



2019–2020 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROY WEBER

APRIL–MAY 2020



## Department Executive Committee Cancels State Convention

As the United States and the world tries to control the COVID-19 Pandemic, the National American Legion has canceled the 2020 National Convention. With no clear end in sight to the extraordinary restrictions on business and personal travel, hard decisions have to be made now.

The National American Legion after much discussion and weighing of the options determined that it was most prudent for the safety of our members to cancel all National Legion meetings until September 30, 2020. The National American Legion Auxiliary and National Sons of The American Legion are also following the guidance recommended.

They are strongly urging the Departments Legion, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary to follow a similar course of action. The Leadership of Illinois Legion Family has met and agrees with that guidance.

The Department Executive Committee passed a resolution to cancel State Convention scheduled for July 8th to 11th, 2020 in Springfield, Illinois by email vote.

Districts and Divisions can make changes during their next regular meeting, in compliance with their own Constitution, for replacement of officers that do not want to serve the additional time. If you have any question about what this means for your District or Division please contact the Department Adjutant at 309-663-0361.

The American Legion has never faced this type of situation. Please be understanding as we, as an organization, make this work. Together we will grow stronger as a Legion Family.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF  
APRIL 24, 2020

#### TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

##### District Commander

14	Schomer
18	Tincher
20	Flowers, Jr.
13	Nichols
15	Schlieper
10	Bucher
12	Hernandez
21	Rump
11	Leonard
17	Elder

##### Division Commander

3	GOSNEY
2	POWROZNIK
4	SHAPLAND
5	PICOU
1	CALLAWAY

## From The Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber



Legionnaires indeed "CAN DO".

I encourage ALL Division, District and Post officers to continue to reach out to our members during these trying times. Just 10 renewals a day for each District would push up our membership to near goals!! We have only 8 to 9 weeks till the close of books for this year.

As many of you may already know, we have unfortunately had to cancel meeting and special events: DEC, Patriotic Conference, SAL Homecoming, Armed Forces Day Dinner, Boys and Girls State, Youth Cadet Program as well as Division/District meetings. Although putting minimal miles on the Department vehicles we would prefer to be on the road attending such meetings and events to conduct Legion business.

Even with our limited contact with the youth in our communities it still remains very important to reach out via mail or

email in order to keep our programs alive. There may be no activity this year BUT we are now planning for the coming years. These programs are still relevant so please don't stop RECRUITING! As you make those much needed "Buddy Checks" don't forget to mention the programs and scholarships we have for their children and grandchildren.

Although it may seem like it our Legion year is not over, it is NOT. We had hoped for the best case scenarios, but as a good service member always does we prepare for the worst. I ask for everyone to use their "Can Do" attitude and make every effort on membership. Now is the ideal time to get on the computer, mobile phone or telephone and contact those we haven't heard from in a while.

*(Commander continued on page 5)*

Fellow Legionnaires:

I hope this issue finds you and your families healthy and in good spirits.

Due to the Covid-19 virus, travel for me has been all but ceased. Let's hope and pray that the conditions improve soon and life so we all can resume as before.

I want to congratulate the 14th District for reaching 100% FINAL PUSH Membership Award. Under the leadership of 14th District Commander Rick Schomer their hard work on revitalizations, reaching out to 2910 members and doing Buddy Checks paid off.

Great Job ALL!!! This proves that

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



their \$500 award check once our year is complete. One out of 23 is a start, but certainly more are needed. I am confident other will receive their FINAL PUSH Award Check also.

For those that are not on the "100% Final Push Campaign" weekly report via email, please check with your District; Division Officers or a Past Department Commander from your Division as they are updated weekly and can update you on how your District and Posts are doing.

We all are basically on "Shutdown" until our Governor lifts the "Stay in Place" order. However, the American Legion proudly lives on. I encourage all of us take this free time to reach out and do "Buddy Checks" of your fellow Legionnaires. You never know how much a 5 minute phone can mean to someone shut in. I hear that many of you are already doing this, and I "Thank You" for making sure our comrades are

**Not Forgotten!!!!** Personally, I have received several buddy checks from my Post members and Legionnaires from other Districts. **All is well here!!!**

In addition to Buddy Checks, we want each Post that still has "Expired Members" for this year to reach out and encourage them to renew. Even if your Post is at 100%, please reach out to your expired members. Believe it or not, we currently have right at **6,700 Legionnaires** that are still outstanding on their dues for this year alone. So, you may ask "how do I get the names and information so I can make contact"? In many cases your Post Adjutant already has this information. National sends every post a membership roster each year. But, due to the critical importance of reaching out to all these Legionnaires, Commander Roy and I emailed out

*(Sr. Vice Commander continued on page 4)*

To my Fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion...The Membership Campaign "100% Final Push is still on!!!! Yes, I am back on "Membership" again. Unfortunately, our Department of Illinois remains 3rd from the bottom for all Departments "this year vs. last year" as far as Membership.

Now, how about some good news, we have just over 4,000 New Members for the year. That is up over 600 from last year or almost 18%. **GREAT JOB!!!**

**AND**, as many of you know, our 14th District, under the leadership of Rick Schomer and his fellow officers, are the **FIRST** District to make their "100% Final Push Target". They will receive



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



**G**reetings Legionnaires! I hope you are all safe, healthy and staying home. What a way to celebrate our 100-year anniversary. It is certainly a year we will never forget. It is with great sadness that we have had to cancel so many Legion, Auxiliary and SAL events. Each cancellation was a very difficult decision on our part, but we need to put the safety of our members and others first and foremost. I am hopeful that we will get through this soon and get back to working our mission. I know I miss meeting all of our members.

We are following lead to encourage our leadership and members to do "Buddy Checks." During this difficult time, a phone call could be just that special something to make a person's day. This can be a depressing situation for many of our members. I have been reaching out to check in on all of our leadership and offering my support to all members.

During the first week of April we tried something new. It was **A week of Caring and Sharing**, which actually turned out to be a month due to the pandemic. It was a period to contact members that have not renewed for a few years back.

