

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Department News



The American Legion Family



2019–2020 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROY WEBER

FEBRUARY 2020

February is Americanism Month



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
JANUARY 31, 2020

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
14	Schomer
20	Flowers, Jr.
18	Rowe
13	Nichols
15	Schlieper
12	Hernandez
23	Owens
17	Elder
21	Rump
10	Bucher

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

February is an important month for presidential birthdays and expressions of valentine love. February is also a month that we as an organization place special emphasis on our American heritage and patriotism by observing Americanism Month. When Resolution No. 163 was passed at the 1960 National Convention, we established observance of an Americanism Month that calls upon each of us to pause and reflect on what it means to be an American, and to rededicate ourselves to taking action that will uphold “a 100 percent Americanism.” In 1981 National Commander Michael Koguthek stated, “There is no organization whose name is more closely linked in the minds of citizens with genuine Americanism than is The American Legion. It is fitting that this be so because our membership is composed of men and women who assumed and exercised the highest responsibility of citizenship; that of bearing arms in defense of America, her rights and freedoms. The blood of patriots flows in our veins.” In 1998 National Commander Anthony Jordan said, “Americanism covers a lot of ground for our Legion; the idea is bred in our bones and is as necessary as oxygen and as energizing as sunlight.” Those sentiments so proudly stated years ago are still just as alive and vital today. Americanism might have dulled for some citizens, having been overshadowed with so many issues of worry – economy, unemployment, and ever evolving social concerns. But I urge us all, as individual members of the Legion family and collectively as posts, units and squadrons, to reflect on what it means to be an American and our responsibility for fostering Americanism. Americanism should cultivate youth development, educational development, citizenship, community service, religious emphasis, and pride in our nation and the great symbol of our nation, Old Glory. And for each of those Americanism “ingredients”, opportunity to embrace a corresponding program or initiative abounds....**Legion baseball, Oratorical, Boys State, Junior Shooting, Youth Police School program, Scouting, scholarships, Get Out The Vote, and Citizen’s Flag Alliance, to name but just a few.** And in the wake of Americanism Month remember that “Children & Youth Month” closely follows in April. The American Legion has been actively involved with child welfare issues since our early days as an organization and in 1938 designated April as Child Welfare Month, now Children & Youth Month. During that special month, the Americanism Commission’s Committee on Children & Youth urges us to become active in the major concerns directly affecting our nation’s young people – child health, child safety and family support. Whether it be advocating legislation for child health and safety, promoting Halloween safety every October, or helping military families by being engaged in the Family Support Network, show our local communities that the Legion family is dedicated to the welfare of youth. I also echo the call for a “unity of veterans in our common dedication to preserving our heritage through continued service” as National Commander Dale Renaud did in 1986. Pick one, or pick many, but do identify yourself with the efforts of your post, unit or squadron and be actively engaged in your community. Through our unity and involvement we can foster a culture of growth; a culture of growth for serving our nation’s veterans and their families, for nurturing children and youth everywhere, for our organization and its programs, and for Americanism!

From The Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber



Greetings fellow Legionnaires from our membership Caravan:

We have been on the road five days and finding some success. The weather hasn't co-operated in the North region, as we have driven on ice and snow covered highways part of the time. When this has been published, we will have finished the caravan, and hope that it was a great and successful journey.

It has been a pleasure to travel with National Vice Commander Heigert and listen to his message from our National Commander. Also having President Sue and Commander Phil making up the Legion family has been rewarding to say the

least. By now I expect the Poses have been to the area schools and have been searching for candidates for the Oratorical Contest, Boys State, Girls State and the Youth Police School. These are very important and rewarding programs and are a source of our future leaders. Many scholarships are available, but LEADERSHIP skills is the big reward for their efforts.

Our programs depend on ALL of our leadership to get all important information to our local Posts. If anyone has questions about a program, dates, requirements or other issues, please contact your leadership for resolutions!!!

The Lincoln Pilgrimage is just around the corner. Please plan to attend if possible.

We are working on dates for the Illinois Legacy Run, as well as other membership incentives. So please check with the

department and read the monthly newsletter. Lists of meeting dates are posted in it as well.

