



NOVEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP RETENTION MONTH

Membership Retention Tips

WAYS TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERS

From "101 Ways To Keep Your Members"

Compiled by Mark Levin, CAE President, B.A.I., Inc.

Retention is a year-round priority and needs our attention to be successful.

There's no better way to succeed than to follow those that already did.

Below are tips to help you retain your post membership. You'll find the description for each tip @ www.legion.org/membership/retentiontips



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2019

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
14	Schomer
13	Nichols
8	Mitchell
18	Tincher
17	Elder
10	Bucher
15	Schlieper
20	Flowers, Jr.
16	Nighsonger
2	Hippert

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

1. Have a program, not a campaign.
2. Recognize members who reach milestone membership anniversaries.
3. Start a regular column in your newsletter to thank members for their involvement.
4. Provide and encourage the use of The American Legion Emblem.
5. When important issues come up, call some inactive members for their opinions.
6. Accept credit and debit cards for dues payments.
7. Send an audio CD with your regular publications.
8. Create an annual slogan or theme for membership each year.
9. Recognize your members as often as possible.
10. Get members involved at SOME level. Involved members don't drop.
11. Publish an annual report in the local media. Thank the community for their support and send a copy to members.
12. Set up car pools to get people to meetings, especially new members.
13. Set up a speaker's bureau: Speak at other organizations' meetings.
14. Be sure non-members pay a higher fee than members for programs and functions.
15. Remind members how much money they have saved by participating in programs and functions at the member rate.
16. Keep members' names and addresses current and accurate it's the best sign of a caring organization.
17. Make sure you capture e-mail addresses whenever possible.
18. If you ask a member to do a volunteer job, make sure it's a WORTHWHILE job!
19. Call your annual dues an investment rather than dues.
20. Assign an officer to contact a certain number of inactive members each month - just a little say Hi! call.
21. Bring a list of inactive members to a post meeting and have members contact them.
22. Get spouses active - it assures renewal.
23. Bring in National speakers to describe how National adds benefits to state/local membership.
24. Hold leadership-training programs - give your members the tools to be successful volunteers.
25. Create a new member welcoming committee.
26. Send a New Member Newsletter to first year members during their first year.

(Retention Tips continued on page 14)

From The Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber



November 11th. Get your renewals and their cards in right away to be counted.

Remember November is Membership Retention month.

There are several District & Division meetings the next 2 months. Make every attempt to attend those in your area. Committee reports are given with updated information about our progress. Our blue cappers need to know. Please ask questions on what you do not understand.

Veterans Day is near and I encourage all Legionnaires to plan, participate or attend the events in your communities. I have plans to attend the Louisville, Monticello or Utica events, hope to see you there.

The Haven Jamboree is on November 15, 16 and 17. Come join in the celebra-

tion with the Friday evening Steak Fry, Tour of the VA Hospital, Saturday evening banquet and comradery all weekend. All are welcome. Get your reservations in ASAP.

Also get your orders in ASAP for Gifts to the Yanks our comrades are counting on us.

The first Caravan Meeting will be held the 28th of October. Let's get excited about the visit to Posts for membership in January!

By now all of you have seen the new 4 Pillars Pin. I ask for you to support this pin as you did the 2019 pin. Each year a new pin will be designed with new programs to support. This year \$25 each goes to Auxiliary—to support IL Veterans Homes, SAL—

(Dept. Commander continued on page 7)

Legionnaires another month has gone by like the wind.

October was a very busy month with revitalizations, training & meetings in Indianapolis with our National Leadership, their staff and fellow department commanders. The 1st Div.-Dist. Training went smoothly as did the 2nd and 3rd. Now we must put into action the plans we've ALL made. Concentrate and use all the tools we discussed to increase our membership, one we all pledged to do. Start with exceeding the target date percentages. And speaking of, we have a 50% Target Date on

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



dy to at least remind them what they can enjoy.

Also, by the time your read this we will have completed our Division and District Officers Leadership Training in each of our 5 Divisions. Unfortunately, not every Officer made these sessions, but the information shared and the involvement of everyone attending will enable us to continue build our American Legion into another successful Century building on our "4-Pillars" of Service. For those that missed these Training Seminars, get with your Division Commander. They can bring you up to date.