While we are observing the shelter in place, it is a good time to keep working on membership. Do you have any eligible members for the Auxiliary or SAL? We would love to have them join

us.

If you know of any Posts that are interested in starting a Unit, please let me know. Just give me a call or send an email. We would be happy to get you started. Also, if you know of a Unit that is struggling, please let us know. We cannot meet with them at this time, but we would be happy to make a few calls and set up something whenever we can get out again.

We are trying to keep a positive outlook. We need to support each other as we ALL are in this together. Thank you for your service and thank you for all you do to serve our veterans and communities every day.

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.



## *From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander*



**M**y fellow American Legion Family and friends,  
I'm writing this article in the stead of Detachment Commander Phil. We learned the sad news of the passing of Phil's father on April, 2nd. Please join me in offering our most sincere condolences to commander Phil and his family. We are indeed a family. I know we will all be praying for and sending positive thoughts for Phil and his family during this difficult time.

We are currently weathering a very difficult situation. The COVID-19 pandemic is really putting stress on families with fear of the unknown and we are all wondering, what happens next. There is also extreme pressure being felt by many financially, whether we are

considering their personal budget or their business. Times like these are especially difficult on older Americans, and individuals who live alone and may have difficulty getting out for their necessities. Of course, there is also the fear of... will I get sick if I go to the store? It goes without saying that many of our veterans and their families are in many cases among the most vulnerable.

When following social media and the news I have been inspired by the stories of many Americans, specifically our American Legion Family members who have been stepping up to help our veterans in need. Whether it is **"Buddy Checks"**, delivering food, donations or just providing much needed information and guidance for our veterans, the American Legion family is doing an outstanding job.

If you have not yet, check out <https://www.legion.org/coronavirus> for valuable information, inspirational and informative messages from National

Commander Bill Oxford and stories of the American Legion family getting it done.

As Detachment Sr Vice Commander I cannot conclude without mentioning membership. As of the March 27th membership report the Detachment of Illinois was at 89.58%. This exceeds the last national target of 80% on March 22nd by almost 10%. Congratulations to all my fellow sons in the Detachment of Illinois and thank you to the American Legion family for your on-going assistance with our SAL membership.

***Now let's get that 105% for Commander Phil!!!***

Very truly yours,

***James Peters Jr – Sr Vice Commander, Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Illinois***

*(SAL Cmdr's message on page 12)*

**To: Illinois American Legion, Auxiliary and SAL Membership**

**From: Department Convention Director Mike Walton**

*The 2020 Illinois Conventions of The American Legion; American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion are officially canceled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.*

*There are many hands that assist in the planning each one of our annual conventions, consequently to cancel such events these same hands worked with our entire Legion Family in unison and understanding as we made these hard decisions.*

*Please join me with a heartfelt thank you for the efforts from Springfield Mayor Langfelder, the City of Springfield, the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Bank of Springfield Convention Center, the President Abraham Lincoln Doubletree hotel and the Wyndham Springfield hotel.*

*Each entity unanimously agreed that the health and safety of our American Legion Family Members in Illinois is of utmost importance! We certainly appreciate them!*

*To show our appreciation we will be scheduling our 2022 Illinois Conventions of The American Legion; American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion, for July 2022 in Springfield. We have already reserved July 2021 for the three conventions.*

*Stay safe and healthy as we all anxiously await for this to be over.*

*(Sr. Vice Commander continued from page 2)*

during the week ending, March 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> the list of **"Expired members"** to all Division Commanders and Sr. Vice Commanders. Each one was asked to immediately send to each of their respective District Officers the lists of Expired Members, these lists are sorted by Posts. So, by now this information should be in the hands of every post who have **"Expired Members"** on this list. Please let us know if you have not received your Post list so we can send it to you. Many of you are wondering why we did this? By the time you read this we will have only 7 or 8 weeks left before our Close of Books on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Time is simply getting away from us.

In addition, another particularly important thing to remember and remind everyone of our **"The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance Program (TFA)"**. Considering this Covid-19 Virus and its impact many may need the assistance of TFA. To receive this legion benefit being a **current member** of the American Legion, also makes them and their family eligible for TFA and other American Legion Programs. Sometimes we all need that little reminder on just how great of an organization The American Legion truly is. Let's make the call and spread the word.

**"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."** Thanks, and I'll (eventually) see you down the road!!!



Valued Riders,

As many of you already know, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the National Legacy Run as well as National Convention have been cancelled for this year.

The Department Executive Committee voted on a resolution to cancel

the Department Convention in July.

In keeping with the recommendations from National, I am officially cancelling the In-State Legacy Run for 2020. The health and safety of our Riders as well as that of our Legion Family members is what is most important.

Hopefully, as things return to normal, we will be able to hold local rides, events and fundraisers. Please communicate these events to your Division representative so we can ensure the word is passed. If you have donations for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, Operation Comfort Warriors or the Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave, please send them to Department Headquarters so we can get an accurate total. **Remember, we ride for the cause, not the applause!**



Keep the rubber side down.

Joe Lampert  
Chairman,  
ALR Committee  
Department of Illinois



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

**DID YOU KNOW...**That this year our Annual Washington D.C. conference was well attended and Legionnaires from all Departments met over a 3 day period. During this time we were furnished with a wealth of information from our

National VA&R staff and also the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Keynote speakers from the Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration and the National Cemetery Administration updated us on changes and proposed laws. Here are some of the highlights:

The Veterans Administration budget for fiscal year 2021 is estimated to be 243 Billion and 54% of their workforce are veterans.

Under the Colmery Act veterans will get an additional 9 months of educational benefits if their goal is a Technical degree.

Over 200,000 veterans still get a paper check or are paid by a debit card. The new Vet Benefits Banking Program will offer free checking accounts to eligible veterans.

Eleven Army cemeteries have been turned over to the VA to manage.