Our fund raising campaign with the 4-Pillars pin is underway and information is in the newsletter. We raised \$28,000 last year and divided the proceeds with Boys State, Oratorical contest, Gifts to the Yanks and the Special Olympics. This year the Legion Family is more involved and the Auxiliary is supporting IL State Veteran Homes, the SAL has chosen Child Welfare Foundation and the Legion is donating to Boy Scouts and the Youth Police School. Remember 100% of the donations go to these important programs.

Our future depends on the entire Legion Family working together with a "Can Do" spirit to achieve our goals and assist our Veterans and our nation's great youth.

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



To our Fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of the Legion....

Well, by the time you read this our 2020 Membership Caravan will be history. Outside of some normal winter weather, we all had another special experience. Participation was great and the reception we experienced was truly great at every stop. With that in mind, we want to thank each Post that sponsored these events. The hospitality was outstanding as was the "chow" we all hot to enjoy. Now we must work it off-HA!!!!

The primary mission of the Caravan is to bring in Membership Cards to support our total for the year. Again, by the time you read this our week-ending membership report will be updated. But even given that, we all and I do mean ALL

Post; County; District; Division; Department; and Past Department Officers are needed to step-up; reach out' and help with the following:

******Get all Members Renewed that are not. Do the "Buddy Check" to invite them to renew******

******Move forward under the Legion Act and get those Veterans that are now eligible to join up, signed up******

******Search out and find those Veterans that have not joined because of family or work issues. We have all been there and still joined to support our Great American Legion******

******Take advantage of our "3-Part Family Opportunity. When the "Legion Team" continues to work together, we will all succeed together******

I know the easy part of the Legion Year is behind us. Now comes the big "Challenge" to get back to 100%+ Membership vs. last year. It has been a few years since we have done that, but it can

be done. Those honored Legionnaires that joined Post Everlasting last year left us a Legacy of Fulfillment. It starts with Membership and hard work. Growth in Membership supports our "4 -Pillars" which can lead to many successful results for our many Programs. But we all must step up to make this happen. Free rides do not achieve anything but failure. Sitting back and complaining has the same results.

Yes, we truly are a Great Service Organization that supports many outstanding programs with outstanding results, and it all starts with Membership that grows thanks to our many Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion members. Now we need to find more. As Commander Roy states:

"Our future depends on the entire Legion family working together with a "Can Do" spirit to achieve our goals and assist our Veterans and our Nation's great Youth."

Thanks, and see you down the road



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Sue Cunniff Coughlin



As I write this article, we are just finishing the last stops on the American Legion Family Membership Caravan. What a wonderful time it has been traveling throughout the state meeting our members and working together as a Legion Family. However, we would have hoped to see more of our Auxiliary members in attendance. Thank you to everyone who made the caravan possible. Whether you hosted a stop, came out to the program, or brought membership from a neighboring Post or Unit you made a difference and we are grateful for your efforts.

During our Caravan week, we were

able to visit the Manteno and Quincy Veteran Homes. It was nice to visit with some of the Veterans and tour the facilities. At the Quincy Home, we had the opportunity to present them with some new televisions from Operation Comfort Warriors. Both facilities were very nice and their staffs were very gracious.

Our Centennial tea, is busy preparing for our 100th birthday party on March 19, 2020. There will be an open house at Department Headquarters. All are welcome to come out and celebrate with us. Our National President Nicole Clapp will be there along with our Department Officers from our Legion Family. There will be hors d'oeuvres and refreshment for a \$10 charge. The next day Friday, March 20, 2020, we will hold our Patriotic Conference at the Marriott Bloomington Normal. Again, everyone is welcome to

attend. It will be a busy day with many great speakers including our keynote speaker, National President Nicole Clapp. A snip sheet is included in this newsletter.

We hope to see you at Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield on February 11th and 12th. It is a great time to honor the contributions of our 16th President and his legacy. February 11th there is a reception and all our National guests will have time to visit with attendees. It is a great opportunity to meet our National leadership on a more personal level.

Since February is the month we celebrate President Lincoln's birthday, I will share one of my favorite Lincoln quotes: "Folks are usually about as happy as they make their minds up to be." As we are out there working membership, a happy attitude will work wonders.



