

# AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

## Department News



*The American Legion Family*



2019-2020 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROY WEBER

JUNE-JULY 2020



### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF  
CLOSE OF BOOKS

### TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

**District Commander**

14	Schomer
18	Tincher
10	Bucher
20	Flowers, Jr.
13	Nichols
11	Leonard
12	Hernandez
15	Schlieper
22	Scheyer
3	Thompson, III

**Division Commander**

3	GOSNEY
2	POWROZNIK
4	SHAPLAND
5	PICOU
1	CALLAWAY



2019-2020  
*Department  
Commander  
Roy Weber*



*to be continued in 2021...*



## *From The Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber*



**L**egion Family, **WOW**...What a year it has been. High expectations is how we began the 2020 Legion year, then BANG!...we were hit with Covid-19 virus. Basically **EVERYTHING** was cancelled or shut down after the State Oratorical contest at the beginning of March. Who would believe how this would change our Country/ the World! No travel, No meetings, No programs and No special or social events. It was a real letdown being unable to serve our veterans and their family's needs. Sadly, the ALA couldn't even celebrate their 100 Years of Veteran Service.

So, this coming year let us **ALL** make up for it as a Legion Family and help them celebrate!!!

A sincere Congratulations goes out to 14th District Commander Rick Schomer and his membership team for reaching 102.85% goal by close of books! Thank you for showing what a Veteran "**Can Do**" during the 2020 membership year.

I want to thank everyone for all of the effort toward goals achieved in their Post, District and Division this year. It is also important, as leaders, to remind our officers to take time to really appreciate their blue cappers and what they do. They need to hear how much we value their efforts in maintaining membership, supporting our Legion Family programs and the pride and comfort they show their area veterans and communities.

Congratulations to Illinois Detachment Commander Phil Stander and the SAL leadership team in achieving 100% membership. They proudly chartered a record number of SAL Squadrons for the 2020 card year. Their "Drive is **definitely** Alive".

I look forward to continuing to be your American Legion Department of Illinois Commander for 2021.

As the state reopens I anticipate a much needed rebuild of our great organization, a state wide Buddy Check of our veterans and their families, and resuming the promotion of all our Legion programs. Sr. Vice Wayne and I are once again available to assist with any membership needs.

Membership Director Chad along with his membership team are also ready

*(Commander continued on page 6)*



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

**T**o my Fellow Legionnaires; Auxiliary; and Sons of the American Legion....By the time you read this our "Legion Year" will be behind us and hopefully everyone is getting prepared for our "2020-2021" Legion Year.

This year the Department of Illinois-"YOU and I"- were down over 3,000 Legionnaires from the previous year. We had well over 5,000 Non-renewals so we cannot use the excuse that we did not have the opportunity to grow in membership. I know we all have heard the excuses, but it is up to everyone one of us to step up and make it happen.

However, there was some good news, we ended the year with just under

**4,500 new Legionnaires** that joined our ranks. Thank you to all our Legionnaires that signed up a new member, and in some cases, Members!!!

The Legion Act opened the door, it's our job to get them on-board. They are right there in your communities. In many cases they are your friends and/or neighbors.

I look forward to being in every one of our 5 Divisions during August for the Membership Award Ceremonies. We'll recognize Posts that make 100% for the year, and hopefully have a few surprises for everyone. More information on that will be coming shortly.

As we all know, the Covid-19 restrictions are loosening to some degree, but we still want everyone to stay safe and enjoy life. Communication does not all have to be face to face or in meetings. Most Legionnaires are on email, Facebook or other social media programs.

Some have be able to conduct meetings via E-meetings, Zoom or other web-meeting programs. The important thing is to not ignore your fellow members and Veterans. It has been an exceedingly difficult time for many. However, it is up to everyone of us to turn personal contact in to a positive experience for all that have and are currently serving to protect our Freedoms.

When I talk about using social media or the internet more proactively, I would like to share a brief happening at our Naperville Post 43. For everyone Poppy Day was a challenge given the current situation. We have been at train stations and several stores for years, and for the last number of years we've donated all the proceeds to Operation Comfort Warriors.

*(Sr. Vice Commander continued on page 6)*



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



**G**reetings! What a year this has been.

At this time that we should be reporting on what we have accomplished but since the year was put on hold, many of our goals will have to wait until next year. Hopefully, we will be back to some new "normal" soon. There is a lot of work to do to try and catch up from the past months.