At these meetings we challenged each Division to establish District Membership Teams composed of the 3 Officers within each District, plus anyone else that wants to be part of our Membership Push for the future. The Division Senior Vice Commander will lead this campaign supported by his Division Commander and Junior Vice

Commander. This is not a one-person campaign. It will take the Division and District Officers to take this push to our County organizations and to every Post within their District. We must "**Multiply our Efforts**" to insure we focus on our "**4-Pillars**". Our Commander Roy's "**CAN DO**" motto for this year sets our mind and our focus as a Team of Legionnaires to start building our 2nd Century of Success-**NOW!!!!**

Finally, let's also get the word out on our "**Pre-Holiday, Headquarters Post 2910 Membership Drive**" that is in effect now thru 21 November 2019. Details are with your Division and District Officers as we discussed this in depth at our Training Meetings. To reach our 2019-20 Membership Goal of 77,082 this "**Membership Drive**" is intended to bring in 3,880 of these Post 2910 members into our Posts. In addition, there is a \$5.00 per member incentive. Again, check with

(Dept. SVC continued on page 6)

My Fellow Legionnaires, in less than 2 months, we will be at the end of our year, 2019. Our 100th Anniversary Year is now behind us and we look forward to building even a bigger; more focused; and successful American Legion starting in 2020 because we are moving forward and not always looking back to see what happened. "**If we keep looking back, we will not have time to look and move forward**". With that said, **RENEWALS** are **MANDATORY** so all our members can maintain their American Legion Benefits. We want all our Legionnaires to be current as of the end of this 2019 year. Those that are not, will not be eligible for American Legion Benefits. It is our job, to insure our "**non-renewed**" members get the word thru a Post Bud-

From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Sue Cunniff Coughlin



Happy Veterans Day Legionnaires!

We have finished our Fall Forums. Thank you to the Units and their Legion Families in Wyoming and Farmer City for hosting the meetings in October. We appreciate everyone's hospitality and the work that went into hosting the events. Unfortunately October ended on a sad note as we attended the funeral of Past Department President Irene Lofton. We will all miss her very much and will keep her memory in our hearts for many years to come.

This year seems to be just flying by.

It's hard to believe that November is already here, but the quickly changing weather is definitely telling us to get ready for the cold.

November is a month for Celebration and one we should especially give thanks. We start by Celebrating the American Legion Auxiliary's 100th Birthday on November 10th!!!

Then the 11th is VETERANS DAY, this is a special day to honor our veterans, both past and present, of the Armed Services. Our country's greatness is built on the foundation of your courage and sacrifice. We Thank you for your service, as well as our eligibility into the American Legion Auxiliary and all you do for our communities.

I am excited about attending various Veterans Day remembrances across the

state and attending some local Post homes hosting a Thanksgiving dinner for our troops. I hope to see many of you at these events.

When we ended the year in July 2019, The American Legion membership was about 74,000 members. The Auxiliary ended with only about 24,000 members. It seems that we should be near the same amount of members or even more. I am sure all Legionnaires have mothers, spouses, daughters, sisters, or other eligible members. Probably many of these family members are supporting your activities but are they members? As you know, their membership will support our many programs as well as our numbers.

(ALA President continued on page 7)

From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander



I'd Like to extend a BIG Welcome Alexis Squadron 189. On 10/14/2019 Detachment Adjutant Jeff Van Horn and Myself presented Marengo Squadron 192 with their charter. They are hitting the ground running and will be a great asset for the post. There is one more new squadron 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 or Myself pstander@att.net. We will help in any way to assist you in getting a Squadron started at your post.

While in Indianapolis attending the Fall NEC meeting, I was fortunate to attend

and complete the Commanders training session on Saturday. The education and training committee works hard to provide the information needed to be successful. The more we learn the more we can accomplish. Also at the Fall 2019 NEC, National SAL Commander Clint Bolt was introduced and asked to address the American Legion NEC meetings, the first time a Son's Commander has addressed the NEC since 1973. The American Legion is a family and it shows.

Veterans Day is a day to Honor those that have committed to protect the freedoms we enjoy every day.

What Is A Veteran?

A "Veteran" - whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve - is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to, and including his life."

Thought for Today:

Dear Veterans,

Those of us who have not served
will never fully understand
the sacrifices you've made
both in times of peace and of war.