Of all suicides, 50% are by firearms. Free gun locks can be obtained from any Veterans Health Administration hospital. Audie Murphy had thoughts of suicide daily.

The crisis hotline (*formerly the suicide hotline*) now has 900 full-time employees and of the 16+ vets who commit suicide each day, 11 are NOT using any form of VA health care.

The Board of Veterans Appeals has produced a YouTube video on what to expect at a Board hearing. There are now 102 law judges on that Board.

There are now 1,062 clinics and 70% of all US doctors receive some of their training at a Veterans Health Administration hospital.

Over 200 veterans are diagnosed with some type of cancer daily! This last year saw over 60 million hospital visits by our veterans.

That's it from Washington. On the local level our Chicago office has hired a new full-time Service Officer who is fluent in Spanish. Johnny Gonzalez is a service-connected disabled veteran and has a distinguished military career. After discharge he earned an MBA and is now working on a law degree. He is nearing completion of his training and should be an asset to our staff.

While the Corona Virus has limited our walk-in hours at the Chicago office, we are still helping veterans and their dependents with claims. We can be reached 24/7 at the above listed e-mail and telephone numbers.

*"In times of stress and danger such as come about as the result of an epidemic, many tragic and cruel phases of human nature are brought out, as well as many brave and unselfish ones."*

— William Crawford Gorgas, Sanitation in Panama during the Yellow Fever epidemic.

*(Commander continued from page 2)*

Check in on those who are not as mobile. Some may be in need of our help and after all we are here to be of service to our fellow Veterans.

Additionally, whenever possible let's help the ALA celebrate their 100th Anniversary as we are all part of the American Legion Family.

I look forward to being of service to the Department of Illinois once again. We **WILL** Rebuild and Overcome the unforeseen results of this global pandemic. Always remember we are "Veterans Serving Veterans" we shall keep moving "ALWAYS FORWARD" with the Veteran's "CAN DO" attitude!!!!

Yours always in service,  
American Legion Department of Illinois  
Commander  
**Roy Weber**

*To date 143 posts of  
728 posts have reached  
100% or better this year.*



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THOSE LEGION POSTS!**

# 2020 LEGION FAMILY END OF YEAR Book

An American Legion Family END OF YEAR book for year 2020 is in the planning stages. If you would like to place a Post, Unit or Squadron Ad in the book there is still time. Complete then send the form and payment in today.

BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Legion Family use only) Post/Unit/Squadron name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Slogan Choices: (three choices—choose one)** (we will consider special messages)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Size: (please choose black & white or color)**

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**

\$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

**Contact David  
 @ Dept. HQ  
 with any questions  
 309-663-0361**

## HAVE YOU ASKED...

### Do you Belong to The American Legion?

Everyday Veterans Discounts and Services

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

Qualifying proof in most case will be one of the following documents. Active Duty ID card, Reserves/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 link below for complete listing.

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

**The American Legion Membership Application**

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of Birth) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Mailing Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone Number) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_ (Post #) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (E-mail) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Male ☐ Female (Gender) \_\_\_\_\_ (Dues) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.  
**Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below**

<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only)
<input type="checkbox"/> WWII	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts	

30-009 Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name of recruiter \_\_\_\_\_

**Receipt of Dues** (Please Print)

From \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recruiter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recruiter's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

# DEPARTMENT

## Membership Awards

### Are you In it to Win it?

Many things have changed for our 2020 Membership year. What hasn't changed is the opportunity to earn and receive the Department Membership Awards listed below. Each membership award is still available, yes some deadlines have expired, however many have NOT. Are you in It to Win It?

**We encourage everyone to keep on "Pushing"!!!**

Department Commander Weber And Sr. Vice Fischer are establishing the plan to present all membership awards. Once the decision is made an announcement will follow. Stay tuned!

For all guidelines and deadlines refer to your Department Membership Awards Book/Calendar or go to [www.illegion.org/resources/membershipawards](http://www.illegion.org/resources/membershipawards).

- ★ Gold Brigade
- ★ Silver Brigade
- ★ Recruiter of the Year
- ★ Gold Brigade/5th Consecutive Year
- ★ Gold Brigade/6th Consecutive Year or more
- ★ Pioneer Award
- ★ New Post Development Pin
- ★ 5 or more Consecutive Year ATH Award
- ★ District Commander New Post Achievement Award
- ★ District Commander Achievement Award and Honor Ribbon
- ★ Department Target Date Awards
- ★ Membership Recruiter Pin Award
- ★ #1 Gold Pin Award
- ★ Miniature #1 Gold Pin Award
- ★ 100% Final Push Award

## HOW TARGET DATE CHANGES AFFECT NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

*Nick Arnett, National Membership Engagement Coordinator*

Given the recent adjustments to April & May Target Dates, there will be additional adjustments made to qualifying dates for awards, as well as their corresponding submission due dates. Please see below for details and communicate those changes within your departments. Reference the National Membership Awards Points Manual located @ <https://www.legion.org/publications/160961/national-membership-awards-points-manual>

**Race-to-the-top Competition** (pg. 6 & 16) – Qualifying date has been changed from March 31<sup>st</sup> **to April 30th**; Submission date has been changed from the traditional April Target Date (April 8<sup>th</sup>) **to May 13th**.

**Department Commander of the Year** (pg. 7) – Qualifying date has been changed to from the traditional May Target Date (May 13<sup>th</sup>) **to June 17th**; No submissions from departments are necessary.

**Department & National Recruiters of the Year** (pg. 7 & 17) – Qualifying date has been changed to from May Target Date (May 13<sup>th</sup>) **to June 17th**; Submission dates from Departments to National has been changed to **June 19th**.

**District Commander's New Post Achievement Award** (pg. 8 & 18); **District Commander's Achievement Award and Honor Ribbon** (pg. 8 & 19) – Qualifying date has been changed to from May Target Date (May 13<sup>th</sup>) **to June 17th**; Submission dates from Departments to National has been changed to **June 19th**.