During the year when we were able to travel, I had the opportunity to meet many of our members in their local areas. It was exciting to visit the different Divisions, Districts, Posts, Units and Squadrons and see what each was doing to support our Veterans, our active duty service members, their families, and our communities. The dedication that our members have to

our mission is utterly amazing. No matter how small the effort may be, every little bit helps. When we combine all these efforts together as a family, the total effort can be huge! Thank you to everyone for all your efforts and hospitality.

The American Legion Auxiliary is truly blessed to be able to continue with our Celebration for another year. We were so looking forward to our birthday party that got cancelled. However, now we get to celebrate our 100th Birthday for two years! Our birthday celebration will continue throughout the year and our party will be rescheduled. I am looking forward to picking up where we left off and having the opportunity to continue working with our members throughout the state.

My sincere thanks to The American Legion and Sons of the American Legion for electing some absolutely wonderful Commanders this year, especially since we will be serving together for two years. Roy, Wayne, Phil, Jim and I have

enjoyed working together and have become friends. I am sure these friendships will last for a long time after we have completed our service. Each of these gentlemen are committed to the mission of The American Legion. I could not have selected a better team. We have worked together as an American Legion Family and we hope to work together as a family even more next year.

I would also like to thank my entire family and my Legion Family for their friendship, support, mentoring and love. Through my membership in the American Legion Auxiliary, I have gained some great friends and have been able to support our Veterans who have given us one of our most precious gifts: **FREEDOM**

In closing, let's all remember the quote from Commander Phil's newsletters as we look forward to

*(ALA President continued on page 6)*



## From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander



**BOOGITY, BOOGITY, BOOGITY!**

**Let's go Racing!!!!**

**Yes, "The Drive is Alive"**

The Son's are finishing out the year strong. Membership over 100% and at this time Illinois has the most new Charters in the country!!!

Our state is slowly opening up. Posts are starting to have face to face meetings and events are being planned.

I trust we are all rested and ready to get things rolling again. I know the Son's have our sleeves rolled up ready to work hard at supporting our Posts and the Legion Programs.

SAL Cards have arrived at Headquarters. They are packaging and preparing to mail them very soon. If you haven't sent your Squadron Certification form in, please get that to Terry at HQ right away.

If you have an event coming up please submit a flyer to our Public Relations Officer, Eugene Gort at [eugenegort@yahoo.com](mailto:eugenegort@yahoo.com) he will post the info.

I've had a lot of conversations with Commander Roy and President Sue

recently. We ALL are ready and anxious to start attending as many events as possible.

Let's start our engines, and begin a fresh Journey of working together.

**With a good "Can Do Attitude" we can "Celebrate the Past and Awaken the Future "While keeping "The Drive Alive"**

Stay safe and we will see you soon!

**Your Humble Servant—  
Phil Stander,  
2020-2021 Detachment Commander**

# Sometimes it pays (BIG TIME) to be a member

Murphy (real name withheld per veteran's request) grew up in Michigan in your average middle class family. An All American Boy, he was involved with the Boy Scouts and was a Sea Explorer. In high school, the big mews was the Vietnam War and he had two choices, be drafted or enlist. Liking the sea, he decided the Navy was for him, Being underage he had his father sign a waiver and he joined the Navy. His enlistment began in April of 1970. During that time he distinguished himself with service on the USS Terrell County, the USS Kitty Hawk and the USS Oklahoma City. His DD 214 shows he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and a Meritorious Unit Commendation. Murphy remembers looking out from the deck and seeing Vietnam so close, he could almost touch it (well within the 12 mile International Boundary.)

Leaving service Murphy returned to Michigan where he used his G.I. Bill to go to college. As time went by he relocated to Illinois and life seemed to be going well. Living on the northwest side of the city he joined the Franklin Park Legion Post 974. But in 2010 life took a turn for the worse, he developed prostate cancer. Getting treated at the VA hospital in Hines, IL. and reading his Legion magazine, he decided he should try for Agent Orange compensation and a claim was filed. It was denied! He appealed it all the way to the Board of Veteran Appeals in Washington D.C. but still denied. At that time the law said you had to have "boots on the ground."

Without a job and living only on his Social Security check he had to relocate to Des Plaines. He soon learned that there was a Legion Post in the area. Not only that, it had a Legion Riders chapter. He quickly transferred to Des Plaines Post 36, found the camaraderie pleasant and started attending each meeting. Soon he was appointed an officer of the Riders.

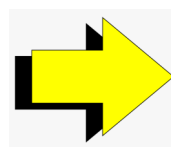
The in the summer of 2019, he read in the Legion magazine, and elsewhere, that the law had been changed and Navy vets, like him, may now qualify for compensation. Having gone that route back in 2010, and being denied, Murphy was hesitant to try again but he approached his Commander at Post 36 for advice. He was steered to me, as 9th District Service Officer and I began the process to reopen his claim under the "Blue Water Navy Veterans Act". We got the necessary evidence together, submitted it to the VA and waited.