We will never fully understand
what you were required to do
or how you were able to do it.

We will never fully understand
the depth of your scars.

But what we can offer you is this:

We see you.

We recognize your humanity.

And we send you Love
that is gentle, patient and healing.

With Blessings and Gratitude,
we ask that you remember you are loved.

Thank you.

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"



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 5th 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**

N.E.C. resolutions from Fall Meetings are now available on Legion.org Digital Archive



During Fall Meetings in Indianapolis in October, the American Legion National Executive Committee passed 19 resolutions. These are now available to view in the Legion's Digital Archive; see the full

collection @ <https://www.legion.org/library/247458/fall-meetings-resolutions-available-digital-archive>

Noting changes to our Preamble and Youth programs.

- ◆ Resolution No. 1: Amendment to the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion
- ◆ Resolution No. 2: National Oratorical Contest of The American Legion
- ◆ Resolution No. 3: Extension of Agreement with Baseball Factory
- ◆ Resolution No. 4: American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award
- ◆ Resolution No. 5: National Convention Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Screening Committee
- ◆ Resolution No. 6: 75th Anniversary of World War II
- ◆ Resolution No. 7: The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation Authorization
- ◆ Resolution No. 8: Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post
- ◆ Resolution No. 9: Updated Eligibility for Samsung American Legion Scholarships
- ◆ Resolution No. 10: 100th Anniversary Remembrance Of Our Comrades In The 1919 Centralia Tragedy
- ◆ Resolution No. 11: Abolish Premium Penalty for Delayed Enrollment in Medicare Part B for Veterans Eligible for Medical Benefits from the Department Of Veterans Affairs
- ◆ Resolution No. 12: Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
- ◆ Resolution No. 13: Tracking of Veteran Unemployment in all U.S. Territories
- ◆ Resolution No. 14: Reauthorize and Fund the U.S. Small Business Administration's Patriot Express Loan
- ◆ Resolution No. 15: Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by Closing 90-10 Loophole
- ◆ Resolution No. 16: Develop Training for Employers who Utilize Veterans' Preference in their Hiring Practices
- ◆ Resolution No. 18: Funding of the Department of Defense STARBASE Program
- ◆ Resolution No. 19: Liaison Committees
- ◆ Resolution No. 20: Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions

Wreaths Across America

REMEMBER
our fallen U.S. veterans.

HONOR
those who serve.

TEACH
your children the value of freedom

Join us on National Wreaths Across America Day on December 14, 2019

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

For three decades, Americans have gathered in to "remember our fallen U.S. veterans, honor those who serve, and teach children the value of freedom" through the placing of wreaths on veterans' graves.

This year will mark the 28th National Wreaths Across America Day. More than 1 million remembrance wreaths will be laid on the graves of America's fallen veterans throughout the country and overseas as part of National Wreaths Across America Day.

American Legion Family members have shown to be big supporters of Wreaths Across America. American Legion posts and Legion Family members are encouraged to participate in this annual event and share your story of how your post supports this program by emailing, sbrooks@legion.org. Share with him your plans for potential coverage in American Legion media.



WREATHS
across
AMERICA

★ **EVERYONE PLAYS A PART** ★

www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org



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

DID YOU KNOW... 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.

I have been a service officer for the American Legion going on 13 years and before that I was with the Veterans Administration for thirty-three years. I have noticed that often times the veteran is their own worst enemy and they do things which cause delays, misunderstandings and snafus with their claim. I can this article "How to Avoid Government Red Tape." I will run part one this issue and part two in the next one. Pay attention. These simple suggestions can literally save months and months in the claims process, get money to you in a timely fashion and help reduce the VA backlog.

ONE: Read the instructions first before you start. Although the print may be small and sometimes contains jargon you are not familiar with, the time spent reading them will pay off in the long run. For instance the VA claim for service-connected compensation and/or pension is over a dozen pages long. Some of the questions will guide you to skip parts of the form. For instance question #22 may state "if you lived with the veteran up until his/her death skip to question #27". Instead claimants fill out numbers 23 through 26. This causes the VA to wonder, was the widow/er separated from the vet?

