This year ushers in a presidential election. And while American Legion posts are encouraged to promote “Get Out the Vote” (GOTV) efforts, it is important to remember to remain nonpartisan in the process.

The American Legion is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization but advocates for all U.S. citizens to register and vote in all elections. The American Legion does not show preference for or against any particular candidate or political party.

Since its inception in 1920, The American Legion’s Get Out The Vote program has encouraged Americans to exercise their right to vote and help others understand the importance of the electoral process. The program suggests activities on how American Legion posts can increase voter turnout such as calling potential voters to get to the polls, volunteer in their communities by providing rides to and from the polls if necessary, use social media to share information about poll locations and times, and place newspaper ads or public service announcements in local media that promote registration and voting.

To help with GOTV efforts, American Legion Family members can download The American Legion’s “Get Out the Vote” and “Vote, America” brochures at [www.legion.org/vote/publications](http://www.legion.org/vote/publications). GOTV public service announcements and news releases are also available.
Greetings from the Department Commander.

My how time is flying by! The Division awards from last year have been held and in the past, so now we must forge ahead with THIS year’s schedule of meetings and events. We just wrapped up Fall DEC and Board meetings. Our Department committee and commission fall meetings will take place in October. Unfortunately, the National fall meetings have been cancelled or restricted to “Zoom” status.

I look forward to travelling about the department with President Sue and Commander Phil. The first National Caravan meeting is scheduled later in October. I know we will have some great posts to visit and we will make our Caravan successful and FUN. This is National Disability Month and Employment Awareness Month. With Covid-19 still around us we must make every effort to help those that need our assistance. It is tough to balance work, schooling and child care as businesses try to get going again. I am confident that as the largest active Veterans Service organization, we as a Legion Family will do our best to serve our Veterans and their families.

Our Division/District Officers Training is complete and we have established District Membership teams in each of the Divisions. The teams are charged with regular reporting back to Division Officers and to the Department. This is not a one or two person effort and we are depending on the entire team effort. We must work together to build on the

(Commander continued on page 4)

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

To my Fellow Legionnaires; Auxiliary; and Sons of the American Legion,

I hope all is well with everyone. As we know this is a challenging time for everyone, but as many have experienced, we will not throw in the towel and give up on any of our Legion Family Members. We are here to Serve, Honor, and Embrace our family members, especially our fellow Legionnaires. As we move forward, we are committed to our “4-Pillars”. We cannot back off this commitment in our local communities. Teamwork at the Post, District, and Division level is key to our success, whether it be Membership, Legion Programs, or just stepping up to help our family members. It is what we are committed to when we say our Preamble to the American Legion Constitution.

Now to some business. By the time you read this we will have completed both our Division Officers Retreat and our Division and District Officers Training. Each of these sessions are intended to share information; provide training; get to know our fellow officers and allow them to get to know each other. The key focus of these meetings was to move forward with plans to improve our Leadership; grow our Membership; and to expand our participation in our American Legion Programs. More will be covered on these 3 points as we move forward.

But now I want to share our Membership Priority thru Veterans Day Week. It is difficult to accept, but we left
Greetings to all Legionnaires and their families!

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. It is so sad as we continue to see many events canceled due to the virus. However, we need to find ways to continue working our programs and working with our members. Even though it is difficult to meet, there are many ways to get together either by virtual meetings, conference calls, outside meetings (weather permitting) and in person while adhering to the social distancing guidelines. There are many free and relatively cheap ways available to meet via Free Conference Call, Go To Meeting, Zoom and many others. I know some Posts that have reopened, and they are working hard to maintain the guidelines and keeping everything sanitized.

We started last year with a membership theme song, “We are all in this together.” Seems this has been the overall theme for 2020. I am sure you have heard us say that we really want to focus on working together as a Legion Family this year. I hope everyone is following our lead and taking this togetherness down to the Division, District, Post, Unit and Squadron levels. If your Post is meeting and your Unit or Squadron is not, why not invite them to join your meeting? Meetings together can be done; it just takes some patience and consideration for everyone. I know many groups have their meetings together but in different rooms. That is also a great way to do it if you have the space.