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander



American Legion Family.
Caravan 2020 is in the books.

We have completed visits at 19 Posts and 2 V.A. Facilities in 10 days. Traveling over 2000 miles. The information presented by National Vice Commander Richard Heigert was motivating and essential for the growth and success of the American Legion Family.

On Monday January 20th we visited and toured the Manteno Veterans Home. This is a nice facility with many indoor and outdoor recreational features to help residents who live there to stay active and engaged including a Hair Salon and Barber Shop.

On Wednesday January 22nd we visited the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy. National Vice Commander Heigert presented tv's from Operation Comfort Warrior.

The highlight for me while visiting any veterans facility is meeting and talking with the residents. The knowledge and history they share is amazing.

Traveling with Commander Roy, President Sue, Sr. Vice President Patty and all the Department and Detachment Leadership was an absolute Blast. When you can have fun while working hard for the things you believe in and are passionate about

Thank you to all that came out to a caravan stop. I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to meet so many hard-working passionate American Legion Family members who day after day work and promote the programs of the American Legion.

If you have a flyer for an event you can Email that to myself and we will post it on the Detachment Facebook Page. 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 here remember to check on the sick and elderly. Make sure they stay warm and have the supplies they need to get through the winter.

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"



that's a "Good Day."

**86th Annual National American Legion
Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln
February 11 & 12, 2020
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

4:30 - 6:00 PM

American Legion Family Leadership Reception

All of the National and Department Leadership are participating in this complimentary meet and greet reception that is open to our entire American Legion Family. Reception will be in the President Abraham Lincoln Doubletree Hotel Salon - C & D Ballroom.

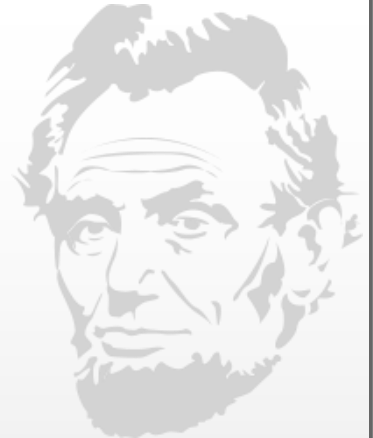
4:30 PM - 1:00 AM

Free Shuttle service between Headquarters Hotel and Post 32.

5:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Open House at Springfield Post 32, The American Legion, 1120 Sangamon Ave., Springfield, IL. Join us for music, refreshments and fun. The Mess Hall Restaurant located inside Post 32 will serve dinner from 4:30pm—8:30pm. (Fried chicken, pork loin, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable, roll & butter—\$11.50 plus tax.

HOSTS: Springfield Post 32, Auxiliary Unit 32, Salon 225, 8 & 40, Voiture 344, 40 & 8, La Femmes Cabane 344, Sons of The American Legion Squadron 32 and Juniors Unit 32, American Legion Riders.



FEBRUARY 12, 2020

8:00 AM American Legion Family Breakfast, honoring The National President, The American Legion Auxiliary Nicole Clapp (Key Note Speaker) featuring Guests of Honor The American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford and The Sons of The American Legion National Commander Clint Bolt. President Abraham Lincoln Hotel—Ballroom.

9:20 AM Cars and buses assemble for Distinguished Guests and others Adams St. entrance to President Abraham Lincoln Hotel.

10:00 AM Pilgrimage departs hotel en route to Lincoln's Tomb.

10:30 AM Ceremony at Abraham Lincoln's Tomb, placing of wreaths: Music presented by Post 32 Legionnaire Deanna Cagley. Color Guard: 114th Infantry Regiment, Illinois Volunteers (Reactivated)

PARTICIPANTS:

Bill Oxford, National Commander of The American Legion
Nicole Clapp, National President, The American Legion Auxiliary
Clint Bolt, National Commander, The Sons of The American Legion
Roy Weber, Department Commander, The American Legion, Illinois
Sue Cunniff Coughlin, Department President, The American Legion Auxiliary, Illinois
Phil Stander, Detachment Commander, The Sons of the American Legion, Illinois
Mike Murphree, Le Chapeau Departmental, Illinois 8 & 40
Honorable J.B. Pritzger, Governor of Illinois (invited)
Honorable Richard J. Durbin, State Senator, Illinois (invited)
Honorable Tammy Duckworth, State Senator, Illinois (invited)