TWO: Answer each question or put in N/A for not applicable. Some questions may seem trivia but they all serve a purpose. Leaving it blank may cause the VA to have to send out a development letter asking for the answers. This alone adds 60 more days to the process. If the space provided isn't enough to put in your answer or needs clarification then attach an additional sheet with more details. Example, the question is "what is your spouse's Social Security number"? Instead of leaving it blank because they don't have one, attach a separate sheet stating; regarding that question, my new husband is a foreign national, we just got married and he is in the process of applying for her Social Security number.

THREE: Use your claim or reference number. Contrary to a popular misconception the VA claim number isn't always the veterans Social Security number. For most veterans who applied for some type of VA benefit prior to 1970 they were issued a C or claim number. This number stays with the veteran during their lifetime and when they die their

survivors keep the same number, except an X is added to make it an XC number. This is extremely important when a claim for compensation is reopened from a World War II, Korean or early Vietnam Era veteran. Their old military service medical records are often in that C-file and would not have been burnt in the St. Louis fire of 1973. Also, put your claim number on each document you submit in case they get separated. Staples are good but paperwork passes through a lot of hands and sheets do become unattached.

FOUR: Keep your address current. Most people move multiple times during their lives and if you don't inform the VA you may not get important letters regarding the claim. I can number in the hundreds where claims were denied because the veteran didn't report for an exam due to a bad address! Besides notifying the VA also alert the Post Office to forward you mail. They will do that for up to one year if you file the necessary form with the USPS. And avoid the classic excuse that I often heard which was "I told the VA hospital of my new address, how come I still didn't get my mail"? The VA hospital system is separate from the VA benefits system and changes of address at one facility are not routinely shared. In fact many veterans use one address for their hospital appointment letters and/or their medicine and a different one for other mail.

FIVE: Save your correspondence. Keep copies of your original claim, any letters you received back from the VA and copies of any evidence you later submitted. Keep these in a separate file, in date order. This is invaluable to not only you but also to your American Legion service officer if they are helping you with the process. Knowing what has transpired with your claim, when you submitted evidence and the kind of evidence sent in will better help us when follow up is needed. **IMPORTANT.** If you fax documents directly to the VA be sure to keep the fax receipt. That will be your proof that it was received by them.

Look for more tips in my next article. In the meantime don't be your own worst enemy!

###

(Dept. SVC continued from page 2)

your Division and District Officers.

We Marines have a saying... **"Once a Marine—Always a Marine"**.

How about every one build on and adopt this one...**"Once a Legionnaire—Always a Legionnaire"!!!**

Have a Great Thanksgiving!!!

SHARE these Reasons Why you should join The American Legion

- ★ **Free Subscription to The American Legion Magazine:** Our nation's leaders speak directly to citizens on the pages of The American Legion Magazine. The American Legion's organizational goals are promoted using the words of talented writers, professional journalists, and world leaders.
- ★ **Benefits Assistance:** The American Legion offers expert advice, support and representation for veterans and families seeking government benefits they are eligible to receive at the federal, state and local levels.
- ★ **Career Assistance:** Hundreds of job fairs and career events every year, all across the map, are coordinated, sponsored, promoted or produced by The American Legion. American Legion business workshops also help veterans and their families pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.
- ★ **Comfort for the Recovering:** Operation Comfort Warriors helps active-duty military personnel and newly discharged veterans recover and adjust to lifestyle changes.
- ★ **Education Assistance:** The American Legion conducts student-veteran roundtables, networks with Student Veterans of America as well as college campuses, and works with agencies to better apply military experience toward professional and vocational licenses and certification credits.
- ★ **Family and Community Support:** Cash grants and volunteer aid are among the ways The American Legion reaches out to families of military servicemembers and veterans during times of financial difficulty, short-handedness at home or natural disaster.
- ★ **Financial Services:** The American Legion and USAA, two organizations driven by the same values for nearly a century, are allied through a "preferred provider" relationship that connects Legionnaires with the best advice and service in banking, insurance and personal finance.
- ★ **Homeless Veteran Outreach:** The American Legion offers hundreds of opportunities for homeless veterans across the country, including temporary housing, mentoring and job training.
- ★ **Honor and Remembrance:** American Legion honor guards provide official services at thousands of veteran funerals around the world each year. The Legion is also a leader at every level in the establishment and maintenance of memorials and monuments that honor military sacrifice.
- ★ **Member Discounts:** The American Legion offers members and their families practical, money-saving discounts that can easily save many times the cost of annual membership dues.
- ★ **Advocacy in Washington:** The American Legion is the nation's most influential, effective and dependable advocate of veteran affairs fighting for better active-duty pay, improved housing for active-duty families and helping to ensure that the VA's medical system can properly care for veterans.
- ★ **Volunteer Opportunities:** The American Legion offers volunteer opportunities that fulfill needs in local communities throughout the country and beyond. The Legion and the Sons of The American Legion provide millions of hours of free community service, assistance at VA medical facilities and help at military installations each year. ###