**Gold/Silver Brigade Awards [ALL]** (pg. 8 & 20-23) – Qualifying date has been changed to from May Target Date (May 13<sup>th</sup>) **to June 17th**; Submission dates from Departments to National has been changed to **June 19th**.

**Reconnect** (pg. 29) – Points for submissions will be granted up until **June 30th**; Departments are encouraged to continue Reconnect efforts year around.

*\*Points for achieving 95% by April & 100% by May Target dates we still be award for the updated target dates on May 13th & June 17th, respectively.*

*\*\*All June Target Date (Flag Day) awards, Parade position and Convention hall seating (reference on page 9) will be determined based upon the June 14th Membership Report.*

*\*\*All other guidelines remain in place.*

We will do our absolute best to process all award submissions and prepare them for your departments. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued efforts. - Nick Arnett

# American Legion Memorial Day 2020



In these times when a lot of what we do routinely is no longer an option there are times when need we to continue on with our traditions.

On Memorial Day this year, due to safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, will look different in many places. How Americans will honor the more than 1 million men and women who have lost their lives defending America since the Revolutionary War an alternate plan for your traditional Memorial Day program is advised.

Even though we may not see Memorial Day parades or ceremony's at Veterans Park & Memorials, you will still see U.S. flags placed on veterans graves in local cemeteries. In addition, we will also see the lowering of flags to honor the fallen.

With social distancing efforts in place to slow down the pandemic, American Legion posts who are still able to and plan to provide Memorial Day honors – whether that's in person, through online virtual communication or an email from leadership – an American Legion Memorial Day speech for 2020 is available to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by men and women in the armed forces.

To download the 2020 Memorial Day speech go to <https://www.legion.org/publications/160982/memorial-day-speech>

American Legion members can share how they honored Memorial Day by submitting a post on [www.legiontown.org](http://www.legiontown.org).

Also, a reminder that we're asking our American Legion Family members – and those outside of the organization – to share with us the names of those you will honor and remember on Memorial Day. The plan is to compile a list and then begin sharing them regularly via our social media channels over Memorial Day Weekend.

## What we need:

- The servicemember's name, along with the submitter's relationship to the servicemember;
- Year entering and year leaving the military;
- Branch of service; and
- A photo of the servicemember, either in uniform or civilian clothes.

Information can be submitted via Legiontown through the category **Virtual Memorial Day**. Submissions will be shared via Facebook and Twitter starting May 22. Follow along either social media platform using the hashtag **#VirtualMemorialDay**.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### MAY EVENTS CANCELLED

- ⇒ National Spring Committee & Commission Meetings—Indy
- ⇒ National NEC Meetings—Indy
- ⇒ Armed Forces Day Dinner
- ⇒ Ruck March—Chicago, IL

### JUNE EVENTS CANCELLED

- ⇒ American Legion Premier Illinois Boys State EIU-Charleston
- ⇒ Youth Cadet Program
- ⇒ Illini Girls State

### JULY EVENTS CANCELLED

#### DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS CONVENTIONS

- ⇒ American Legion
- ⇒ American Legion Auxiliary
- ⇒ Sons of the American Legion  
Springfield, IL

###

## Now, let's focus on these special dates!

Mother's Day

May 10

~ ~ ~

100% NATIONAL TARGET DATE

May 13

~ ~ ~

ILLINOIS 100% TARGET DATE

May 16

~ ~ ~

NATIONAL POPPY DAY

May 25

~ ~ ~

MEMORIAL DAY  
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED

May 25

~ ~ ~

CPR Forms

Due @ Department HQ

June 1

~ ~ ~

ALA—95% Target Date

June 1

~ ~ ~

Flag Day  
June 14  
~ ~ ~

#1 Gold Pin Cut-off  
June 19  
~ ~ ~

Top Division & District  
Cmdr & Sr. Vice  
Plaque Award  
Deadline—June 19  
~ ~ ~

Division & District  
CMDR, SVC, & JVC  
Cash Awards  
Deadline—June 19  
~ ~ ~

FINAL PUSH AWARD

**LEGION  
CLOSE OF BOOKS  
JUNE 19**

###

## **14<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT WINS FINAL PUSH AWARD and RACE TO THE TOP AWARD**

At the Lincoln Pilgrimage, Department Commander Roy Weber and Sr. Vice Commander Wayne Fischer decided to add an incentive award to District's who finish the end of their year at 100%, the **FINAL PUSH AWARD**.

Commander Roy and Sr Vice Wayne are proud to announce the first District to win this membership incentive award is 14th District Commander Rick Schomer. Congratulations to Commander Schomer and his district membership team on making 100%. The 14th District won \$500.00 to be used as the District determines.

In addition, 14th District Commander Schomer is the Department of Illinois, NATIONAL RACE TO THE TOP winner for the 2019-2020 year!

Again, Congratulations to Commander Schomer and his membership team for their outstanding work this year.



**To: All District, Division Officers and PDC's within the Department of Illinois**

**From: Department Commander Roy Weber & Dept. Sr. Vice Wayne Fischer**

**Subject: 2019-20 District Membership Campaign- "FINAL PUSH"**

In March at our Junior and Senior District and Division Officers meeting much time was spent 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. We know the Virus has upset many planned events in local communities and that is best reason to get more Legionnaires involved in "**Buddy Checks**". We ask for ALL Posts to do a "**Buddy Check**" of their members that have not renewed for last year AND this year.

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. 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!!!**

💰 **UPDATE: Congratulations to 14th District Commander Rick Schomer for being the first to earn the Final Push Award** 💰



## From The Desk of American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State Chairman, Christopher Benigno

Dear Legionnaires, Supporters, Citizens and Parents,

Due to the continuing developments concerning COVID-19 (Coronavirus) within our state and nation, it is with great regret that we must inform you that the American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State program has been cancelled for the 2020 session. We want you to know that we did not take this matter lightly and that there was in depth conversations before this decision was made. We are joining over twenty other programs, including our national program (Boys Nation), across the nation to place the welfare of our staff, delegates and legionnaires first within the climate that we all currently must endure.

