FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Legion Department of Illinois names winner in Oratorical contest

In Springfield, Illinois on March 7, 2020 The American Legion Department of Illinois 2020 Oratorical Contest took place with nine impressive contestants who competed early Saturday morning.

A young lady sponsored by Zion Benton American Legion Post 865 from Zion, IL is the winner of the 2020 American Legion High School Oratorical Program—“A Constitutional Speech Contest”. Mariama Bah won the contest held at the Crowne Plaza-Springfield. Mariama, a Junior at New Tech High @ Zion-Benton East, earned a $2000 scholarship and will now compete at the National level, against all American Legion Department Contest winners, in Indianapolis, IN.

Nine contestants delivered an 8-10 prepared oration as well as an 3–5 minute oration on, Amendment XXIV, the assigned constitutional topic drawn. Mariama impressed the judges with her speech titled: Silent Soldiers: The Struggle for Youth Voting Rights.

The eight additional high school contestants who also competed on Saturday were, London Sellers a Senior at Marist Catholic HS of Chicago, IL; Rohan Julka a Freshman at Benet Academy of Oak Brook, IL; Aparana Ramakrishnan a Sophomore at Naperville Central HS of Lisle, IL; Mackenzie Stewart a Senior at Mundelein HS of Hawthorn Woods, IL; Brooke Borchart a Senior at Huntley HS of Huntley, IL; John Warning a Home Schooled Junior of Minooka, IL; Mollie Johnson a Senior at Central Community HS of Breese, IL and Michael Smothers a Senior at Belleville East High School of Swansea, IL. (go to pg. 4 for more on Oratorical)

Since 1938, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program has encouraged the nation’s high school students to study the U.S. Constitution and to hone their public speaking skills.

The 2020 National Finals will be April 17 - 19 in Indianapolis at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN, 46241. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 18, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 19.
From The Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber

In writing this from the annual DC Conference. The meetings I have attended were informative and the Commanders Call was fantastic with many great speakers. I’m sure the Testimony on the Hill will be successful for National Commander Oxford.

I am writing this from the annual DC Conference. The meetings I have attended were informative and the Commanders Call was fantastic with many great speakers. I’m sure the Testimony on the Hill will be successful for National Commander Oxford.

We are kicking off another incentive program, “Membership Campaign” - Final Push. (more info on pg. 8&9)

To encourage a rally to obtain the remaining 10% plus of membership, for the year. I am asking every Division/District and Post to reach the 100% goal in June. We have many Posts throughout the Department that are within 5

American Legion Family, our challenges for success become more difficult. Whether it is a “Buddy Check” or a “Family Check” we must have strong and positive leaders to make this all happen. But it takes the “Blue Cappers” to truly get it done. Can we count on “YOU” to lead the charge and make our 2020 Membership Campaign “Final Push” a success? I trust your response is a resounding “YES”!!!

As I have written before: “Our future depends on our entire Legion Family working together with a “Can Do” spirit to achieve our goals and assist our Fellow Veterans and our Nation’s Great Youth”.

If you need help please call Chad or myself. We are here to help.

Thanks, and I’ll see you down the road!!!

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

O my Fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion... The Hunt is on!!!

What I meant to say is that our Department of Illinois Membership Campaign “Final Push” is on!!!! Currently we are 3rd from the bottom for all Departments as far as this year vs. last year on membership. Rather than beat on that, let’s talk about what we can and need to be doing to achieve a minimum Membership Target of 100% of last year. It is a “Challenge”, but one we all must “Embrace” to reverse a downward trend. (more info on pg. 8&9)

Districts to establish working Membership Teams and American Legion Program Teams effectively immediately. We can no longer “wait and see” when it comes to Membership and having successful Legion Programs. We need all current and past District; Division; and Department Officers and all Post Members to commit and help execute this “Final Push” Membership Campaign to return the Department of Illinois to a “Growth Department”.