Fast forward to early April of this year. Murphy, like many other American was waiting for his stimulus check. Bringing in the mail one day, he noticed an envelope from the government. Quickly opening it, to his surprise, was a check for \$3,520.00. He was confused. Murphy had heard that the stimulus check would around \$1,200. His fiancé looked at it, smiled, and told Murphy to look again. He did, and was shocked to see it was actually for \$35,200.00. Still smiling, she said, count the zeros! Once more, glancing at the check, he almost passed out. It was for \$352,000.00. Murphy had won his claim and the VA went all the way back to 2010, when he first applied.

Talk about a life changer, Murphy is now having needed repairs done on his home, has bought a new car (his old one being 20 years old) and will soon be flying out to Las Vegas to get married. Once Post 36 reopens, he plans on having his wedding party there.

In my 47 years as a Service Officer this has been my largest grant of VA benefits and I want to point out four important things. First, when the Agent Orange Act was first passed, our Washington D.C. office had lawyers take the Act to the court and a special clause was inserted called "Nehmer". This clause stated that if, later on, the law was changed to include other members (like the Navy) then benefits would be paid back to the original date the veteran filed. That is why Murphy's award went back to 2010. Secondly, for many years the Dept. of Illinois has submitted a resolution to include Navy veterans who were within 12 miles off the coast of Vietnam to get Agent Orange benefits. That finally became law. Thirdly, our members should never hesitate to talk to their Post Commander or Service Officer when they have a question about VA benefits. And finally, it pays to read our Legion magazine!

**Special Olympics  
Tennis Games  
in August have  
been Canceled**



**Look for the  
Special  
Olympics  
Video on  
FaceBook**





**DID YOU KNOW...** That over the last 90 days or so that I have been “sheltered in place” I have seen the COVID19 virus cause sudden, and sometimes deadly changes in peoples’ lives. One minute you’re fine, the next day you are in ICU, then a ventilator and (worse case scenario) you answer your final roll call! With that in mind here are some pointers for you to think about. In these uncertain times, we all need to be PROACTIVE.

1. If you are the spouse, partner or a relative who may find themselves taking a veteran to the ER for a medical emergency be sure you have a good and current list of their medications and dosages. Often times the veteran is in great pain, confused or unconscious at the time of their visit. Current info helps the staff avoid confusion and possible overdoses. And due to COVID19 you may not be able to stay with them, so have copies of this stuff in an envelope to give the staff.
2. If not taking the vet to the VA ER then also be sure you have a copy of their NEW Medicare card with the new number. Also copies of private insurance cards. Again, copies in an envelope help.
3. Relatives and partners may have a close relationship to the veteran but they can’t make medical decisions if the veteran is unable. Have a current properly executed Power-of-Attorney for health care and be sure you know where in their home or apartment it is located.
4. Many veterans have been living together with their partners for years. Before you know it they have gotten accustomed to this arrangement and never actually get married. I often hear when the vet dies that they were going to get married but kept putting it off. Illinois is not a common-law state so there would be no benefits for their partner. And even if the vet realizes their death is near and tie the knot, a couple has to be usually married

for at least a year to later get benefits. I just had one case exactly like that and the vet died 11 months after their marriage. Sorry, no VA survivors benefits.

5. What are your burial wishes? Do you want to be cremated or have your body donated to science? Want to be laid to rest at a VA cemetery or a private one? These choices should be written down somewhere and given to whoever will be handling your funeral arrangements. And what about your military mementoes? Spouses and children often times could care less about the veterans medals or scrapbooks and don’t want to hold on to them. Discuss this with your relatives and if they don’t want them, do what my uncle did; he had them placed into the casket with him.
6. Do you have a current will or was it written twenty years ago when you kids were tots and you just got married? So much can change and wills need to be updated. Likewise for your accounts, stocks, retirement funds and your home. Are they titled properly?
7. And my perennial comment, exactly where is the vet’s DD 214 if it’s needed? Having it in a safe place is no good if no one knows where that safe place is!

These are just a few ideas, I am sure there are many more. Take it from someone who, over the last few months, has had to counsel people in these situations. It’s not an easy job and sometimes they take it out on me because the veteran wasn’t organized and proactive. I always try and help but some things can’t be corrected after the fact, and families and relatives go through much grief and anxiety, which could have been avoided.