In the next coming weeks, we will begin planning our 2021 session in which we will be making every effort to include those students which have missed out this year. Please note that this will be a one-time addition, so we ask that you continue to recruit, apply and share this information to all that will listen in order to relay this message. All fees previously paid for sponsorship to the 2020 session will be refunded by May 1, 2020.

On behalf of our board of directors, staff and other supportive legionnaires throughout our state, we wish you and your families all good health. Together, if we all do what is necessary, we will beat this.

For God and Country.

**Christopher H. Benigno**

Chairman,

American Legion Premier Boys

State Department of Illinois

### **Boys State 2020**

With regret, due to the ongoing developments with COVID-19 (coronavirus), the Board of Directors voted to cancel the 2020 session of American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State. This decision was not taken lightly and was only the second time since 1935 that our program has been canceled (*the first time being 1945 due to World War II*). The letter above from Chairman Benigno announces that decision.

### **Boys State 2021**

Mark your calendars and get excited, the 85th annual session of American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State will be June 12-18, 2021 on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. Staff will report on Friday, June 11, 2021.

### **Fall Board Meeting**

Once they are finalized, the details for the fall meeting of the Board of Directors will be shared.

Although we will not gather this summer in Charleston, please keep the spirit of our program in mind throughout the next 14 months, especially during these trying times. The website is being updated, those who pre-registered for 2020 will be notified. Please continue to recruit for the 2021 session.

## **POST OFFICER CERTIFICATION FORM**



Recently the 2021 Post Certification form was mailed out to all Post Adjutants in a bulk mailing. You should start seeing it your mailbox next week.

Department has received calls questioning the 2021 Post Officer Certification form. The majority want to know...

***"Should we send the form in to Department Headquarters even if our Officers remain the same?"***, the answer is **YES!**

Even if your 2021 officers stay the same, we ask that you please send your Post Officer Certification form into Dept. Headquarters with a quick note saying...**"2021 Post # \_\_\_\_\_ Officers will remain the same as 2020"**.

We will then update the post information and send out your 2021 membership cards (*once we get those from National*). **Again, WE NEED THAT FORM in order for you to receive your posts membership cards!**

Any questions, contact Dept. Membership Director Chad Woodburn at 309-663-0361 or email [cwoodburn@illegion.org](mailto:cwoodburn@illegion.org).

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN CHERI STANTON SHARES  
THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM Ebullition - APRIL EDITION

## Americanism Programs and Activities by the numbers for 2019

By Chairman Richard Anderson (CT) Americanism Commission



It is a privilege to share the following impact numbers that represent our hard work and dedication to foster youth and citizenship development, and support for our military, veterans and their families throughout our community, state and nation. These 2019 By The Numbers represent what we did throughout last year, such as program participation, grant fulfillment, contributions and more. By The Numbers represents our collective efforts for upholding two of the Four Pillars of The American Legion for which we are so passionate – Americanism and Children & Youth. These numbers represent 100 percent Americanism at its very finest. I encourage you to share these numbers with leaders within your respective department and community, and with the public as a way to elicit an awareness about the impact that The American Legion has on today's youth, military, veterans and Americans everywhere.

### AMERICANISM AND CHILDREN & YOUTH "BY THE NUMBERS" FOR 2019

#### American Legion Baseball (ALB)

- **54,225** youth came together to form **3,415** teams playing American Legion Baseball throughout the nation (2,121 senior teams and 1,294 junior teams).
- **1,152** players participated at the eight national regional tournaments of which **144** went on to play in the American Legion World Series.
- A total of **602,000** viewers watched the American Legion World Series on ESPN.
- There were over **1.2 million** visits to Legion Baseball websites over June, July and August.
- American Legion Baseball social media accounts received over **1.26 million** impressions in July and August.
- **80,212** subscribers to the American Legion Baseball e-newsletter "The Dugout"; an **increase of 15,823** subscribers from the previous year.
- There are **81** American Legion Baseball program alumni who are enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame; this is an **increase of 2** additional players since last year.

#### Junior Shooting Sports

- **1,359** individual athletes entered the postal round competition; this is an **increase of 7** additional competitors from the previous year.
- **184** shooting clubs entered the national postal round competition; this is an **increase of 30** from the previous year.

#### Boys State

- **17,471** participants in 50 Boys State programs.

#### Scouting and The American Legion

- **3,430** youth were recognized by The American Legion with a certificate issued at the national level for achieving their Eagle Scout award in the Boy Scouts of America.
- **152** youth were recognized with a certificate issued at the national level for their achievement

in the Venturing, Sea Scouts or Explorers programs of the Boy Scouts of America.

- **154** youth were recognized by The American Legion with a certificate issued at the national level for achievement their National Gold Award in Girls Scouts of the USA.
- A total of **2,385** Scouting units were chartered by Legion Family across the nation (an **increase of 39** units from the previous year; American Legion posts chartered **2,331** and Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered **34** and American Legion Auxiliary units chartered **20**, involving **57,988** young people and **21,649** adult leaders.
- **12** Legion Family members recognized with a Scouting Square Knot Award of The American Legion for their active involvement in The American Legion's Scouting programs.

#### Youth Cadet Law Enforcement

- **21** American Legion departments have an established Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program. The 2019 Consolidated Post Report indicated there were **6,790** youth involved; this is a reported **increase of 5,536** youth from the previous year.

#### Oratorical

- The 2019 Consolidated Post Report indicates there were **1,125** oratorical contests conducted across the nation involving **2,837** youth contestants.

#### National Youth

- **3,400** youth were involved in national-level Legion youth program events, tournaments, contests and activities.
- American Legion Baseball program information was exhibited at the national American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) to a combined total of **6,000** baseball coaches and industry leaders from throughout the nation.