12:00 NOON

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel Ballroom opens with music by the Springfield Municipal Band

12:30 PM

LINCOLN COMMEMORATION LUNCHEON
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel Ballroom



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

That the American Legion VA&R Chicago office helps veterans and their dependents through many different means. We have walk-in hours, interviews by appointment; receive daily e-mails, telephone calls and regular mail. We also

attend outreach events/ Some of our contacts are routine e.g. follow up on claims, submitting new evidence or updating addresses or banking information. Other contacts involve much more and often times end up with our office filing a new or reopened claim. While we try our best to help all we serve we realize that we can't assist everyone. In those cases at least we will steer them in the right direction. Looking back at 2019 I want to highlight some of the more interesting and successful claims or situations we handled.

1. We received a call from a member in the 9th District. Jan Doe applied for an increase in her 10% service-connected condition and was denied. Jane told us the contracted Veterans Administration exam (not at a VA hospital) was poorly done, the doctor was in a hurry, and spent most of the time looking at his smartphone. We requested a new exam but this time asked it to be held at Hines hospital. Jane had the exam and got increased to 30%. Not only does she get more money but now qualifies for a small property tax deduction and can claim her spouse and two children as dependents. She went from \$140 per month to \$541.
2. A member in the Moline area was getting treatment at Hines hospital and noticed our mini-office door was open. John stopped in to chat. After a friendly discussion and some questioning by our Service Officer there it turns out he was a jet mechanic during the Korean Conflict. His hearing was damaged from the loud jet engine noises and he developed tinnitus. He thought the time limit to file had long ago expired, that was over 60 years ago. A claim was started that day and he was later granted 10% for hearing loss and 10% for tinnitus. Got a

nice retro check of \$2,700 and will now receive \$276 a month. By the way he as a 23 year member of a Post in our District.

3. Out of the 2nd District, a former Army nurse, Jane, was passing by our mini-office door at Hines and decided to stop in and ask a few questions. Her dad died 12 years ago and her mom, the widow, will soon be entering an assisted living facility. Any benefits? After some questions turns out the vet served in Vietnam and he died of pneumonia. However the secondary cause of death was Parkinson's. That is one of the Agent Orange conditions. A claim was immediately filed, the vets records transferred in from the Veterans Administration archives and she was awarded Death and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) of \$1,319. It was a life changer for the family.
4. A member in the Moline area, called our office. She was on the VA's Non-Service Connected pension program which is based on low income. Her benefit started over 8 years ago and at that time she was advised that she should report any change of income. In the meantime she developed memory problems. She started getting Social Security and didn't report that to the VA for two years and ended up with a \$27,000 overpayment. We helped her file for a waiver (forgiveness) of the debt. Based on her medical condition it was granted and she doesn't have to pay it back.

These are a few of the more interesting cases we handled last year and it's the reason I still work as a Service Officer, even though I just turned 70!

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

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

I SERVED FOR *the open road*

GET A QUOTE

You could save by bundling
home and auto insurance



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

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.

Guidelines for honoring the Four Chaplains



Sunday, February 2, will mark the 77th anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army Transport Dorchester and the selfless act of four Army chaplains aboard. The Dorchester tragically sunk on February 3, 1943, while crossing the North Atlantic, transporting troops to an American base in Greenland. A German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck the Dorchester, killing 672 of the 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen and civilian workers aboard. Many of those survivors owe their lives to the courage and leadership exhibited by four chaplains of different faiths, who, in sacrificing their lives, created a unique legacy of brotherhood.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark

Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic) comforted the wounded and directed others to safety. One survivor watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men.

As the Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

American Legion posts nationwide remember Four Chaplains Day with memorial services that pay tribute to the courageous chaplains and the brave young men who lost their lives on that fateful night. The following is an example of how to conduct a Four Chaplain's service.

Location: The service can be held at a post, fraternal hall, auditorium, church, synagogue or chapel.