**“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, US Army physician in Panama Canal Zone, during the Yellow Fever epidemic.**

**DIVISIONS 1-5 OFFICERS RETREAT**  
**9:00AM AUGUST 8TH @ DEPT. HEADQUARTERS**  
**(BLOOMINGTON)**



# AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

2020

## STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

25 Team limit

REGISTER NOW

August 1st & 2nd, 2020

PLAY? SPONSOR? MORE INFO?

email: [ALStateGolf@gmail.com](mailto:ALStateGolf@gmail.com)

Chairman: Gregg Alpers



*(Commander continued from page 2)*

willing and able to resume their support.

Let us continue to work as a Legion Family with SAL Commander Phil, ALA President Sue and our Legion Riders in order to keep this, the largest active Veterans service organization, ALIVE! Remember a **"CAN DO ATTITUDE"** goes a long way as we all **"Celebrate Our Past and Awaken Our Future."** The (2021) Drive is Alive!"

Finally I want to give a very special thanks to the entire Department Staff. Their support, guidance and concern during this troubling year was truly remarkable. In their typical Legion Family style they stepped up, during the effects of this pandemic, doing everything they could for the good of our great organization. Their dedication to the Legion is proof positive of a **"CAN DO ATTITUDE"** and clear-cut work ethic.

Keep up the great work American Legion Family!!!

**Yours in service—Roy Weber**  
Department Commander

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

This year was no different, but we did it "on-line" for the first time. After setting up a pay-pal account for members to pay their dues we also set up a special **"Poppy Day"** opportunity to donate on-line. In addition, one could mail in their donation to the Post. In 10 days we'd received just over \$1900 in donations for OCW!!! Doing nothing will result in nothing. Let's not let Covid-19 or anything else stop us from supporting our American Legion Programs. By the way, one of our members donated \$500. Next year we plan to work the commuters and the public in addition to our successful on-line donation opportunity.

Hopefully, you'll be hearing more about **"Communication/Media"** soon.

Our 2020-2021 Legion year has officially started. Cards are being packaged and in your mailbox soon. We all know the "Legionnaire Prospects" are out there, it's time to go get 'em on board!!!!

**In closing, I sincerely thank each one of you for supporting your American Legion!**

**Semper Fidelis—Wayne Fischer**  
Department Senior Vice Commander

*(ALA President continued from page 3)*

next year. **"With a good 'Can Do' attitude we can 'Celebrate Our Past and Awaken Our Future' while making sure 'The Drive is Alive'."**

**Continuing the Mission—Sue Cunniff Coughlin**  
American Legion Auxiliary Department President

# Legion Family Awards Ceremonies



IN REPLACE OF TRADITIONAL  
CONVENTION AWARD  
PRESENTATIONS EACH  
DIVISION ARE SET TO HOST AN  
AWARDS CEREMONY FOR  
~ ~ ~



## THE LEGION FAMILY

~ ~ ~

THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY &  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Listed is each Divisions event schedule.

*NOTE: date, time, & cost.*

You must RSVP the contact for tickets!