#### Youth Education

- **\$1,028,643\*** in fundraising was amassed during National Commander Brett Reistad's Legacy Run year spanning Oct 1, 2018 – Sept 30, 2019.
- **264** students were awarded a total of **1,585,124** in academic scholarships at the national level.
- The 2019 Consolidated Post Report states that **24,699** students from throughout the nation were presented an American Legion School Award Medal; an **increase of 229** from last year.

#### Flag

- The 2019 Consolidated Post Report indicates there were **4,475** Flag Day activities; this is a reported **increase of 156** activities from the previous year.
- **49,584** subscribers to the American Legion Flag Half-Staff Notification Alert service.

#### Get Out the Vote

- The 2019 Consolidated Post Report reflects there were **1,520** Get Out the Vote activities conducted in communities throughout the country; this is an **increase of 20** activities from the previous year.

#### Legion Conferences

- **416** Legion family members attended the annual national Children & Youth Conference and Combined Americanism Conferences in Indianapolis that included the programs of American Legion Baseball, Boys State, Oratorical, Junior Shooting Sport, Children & Youth, as well as Scouting and department chaplains.

#### Four Chaplains Sunday

- The 2019 Consolidated Post Report reflects that **1,466** activities were conducted in observance of Four Chaplains Sunday; this is an **increase of 49** activities from the previous year.

(AMERICANISM continued on page 12)

### Youth Welfare and Safety

• The 2019 Consolidated Post Report reflects that a total of **1,744** child health and safety activities were conducted throughout the nation; within that total **1,187** were Halloween safety activities.

### American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)

• **\$619,457\*** was received in CWF donations; this is an **increase of \$57,404\*** from the previous year. Of the 2019 grand total, **\$427,315\*** was contributed by the Sons of The American Legion; this is an **increase of \$99,721\*** from the previous year.

• In 2019 the CWF Board of Directors awarded **\$1,561,282\*** in grants. Grants were awarded to **22** non-profit organizations that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs

of children and youth, and to **2,767** minor children of **1,539** U.S. Coast Guard servicemembers during the longest federal government shutdown in our nation's history. This reflects an **increase of \$794,52\*** from the previous year.

### American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF)

• **\$654,326\*** was received in donations to the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation; this is an **increase of \$221,201\*** from the previous year.

• The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, doing business as the Veterans & Children Foundation, contributed **\$126,832\*** for routine funding of the Temporary Financial Assistance program.

### Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA)

• **3,277** minor children of **1,777** veterans throughout **44** states received **\$1,141, 903\*** in

non-repayable cash grant assistance at the national level. Within those grand totals there were **2,767** minor children of **1,539** U.S. Coast Guard servicemembers who received nearly **\$1 million\*** in cash grants during the longest federal government shutdown in our nation's history.

• Cash grants for U.S. Coast Guard families were made possible by generous donations of **\$250,000\*** from American Legion Charities and **\$750,000\*** from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Additionally, **\$75,000\*** was contributed by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and **\$126,832\*** from the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, dba the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, for routine annual funding of the Temporary Financial Assistance program.

(\* Subject to final audit)

(SAL continued from page 3)

Dear American Legion Family,

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone that reached out with a message, a prayer, a card, etc., on the passing of my father, Ron Stander. He was a 10-year member of Squadron 911 Wauconda. From my family to yours **"THANK YOU"**.

With no place to go and everything shut down you would think there is nothing to report on. Wrong!

The Illinois Legion Family have been terribly busy. For The Sons, it has been nonstop conference calls getting plans in place and information out and make the much needed **"Buddy Checks"**.

The Sons along with The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary will be following Nationals lead during this crisis. Yep, that means we all get to enjoy each others company for another year. After Department passed their Resolution to do the same as National, the Sons started moving forward. Conference calls have been made with Detachment Officers, Finance Commission, and a conference call with each of the 5 Divisions with their Districts also in attendance. It is imperative that the information gets out as fast as possible.

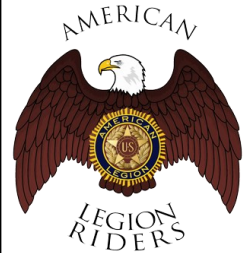
Squadron, District and Division certification forms have

just been mailed. Included in the mailing is the CSR forms—**complete yours today**—every form counts no matter how our fiscal year ends. Remember to mail in by the deadline.

Membership is of the utmost importance right now and honestly needs to be our main objective...our American Legion programs depend upon it. I understand many members have worries, with much on their mind right now, and understandably membership is not your priority. The SAL Detachment of Illinois can help ease that worry. The Detachment leadership put our heads together and came up with a **MEMBERSHIP STIMULUS PROGRAM** to pay the per capita for those struggling through the current situation. First class letters have been sent to every Squadron Adjutant explaining the program and how to participate. Post Officers, please check with your Squadrons to see if they received the information. Let me know if not.

I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. The strength of the Illinois Legion Family will shine. And with a good **Can-Do** attitude we will continue to **Celebrate the Past and Awaken the Future** all the while keeping **The Drive Alive**.

Your Most Humble Servant—**Phil Stander, Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander**



# DEPARTMENT AWARDS

In the midst of our many annual events that have cancelled this year we want our members to know our Department Awards and Fundraiser programs have not. There will still be an annual award for each of the programs listed below. We encourage everyone to submit your candidates and paperwork to Department HQ or the proper Committee by the preset deadlines for each award. All associated paperwork and guidelines can be found on [www.illegion.org](http://www.illegion.org), click Awards.

Department Commander is working with each Committee Chair on the presentation of each award. Stay tuned!

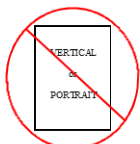
- ⇒ **Community Service & Publicity Award—Scrapbook Award; Post Newsletter Award and the Hall of Fame Award**
- ⇒ **Boys Scout of the Year**
- ⇒ **Public Relations Award**
- ⇒ **Law Officer of the year**
- ⇒ **Firefighter of the year**
- ⇒ **Legionnaire of the year**
- ⇒ **TLW - American Legion Rider of the year**
- ⇒ **Chaplains Award**
- ⇒ **Photo & Calendar Contest** - Dept. Cmdr. will still vote on submitted photos for the Photo Contest as well as photos for the 2021 Calendar. Please submit your photos for the Department Photo & Calendar Contest no later than July 3, 2020. We look forward to seeing your photos!