Media: Spread the word about your Four Chaplains service through local newspapers, radio and TV stations, and social media. Encourage reporters to write about the upcoming service or to do a follow-up story.

Program: Printed programs add to the dignity and importance of the occasion.

Suggested format:

- Posting of the colors
- Pledge of Allegiance
- "America the Beautiful" (assembly or solo)
- Welcome
- Invocation
- Introduction of guests
- Message (focused on the Four Chaplains and sacrificial service)
- Tributes to the Four Chaplains (wreath laying or candle lighting by four clergy, one of each faith)
- "Let There Be Peace on Earth" (assembly)
- Benediction
- Retirement of colors

To symbolize the tragic sinking of the Dorchester, there can be any number of focal points for the service such as four life-jackets or four empty seats.

For a story about and biographies of the Four Chaplains, suggested introductory remarks, formats and music, and remarks for the candle lighting ceremony, download The American Legion's Chaplain's Handbook. www.legion.org

Legion Birthday HAM event set for March 14th

To celebrate The American Legion's 101st Birthday The American Legion ARC is hosting a ham event on March 14th from 5:00pm till 11:00 pm at The American Legion Amateur Radio Club located at 700 N. Pennsylvania St. Indianapolis, IN. Any questions regarding this event please contact **Josh Marshall** his phone number is **(317) 630-1304** or email him at jmarshall@legion.org.



2020 AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN TOTALS

District	Cards Received
2	0
3	19
4	10
5	1
7	43
8	34
9	96
1st Div.	203
10	49
11	135
12	44
13	3
2nd Div.	228
14	80
15	11
16	29
20	30
3rd Div.	150
17	54
18	12
19	69
21	28
4th Div.	163
22	66
23	106
24	71
25	57
5th Div.	300
State	1044



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:



Department Oratorical Contest changes for 2020

Due to the unusually low amount of contestants competing in the 2020 American Legion Oratorical contest, The Americanism Commission has voted to only have one contest on March 7th.

There will NOT be a semi-final round.

The mandatory Contestant Orientation and Pizza Party is planned as usual for Friday, March 6th beginning at 4:00 PM.

The 2020 Oratorical Final Contest will be held at the Crowne Plaza—Springfield on March 7, 2020 beginning promptly at 8:00AM. Lunch will follow, then the Awards Ceremony where the winners shall be announced along with the announcement of the Department of Illinois Finalist who shall advance to National.

The National Oratorical Contest is scheduled to be held in Indianapolis, IN on April 17-19, 2020.

We look forward to returning to the same format of the Semi-Final Round and Finals round in 2021 as we have done so successfully for the past 12 years.

The Americanism Commission invites our Legion Family to attend the contest in Springfield and look forward to your support.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

4 Chaplain's Sunday
February 2
~ ~ ~

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

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, IL
March 20-21
~ ~ ~

SAL Spring DEC

&

Detachment Commander's
Homecoming @ Wauconda
Squadron 911
Wauconda, IL

~ ~ ~

95% National Target Date
April 8

~ ~ ~

GOOD FRIDAY
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
April 10

~ ~ ~

Easter Sunday
April 12

~ ~ ~

National Oratorical Contest
Indianapolis, IN
April 17-19

~ ~ ~

Spring DEC @ 1:00 PM
&

Legion Spring Meetings
Bloomington, IL
April 18

~ ~ ~

ALA Junior Conference
April 18-19
Champaign, IL

~ ~ ~

2020 NATIONAL
RENEWAL DATE
April 24

~ ~ ~

National Spring Committee &
Commission Meetings
Indianapolis, IN
May 4-7

~ ~ ~

National NEC Meetings
Indianapolis, IN
May 8-9

~ ~ ~

Mother's Day
May 10

~ ~ ~

100% NATIONAL TARGET DATE
May 13

~ ~ ~

ILLINOIS 100% TARGET DATE
May 16

~ ~ ~

Armed Forces Day
May 16
#

Post Excellence Award

The American Legion's Post Excellence Award has added new criteria.

To qualify for the Post Excellence Award, a post is required to achieve excellence in four areas: membership, submission of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), attaining a 90 percent renewal rate and community activity.