(Dept. Commander continued from page 2)

supporting CWF, the Youth Police Program and Boys Scouts. Posts can show support by purchasing the 2020 4-Pillars pin. The form is available on pg. 10, online and at Department.

REMINDER: It's not too early to contact schools for the Oratorical program, Boys State, Essay Contest, Youth Police Program and the Poppy Poster contest.

With a Can Do attitude, let's work together and exceed all our membership target dates this year. The 100% cash award cutoff date is November 13th. Have a safe Veterans Day!
"Veterans Can Do!"

(ALA President continued from page 3)

As you know we are nearing the holiday season, think about giving your eligible family members or friends a gift of membership in the Legion, Auxiliary or SAL. Then share with them all of the wonderful benefits we receive from this membership. A gift that keeps on giving.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving, be sure to think about others. The holidays can be stressful for many people. Take a moment to reach out to others who are alone, lonely or struggling. It's a small gesture that can mean so much this time. Keep on hand the VA Crisis Hotline number if ever needed: 1-800-273-8255, they are a very good resource for help.

From all the members of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. Be sure to give thanks for everything you have. Have a wonderful holiday and may God Bless you.

BUDDY CHECK

Prepare for Buddy
Checks around
Veterans Day



As American Legion members, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. As a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019. The resolution calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day. The idea is to reconnect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. For expired members, they may have just been waiting for a personal call or visit to renew. These contacts may be made by a personal visit, phone or email, or a combination. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and can provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.

How do I organize a Buddy Check?

- 1) Gather up a team if possible to call or personally visit members and former members of The American Legion. If each member in a team of 10 contacts just 10 Legionnaires or former Legionnaires, 100 veterans can be reached in one sitting.
- 2) If you don't have a list of members and former members at your fingertips, visit myLegion.org and download the names of current members and those who have let their memberships expire.
- 3) Save the file of members and those whose memberships have expired onto a spreadsheet or copy and paste into a Word file to distribute among your team members. Print several copies of the lists.
- 4) Divide up the call list among your team members. Some may have personal connections with the member or the former member and should make that particular buddy check.
- 5) Start making connections – either from a quiet place inside the post or from your home – to see how the members and former members are doing, ask if they need anything and invite them to any event or activity planned to help celebrate the Legion's birthday or Veterans Day.
- 6) Make sure you thank the member or former member in the beginning and at the end of your call.
- 7) If the member or former member wishes to renew, be sure to have your post's payment procedure at your fingertips, the address to send a check or offer to stop by in person to pick it up (another opportunity to connect).
- 8) Leave contact information in case the member or former member can't take the call or needs anything in the future.

Samples of scripts, FAQ's and answers, along with worksheets are all available online @ <https://www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck>

"Illinois Posts are encouraged to take the time to connect with your Illinois comrades aka: 'Buddy's'". They value our efforts, communication and wellness checks along with any extra time you can share with them just to know we still care. All it takes is a **CAN DO** attitude.", stated Department Commander Roy Weber.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**NOVEMBER IS
MEMBERSHIP RETENTION
MONTH**

Legion College
Indianapolis, IN
November 3-8

**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 28
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
November 28 & 29

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



THE AMERICAN LEGION



**DEPARTMENT
OF ILLINOIS**

**NOW
HIRING!**
SERVICE OFFICER
JOIN OUR TEAM TODAY!

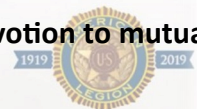
American Legion Preamble has changed

With the signing of the LEGION Act – Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act – into law July 30 by President Trump, the U.S. government now acknowledges that the military has been involved in at least 12 additional military conflicts not previously recognized. As a result of this, The American Legion National Executive Committee (NEC) adopted to amend the organization's Preamble to recognize the millions of U.S. military veterans from all of these wars and conflicts that have occurred since World War I and II.