A unique and focused effort by all Legionnaires is critical to get to 100% of last year on Membership. And as you have heard this before, this effort needs everyone’s support and actions to succeed. As we all know and appreciate, “Membership Growth” is what drives any organization to success. As we all know and respect, the American Legion Family stands for supporting our “4-Pillars”. Without having growing membership in all 3 parts of our Great

members to reach the goal. We can’t afford to sit back and just wait for those members to renew!!! Now is the time for Buddy Checks, phone calls and personal contact to those members. Consider a Revitalization with your Districts this year, there is still time. Help from Sr. Vice Wayne, myself and Membership Director Chad is always available.

I expect that every Post has contacted their High Schools and provided applications and information about Boys State, Girls State, Special Olympics and Youth Police School. At an awards ceremony recently, I spoke with a scholarship recipients parents, both teachers. Upon explaining some of the American Legion Programs for High School

(more info on pg 12)
From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Sue Cunniff Coughlin

Greeting Legionnaires! On behalf of all our American Legion Auxiliary members, let me be the first to wish you a very happy birthday!! We look forward to seeing many of you at birthday celebrations throughout the state. You are welcome to join us at our 100th birthday celebration that will be held at Department Headquarters on Thursday March 19th. Our Patriotic Conference is the next day at the Marriott in Bloomington Normal. We would love to see many of you there. We will have some great speakers including our National President Nicole Clapp. Be sure to let our Secretary Karen know if you are going to attend these events.

We just completed the Department Oratorical Contest. It was a privilege to attend but it was disappointing to see the small number of contestants. If you have never attended, think about volunteering next year or come over for the day and listen to the many wonderful speakers. These young men and women work very hard to prepare and present their orations. They are all very knowledgeable and show a strong understanding of what it means to be a proud American. Over the next year, reach out to the high schools in your area and let them know what a wonderful opportunity this is for their students. It would be great to see more contestants next year.

Our membership team is working hard to get our membership up. We would welcome any help looking for potential members for the Auxiliary. If you know anyone that is interested, please put them in contact with your local Units or have them contact me. I am sure there are many grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of our Legion members out there that are not Auxiliary members. Female veterans are also eligible. We would love to have them join us as members.

If you know a Post interested in starting a Unit, they can also reach out to me. We would be happy to help.

This month as we celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and welcome spring, here is a refreshing quote from Adrienne Cook. “St. Patrick’s Day is an enchanted time—a day to begin transforming winter’s dreams into summer’s magic.”

From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander

Dear American Legion Family,

COMMUNICATION!

Communication is key to everything we do. This is a subject that seems to come up fairly often. So what can we do to improve how current information is distributed amongst the family? First do you have a liaison for your post, unit, squadron and chapter? A liaison from each of the family members should attend the other families meetings and report back. This allows for open communication within your post. It may also provide more volunteers for that very important next event. If you would like to stay current with what is going on within the Detachment of Illinois you can text “SONS” to 22828 to get started. Once signed up you will receive an email blast every couple weeks with current events and information.

The Detachment also has a Facebook page “Son’s of the American Legion Detachment of Illinois” search for and like this page. It is your best link to the current happenings within the detachment. You can also submit flyers and information on events you may be having.

I recently had the honor to attend the Washington Conference. Sunday Morning started out with a photo opportunity with Commander Bolt. Then it was off to the WWII Memorial. While there I placed a wreath from the Detachment at the Illinois pillar in Homer of all who have served and to honor my Uncle’s Frank and Harry Stander. They both served bravely in WWII. Then it was off to the Korean War memorial where more wreaths were placed. The final stop was at the tomb of the unknown soldier, after the changing of he guard Commander Bolt placed a wreath at the tomb. A truly solemn occasion. 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”
American Legion Department of Illinois 2020 Oratorical Contestants 
with Department Commander Roy Weber (R) and Department Sr. Vice Commander Wayne L. Fischer (L).