## 1ST DIVISION

### LEGION FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

@ Post 974—FRANKLIN PARK

*Awards @ 12:00 PM ~ Lunch following*

\$15 per meal ~ RSVP to

Bernie Darmetko @ 708-860-1897 -or-

American Legion 1st Division

PO Box 280 Riverside, IL 60546

*Award winners will receive a special letter of invitation.*

## 2ND DIVISION

### LEGION FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

@ Post 589—WARRENVILLE

*Lunch @ 11:00 AM ~ Awards @ 1:00 PM*

\$10 per meal ~ RSVP to

Karolyn Leonard 630-669-6635 -or-

karolynleonard@yahoo.com

27W775 Galusha Rd. Warrenville, IL 60555

*Award winners will receive a special letter of invitation.*

## 3RD DIVISION

### LEGION FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

@ Post 136—MONMOUTH

*Awards @ 2:00 PM ~ No meal*

RSVP to Rick Schomer @ 309-798-0769 -or-

rrschomer@gmail.com

*Award winners will receive a special letter of invitation.*

## 4TH DIVISION

### LEGION FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

@ Post 122—CULLOM

*Awards @ 12:00 PM ~ Lunch following*

\$8 per meal ~ RSVP to

Ron Shapland 815-848-2158 -or-

d\_shapland@hotmail.com

*Award winners will receive a special letter of invitation.*

## 5TH DIVISION

### LEGION FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

@ The Haven—MARION

*Awards @ 3:00 PM ~ Dinner @ 4:00 PM*

\$10 per meal ~ RSVP to

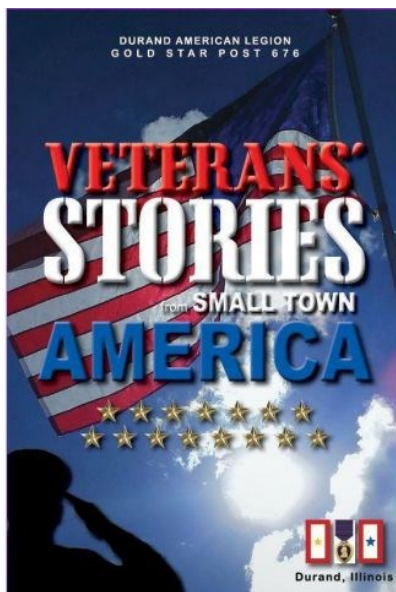
Glenn Gindler 618-210-9677 glennng43@aol.com -or-

Jerome Goeckner 217-821-0346

goecknerfarms@yahoo.com

*Award winners will receive a special letter of invitation.*





## Illinois Legion post celebrates centennial with keepsake book

American Legion Gold Star Post 676 in Durand, Ill., will turn 100 in 2021. To celebrate its centennial, Legion Family members created a 249-page hardcover keepsake book about its history along with the military service stories of 500 veterans from the surrounding area.

"Veteran's Stories from Small Town America" was a two and a half year project that was completed and released last November for \$25 a copy.

Post 676 Legion Family members are "very proud of the finished product and feel honored to have undertaken this labor of love."

The idea for the centennial book originated from past Post Commander George Faggerstrom, who wanted to collect stories from veterans. Post members took his idea and made it happen through volunteer efforts from Post 676 Commander Duane Stephen, Post Adjutant George Letcher and his wife Bev, Auxiliary Unit 676 Historian Sherry Meinert, and others.

"Some folks who grew up here and moved away submitted stories, some descendants of local veterans submitted stories, some active duty members are listed as well as stories from those who have recently separated from the military," Letcher said to the Illinois Chronicle.

The personal stories in the book date back to veterans of the Civil War to current ones who have a connection to the Durand area. Being a member of The American Legion wasn't a requirement. Gathering information on local Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War I veterans resulted in Meinert searching through old newspaper stories and using online resources such as genealogybank.com.

The one veteran the post wished they had military service details on is Doc Young, the founder of Post 676 and its first commander. Meinert shared that in the book it highlights that he was Durand's first fire chief, a dentist and on the draft board.

The pages of "Veteran's Stories from Small Town America" not only hold the stories of servicemembers and history of Post 676, but also pages of dedication to those killed in action or from the flu during World War I; the long history of service that the post, Auxiliary unit and Sons of The American Legion squadron has to its community; memorials and monuments dedicated to veterans; a tributes section where loved ones can be remembered; and appreciation to businesses that helped sponsor the book.

Legion Family volunteers typed the stories and details of the book on a computer and sent everything to a local graphic artist for formatting prior to publication.

A copy of "Veteran's Stories from Small Town America" can be obtained by sending an email to [durandpost676@gmail.com](mailto:durandpost676@gmail.com).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**JULY 3RD**  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
observed  
**DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED**

~ ~ ~

**AUGUST 1-2**  
**American Legion State**  
**Golf Tournament**  
**DANVILLE**

~ ~ ~

**AUGUST 8**  
**Divisions 1-5 Officers Retreat**  
**9AM @ Dept. Headquarters**  
**BLOOMINGTON**

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**AUGUST 9**  
**1st Division Legion Family**  
**Awards Ceremony**  
*(details on pg. 7)*  
**FRANKLIN PARK**