The purposes of this award is membership growth, exposure of American Legion values to the youth of the community, and increased visibility of the American Legion Family through service projects. A post achieving this qualification will have had numerous post members involved in planning and achieving these goals. Many posts are most likely already active in these areas and will qualify without extra effort. Others, however, will need to increase their efforts in one or more areas to qualify for the award.

The standard to be achieved in each area is as follows:

- **Membership:** Post must attain at least 103 percent of their membership goal. At least one post officer attends district meetings.
- **Consolidated Post Report:** CPRs must be submitted by July 1. The American Legion's federal charter requires the submission of an annual report to Congress on activities for the year. MyLegion.org has made it simple for a post to submit its CPR in a timely manner.
- **90% Renewal Rate:** The post must renew at least 90 percent of their members that were on the 2019 roster.
- **Community Activity:** The post must conduct an event that connects the local community with The American Legion post. The objective is to open your doors, welcome the community in, and educate them on what The American Legion is all about and how the post is an asset to the community. Posts do not need to have a physical building to accomplish this. This activity can be held in a park, a community center, or anywhere the post can welcome and interact with the local community.

The district commander responsible for the post will certify a post as having achieved the four specified criteria. The district commander will submit a list of posts meeting the criteria to department headquarters. That list should include the post name, phone number, address and commander's name. If possible, accompany the last two criteria with copies of press releases submitted to the local media about the projects to show that the projects were not only accomplished but that an attempt was made to enhance the image of The American Legion through local media. The copy submitted should include a date and time stamp showing receipt by the media outlet.

The department adjutant will transmit information as posts qualify to:

The American Legion National Headquarters

Attn: Membership

P.O. Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055

The first Department celebration of the American Legion Auxiliary's 100th Anniversary – a century of selfless service and making a difference – will be on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at the Department Headquarters! This will be a wonderful celebration as National President Nicole Clapp will be in attendance! Spend time visiting our Department Headquarters, celebrate with friends and the National President, and attend the awesome Patriotic Conference the next day. It will be an open house starting at 5:00 p.m. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. The cost will be \$10.00. RSVPs must be received by March 1, 2020.

RSVP

100th Anniversary Party

Mail to be received by March 1, 2020:

American Legion Auxiliary

PO Box 1426

Bloomington, IL 61702



Names of people attending

Number of attendees _____ x \$10.00 each total _____

Make checks payable to Dept Treasurer. Call 309-663-9366 to charge to a credit card.

2020 AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

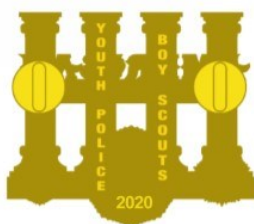
American Legion Department of Illinois

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 _____

PREPARE FOR BUDDY CHECKS



It's time for American Legion Family members to strategize about the second round of Buddy Checks, an initiative calling on posts to re-connect with veterans in their communities.

The National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019, which calls for the twice-annual Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday and Veterans Day.

During the inaugural Buddy Checks in March of this year, posts across the United States reached out to veterans to see how they were doing.

In Somers, Conn., Buck-Dubiel Post 101 Commander David McCaffrey and Public Affairs Director Sherri Marquis **focused Buddy Checks on wellness**

checks of veterans. They also coached volunteers on the process of tailoring the scripts to the callers' personalities.

Marquis said the Buddy Check benefitted both sides of the phone calls. "It was an experience every buddy check team member thought was fulfilling and very much needed," she said. "We learned of members who were in poor health, needed assistance with VA benefits, (and) wanted to attend meetings but had no means of transportation, and were home bound and lonely and could use a visit/camaraderie."

In District 22 in California, Legion posts used a three-tier method to connect with veterans. They started with a letter going out to expired members a few months before the March target date. That was followed up with a phone and a personal visit to the homes of veterans.

The national organization has made a kit available to help guide posts on Buddy Checks. The **online resource** contains information about Buddy Checks, tips, answers to FAQs and downloadable resources such as a flyer, scripts and more. Posts are encouraged to share their Buddy Check successes on the **Legiontown website**.