1st Place - Mariama Bah won a $2,000 scholarship and Advances to the National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis held April 17-19. 
Sponsor: Post 865/10th/2nd

2nd Place - Aparana Ramakrishnan
Won a $1,500 scholarship
Sponsor: Post 43/11th/2nd

3rd Place - Brooke Borchart
Won a $1,200 scholarship
Sponsor: Post 673/11th/2nd

4th Place - Mackenzie Stewart
Won a $1,000 scholarship
Sponsor: Unit 867/10th/2nd

5th Place - John Warning
Won a $1,000 scholarship
Sponsor: Post 1080/11th/2nd

6th Place - Rohan Julka
Won an $800 scholarship
Sponsor: Post 43/11th/2nd

7th Place - Michael Smothers
Won a $700 scholarship
Sponsor: Post 1080/11th/2nd

8th Place - Mollie Johnson
Won a $600 scholarship
Sponsor: Unit 252/3rd/5th

9th Place - London Sellers
Won a $500 scholarship
Sponsor: Post 800/3rd/1st
That my article last month drew a lot of favorable comments. Our readers were amazed at the different subjects and benefit situations we handle each month at the American Legion VA&R Chicago office. So this month I am highlighting some more unusual cases we assisted in that had good outcomes. For those current and past Service Officers, if you have an interesting case you would like to share, please send me the details (omitting the veterans name of course) and I’ll see if I can put together another article.

1. John Smith stopped into our VA&R office on Taylor Street, next to Jesse Brown hospital in Chicago. He had been trying to get service-connected disabled compensation for his PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). While stationed at Ft. Gordon Georgia; he had a weekend pass and was robbed at gunpoint. His (Service Treatment Records) were silent for this tragic event and the local Georgia police couldn’t find a record of the incident. It happened over 21 years ago. One of our Service Officers decided to go “outside the box” and he contacted the CID office at Ft. Gordon. Took some time but an old police report was located. With that and a current diagnosis from Jesse Brown hospital, he was granted 100% for PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). The retro check was well over $100,000 and he now gets $3,057 a month, no property taxes, and many other benefits unique to those rated 100%.

2. G.I. Joseph filed for a back condition. It was denied and we appealed it. He finally won and was granted 20% service-connected compensation for the lower back. He felt the Veterans Administration should have gone back to 1972 when he first filed, so we submitted another appeal for an earlier effective date. A review on his records showed that his address was on 7th St. in Joliet, IL but the Veterans Administration sent the 1972 denial letter to a 17th St. in Joliet and that is why he never was able to appeal it back then, he didn’t know it was denied! The Board of Veterans Appeals agreed with us and he was granted 20% for his back all the way back to 1972. A $64,000+ retro check was issued.

3. A member from the Geneva area contacted us. She was working full-time and her employer’s health insurance wasn’t the best. She had to pay $200 a month for a special medication. The Veterans Administration hospital turned her down due to her income and she had no service-connected conditions. After a brief discussion we found out she was stationed in Munich, Germany, during the service and one weekend she took some R&R. Went to the Alps for a nice few days of skiing. Broke her right leg and it had to be cased. To this day she walks with a slight limp. She was completely unaware that she could file a claim for that. We did, she got 20% for the residuals of the broken bone and now she is enrolled in the VA hospital. Her expensive medication is now furnished by them for only $9 for each 30 day supply.

4. Out of the 2nd Division, a former Army MP served three years at Ft. Gordon, Georgia. Five years later he went into the Illinois National Guard and spend six years with them. During one of his summer drills he suffered a rather nasty injury to his shoulder. All attempts to locate his Service Treatment Records were in vain. Neither the Army records center in St. Louis nor the Illinois National Guard headquarters in Springfield could find them. Thurns out he had a legal name change and forgot to list that on his claim. With this info, we were able to locate his Service Treatment Records under his previous name. $18,200 in retroactive benefits was issued and he now gets $540 a month for life.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, if you have an interesting case you would like to share, send me the details and I’ll put another article.

To our men and women in uniform, past, present and future, GOD bless you and thank you for your service.

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.