## CONTEST RULES:

- ★ Each photo **MUST** be accompanied by the Official entry form. (Photo copied entry forms are acceptable)
- ★ All photos **MUST** be of Legion events, supportive of Legion programs, or patriotic in nature. For Calendar photo submissions the preference is for the photo to be taken in Illinois.
- ★ Photos **MUST** be printed on photo quality paper **NOT** on copy paper, images must have clarity of 300 dpi or better. **Email photos will be disqualified.**
- ★ Each photo must have the name of the subject, location of where the photo was taken, approximate date of the photo, name of individuals in the photo (reading from left to right).
- ★ Calendar Program photos **MUST** be HORIZONTAL / LANDSCAPE (\*see example) NO PORTRAIT / VERTICAL photos will be chosen or used in the calendar program.
- ★ **Photos submitted for the calendar program contest should be NO smaller than 5x7.**
- ★ All photos will become the property of the Department of Illinois and will not be returned.
- ★ Failure to comply with all the preceding rules may disqualify an entry from winning any prize.

\* example



**JUDGING:** Judging will be done by the Department Commander and/or Department Sr. Vice Commander. Judging will take place no later than the first Friday following the Department Convention at Dept. Headquarters.

## PRIZES:

- ★ Cash prizes will be awarded in EACH of the Five (5) Divisions as follows: 1st Place \$100; 2nd Place \$75; 3rd Place \$50; 4th place \$25.
- ★ \$75.00 will be awarded for photos selected for the **Calendar Program—2021** the photographer will be given credit in a caption on the calendar.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIZE MONEY:

All Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members are eligible, but must be current, paid-up members. Entry forms **MUST** have the Post, District, and Division number and the entrant's membership I.D. number.

**SPECIAL NOTES:** The Calendar Program is a Department of Illinois fund raising project. All Photos submitted may or may not be used in the Calendar Program—2021, Legion programs and/or brochures. However, we must have permission of the photographer and the persons or organization therein. **\*\* See entry form.**

**DEADLINE:** Entries submitted must be received at Department Headquarters the Friday **prior** to the State Convention. (not post-marked by)

Submit photo entries to: **The American Legion, Dept. of IL  
Department Photo Contest  
2720 E. Lincoln St.  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
(C/O: Dept. Asst. Adjutant)**

## THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT PHOTO / CALENDAR CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post #: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Division #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Member I.D. No: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Date Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Subject(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Photographer: \_\_\_\_\_

Individuals (from left to right): \_\_\_\_\_

(if additional space is needed please write on a separate piece of paper, attach and send with official entry form)

**\*\* Permission is hereby granted by the photographer to use this photo and the persons therein in Official Illinois American Legion publications.**

Signed: (X) \_\_\_\_\_

# VIRTUAL and TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS ON THE RISE



Teleconference meeting have been an available option for a while, allowing those who cannot attend meeting to dial in. The American Legion has seen a rise in virtual meetings, teleconferences along with other technological provided services.

There are many options available to allow Legion members who want to participate in virtual meetings to do so. Some of the requested options are for meetings to be able to last at least an hour, see when a hand is raised for a vote, and for members who are without computers or Internet access have the ability to call in. They also wanted option to be able to share documents such as agendas.

Many legion posts have different priorities or preferences in conducting business. Below is a chart created for posts to consider cost effective or free services that can be used to fit your needs.

- ⇒ **Uberconference:** Number of participants (10); Length of meetings (40 minutes); Ability to raise hand (No); Ability to call in (Yes); Video capabilities (Yes); and Ability to share documents (Yes).
- ⇒ **FreeConferenceCall\*:** Number of participants (1,000); Length of meetings (6 hours); Ability to raise hand (No); Ability to call in (Yes); Video capabilities (No); and Ability to share documents (No).
- ⇒ **Zoom:** Number of participants (100); Length of meetings (40 minutes); Ability to raise hand (Yes); Ability to call in (Yes); Video capabilities (Yes); and Ability to share documents (Yes).
- ⇒ **Webex:** Number of participants (100); Length of meetings (Unlimited); Ability to raise hand (Yes); Ability to call in (Yes);

Video capabilities (Yes); and Ability to share documents (Yes).

*\*Freeconferencecall is great for posts just looking for the basics.*

For those who have not participated in a conference call here are some etiquette guidelines:

1. **Do not use audio on your computer and dial in from your phone. This causes an echo. You only have to do one or the other.**
2. **Mute your phone or PC audio when you are not speaking.**
3. **Be in a quiet place while on the call. Mute your TV, etc.**
4. **Don't interrupt others when they are speaking.**

The following are suggestions for a successful meeting:

1. **Send out an agenda ahead of time.**
2. **Test all technology before the meeting. Ask a few of your members to help you test it. Make sure you test the features to mute all participants and to unmute specific speakers.**
3. **Remind participants to not dial in on both PC and phone, to mute when not speaking, to be in a quiet place and to not interrupt others.**
4. **Take roll call during the meeting to acknowledge who is present. People who call in via phone are not always recognizable by name in the software.**
5. **When feasible, specifically ask each member if they have anything to add to give them a chance to contribute.**
6. **Encourage the use of the raising of hand features for members to request to speak, discussions and voting. It's important to follow Robert's Rules of Order.**

Technology allows American Legion posts to still hold professional meetings and complete our business even while adhering to social distancing.

## ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARD

The cancellation of the 2020 National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis this spring precludes awarding scholarships in accordance with Resolution No. 2 of the National Executive Committee, October 2019.

This year, however, through the generosity of an American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant, a \$2,000 scholarship is made possible for each department oratorical finalist whose department reported them as their winner prior to the 31 March, 2020 deadline.

Each youth will receive a letter of scholarship revealing the award along with instructions for claiming their scholarship funds.