Legion Birthday is
March 16th

American Legion 2020 State Convention Book Application for Ad placement

BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

[Post use only] American Legion Post name: _____ Post No. _____

Slogan Choices: (three choices—choose one)

- ____ 1. We Are Proud To Be Part of
The American Legion Family
- ____ 2. Helping The American Legion
Help American's Veteran's
- ____ 3. We Proudly Stand Behind
The American Legion

Ad Choice: (please choose black & white or color)

- Medal of Honor (full page--7-1/2 x 10 in.)
- Silver Star (half page--7-1/2 x 5 in.)
- Bronze Star (quarter page--3-3/4 x 5 in.)
- Purple Heart (3-3/4 x 3-3/8 in. "Business card")
- Commander Salute (3-3/4 - 1-11/16 in.)
- Flag Page (1-3/4 - 1 in.)

Black & White Ad

Color Ad

\$230.00 _____	\$250.00 _____
\$120.00 _____	\$125.00 _____
\$90.00 _____	\$95.00 _____
\$75.00 _____	\$80.00 _____
\$60.00 _____	\$65.00 _____
\$25.00 _____	\$25.00 _____

Method of Payment (please check one) *All credit information will be kept confidential*

____ Check (Make Check payable to: AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF IL)

Send Check to: American Legion, Dept. of IL 2720 E. Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 61704

____ Credit Card _____

EXP Date: ____ / ____ / ____ Security Code #: ____

Card type: / MC / Visa / AmEx / Disc

OCW Donates TV's to Quincy Veteran Home

Residents at the Quincy Illinois Veterans Home will have a better view of the Superbowl thanks to a donation from the American Legion, Wednesday January 22nd.

The American Legion Family presented 9 high-definition TVs that came from Operation Comfort Warriors, a group that donates to help veterans in need get more of the creature comforts of home.

Department and National Officers all said it's an honor to give back to other vets. "The televisions give the vets some respite from the other issues that they're facing and as The American Legion, we're honored to be able to present these televisions and see the facilities," said American Legion Department Commander Roy Weber.

Department President Sue Cunniff Coughlin said "gifts like these can make a big difference for their residents."



American Legion Department of Illinois

YOUTH PROGRAM DATES TO REMEMBER

- ★ Oratorical Contest ☞ March 7, 2020
- ★ ALA Jr. Conference ☞ April 18th & 19th, 2020
- ★ Premier Boys State ☞ June 13th-19th, 2020
- ★ Illini Girls State ☞ June 21st-27th, 2020
- ★ Youth Police ☞ June 21st-26th, 2020

2019—2020 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	HOST POST	CITY
02/09/2020	12TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MARSEILLES POST 235	MARSEILLES
02/16/2020	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	POLO POST 83	POLO
02/19/2020	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	ROGERS PARK POST 108	EVANSTON
02/23/2020	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	KANSAS POST 539	KANSAS
02/26/2020	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	BILLY CALDWELL POST 806 @ WRIGHT COLLEGE	CHICAGO
02/27/2020	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	CHICAGO HEIGHTS POST 131	CHICAGO HEIGHTS
03/08/2020	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	ZUE VANDEVEER POST 257	STONINGTON
03/15/2020	2ND DIVISION	TBA	LENA POST 557	LENA
03/15/2020	5TH DIV. & 24TH DIST.	12:00 PM	NASHVILLE POST 110	NASHVILLE
03/15/2020	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	PRINCETON POST 125	PRINCETON
03/15/2020	17TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	LEXINGTON POST 291	LEXINGTON
03/15/2020	20TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MT. STERLING POST 374	MT. STERLING
03/18/2020	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
03/20/2020	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	LIBERTYVILLE POST 329	LIBERTYVILLE
03/22/2020	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	CAMBRIDGE POST 417	CAMBRIDGE
03/22/2020	4TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	CARLINVILLE POST 554	CARLINVILLE
03/22/2020	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	VENICE MADISON POST 307	GRANITE CITY
03/22/2020	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	AVISTON POST 1239	AVISTON
03/22/2020	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	STEELEVILLE POST 480	STEELEVILLE
03/25/2020	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	ITALIAN AMERICAN VETERANS MUSEUM STONE PARK	RIVER GROVE
03/26/2020	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EDWARD SCHULTZ POST 697	LANSING
03/29/2020	14TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	ELIZA POST 1971	ELIZA