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.
Commander’s Homecoming

March 28th 2020
Wauconda Post 911
515 S Main st
Wauconda, IL 60084
847-526-9718

A Night to Remember
6:00 pm Cocktails
7:00 pm Dinner
8:00 pm Program
8:30—11:30 LUDY

RSVP by
March 21st!!!

Attire for the evening is
Legion Casual

50/50 and Raffles
Proceeds to benefit the
Commanders Project
C.W.F.

R.S.V.P Deadline is March 21st

Name: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________

# ___ dinners @ $20 ea. $ ________
Please send payment along with reservation to:
Son’s of the American Legion
P.O. Box 146
Wauconda, IL 60084

Checks can be made out to: SAL 911
HAVE YOU ASKED...
Do you Belong to The American Legion?

Discounts for Military (Active, Reserves, Guard Members), Retirees, Veterans and Dependents

Qualifying proof in most cases will be one of the following documents: Active Duty ID card, Reserve/Guardsman ID card, Military Retiree ID card, Veterans Affairs ID card, Veterans Affairs ID card stamped under picture service corrected, and State Driver’s License over stamped “VETERAN”.

Not every establishment offers a discount, but it never hurts to ask, when in doubt ask the manager. Go to the link below for complete listing.

https://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/military-veteran-discounts

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)

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<tr>
<th>Ad</th>
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<td>Medal of Honor (full page---7-1/2 x 10 in.)</td>
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<td>Flag Page (1-3/4 - 1 in.)</td>
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Method of Payment (please check one) All credit information will be kept confidential

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

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

EXP Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Security Code #: _____

Card type: / MC / Visa / AmEx / Disc
To: All District, Division Officers and PDC’s within the Department of Illinois

Subject: 2019-20 District “Membership Campaign” - FINAL PUSH

At our Junior and Senior District and Division Officers meeting last Saturday, we spent time discussing our current Membership Status for this year. Briefly, we are trending down just over 4,000 members thru Friday, February 14th.

This is something we cannot accept and do nothing about at this point of the year. We all agreed that there are Veterans in all our Districts that are now eligible to join our great organization. The Legion Act open these doors and now it is up to each of us to bring them in and sign them up. The Membership “Ball” is in our court.

Currently we have signed up 3,448 New Legionnaires this year and we have time to bring in a lot more. Also, we ask all Posts to do a “Buddy Check” of their members that have not renewed for last year AND this year. Now It is up to each and every one of our District and Division Officer’s; Past Department Commanders, and current Department Officers to make this “Final Push” and Success.

Currently we are at 89.66% and still need 7,702 members to be 100% for the year. It can be done and should be done. But it will truly take a “Team Effort”. Each of us fill a very important job within the American Legion and we all must to our part to achieve success.

Now, for those that missed Saturday’s meeting and for all the Commanders and PDC’s that were not part of this meeting, we have implemented our “Final Push” Membership Campaign which started Monday, February 17th. You will find the details of this Campaign along with this letter. (see pg. of this newsletter 9 ➔) We also included the specific “Goals” by Group and District so everyone getting this letter will know what is needed and expected. There would be nothing greater than for all 23 Districts to get their share of the $22,500 allocated to this “Final Push” Campaign. Every District that earns their reward will have that money to support American Legion Programs within their District.

This is a “Win-Win” for everyone in the Department of Illinois!!!! LET’S MAKE IT HAPPEN!!!!!

Respectively Yours,

Roy Weber, Department Commander

&

Wayne Fischer, Dept. Sr.Vice Commander
2019-20
District “Membership Campaign”
Final Push

Given our current Membership Status thru early February we are trending over 4,000 members down for the year unless we make a final “Push” thru our District Officers with a “Target” of hitting 100% by Close of Books, Friday June 19th, 2020.

Here is the “Membership Campaign” Final Push:

1. Each of our 23 Districts are split as follows between 3 Groups based on “Membership Cards needed for 100%” as of week ending 2-14-2020.

   **Group 1:** 1-250 Cards needed for 100% (2\textsuperscript{nd}; 3\textsuperscript{rd}; 4\textsuperscript{th}; 5\textsuperscript{th}; 13\textsuperscript{th}; 14\textsuperscript{th};15\textsuperscript{th}; 20\textsuperscript{th}; 18\textsuperscript{th}; 24\textsuperscript{th}) 10 Districts.