Keep doing those Buddy Checks and ask about all the person’s family members and confirm that they belong to (ALA President continued on page 4)

In two days we will be having our fall family DEC. With a little luck, the technology will cooperate and those attending by zoom will be with us for the entire meeting.

2021 is presenting challenges in how we achieve our goals and continue to support all the members and programs that depend on us. Fundraisers are an essential part of what we do. Raffles, outdoor activities and fundraisers like the Haven Run are safe and fun activities we can all participate in.

(SAL Cmdr’s message on page 4)
4 Pillars of Service to ensure the American Legion will grow.

Of course membership is the Key to our program success and a head start before the Holiday season would make our jobs much easier later on. I am asking you to get out there before the snow flies and engage our non-renews and search out eligible Veterans through our Membership department’s 2910 list.

Remember, with a “Can Do” Attitude, we can keep serving our Veterans and their families.

Literature is readily available from department for each and every valuable Program of the American Legion.

Congratulations to those in the Top Ten so for this Legion Membership Year. Keep up the great work.

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

We are at the starting line of what some would call “The New Normal” Let us all do our part to map out what that New Normal may look like. Please stay safe and work hard and do what we do best.

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.

over 8,800 Legionnaires over the past 2 years behind. By that I mean that over 8,800 Legionnaires did not renew for various reasons. Many we are sure, were never approached by their fellow Legionnaires. We do not want to let that number leave us again.

So here is the start: All Post Commanders and Adjutants will have received their Post listing on Non-renewals in the mail by now. This way every Post has their list on Non-renewals for the 2018 and 2019 Legion Year. The Post incentive is “For every 4 former Post Members, from their list, that renew by the end of Veterans Day Week which is November 13th, the Post will receive ‘1 Free Membership Certificate; to use as they see fit’. We need every Post in Department to step up and reach out to everyone on their list. Division and District Officers will step up to assist also. Teamwork is key and we want everyone to take a share of this Challenge.

Membership Growth is the key to successful Programs of the American Legion. Let us make this one memorable and successful. This way we will all be rewarded for a job well done!!!! Remember Commander Roy’s Motto “Veterans Can Do”!!! It works!!!

our organization. Remind your members to pay their dues. All our members need to know they are valued and needed for our success! We need members more now than ever to keep our organizations going strong.

If you know of any Unit that needs some assistance or if any Post would like to start a Unit, please let me know. We are always willing to help. As we work with Units that are struggling this year, we will be reaching out to the Post Commanders to see if they can help.
That it has been four years since I furnished a list of Patient Advocates, Patient Representatives and Patient Relations Offices for our VA hospitals and clinics servicing our Illinois veterans. Our office constantly receive calls about various hospital problems e.g. why can’t I get a certain prescription filled, how come the dentist won’t give me implants, why do I only get one pair of glasses a year, etc. We also get complaints like I waited six hours to see my doctor or the VA mailed my medication to the wrong address again! Problems like these are best handled by the Patient Advocates. These are highly trained professionals who attempt to resolve concerns about any aspect of their care and also file complaints about poor service. And with the new Caregivers Act and Care in the Community, there are even more questions and concerns. Here is the most recent list, use it. And please be patient, with COVID don’t expect to get a response immediately, it may take a few days.

**Hines Hospital and the following clinics:**
Aurora, Elgin, Joliet, LaSalle, Manteno and Oak Lawn.
708-202-2716

**Marion Medical Center:** 618-997-5311 ext. 54229

**Illiana Medical Center and the following clinics:**
Peoria, Decatur, Springfield and West Lafayette (IN).
217-554-4968

**Cpt. James Lovell Fed. Health Care Ctr. and the following clinics:**
McHenry, Evanston and Kenosha (WI).
847-688-1900 x87505

**Iowa City Medical Center and the following clinics:**
Galesburg and Quincy.
319-339-0581 ext. 4248 or 7244

**Chicago Jesse Brown Medical Center and the following clinics:**
312-569-7959

**Chicago Heights Clinic:** 708-756-5454

**Crown Point clinic (IN):** 219-662-5000

**Belleville clinic:** 314-289-6373

**St. Louis John Cochran:** 314-289-6373

**St. Louis Jefferson Barracks:** 314-894-5712

**Madison Hospital (WI) & Rockford Clinic:**
608-280-7182

NEW!!!! If you use myhealthevet to secure message your provider, you can also use the drop down menu to send a message to your Pt. Advocate.