➤ **Department of Illinois winner, Mariama Bah, shall receive a total of \$4,000 in oratorical scholarship awards for the 2020 contest year.**



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## SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES CANCELED



Due to the "C" Virus another tradition bites the dust. I was informed that due to the virus, the State Board of Special Olympics has wisely decided to call off the Summer Games. The athletes health and all the volunteers is of the utmost concern.

Later events are still on the books, but they will be determined at a later date. We are all saying prayers and keeping the faith "this to shall pass."

I want to thank all the sponsors who have donated in the past and hope they will continue in the future. Special Olympics is one of our special programs and we want to keep it going. Your donations make the difference in both food and volunteers.

Keep smiling--we are all in this together!

**Cheri Stanton,**  
Children and Youth Chairman

## 12th District

### Officially Cancels Spring Meeting and Convention

12th District Commander Hernandez has cancelled ALL meetings until further notice. Present 2019-20 12th Dist. Officers, Appointees and Committee Chairman will continue for 2020-21. Commanders are responsible for notifying your Posts 12th District Delegates of the cancellation.

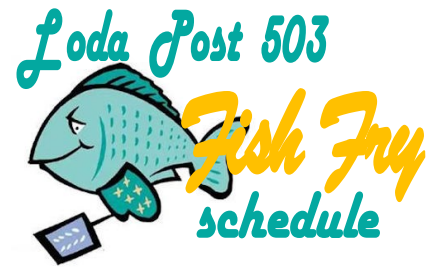
## MEETING NOTICES

Due to the restrictions on meetings and social gatherings, and in order to protect the health and welfare of our most vulnerable, the majority of all Legion Post, District & Division meetings, conventions, etc. have canceled their scheduled meetings.

As mentioned in a letter sent in March from Department Adjutant Conatser, he encouraged the post leadership to communicate and adhere to their city's guidelines in regards to meetings and social gatherings.

Some Posts, Districts & Divisions have come together by conducting online meetings or made conference calls in order to take care of important decisions and keep up with the business at hand in general.

If you would like your conference call and/or online meeting dates and time posted in the Department News and Department Website or Facebook please email your schedule ASAP to: [joywilson@illegion.org](mailto:joywilson@illegion.org) We will assist as best we can.  
Reminder, June & July will also be a combined newsletter.



107 N. 600 East Rd., Loda, IL

## UPDATE

Loda American Legion is planning to provide a **CARRY-OUT ONLY**  
Fish & Chicken fry on

**May 8th**

**4:00pm to 7:00pm**

The cost is **\$5.00** per container.

The menu will be limited to:

**FISH  
CHICKEN  
LIVERS  
GIZZARDS  
GREEN BEANS  
POTATO SALAD  
and TARTAR SAUCE**

This limited menu is because we deem it necessary to avoid making additional food stops in order to pick up the typical items we serve during our Fish & Chicken fry's.

If anyone would like curbside service, call 217-781-3416.

I apologize for the inconvenience however we must make every effort to keep as many people as safe as possible.

Thank you for your support!

**Ronald Dudley**  
Post Commander

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

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY \***

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Department Commander  
ROY WEBER      Department Editor  
MARTY CONATSER

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



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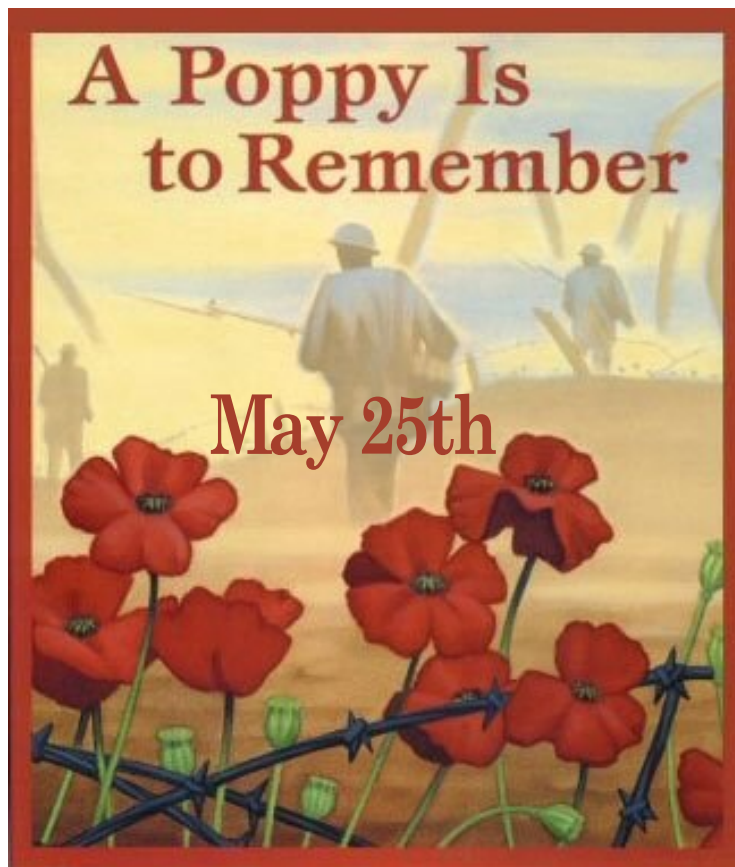
\* One year Subscription to the Department News  
\$10.00 for 11 issues

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



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## Memorial Day - USA

W F N D H C D V X C T U P R H R Z  
A Y E U S S E R V I N G O E B Y P  
R I Z D G T C K H L I N P T X R T  
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FEDERAL HOLIDAY  
GRAVES  
LAST MONDAY  
MEMORIAL DAY  
MILITARY  
REMEMBERING  
SERVICE  
UNITED STATES

ARMED FORCES  
DECORATION DAY  
DINNER ON THE GROUND  
FLAG  
HONOR  
MAY  
MEMORIALS  
POPPY  
REMEMBRANCE  
SERVING  
WAR DEAD