   **Group 2:** 251 Cards needed for 100% (7\textsuperscript{th}; 8\textsuperscript{th}; 9\textsuperscript{th}; 10\textsuperscript{th}; 16\textsuperscript{th}; 17\textsuperscript{th}; 21\textsuperscript{st}; 22\textsuperscript{nd}; 23\textsuperscript{rd}; 25\textsuperscript{th}) 10 Districts.

   **Group 3:** 501+ Cards needed for 100% (11\textsuperscript{th}; 12\textsuperscript{th}; 19\textsuperscript{th}) 3 Districts.

2. To support this Final “Membership Campaign” Final Push all Districts that make their 100% Goal for the year will receive a Cash Incentive to be used by the District to support American Legion Programs. *This is not to be used as a personal gift.*

3. Here is the Cash Incentive for each District within each of the respective Groups:

   *Group 1 Districts (9 Total) will each receive a $500 check based on their Close of Books Final 100% Standings

   *Group 2 Districts (11 Total) will each receive a $1,000 check based on their Close of Books Final 100% Standings.

   *Group 3 Districts (3 Total) will each receive a $2,500 check based on their Close of Books Final 100% Standings.

4. This “Campaign” is in addition to all current Department Membership Programs for this year.

5. Final “Goals” will be based of W/E 2-14-2020 “Cards Needed for 100%”.

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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

Ruck March  
Chicago, IL  
May 22

NATIONAL POPPY DAY  
MAY 25

MEMORIAL DAY  
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED  
May 25

CPR Forms Due  
@ Department HQ  
June 1

ALANational Centennial  
95% Target Date  
June 1

American Legion Premier  
Illinois Boys State  
EIU-Charleston  
June 13-19

Flag Day  
June 14

# # #
LifeLine Pilots Receive CWF Donation

Founded in 1981 by Wanda Whitsitt of Champaign, IL, LifeLine Pilots’ mission is to facilitate free air transportation through volunteer pilots for financially distressed passengers with medical and humanitarian needs. LifeLine Pilots began as a small group of pilots in Illinois who envisioned using their special skill of flying to help people with emergencies to reach medical centers. With only 40 pilots, all activity was limited to departing or arriving within the state. All operations were under the auspices of Illinois Emergency Services and Disaster Agency taking advantage of their 24 hour phone service and liability protection. After five years, the group separated from the state agency to expand the service area outside of Illinois.

To date, over 8,000 missions have been flown by LifeLine Pilots’ Volunteer Pilots. The service area has grown to include free air transportation to those traveling between the Rocky Mountains and the East Coast.

LifeLine serves patients in Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. LifeLine is headquartered in Peoria, Illinois.

The generosity of 450 volunteer pilots makes the mission of LifeLine Pilots’ a reality. Their decision to donate their time and resources to those with transportation needs has resulted in over 5,000,000 charitable nautical miles flown. The Volunteer Pilots come from all walks of life, are FAA certified pilots, have met the LifeLine Pilot’s volunteer pilot criteria and have a willingness to donate 100% of flight expenses.

Passengers must have financial need, be able to sit upright, be ambulatory and be willing to fly in a small unpressurized aircraft. They have exhausted resources in their own community and are needing to travel a great distance to continue lifesaving treatments. LifeLine Pilots does not limit the number of times a passenger can utilize the service. Missions are facilitated for babies through senior citizens. LifeLine Pilots’ has also participated in relief efforts for natural disasters by transporting volunteers and supplies to areas of need.