Please note: these advocates are not the person to complain about the unfairness of the various Veterans Administration rules regarding eligibility, means tests and other Federal laws. If you don’t like certain current Federal laws bring it up at your Post meeting and write a resolution to try and get that law changed.

As always if you have any questions about your Veterans Administration benefits please feel free to contact me. The only dumb question is the one not asked!
We at Department Headquarters spent an afternoon celebrating Joy Wilson. Joy and her husband, Keith, will be moving to Tennessee to embark on a new adventure. She has been with the Legion for almost 20 years and has contributed to The American Legion Family in immeasurable ways during her time here. Thank you, Joy, for all you have done. You will be sorely missed. Happy Retirement!!
The team at Department Headquarters is about halfway through our 100 mile goal! We are taking some time every day to walk as a team in support of the Veterans & Children Foundation. We hope you will join us. It’s not too late to register! Learn more about this initiative on the Legion website www.legion.org/100miles and get started by registering at Emblem Sales.
Dear Fellow American Legion Member:

We are delighted to include you in our special 2020 Veterans Day Sweepstakes, which offers you a chance to enter to win a Remington 11-87 Shot Gun or up to a $2,000 cash prize, among other great prizes.

This is truly a unique opportunity and a great way to support our very important Department of Illinois programs at the same time!

When you return an optional donation of $5 per ticket, $20 for 6 tickets or $25 for all 12 tickets – you’ll carry on our time-honored tradition of service to our troops and veterans.

On Thursday, November 12, 2020, winners will be selected at department headquarters. You do not need to be present to win. But, your help and support is truly needed, so please act today! Every single gift is vital and each gift is appreciated by all of us and by those we serve.

Please mail your Sweepstakes Tickets as soon as possible, but no later than November 2, 2020 to be eligible to win any of these great prizes:

**Grand Prize: A Remington® 11-87 Shot Gun AND a Springfield Armory 1911 Champion™ Operator® Lightweight Pistol (or $2,000 Cash)**

**Second Prize: A Springfield Armory 1911 Mil-Spec Pistol AND an XD® Pistol with Thumb Safety (or $1,200 Cash)**

**Third Prize: A Springfield Armory 1911 Range Officer® Pistol (or $900 Cash)**

Your sweepstakes tickets give you a fair chance to enter to win one of these great prizes. And when you send an optional donation with your sweepstakes tickets, your generosity will be put to work immediately to help veterans in need.

The tickets have been addressed for your convenience. Please be sure your name and address are correct, and include your daytime phone number on each ticket, as legibly as possible. Should you decide to make a donation, please make your check or money order payable to “The American Legion, Department of Illinois.”

Thank you and God Bless America,

Roy Weber
Department Commander
The American Legion, Department of Illinois

P.S. No purchase or donation is necessary to enter. A purchase or donation will not improve your chances of winning. Must be 18 years or older to participate. Good luck to all who participate and a very sincere “Thank You.”

---

**Mark Your Calendar**

**OCTOBER 3RD**
Dept. Committee & Commission Fall Meetings @ Dept. HQ

**OCTOBER 9TH**
2021 National Renewal Date

**OCTOBER 9-11TH**
SAL Fall NEC Meetings (INDY)

**OCTOBER 12-15TH**
National Fall Committee & Commission Meetings (INDY)

**OCTOBER 15TH**
2021 National Membership Cutoff Date

**OCTOBER 17TH**
Dept. Committee & Commission Fall Meetings Department Headquarters

**OCTOBER 26TH**
1st Illinois Legion Family Membership Caravan Meeting
10:00 AM (BLOOMINGTON)

###
2020 American Legion Family

4 PILLARS PIN

$100 each

Please complete this form and mail with payment to:
American Legion Department of Illinois, 2720 E. Lincoln Street, Bloomington, IL 61704

Post Number __________ Name
____________________________________________________________________________________

Address
____________________________________________________________________________________

City ____________________________ State _________ Zip
____________________________________________________________________________________

The American Legion Department of Illinois

Purchase your 4-Pillars Pin Today!

