Sr. Vice, Wayne Fischer and wife Iris attended the 244th USMC Birthday Ball in Naperville on Saturday November 9th with 270 guests attending. Wayne is the "XO" of the Naperville Marines that have hosted this "Ball" for 46 years. While it is a formal event, the evening is complete with many Marine Corps "Traditions" including where we honor each of our Service Branches, with obviously the focus being on our fellow Marines. Once all the formal festivities are over, the dancing starts. November 10th of every year is our official Birthday, but to make it easy for many to attend, we always do the Naperville Marines Ball on the Saturday prior to November 10th.

To All Marines- "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful)

**USAA is Proud to Serve
The American Legion**

**Discover what a FREE USAA membership can do for you
www.usaa.com/legion or call 877-699-2654 to learn more.**

I SERVED FOR *the open road*

GET A QUOTE

You could save by bundling
home and auto insurance



We've joined forces with The American Legion to help support their mission and programs. When you join USAA, you become part of an extended, military-based family that can be passed down from generation to generation.

(Dept. Commander continued from page 2)

I enjoyed attending the Louisville Post 914's Veterans Day event. The weather turned sour and we moved into the Post as the ground turned white with snow and became slick. Unfortunately the Monticello Veterans Night Parade had to be called off due to the extreme cold and snow also.

The Haven Jamboree was a success again this year. National Vice Commander Richard A. Heigart had a tour of the VA, enjoyed a steak dinner and visiting with Illinois Legionnaires over the weekend. It was great to see many attending from outside the 5th Division. "Our Jewel, in Little Egypt" is a great place for our Veterans from the VA and around the area to go relax and have a change from the clinical atmosphere.

We also look forward to have Richard Heigart on our American Legion Family Membership Caravan in January.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday. My wife, Kate and I wish you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas and Safe Happy New Year.



(Dept. SVC continued from page 2)

track by the end of December focusing on "Non-renewals" and Posts that may be sitting on cards already paid for and those that are very close to 100%. By now every Division and District should have their Membership Team in place. They can lead the charge, but it is up to all of us to work with them and take positive action now!!!! We cannot afford to "Wait and see what Happens"!!!!

Commander Roy's charge is **"Can Do"!!!!** Let's all be on the Winning side of that. And there is more to come in January 2020. **Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!**

We plan to see many of you during the Caravan in January.



Veteran's Day Service held at American Legion Post 914 Louisville on November 11. Pictured (above left) are Jr. Miss Clay County Fair Queen Emma Keeling and Little Miss Clay County Fair Queen Jaci Tolliver who presented a wreath to honor all veterans. MC of Ceremonies Roy Smith (top right) and special guest speaker Department Roy Weber (bottom right).



YOUR N.E.F. AT WORK

McConnell American Legion Post 1225 sent a photo and thank you note to the Department of Illinois saying "Thank You for submitting paperwork to the National Emergency Fund for a grant to assist us in the clean-up efforts from the March floods. We replaced the floor, added wood work and painted the entire inside." (pictured above) "We cannot express our thanks as graciously as some. We won't forget your thoughtfulness for a long, long time to come."

With Sincere Gratitude, The Membership of McConnell American Legion Post 1225

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SAL Winter D.E.C.
Miles Sq. 569
December 7
~ ~ ~

75% National Target Date
AND
2020 Membership Cut-off Date
December 11
~ ~ ~

Christmas Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
December 25 & 26
~ ~ ~

50% ALA Target Date
December 30
~ ~ ~

85% Illinois Target Date
AND
2nd 100% Post Cash Award
(cut-off 1:00 PM)
December 31
~ ~ ~

New Year's Eve
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
December 31
~ ~ ~

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New Year's Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
January 1
~ ~ ~

2020 Membership Renewal Date
January 3
~ ~ ~

National M & PA Meetings
Indianapolis, IN
January 10 & 11
~ ~ ~

80% National Target Date
January 15
~ ~ ~

Illinois American Legion
Family Membership Caravan
January 16—25
~ ~ ~

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
January 20
~ ~ ~

90% Illinois Target Date
AND
3rd 100% Post Cash Award

AND
Cut-off for Lincoln Pilgrimage
(cut-off 1:00 PM)
January 31
~ ~ ~

4 Chaplain's Sunday
February 2
~ ~ ~

Americanism Essay Contest
Deadline (*1st Friday in Feb.*)
February 7th
~ ~ ~

60% ALA Target Date
February 10
~ ~ ~

Lincoln Pilgrimage
Springfield, IL
February 11 & 12
~ ~ ~

80% National Target Date
February 12
~ ~ ~

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

February 14
~ ~ ~

President's Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
February 17
~ ~ ~