~ ~ ~

**AUGUST 15TH**  
**2nd Division Legion Family**  
**Awards Ceremony**  
*(details on pg. 7)*  
**WARRENVILLE**

~ ~ ~

**AUGUST 22ND**  
**3rd Division Legion Family**  
**Awards Ceremony**  
*(details on pg. 7)*  
**MONMOUTH**

~ ~ ~

**AUGUST 23RD**  
**4th Division Legion Family**  
**Awards Ceremony**  
*(details on pg. 7)*  
**CULLOM**

~ ~ ~

**AUGUST 29TH**  
**5th Division Legion Family**  
**Awards Ceremony**  
*(details on pg. 7)*  
**MARION @ The Haven**

~ ~ ~

**SEPTEMBER 7TH**  
**LABOR DAY**  
**DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED**  
# # #



# CLOSE OF BOOKS

**TOP  
TEN**

Unit	Commander	Last Year's Total	This Year's Total	New	% of Last Year's Total	2010 Transfer	Net Change
14 - 3	RICHARD R. SCHOMER JR.	2,347	2,414	183	102.85%	196	33
18 - 4	ANNETTE M. TINCHER	3,658	3,608	241	98.63%	61	13
10 - 2	ROBERT BUCHER	2,794	2,735	173	97.89%	66	10
20 - 3	NORMAN W. FLOWERS JR.	2,068	2,021	124	97.73%	13	10
13 - 2	KEITH E. NICHOLS	2,532	2,466	144	97.39%	13	13
11 - 2	KEVIN R. LEONARD	8,576	8,320	554	97.01%	112	88
12 - 2	ASCENSION R. HERNANDEZ	5,395	5,225	330	96.85%	88	22
15 - 3	STEVE SCHLIEPER	2,859	2,764	145	96.68%	11	4
22 - 5	DONALD M. SCHEYER	4,243	4,093	242	96.46%	95	28
3 - 1	FRANK B. THOMPSON III	1,090	1,050	95	96.33%	6	22
21 - 4	RICHARD L. RUMP	3,022	2,900	163	95.96%	10	4
8 - 1	RICKIE J. MITCHELL	2,938	2,805	134	95.47%	43	0
17 - 4	NANCY A. ELDER	3,610	3,428	167	94.96%	19	4
23 - 5	STEPHEN J. OWENS	4,313	4,072	184	94.41%	11	0
16 - 3	DEANNE M. NIGHSONGER	3,648	3,426	147	93.91%	40	8
7 - 1	JOHN F. WOWK	2,135	2,001	453	93.72%	8	8
25 - 5	DONNIE R. HOUGHLAND JR.	2,762	2,573	138	93.16%	28	2
19 - 4	GREGG M. ROBERTS	4,964	4,608	225	92.83%	74	39
9 - 1	DALE D. TIPPETT	2,940	2,728	235	92.79%	70	32
24 - 5	CHRISTOPHER L. HATCHER	1,807	1,671	92	92.47%	3	11
4 - 1	ROBERT PRZYBYLINSKI	1,504	1,368	63	90.96%	6	0
2 - 1	LAWRENCE A. HIPPERT	992	897	72	90.42%	4	3
5 - 1	DETRALL A. DEARBONE	1,302	1,175	87	90.25%	16	4
1 - 1		0	14	0	0.00%	0	14
District Totals:		71,499	68,362	4,391	95.61%	993	372
Post 2010 Totals:		2,644	2,463	78	93.15%		
State Totals:		74,143	70,825	4,469	95.52%	993	
- R7 / 2010 Transfers:			99				
Adjusted State Total:			70,726				
National Percentage:					95.39%		
3	JOHN W. GOSNEY	10,922	10,625	599	97.28%	260	
2	RAY P. POWROZNIK	19,297	18,746	1201	97.14%	279	
4	RONALD E. SHAPLAND	15,254	14,544	796	95.35%	164	
5	BENJAMIN R. PICOU	13,125	12,409	656	94.54%	137	
1	GEORGIANN CALLAWAY	12,901	12,038	1139	93.31%	153	

Total Posts: 728

Posts Not Reporting: 0

Posts Reached Goal: 18

The Above Department Ranking Positions Depend on % of Last Year's Total

**WAYNE L. FISCHER**

Department Sr. Vice Commander

**ROY WEBER**

Department Commander

National Goal: 74,226

This Year Total - All Cards Received plus Downloaded PUFL Renewals

New - New Members

% of Last Year Total / Last Year Total

Reporting: 06/19/20 01:15

# *National Commander:* UNEQUAL TREATMENT VIOLATES NATION'S HIGHEST VALUES

*American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford issued the following statement June 17:*

"The American Legion stands on principles and serves purposes worldwide that are violated when justice, freedom and democracy are not applied equally, regardless of race, color, creed or class. These principles formed the foundation of the organization over a century ago, in a very different and deeply divided time in U.S. society. As our nation grieves and tries to reconcile the unconscionable deaths of African-American citizens George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, retired St. Louis Police Capt. David Dorn, Federal Protective Services Officer Patrick Underwood in Oakland, Calif., and others, The American Legion stands firm in a value it has upheld, in the form of a national resolution, first adopted 1923:

**WHEREAS**, The fundamental law of our country guarantees to all peoples equal rights and equal opportunities and the right to worship their God as they see fit; and...

**WHEREAS**, Membership of The American Legion is made up of those who served our country in a time of great national stress, without distinction as to race, color, creed or class; and...