100% of the money will be distributed evenly to four American Legion Department of Illinois family programs.

★ Auxiliary—Supporting the Illinois State Veterans Homes

★ Sons of the American

Be a 100% Supporter for your American Legion Family Programs

(This stylish pin will be a 1.5" inch dual plated gold & silver 3D pin with gold and blue stones inserted in each pillar. Auxiliary & SAL on front, Youth Police Program and Boy Scouts on back)
# 2020 Scholarship Award Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIVISION #</th>
<th>NAME OF WINNER</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIVISION 1</td>
<td>Joseph Garbie</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emily Jones</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Derrick Lehman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Newton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Morgan Ramirez</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIVISION 2</td>
<td>Austyn Kraft</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Luke Elias</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hannah McDermott</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nolan Perkins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kody Velazquez</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIVISION 3</td>
<td>Bailey Mason</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Aidan Koeller</td>
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<td>Victoria Oaks</td>
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<td>Jordan Rouse</td>
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<td>Autumn Schultz</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIVISION 4</td>
<td>S. Amelia Kuhlman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grace Clinton</td>
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<td>Keegan Kutmeier</td>
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<td>Taylor Malina</td>
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<td>Aaron Siems</td>
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<td>DIVISION 5</td>
<td>Sierra Buckles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monica Buerster</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Madison Fleege</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Olivia Martin</td>
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<td>Jacelyn Street</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Commander Roy Weber is selling Seabees patches for $10 a piece! Earnings will contribute to the Illinois Disaster Relief Fund (reference pg. 5 for IDRF flyer and more information). For those interested, please contact Department Headquarters to get yours today!
Contribution Form for Department Commander Weber’s Special Project

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL OR POST: ____________________________________________________

POST #: ___________ DIV #: ___________ DIST #: ___________

ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________

CITY: ________________________________________________________________

ZIP CODE: ___________ PHONE NO.: ____________________________

AMOUNT $ ________________

Payment Type: _____ Check -or- _____ Credit Card

Please Charge $ ________________ on my Credit Card

[ ] VISA   [ ] MasterCard [ ] Discover

Card No.: ____________________________________________________________

Exp. Date: _________________ Security Code: ____________________________

Signature: ____________________________________________________________

(Required)

☆ Please make checks payable to the Department of Illinois and earmarked “Commander’s Special Project - Illinois Disaster Relief Fund

☆ Send contributions to: The American Legion—Dept. of Ill 2720 E. Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 61704

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

VETERANS “CAN DO!”

Illinois Veterans helping their own! Department of Illinois Commander Roy Weber is asking for your donations, large or small, to build the new Illinois Disaster Relief Fund. Your contribution will ensure that funds are available in times of need. These funds will be dedicated to Veterans right here in our very own state. Tornados, Hurricanes, Flooding, and other unforeseen disasters can strike instantly. And when they do, The American Legion’s Illinois Disaster Relief Fund will be there to help.

DONATE TODAY
The **LEGION Act** (*Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act*) was signed July 30, 2019. It opened the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible. **A YEAR HAS PASSED...HAVE YOU ASKED?**

**HAVE YOU ASKED...**

Do you Belong to The American Legion?

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

Qualifying proof in most 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](https://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/military-veteran-discounts)

About the Show:

What happens when three veterans walk into a podcast studio? Vibrant camaraderie, playful joking and hot takes ensue. Join Mark Seavey, Ashley Gorbulja-Maldonado and Jeff Daly as they explore current events, interesting trends and quirky stories of interest to the military community.

The twice-monthly podcast is produced by The American Legion.

The podcast is a veterans-eye-view on current events—particularly in the military and veteran community.