2020 National Renewal Date
February 26
~ ~ ~

Department of Illinois
Oratorical Contest
Crowne Plaza—Springfield, IL
March 7
Semi-Finals @ 9:00 AM
Finals @ 2:30 PM
(Contestant Orientation held March 6th)
~ ~ ~

Washington Conference
AND
DSO Training
Washington DC
March 8-11
~ ~ ~

90% NATIONAL TARGET DATE
March 11
~ ~ ~

American Legion's
101st Birthday
March 16
~ ~ ~

ALA Patriotic Conference
Bloomington
March 20-21



93rd Annual Patriotic Conference

Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
201 Broadway, Normal IL

Mark your calendars for **Thursday AND Friday, March 19 and 20, 2020!**
The American Legion Auxiliary is having a 100th Birthday Celebration!

Invite The American Legion Family and your friends to attend with you.
ALL members of The American Legion Family and guests are welcome!

On Thursday, March 19th we will kick off the celebration at Department Headquarters with an open house and plenty of birthday cake to go around. Come tour Department Headquarters, see how poppies are made, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments and meet National President Nicole Clapp! Watch for the RSVP snip sheet and more information in the Jan/Feb issue of ALA Today.

Friday, March 20th the Patriotic Conference will begin at 9:00a.m. Come enjoy fascinating speakers, displays, raffles and the luncheon. There are lots of Birthday Surprises planned so you don't want to miss it!

Hotel: Room rate for the Conference is \$134.00 plus tax. **DEADLINE DATE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS FEBRUARY 27, 2020.** Call the hotel at 1-888-236-2427 to make your room reservation. Be sure to mention you are with the ALA Patriotic Conference to receive the discounted rate.

Remember to look for more information and snip sheets in the Jan/Feb ALA Today.

**Come Celebrate 100 Years of Service with
the American Legion Auxiliary!!!**



ALA DEPT. HQ IS HIRING

The Auxiliary Department Headquarters is currently accepting resumes for a full time Administrative Assistant. Previous office/computer experience is required. Must have experience in the MicroSoft Office Suite of Word, Excel, Publisher, and Power Point. Knowledge of QuickBooks is helpful, as well as knowledge of the organization. Send resume to: **American Legion Auxiliary, Attn: Karen Boughan, P.O. Box 1426, Bloomington, IL 61702.**

**The American Legion Auxiliary is an
Equal Opportunity Employer**

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

2020 AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

American Legion Department of Illinois

4 Pillars Pin

You can Help by showing your support for The American Legion Family Programs



(This stylish pin will be a 1.5" inch dual plated gold & silver 3D pin with gold and blue stones inserted in each pillar. Auxiliary & SAL on front, Youth Police and Boy Scouts on back)



\$100 each

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

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IL State Veterans Homes
- ★ **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**
Child Welfare Foundation
- ★ **BOY SCOUTS**
- ★ **YOUTH POLICE SCHOOL**

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

2020 American Legion Family ~ 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 _____

Schedule for the 2020 Illinois American Legion Family Membership Caravan

2020 Illinois American Legion Family Caravan

JANUARY	DIVISION	DISTRICT	LOCATION	MEAL
Thurs 16 Jan.	3	16	Wenona	Dinner
Friday 17 Jan.	4	17	Spring Bay	Breakfast
	3	15	Colona	Lunch
	2	13	Morrison	Dinner
Sat 18 Jan.	2	12	Sandwich	Breakfast
	2	11	Geneva*	Lunch
	2	10	Deerfield	Dinner
Sun 19 Jan.	1	9	Des Plaines	Breakfast
	1	8	Hazel Crest	Lunch
	1	7	Morton Grove	Hors devours
Mon 20 Jan.	★ CARAVAN DAY OFF ★ CARAVAN DAY OFF ★ CARAVAN DAY OFF ★			
Tues 21 Jan.	3	14	Macomb	Dinner
Wed 22 Jan.	3	20	Jacksonville	Dinner
Thur 23 Jan.	4	19	Neoga	Lunch
	4	18	Marshall	Dinner
Fri 24 Jan.	5	23	Newton	Breakfast
	5	24	Flora	Lunch
	5	25	Herrin	Dinner
Sat 25 Jan.	4	21	Staunton	Lunch
	5	22	Columbia	Dinner