Resolution 1 was adopted by the NEC Oct. 16 during Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, which amends "the Great Wars" to "all wars."

The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion now reads:

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:
To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;
To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



To uphold and defend
the Constitution of
the United States of America;
to maintain law and order;
to foster and perpetuate
a one hundred percent Americanism;

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.

- ★ **AUXILIARY**
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 _____

Below are the **tentative** stops for the 2020 Illinois American Legion Family Membership Caravan. Locations **will not be official** until December.

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 OFF ★			
Tues 21 Jan.	3	14	Macomb	Dinner
Wed 22 Jan.	3	20	Jacksonville	Dinner
Thur 23 Jan.	4	19	Strausburgh	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

Caravan schedule is subject to change. Final schedule will be announced in December.



To: **All Post Commanders, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Adjutants, Service Officers; District Officers; and SAL Officers of the 1st Division. Hosted by The Great 8th District**

Subject: **Leadership Seminar-Saturday, November 23rd @ the Evergreen Park Post 854; 9701 South Kedzie Ave. Evergreen Park, IL.**

Cost will be \$10.00 ea. to cover donuts and lunch. Make checks payable to Evergreen Park Post 854 and mail to:

**William Winters
Evergreen Park Post 854
9701 South Kedzie Ave.
Evergreen Park, IL. 60805**

Now that we are into the 2019-2020 Membership Year, and as we look to the future of our 8TH Post it becomes a top priority to search out, train and support dedicated Legionnaires and SAL Members to become the "Leaders of Tomorrow" within the 1st Division's Districts and Posts.

With that challenge at hand, The Department Leadership Team has developed important, useful information that will assist current Post, District and SAL Officers that want to take on new and rewarding roles within the American Legion. This session will include Leadership Seminars for Commanders, Senior and Vice Commanders, Adjutants, and Post Service Officers. We believe that the future of the American Legion will only progress and be successful with new and effective leaders. Therefore we are asking each Post to bring at least 2 additional Post and/or SAL members. These members should be those that you feel will be active leaders within the 1st Division's Districts and Posts.

The Post will be open @ 9am for registration, coffee and donuts. We will plan to start promptly @ 10am. An early start is our goal and will insure we keep with-in our time schedule. A lunch break is planned. Please confirm back to 8th District Commander Rickie Mitchell by email @ RJMitchell212@mail.com or call him @ 773-318-9863 with your number attending by October 24th so we can plan accordingly. If you are unable to RSVP you are still welcome to attend the Seminar. Our target is a minimum of 50 attending.

Attendees will have the unique opportunity to succeed, to become a positive and effective leader, and to preserve our great organization and our programs committed to our Active Duty, Our Veterans, Our Youth and Our Communities. Join us in this very special and unique opportunity, it is our 101 year and its our responsibility to make a future.

Regards,

The Department of Illinois Leadership Committee

2019 Gun Raffle Winners

1ST PLACE: Joseph M. Tompkins (*Hines*)

2ND PLACE: Demetrios J. Sorirakos (*Oak Brook*)

3RD PLACE: Robert Mell (*New Athens*)

The drawing took place on September 30, 2019 at Department Headquarters.

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

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?



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: _____

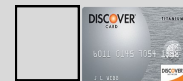
PHONE NO.: _____ AMOUNT \$ _____

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

(Retention Tips continued from page 1)

