

American Legion Department of Illinois Department News

2020–2021 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROY WEBER

THE AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY**



NOVEMBER 2020



NOVEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP RETENTION MONTH

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

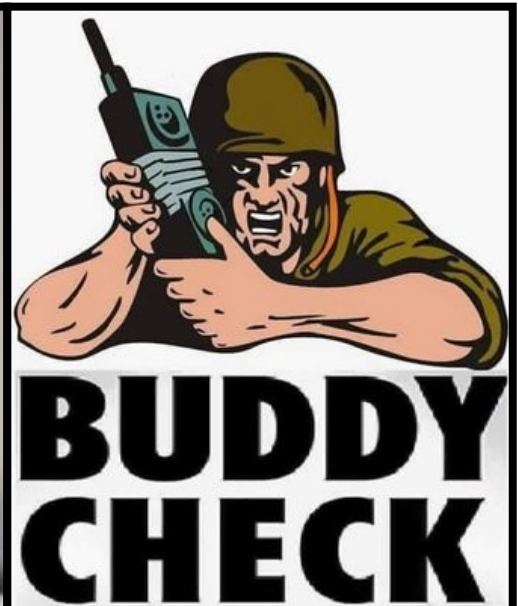
Top 10 District &
Division Rankings
AS OF 10/26/2020

District Commander

- | | |
|----|--------------|
| 13 | Gibbs |
| 4 | Przybylinski |
| 17 | Young |
| 8 | Mitchell |
| 16 | Talaska |
| 5 | Dearbone |
| 12 | Latham |
| 15 | Schlieper |
| 22 | Scheyer |
| 10 | Bucher |

Division Commander

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 3 | FLOWERS, JR |
| 2 | POWROZNIK |
| 4 | SHAPLAND |
| 1 | CALLAWAY |
| 5 | PICOU |



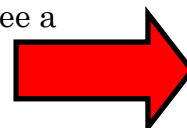
As American Legion members, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. As a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019. The resolution calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day. However, American Legion posts are encouraged to perform this vital function whenever it makes the most sense in their communities.

The idea is to reconnect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. These contacts may be made by a personal visit, phone or email, or a combination. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and can provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.



Veterans Day is November 11

Visit illegion.org and click this slider to see a list of perks and freebies!



From The Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber



Fellow Legionnaires:

Well summer has slipped away and given us cool temps. I'm thinking about pulling out my winter gear! Covid 19 has been our setback for the past 8 months, and everyone is tired of it, as am I.

The Department of Illinois can't wait for it to subside and we as leadership will continue to take care of Legion business and that

care of Legion business and that of course is Veterans serving Veterans and their families.

Sr. Vice Wayne has formulated a plan to keep our membership growing and enabling us to maintain the fantastic Legion programs, keeping our 4 pillars in mind.

I know we are still limited to operating our Posts the way we had been, however we must make the effort to keep our Legion programs alive.

The October Committee and Commission meetings are in the books and from visiting each meeting with Sr. Vice Wayne, I

can tell the dedication of our members is evident. New ways to accomplish our mission are being introduced to keep up with the times. So let's use the "Can Do Spirit" and work our programs.

Speaking of membership, we are working our way to re-sign those members we "left behind" in the past couple of years, and along with NEW members, we can get the Department back up to the level we need to be at. November is "Membership Retention Month."

(Dept. 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 remains 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 or our Programs. We are here to Serve, Honor, and Embrace our family members. As we move forward, we remain 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 our Fall Department Commissions and Committee Meetings. These meetings are intended to share current Commission/Committee information and any updates from National. In turn, Commission and Committee members are expected to share their information at their upcoming District and Division Meetings.

But now I want to share again our Membership Priority through Veterans Day Week. As you may recall from our last newsletter, it is difficult to accept, but we left 8,800+ Legionnaires behind over the past 2 years. By that, I mean that over 8,800 Legionnaires did not renew for various reasons. Many, we're sure, were never approached by their fellow Legionnaires. We cannot let that number leave us again.

By now, all Post Commanders and Adjutants will have received their Post listing on their Non-renewals in the mail. This way every Post has their list on Non-renewals for the 2018 and 2019 Legion Year.

(Dept. SVC continued on page 4)



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Sue Cunniff Coughlin



Happy Veterans Day to all Legionnaires!

November is a special month for us as we celebrate Veterans Day. Last year many events were snowed out and of course this year we are limited on gatherings. I still hope to be able to join in some events. As Auxiliary members, we have a better understanding of the importance of your service and the sacrifices that you have made to serve our

Country. We cannot thank you enough for your service, your continued support of our communities, and of course, our eligibility! Through our eligibility, we can honor the service of our loved ones.