Springfield Post 32, The American Legion

1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853

www.springfieldamericanlegion.com spfldpost32@outlook.com

86th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln February 11 and 12, 2020

The 86th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln will be held in Springfield, Illinois, on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Springfield Post 32, Auxiliary Unit 32, and The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 32 extend a most cordial invitation to you to attend and participate.

National Commander **Bill Oxford**, National President **Nicole Clapp**, SAL National Commander **Doug Bolt**, our Illinois Department Commander **Roy Weber**, our Department President **Sue Cunniff Coughlin** and our Detachment Commander **Phil Stander**, will be attending and participating in the activities. Additionally, many other Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and state and local dignitaries will be in attendance to honor President Abraham Lincoln on this very special day.

Please Note: The 86th Annual Pilgrimage Headquarters Hotel is different this year. The President Abraham Lincoln Doubletree Hotel will be the Headquarters Hotel for this year's Pilgrimage to Mr. Lincoln's Tomb. It is located directly across the street from last year's location (7th and Adams in Springfield). Room rates are \$105.00 plus tax per night, single or double occupancy, and the rate includes free parking. Call 217-544-8800 to reserve rooms (press 0 when prompted). If you register by phone, please tell the clerk that you are reserving a room for the American Legion Lincoln Pilgrimage to receive this special rate. You can also register online (preferred): https://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/S/SPIASDT-ALP-20200210/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG. All hotel reservations must be made by January 19, 2020.

The Pilgrimage Commemoration begins on Tuesday evening, February 11, 2020 with The American Legion Family Leadership Reception, 4:30 – 6:00 PM at the President Abraham Lincoln Doubletree Hotel. Come and greet our National Officers, meet old friends and make new ones. From 5:00 PM – 1:00 AM everyone will journey to an Open House at Springfield Post 32, 1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield. A **FREE SHUTTLE** will run continuously between the Headquarters Hotel and Post 32 from 5:00 PM – 1:00 AM. A delicious Buffet Dinner service will be available at the Mess Hall Restaurant between 4:30 and 8:30 PM. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling the Mess Hall Restaurant at 217-523-3415 or email: spfldpost32@outlook.com.

A FREE open juke box will play your favorites from 8:00 to 11:00 PM.

The following program is planned for Wednesday, February 12, 2020:

- 8:00 AM The American Legion Family Breakfast with our National Commander Bill Oxford, our National President Nicole Clapp (Keynote Speaker), and SAL National Commander, Doug Bolt.
- 10:00 AM Pilgrimage departs the Hotel for journey to Abraham Lincoln's Tomb
- 10:30 AM Ceremonies and Placing of the Wreaths inside Mr. Lincoln's Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois
- 12:30 PM Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon with Distinguished Guests and National Commander Bill Oxford as the keynote speaker at the Headquarters Hotel.

Breakfast tickets are \$25.00 each and luncheon tickets are \$35 each with tax and tip included. Luncheon tables of eight will be assigned or may be reserved by sending your check for \$280.00 to the address given below. All other seating is "open seating". If you are from Illinois, please indicate your Illinois District Number on all luncheon reservations. **Checks should be made out to Springfield Post 32, The American Legion.** Tickets, reservations and further information please write to American Legion Lincoln Day Pilgrimage, ATTN: Barb Lush, Ticket Chairman, 1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853. Phone: 217-523-3415. Post 32 email is: spfldpost32@outlook.org. **Please Note:** all meal checks and or reservations must be received or canceled by **February 4, 2020**. No refunds can be made after that date. Please make your reservations early to guarantee your reservations.

We sincerely hope that you will join us as we honor our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, on his birthday in his "Hometown", and that you make time to visit the beautiful **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum**, located only three short blocks from the Headquarters Hotel. The Museum and Library will offer their Group Rate to our attendees. You need only show your membership card on February 10, 11 or 12, 2020.