For more information go to: www.lifelinepilots.org

Pictured above State Commander Roy Weber presents a Child Welfare Foundation Grant check to Lindsey Kerr Executive Director of LifeLine Pilots. LifeLine Pilots received the grant to support their mission of facilitating free air transportation for children with medical and humanitarian needs.
The American Legion Department of Illinois

102nd Annual Department Convention July 7–12, 2020

-SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS (Mr. Lincoln's Hometown)-

HOUSING RESERVATION FORM

All reservations MUST be made directly with the hotel housing your Division/S.A.L. on or before June 16, 2020. You may make your reservation by completing and mailing this form along with your credit card information or first nights deposit including tax or by following the instructions for your assigned hotel, which are listed below. NOTE: ALL cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to arrival date. Failure to cancel by that date will result in billing of one night's room rate.

PARKING IS INCLUDED IN THE RATE AT BOTH HOTELS

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<tr>
<td>WYNDHAM SPRINGFIELD</td>
<td>2nd, 3rd, 4th &amp; 5th Divisions and Sons of The American Legion</td>
<td>$110.00 plus tax ($124.30 per night with tax)</td>
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<td>City Centre</td>
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<td>700 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/789-1530</td>
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Reservation- Mail this form to the Wyndham Springfield or via internet and linking up to http://bit.ly/2020AmericanLegionConvention or you may also call 217/789-1530 and select the RESERVATIONS OPTION and advise the reservationist of Group Code 07077027ALC and/or the group name American Legion 2020.

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN HOTEL SPRINGFIELD

(A Doubletree by Hilton) 1st Division & Auxiliary $110.00 plus tax ($124.30 per night with tax)

701 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/544-8800

Reservation- Mail this form to the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield or via internet by linking up to http://group.doubletree.com/AmericanLegion-July7 You may also phone the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield directly at 1/866-788-1860 or 217/544-8800 using the Group Code of “ALM” for the Legion and “ALA” for the Auxiliary.

Special Notes: All rooms are subject to the applicable sales tax. All reservations must be made with credit card or advanced deposit. Remember, if reserving the room with a personal check, be sure and include the rate including tax as listed above. Also, the cut-off date for ALL RESERVATIONS is Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

If you select a hotel that your Division is not housed in, you may be moved to your Division assigned hotel.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Division ______ District ______ Legion/SAL Title ________________________________

Hotel __________________________ Type of room (circle) 1 Bed 2 Beds Disabled Access ______

Please note: All Hotel Rooms in Springfield are Non-Smoking.

(Please note room types are a request and are not guaranteed. The hotels will attempt to accommodate.)

Other Special Requests: __________________________________________________________

Name: _____________________________________________________________

Address __________________________ City ________________________________

State ______ Zip Code ______ Phone _______ Cell ___________________

E-Mail ___________________________ Fax ________________________________

Name(s) of additional people in room: ________________________________________

Arrival Date __________________________ Departure Date __________________________

Credit Card # __________________________ Expiration Date __________________________

FREEDOM FEST, FRIDAY, JULY 10TH - COMMANDER'S AND PRESIDENT'S DINNER, SATURDAY, JULY 11TH
Students, I was told that they have never been visited by the Legion to introduce Boy’s State or Girl’s State, much less the Oratorical Contest. Our Legionnaires have to make that initial personal contact at the schools, or the programs will never be attacked upon.

My March Calendar is nearly full and cannot believe that our Convention is just a few months away. With this being the American Legion Auxiliaries 100th year celebration, I encourage the rest of the Legion Family to get behind them and make this a Truly Legion Family Year. Remember with the “Can Do Spirit” we must continue to make the Legion the most active Veterans Service Organization ever.

Please do not hesitate to contact our department staff with questions about programs, membership, or scheduling.

Your Department Officers are standing right beside each one of you to ensure we ALL do the very best we can and to have the best year ever! After all WE ARE CAN DO VETERANS serving Veterans and their families.

The American Legion helps host

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

ILLINOIS WINTER GAMES

The Special Olympics Illinois Winter Games took place at Chestnut Mountain, Galena, IL. Illinois State Winter Games competitions took place February 4-6, 2020.

Winter Games is one of 11 State sports competitions. It is the culminating competition for those participating in Alpine Skiing or Snowshoeing. Athletes cannot participate in more than one sport. Over 450 athletes were set to compete and show off their winning form.