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



Friends of Fisher House--IL Release for Lovell Fisher House Support

Thanks to American Legion Strong Support, Hines VA Fisher House Has Served 22,000 Individuals to Date; FOFH-IL Relies Heavily on Veteran Service Organizations, especially the American Legion, for Lovell Fundraising Now So the North Chicago Comfort Home Can Be Fully Accessorized and Meal Provisions Are on Hand for Hosting First Guests

Hines VA Fisher House has hosted over 11,000 veterans and their families (some 22,000 individuals) since 2010 with the support of Friends of Fisher House-Illinois (FOFH-IL) volunteer non-profit and the generosity of American Legion Posts of Illinois. Now, FOFH-IL turns to American Legion for support to continue this humanitarian assistance because the need for a 2nd Illinois Fisher House has been recognized to meet the increasing Illinois need for free lodging with meals for military families during medical crises.

According to FOFH-IL President Betty Stamatis, "FOFH-IL is deeply gratified by American Legion support for Hines Fisher House. We hope the American Legion will participate in the fundraising for Lovell which has already started. This is because we must demonstrate local funding support to build the facility plus have funds available to purchase house needs before the facility opens and provide gift cards for meals and household needs."

As Veteran Service Organizations are aware, this kind of humanitarian assistance is not provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense. When active military are wounded and veterans are ill or in need of hospice they travel to the best facility for their specialized care. Currently, many travel long distances for stays from 3 days to over 12 months at Hines VA Hospital. Many of these families depend on FOFH-IL and the Hines Fisher House for free lodging, meals, special needs and quality-of-life outings for themselves and their families during their medical crises.

"Many military families used to sleep in their cars in the Hines parking lot because they could not afford hotel accommodations and meals for long periods. The American Legion and FOFH-IL make it possible for them to be by their loved ones sides to support them through their crises without any financial stress," Stamatis comments.

"Currently, when Hines Fisher House is at capacity, FOFH-IL funds stays at hotels for families until suites become available. No one is ever turned away."

For further information and to donate please visit www.fofihl.org or e-mail assistance@fofihl.org

American Legion Department of Illinois



**Centennial
Coins are
still available**



*Call Department Headquarters
to purchase this one of a kind
collectable coin today!
Only a limited supply left.
Available coins are listed below.*

100 YEARS OF VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

Remaining numbers of the Department of Illinois Centennial Coin. Call today!

96	171	191	230	259	295	328	359	389
146	172	193	233	260	296	331	360	391
148	173	195	238	261	298	336	361	393
149	178	197	239	265	308	338	362	400
153	179	200	240	273	309	339	363	403
155	182	202	242	274	310	341	365	412
156	183	204	243	277	313	345	366	413
159	184	207	245	278	314	346	367	417
160	185	209	246	281	315	347	368	418
161	186	214	248	284	316	349	372	420
162	187	215	249	286	322	350	373	422
167	188	216	250	288	324	351	374	
168	189	225	251	289	326	353	379	
169	190	226	257	293	327	356	384	

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Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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FEBRUARY TRIVIA

- In Japan, what do women give men on Valentine's Day?
- The British Museum holds a letter believed to be the oldest valentine still in existence. Who wrote it?
- Today we associate love with the heart, but this wasn't always the case. In medieval times, which internal organ was believed to cause love?
- Which symbol does New York's Empire State Building illuminate on every Valentine's Day?
- What is a Vinegar Valentine?

ANSWERS:

- Chocolates.
- Charles d'Orleans, captured by the English at Agincourt, and then kept prisoner for the next twenty-five years. He passed his time writing sorrowful poetry including the St. Valentine's Day letter that describes his sadness at being parted from his love.
- The liver.
- A heart.
- A spoof or sarcastic parody of a real Valentine's message.



PRESIDENTS' DAY WORD SEARCH

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

See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

1. George	5. President	9. February	13. Vote
2. Washington	6. United	10. Leader	14. Holiday
3. Abe	7. States	11. Federal	15. Country
4. Lincoln	8. America	12. Elect	

Created by
Don Lindberg
Grand Forks Herald 2011