Respectfully, Robert M. Wesley, General Chairman

COMMANDER WEBER'S SPECIAL PROJECT

NEF 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

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

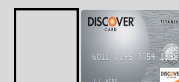
Please Charge \$ _____ on my Credit Card



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

2019—2020 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
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	7:00 PM	DES PLAINES POST 36	DES PLAINES
11/21/2019	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	GLENN MAKER POST 1160	CHICAGO RIDGE
12/08/2019	5TH DIVISION	11:00 AM	SHAWNEETOWN POST 585	SHAWNEETOWN
12/06/2019	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	HOLIDAY HOP @ GLENN MAKER POST 1160	CHICAGO RIDGE
12/18/2019	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	RIVER GROVE POST 335	RIVER GROVE
01/05/2020	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MCLEANSBORO POST 106	MCLEANSBORO
01/12/2020	20TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	PLEASANT HILL POST 1048	PLEASANT HILL
01/12/2020	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	RAMSEY POST 460	RAMSEY
01/12/2020	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	NASHVILLE POST 110	NASHVILLE
01/12/2020	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	@ THE HAVEN	
01/15/2020	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	SESTERHENN POST 166 @ MORTON GROVE	MORTON GROVE
01/22/2020	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	MOUNT PROSPECT POST 525	TBA
01/23/2020	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	REHFELDT-MEYER POST 474	MATTESON





During the Cold Temperatures


PLEASE don't forget to check on our

comarades who are alone or can not get out!





Take a few minutes

to make sure they are

warm and have food



Loda Post 503

107 N. 600 East Rd., Loda, IL

December Schedule

⇒ **6th**—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 (w/ potatoes, bacon & onions) Coleslaw, and Potato salad. Price is **\$10.00** for all you can eat. Children under 8 years old eat free.



Gone but Not Forgotten....During the Veteran's Day Celebration at Paxton High School several members of Loda Post 503 presented the plaque (pictured above) to the family of Delmar A. Ronna.

Delmar was an active member of Loda Post 503 for 74 years until his recent passing. He served in the United States Army from November 1942 to December 1945 obtaining the rank of Tech Corporal. Delmar was a trained anti aircraft gunner serving in Guadalcanal-18 months, New Guinea-4 months, Philippines- 1year. After the war ended he was assigned to the Civil Investigation Department as an MP.

"Delmar may be gone but he will never be forgotten for his great service to both the US Army and the American Legion," stated Ron Dudley Post Commander. The plaque will respectfully reside at the Loda American Legion 503 for all to see.

Pictured L-R: Roy Hilgendorf, Jeff Johnson, Mike Adwell (Post Chaplain), Don Ronna (son of Delmar Ronna who is shown holding the plaque that was presented to the Ronna Family and serves as Post Jr Vice Commander), Ron Dudley (Post Commander) and Jim Ehmen (Post Sr. Vice Commander).

Hiram Brownell, Past Commander of Post 1276 shared some pictures of the Deer Creek Middle School students learning the history of the flag and the correct way to fold it. Post 1276 and Post 318 members were instructing and assisting.



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Department Commander ROY WEBER
Department Editor MARTY CONATSER

Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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15th of each month for it to be in the next month's issue.

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Scan Here

NOVEMBER TRIVIA

1. How did the army of Persian king Xerxes I cross the Hellespont—the strait between Europe and Asia—in 480 B.C.?
2. How many oarsmen were carried aboard triremes—the fast-moving warships that helped the Greeks rule the Mediterranean during the fifth century B.C.?
3. For who was Italian dictator Benito Mussolini named?
4. How did the Dutch in Amsterdam mobilize to defeat the invading Spanish during the winter of 1572-73?

ANSWERS:

1. On two bridges of boats. Alexander the Great duplicated the feat 146 years later.
2. 170—They were seated at banks of 31, 27, and 27 oars on each side of the ship.
3. Mexican liberator Benito Juarez.
4. The ice-locked Dutch routed the Spanish on skates.



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

BELLS	RUDOLPH	ELVES	JOY
CANDLES	SANTA	FROSTY	MERRY
CANDY CANE	SEASON	GIFT	MISTLETOE
CARDS	SLEIGH	GIVING	NOEL
CELEBRATE	STOCKING	GREETINGS	NORTH POLE
CHIMNEY	TREE	HOLIDAY	REINDEER
CHRISTMAS	WREATH	JOLLY	