For more stories and videos, please visit [www.legion.org/tangoalphanlima](http://www.legion.org/tangoalphanlima)

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**Tango Alpha Lima**

**A Podcast Brought to You by The American Legion**

Tango Alpha Lima Podcast on Social Media:
Gifts for the Yanks. Place your orders today!

https://www.orders.giftstotheyanks.org

**Gifts To The Yanks Jogging Suit**

- Crewneck Sweatshirt
  - 8.0 oz., 50/50 cotton/polyester
  - Seamless body with set-in sleeves
  - 1x1 rib collar, cuffs and waistband with spandex
  - Double-needle stitched at stress points
  - Screen printed with the Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave logo on the left chest

- Sweatpant
  - 8.0 oz., 50/50 cotton/polyester
  - No side seams
  - Two-needle covered waistband with inside drawcord
  - Elastic bottom leg openings
  - Screen printed with the Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave logo on the left hip

The above product attributes may vary based on availability.

**Gifts to the Yanks Fleece Blanket**

- 365 GRAM WHIPSTITCHED 60” X 80” FLEECE BLANKET
- Heavyweight nylon stadium carrying strap/Whipstitched edges
- Embroidered with the Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave logo

**Gifts to the Yanks Jacket**

*PLEASE NOTE: Color may vary between Navy and Royal.*
- Embroidered with the Gifts to the Yanks logo on the left chest.

**Gift to the Yanks Veterans Gift Bag**

The perfect gift for a veteran where size may be a problem.
Gift bags include:
- hat
- socks
- puzzle book
- deck of cards
- hankies etc.

Men's

Women's
### 2020—2021 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DIST. / DIV.</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>POST</th>
<th>CITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/21/2020</td>
<td>7TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>GEORGE W. BENJAMIN POST 791</td>
<td>NORTHBROOK</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/28/2020</td>
<td>9TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>PALATINE POST 690</td>
<td>PALATINE</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/18/2020</td>
<td>9TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>FRANKLIN PARK POST 974</td>
<td>FRANKLIN PARK</td>
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<td>11/18/2020</td>
<td>7TH DISTRICT</td>
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<td>MORTON GROVE POST 134</td>
<td>MORTON GROVE</td>
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<td>12/16/2020</td>
<td>9TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>RIVER GROVE POST 335</td>
<td>RIVER GROVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/10/2021</td>
<td>5TH DIVISION</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>SALEM POST 128</td>
<td>SALEM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Department Commander Roy Weber and Department Legion Riders Chairman Joe Lampert presented Roy Smith from Louisville Post 914 with the Terry Woodburn Illinois American Legion Rider of the Year Award at Carrier Mills Post 364.

**3rd Division Legion Family Membership Awards**

American Legion Department of IL - Department News Page 14 OCTOBER 2020
October Schedule
11th—Friday at Loda Post 503
25th—Friday at Loda Post 503

The serving times will be from 4:30PM to 7:30PM on Friday evenings unless specified.

The menu includes Fish (Pollack), Chicken, livers, gizzards, French fries, Baked beans, Green beans (with potatoes, bacon, and onions,) Coleslaw, and Potato salad.

Price (at the Loda location) is $8.00 for all you can eat. Children under 8 years old eat free.

Doris “Dorie” Miller Day
October 12, 2020

The Chicago Dorie Miller American Legion Post 915 will soon be celebrating the 2nd Annual Doris “Dorie” Miller Day!

Doris “Dorie” Miller Day was first celebrated at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center on June 12, 2019 and the Cook County Board of Commissioners officially recognized October 12, 2019 as Doris (Dorie) Miller Day as of September 25, 2019. The Cook County Board encourages all of its residents to celebrate.
OCTOBER TRIVIA

1. Which immigrants came to America and thought that pumpkins were easier to carve on Halloween than potatoes?
2. Each year, how many pounds of candy corn are produced?
3. Why did U.S. secret agents abandon plans—approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt—to drop live bats from airplanes to frighten the Japanese during World War II?
4. What famous words did Francis Bellamy write to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America?
5. The Revolutionary War was the first war the U.S. took part in that was partially financed with what?

ANSWERS:

1. Irish Immigrants
2. 35 million pounds
3. The bats froze at high altitudes, before they could be released.
4. “The Pledge of Allegiance” — which was published in “The Youth’s Companion” magazine. Bellamy was on the magazine’s staff.
5. Lottery dollars