27. Send new members a letter or postcard saying, Here's where your \$25.00 dues went: \$3.00 for VA&R Programs; \$3.00 for Americanism Programs, etc.
28. Offer plenty of member-only programs and benefits.
29. Send a mini-survey to members about six months after they join to see how they rate your post's services.
30. Get new and inactive members to attend Department Conventions or Conferences.
31. Hold a new member reception at Conventions.
32. Give new members a special ribbon to wear.
33. Use groups of volunteers for renewal phone-a-thons.
34. Make sponsors or recruiters responsible for the first renewal, too.
35. Give discounts or perks for early renewals.
36. Give rebate vouchers for early renewals.
37. Send a checklist entitled What's your reason for not renewing?
38. Have the Commander send a pre-renewal letter on his/her letterhead a few weeks BEFORE the renewal is sent.
39. Have a retention committee - give it goals!
40. List names of non-renewals at leadership meetings.
41. Reward renewal efforts as much as you do recruitment efforts.
42. After a couple of renewal notices, begin personal contacts.
43. Send non-renewals a newsletter with the front and back cover printed and the inside blank.
44. Dig beyond the never did anything for me answer.
45. Pay special attention to those who renew last.
46. Hold a retention contest, just like a recruitment contest.
47. Offer incentives to the first 10% who renew (free dinner, etc.).
48. List first-time renewals in a special section of your newsletter.
49. Be sure to acknowledge renewal checks, just like new member applications.

**“Without a plan
you’re going to stay
where you are. It’s
time to make a
move.”**

Loda Post 503



107 N. 600 East Rd., Loda, Illinois

November Schedule

8th—Friday at Loda Post 503

22nd—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.

*From The Desk of the Cheri Stanton
Children & Youth Chairman*

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1996, The American Legion has given out 2,168 scholarships from the Samsung Account. This is off the interest from the money that the Samsung company gave us. They are chosen from the Boys and Girls who attend Boys State and Girls State who have a veteran in their families and they write an essay about them. These are \$20,000 scholarships.

We have a new grant program called "UNITED THROUGH READING" that video tapes a parent reading to their child while they are deployed. Helps keep families together when there is such a distance between them. You can view this and many other presentations online at

<https://www.legion.org/youth/presentations>

One of the new programs we gave a grant to is called St. Vincent's "Healing Arts Program." It uses creative arts therapy for sick kids and their parents. It gets them moving to reduce pain.

The Child Welfare Program gave out grants to 100 of the 183 that applied. It spends \$700,000 each year using the interest off a special donation. It was started in 1947 by Garlin Murphy off the oil rights he had.



2019 Veterans Day Free Meals, Discounts, Sales and Deals by Military Benefits

Veterans Day is Monday, November 11, 2019. There are many Veterans Day discounts, free meals, deals and sales. For a complete list of National Retail and Services Offered or Local Veterans Day Offers, visit...

<https://militarybenefits.info/veterans-day-discounts-sales-deals-free-meals/>

Tips Before Heading Out—

Review the official site information and rules before heading out. Many websites are listing previous years promotions that are no longer valid. Be sure to bring proof of military service, uniform photo or be in uniform. Proof of military service varies by company. See the list of states now offering a Veterans designation on a driver's license. Pay attention to the dates on the Veterans Day offer as some offers are for days to other than Veterans Day or extended over several days. Most of the restaurant free meals are for dine in only. Verify that you're eligible for the offer. You should tip your server. They're working hard to serve you and depend on the income. We recommend tipping on the actual cost of the meal.

Many of these promotions include small print that says participating locations only. Unfortunately individual franchisees may choose not to participate. Fortunately, some franchisee's participate even if the corporate company does not.

Call ahead if you're unsure about anything. Reminder: presentation of military ID is required for most offers.

Thank you for your service!

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 ROY WEBER Department Editor 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 months issue.

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



Visit our website!
Scan Here

NOVEMBER TRIVIA

1. What message was transmitted to the French resistance during World War II with the first line of the Paul Verlaine poem Autumn Song?
2. For what expenditure did the tiny European principality of j Andorra allocate its entire national defense budget of \$5 twenty years ago?
3. What US President passed the bill announcing November 11 as the official Veterans Day?
4. What is the motto of the Department of Veterans Affairs?
5. Whose words are used as the motto of the Department of Veterans Affairs?

ANSWERS:

1. That the D-Day landings were about to begin. The line from Verlaine was: "The long sobs/of the violins of autumn".
2. For bullets (blanks), for ceremonial salutes to guest dignitaries.
3. President Eisenhower.
4. "To care for him who shall have borne the battle."
5. Abraham Lincoln.



Thanksgiving Word Search

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

acorn	grateful	pilgrim
autumn	hay	Plymouth
cornucopia	host	pumpkin pie
family	horn of plenty	thankful
feast	maize	Thanksgiving
football	Mayflower	tradition
gathering	New World	turkey
gobble	parade	wishbone