**RESOLVED**, ...*That we consider any individual, group of individuals, or organizations, which creates, or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which*

*takes into their own hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt, or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties, and destructive to our fundamental law; and be it finally*

**RESOLVED**, *That we consider such actions by any individual, groups, or organizations, to be inconsistent with the ideals and purposes of The American Legion.*

"This resolution's place in The American Legion's conscience is so timeless it was reaffirmed, in full, at the organization's 99th National Convention in 2017.

"Throughout its history, The American Legion has fought to improve racial equality not only for veterans, but for the communities they serve. In 1919, African-American veterans of World War I were among the organization's

founders who adopted a mission statement – the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution – that pledges among other things 'to maintain law and order,' 'promote peace and goodwill on earth' and 'safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.'

"Where the law has been broken, justice must be served. Where freedom has been denied, it must be returned, without prejudice. Our nation has much to consider as we continue to strive toward a shared goal found in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag: 'with liberty and justice for all.' All means all. Anything less than complete equality in the execution of these values today is as un-American now as it was in 1923."







## Become A Volunteer Veteran Peer Mentor

Volunteer peer mentors are valued and  
vital to Veterans in our community.



**Veterans  
Guiding and  
Leading  
Veterans**

Veteran Peer Mentors have an opportunity to learn frontline intervention techniques and tools to address the immediate basic needs of service members, Veterans, and their families.

### **WE NEED YOU.**

This is a great way to give back and support, guide, and be a trusted friend to a Veteran in need. Volunteer mentors are veterans or active-duty members of any branch of the U.S. Military or reserve who guide and support justice-involved veterans and assist them in navigating the court system for the following counties: Ford, Livingston, Logan, McLean, and Woodford.

### **Learn More:**

Visit: [www.mcleancountyil.gov](http://www.mcleancountyil.gov)

Click on Department/Court Services/Veterans Treatment Court/Mentor Manual (application is at the very bottom of the manual)

For More information, Contact: **Michele Hansen-Hoback** at

[michele.hansen-hoback@mcleancountyil.gov](mailto:michele.hansen-hoback@mcleancountyil.gov) or call (309) 888-5943

# Riverside Post 488 makes smooth transition to virtual world

MAY 2020—The coronavirus pandemic has forced American Legion posts to change the way they do business. Conducting meetings has become a virtual affair. Food drives and distributions have had to be done while observing social distancing. And as Memorial Day showed, American Legion posts weren't going to let a pandemic get in the way of observing the sacred holiday.

But for American Legion Post 488 in Riverside, Ill., moving into the virtual world was a discussion that came up months before the pandemic hit. And since stay-at-home orders went into effect in Illinois, the post hasn't missed a beat.

Monthly meetings and a weekly commander's call take place via Zoom. A Poppy Day promotion was handled through Facebook, and on Memorial Day the post offered up the reading of President Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address by Lincoln interpreter George Buss.

Post 488 Commander Joseph Topinka said that last September he invited Marla Marie Curran, who now volunteers as the post's community outreach coordinator, to speak to post membership about developing an online presence and looking at the ability to meet virtually.

"Even before the pandemic we were trying to do this," Curran said. "If the weather's bad and they don't feel safe driving (to meetings) ... or just can't make it, they can still sign into their monthly meetings and still have a say, have a vote. They can interact and find out what's going on."

Meeting virtually, Curran said, also is more appealing to younger veterans

perhaps working more than one job or with young children and who don't have the time to drive to and attend a meeting in person.

"Being virtual, we can sit here and take 45 minutes, we can put our microphone on mute, we can still hear what's going on, we can talk when we need to, and that keeps us engaged," Curran said. "The pandemic just kind of pushed us to do what we were already trying to implement. We already had the stepping stones to do it."

The weekly commander's calls offer members the chance to check in with fellow veterans. Post meetings include guest speakers, most recently retired U.S. Army Col. Kelly A. Wolgast, who earlier this month spoke about being a military nurse and leader, and how it relates to the pandemic. Future guest speakers already are scheduled through August.

Topinka said the post has been sending webcams to older members in order to get them to participate. One member hadn't been to meetings in years but now is attending virtually.

"We normally don't have meetings in the summer, but because of the pandemic I decided that we should continue doing things in the summer so that people have a place to go," Topinka said. "It's actually been an opportunity for young and old alike to come and participate. But what's important is it's value-added. We bring a good guest speaker, somebody that attracts people and that people will learn from. And we now have attracted

members from other states."

In advance of Poppy Day and knowing it would be impossible to distribute poppies to the community in a traditional way, Post 488 came up with another way to spread the word about Poppy Day while raising funds. Creating a virtual poppy, the post encouraged Facebook users to use the poppy as a profile picture frame. Those who used the frame were asked, but not required, to donate.