Morrison, IL, American Legion Post 328 Sergeant-at-Arms Jerry Brearton, pictured below, volunteered with VFW’s and American Legions of the Rockford, IL area. Everyone assisted in running the snack counter for the athletes at the Illinois Special Olympics 2020 Winter Games.

The volunteers (pictured above right) of that weekend reported they went through over 37 summer sausage rolls, 10 gallons of pickle spears, several cases of crackers, a large cooler of assorted cheese, 4 sliced and quartered hams, lost count on the gallon bags of grapes, and gallons upon gallons of SWISS MISS Hot Cocoa!

1st Division Breakfast meeting and calls held at museum

The American Legion First Division, Department of Illinois, held its Commander’s Breakfast at the Italian American Veterans Museum in Stone Park on February 8, 2020. Present at the meeting were Department of Illinois Senior Vice Commander Wayne L. Fischer and Department of Illinois Membership Director Chad Woodburn, First Division Commander Gigi Callaway, as well as several of the Division’s District Commanders and Posts. Liaison for the breakfast was Lorenzo A. Fiorentino, American Legion 9th District JVC and Post 335 Commander. (He serves as IAVM Second Vice President.) The museum is located on the third floor of the Office Center at Casa Italia, 3800 Division St., Stone Park.

The main topic of conversation was boosting membership. Participants reviewed the 2910 list—which are paid up Legionnaires not in a Post and current Legion Post members who have not yet paid their dues for 2020—with an eye toward reaching out to them to encourage their participation in the American Legion Family.

The meeting was held at the veterans museum as part of an ongoing effort to strengthen ties to other community organizations and build on recent networking successes.

The American Legion will return to the museum at 7 p.m. on March 25, when the River Grove American Legion Post #335 will host its 9th District Council Department of Illinois “Post Everlasting” Ceremony. The ceremony honors Veterans who have passed away the previous year.
Golf tournament donates trees to Legion  
- A gift to generations

DANVILLE--The grounds on American Legion Post 210 will look a little greener this spring. Thanks to a donation from the American Legion State Golf Tournament, about 80 trees and shrubs have been planted around the Legion at Jackson and Prospect. Gregg Alpers, coordinator and chairman of the golf tournament, helped plant the trees last year. “The golf committee is pleased to do something for the host post,” Alpers said. “They thought it was a nice way to express our appreciation.”

The cost to buy the trees was about $500; Sons of the American Legion member Randy Holman donated $100. The new trees at the Legion post will provide shade when families watch their children on the ball fields.

American Legion State Golf Tournament  
Danville, IL  
August 1 & 2, 2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DIST./ DIV.</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>HOST POST</th>
<th>CITY</th>
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<td>MENARD COUNTY POST 129 (CONVENTION)</td>
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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 |

American Legion Department of Illinois

Centennial Coins are still available
Call Department Headquarters to purchase this one of a kind collectable coin today!
Limited supply!
Available coins listed.
New Baden American Legion Post 321 is currently raising money to replace our old wheelchair lift. Belleville American Legion Post 1255 heard about our lift and between the Legion, SAL, and Legion Riders they donated $700 to help Post 321.

(Pictured, L to R) Dennis Russell Post 1255 Commander and Thelma Miller Post 321 Commander.
MARCH TRIVIA

1. Why did U.S. secret agents abandon plans—approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt—to drop live bats from airplanes to frighten the Japanese during World War II?

   1. The bats froze at high altitudes, before they could be released.

2. What famous American signed the Treaty of Kanagawa?

   2. Commodore Matthew C. Perry, on March 31, 1854. The treaty opened Japan to western trade.

3. What was the name of the very first ocean-going vessel built by Englishmen in the New World?

   3. Virginia. The 30-ton ship was built by settlers who landed in Maine in 1607, established a colony, but found life and the winter weather so harsh that they built a ship to escape a second winter.

4. What house is the second most visited American home in the United States—outdrawn only by the White House?

   4. Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley in Memphis, Tennessee.