Post 488 was struggling before Topinka became post commander in 2017. Since then the membership has grown to more than 30, despite the post not having a facility.

"I keep telling people it's not so much where your building is, but where you build your community," Topinka said. "If our community can be virtual, it's still a giving community. It's still people doing good things. I don't care if you're from Riverside or not. You can be somewhere else and you can still do something in the name of the post and in the name of The American Legion."

Source:

<https://www.legion.org/membership/249133/illinois-post-makes-smooth-transition-virtual-world>







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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 # \_\_\_\_\_

## 2019—2020 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	HOST POST	CITY
07/12/2020	17TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	LEROY POST 79	LEROY
09/16/2020	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	LINCOLNWOOD POST 1226	LINCOLNWOOD



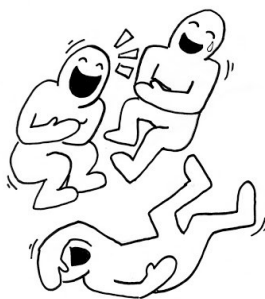
# North Dakota Farm Kid's Letter from Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Training

Dear Ma and Pa,

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled. I was restless at first because you get to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m. But I am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot, and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing.

Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water. Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food, but tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food, plus yours, holds you until noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on 'route marches,' which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A 'route march' is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks.



The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags a lot. The Captain is like the school board. Majors and Colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughter. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bullseye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move, and it ain't shooting at you like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable like and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges, they come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home. I'm about the best they got in this except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds and he's 6'8" and near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter, Alice

Shared by: PDC Cheri Stanton



The 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court wants you! Be a Veteran Mentor today.

Call 309-888-5934, email

[Michele.hansen-hoback@mcleancountyil.gov](mailto:Michele.hansen-hoback@mcleancountyil.gov)

Or go to our website

<https://www.mcleancountyil.gov/1391/Veterans-Treatment-Court>

for further information.





## 11th District Department of Illinois American Legion "Write A Joe or Jane" Campaign

June 17th the 11th District officially ended their "Write A Joe or Jane" Campaign. With the DoodleBug Workshop and the Warrenville American Legion Post 589 they delivered hundreds of letters to the Chicagoland Blue Star Mother's. These letters will be sent to deployed members of the military. Thank you to all who wrote and participated.



## "TRASH TUESDAY"

During the Covid-19 quarantine with nothing open and not a single special event to go to a Tuscola resident decided that taking out the trash on Tuesdays needed to become a special event.

Paul (*trash can operator*) & Cindy (*paparazzi*) Garrett have given the Tuscola neighborhood and Facebook followers something hilarious to watch on "Trash Tuesday".



Many residents have even offered costumes and ideas in order to keep this special event going.

Paul has even made the local news. Tuscola Mayor was quoted to say "Paul, you've made Tuscola famous."

Thank you for sharing your story Paul and to Cindy for some of the most hilarious photos this year.

**STAY LEGENDARY PAUL!**





THE AMERICAN LEGION  
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# JUNE-JULY TRIVIA

- True or False? The American flag has always had 13 stripes.
- True or False? The designer of the current 50 star flag was a high school student.
- Under what circumstances did "The Star Spangled Banner" become the national anthem in the U.S.A?
- How many people have cookouts on July 4th?
- Why were the stars in a circle on the first flag?

## ANSWERS:

- False. At one time (from 1795 to 1818), the American flag had 15 stripes.
- True. The current 50 star design was created by Robert G. Heft, who was a 17 year old high school student when he designed it.
- In 1912, President Woodrow Wilson made an Executive Order. Then in 1931, by a Congressional Resolution.
- Over 74 million people have cookouts on July 4th.
- The stars were in a circle on the first flag to show that all the colonies were equal.



# Happy Independence Day!

## 4th of July Word Search

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

- |             |             |              |              |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| ABLAZE      | CROWDS      | FEAST        | FREEDOM      |
| ANTHEM      | DECORATIONS | FLAG         | INDEPENDENCE |
| BACKYARD    | BANG        |              | GRILL        |
| BLAST       | BOOM        | AMERICA      | HISTORY      |
| GATHERING   | BATTLEFIELD | FIRECRACKERS | LIBERTY      |
| RED         | CAMPING     | ROCKETS      | NATIONAL     |
| WHITE       | DELICIOUS   | EXPLOSIONS   | PARADES      |
| BLUE        | DESSERT     | MUSIC        | PATRIOTIC    |
| CAVALCADE   | DEMOCRACY   | PICNICS      | FIREWORKS    |
| CELEBRATION | EMOTIONAL   | POTLUCK      | FESTIVAL     |