The American Legion Auxiliary will be 101 years old this month, but we are continuing our 100th birthday celebration throughout this year. We are incredibly lucky, not everyone gets to celebrate their 100th birthday for two years! Although we cannot hold any celebrations at this time, we are hoping to do something in 2021.

We are looking forward to

working together as a Legion Family this month on a revitalization and membership drive effort. Many of us have never done this before so it will be a great learning experience for us. Hopefully, we will all have some good results. Going forward, I hope we can do more of these together. Working together as a family, we can be much stronger.

I was honored to attend the Seventeenth District Meeting this month. I would like to thank the Seventeenth District American Legion Family for

(ALA President continued on page 4)



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander



I pray this finds you all Safe and Healthy.

Recently we had the Family Fall DEC in Springfield. The Sons meeting went very well. The zoom portion worked as expected, allowing anyone wishing to attend access to the meeting. I understand the Legion and Auxiliary meeting went just as well. Adapting to the current situation is necessary to allow us all to continue to support the American Legion Programs.

With restrictions still in place,

With restrictions still in place, fundraising is a challenge. The American Legion Programs depend on our donations to continue. I have seen many creative and clever ideas on raising funds safely during these difficult times! Drive through dinner pickup, Drive through donation drop-offs. Parking lot live bands done like a drive inn theatre. Even outdoor bingo. Please share your ideas with our PR chairman Eugene Gort.

Please continue to do your Buddy Checks. Keep members informed as to what is going on. Check that they have what they need and are staying safe.

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.

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

(Dept. Commander, Continued from page 2)

By the time you read this, we will have conducted revitalization of District 17 at Department HQ. along with a ZOOM conference call with District and Division Leadership. To have a revitalization in your area, contact Membership Director Chad Woodburn.

By now you all know that the annual Haven Jamboree has been cancelled, however support for the "Jewel on Crab Orchard Lake" will undoubtedly continue. Many veterans utilize this respite from the VA and nursing homes.

President Sue, Commander Phil and I will be visiting our veteran homes this month to present a donation of face masks that were available to us from National.

Be sure to take time to celebrate Veterans Day on the 11th, which is also the 75% membership cutoff date.

My family extends a warm Thanksgiving Greeting and although Covid 19 is still here, I hope families can gather for the Holidays.

Keep up the "Can Do Spirit!"



**During the Cold Temperatures
PLEASE don't forget to check
on our comrades who are
alone or can not get out!**

**Take a few minutes to make sure
they are warm and have food!**

(Department SVC, Continued from page 2)

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, their 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/District Officers will assist also. Teamwork is key and we want everyone to partake in this Challenge.

Membership Growth is the key to successful Programs of the American Legion. Let us make this one memorable and successful. At the same time, we need to continue searching for new Legionnaires and ensuring that each Post also gets their current Non-renewals for this year **RENEWED** by December 31st to maintain their Legion Benefits. This way we will all be rewarded for a job well done!!!! Remember Commander Roy's Motto **"Veterans Can Do"!!!!** It works!!!

(ALA President, Continued from page 3)

their hospitality. Commander Mark Young and President Michelle Woodburn held the opening ceremonies together as a Family and I was able to address everyone. What a wonderful experience of working together as a Legion Family. I know sometimes the logistics of doing this can be difficult, but they did a great job. Please consider working together with us and the SAL whenever possible.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving, be sure to think about others. The holidays can be stressful for many people during a normal year, but they may be even more stressful for many due to the virus this year. Continue to do those Buddy Checks and be sure to reach out to those who are lonely or struggling. **The VA Crisis Hotline at: 1-800-273-8255** is a good resource to remember. A small gesture can mean so much at this time.

From all the members of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois, we wish you a happy Thanksgiving. Be sure to give thanks for everything you have. Stay safe and continue to hang in there in these trying circumstances. May God bless you and have a wonderful holiday.

Rotary Club of
O'Fallon
Sunrise, IL

Rotary



"Suits for Active Military & Veterans"

Saturday, October 31, 2020 9am-2pm

Saturday, November 7, 2020 9am-2pm

Saturday, November 14, 2020 9am-2pm

If needed, Saturday, November 21, 2020
9am-2pm

Location:

Taylor Roofing, 1127 East B Street, Belleville, IL 62220

Free brand-new suits for Active Military & Veterans

Must show DD214, Active Military ID, VA Medical Card or any other proof of service. **Vouchers will be provided for five pieces of professional clothing for Women.**

Appointments are required, please email Catherine

Taylor Yank ctaylor@taylorroof.com or text 618-407-

2444 to receive an appointment date and time. Contact

Yolanda Wood with questions yolanda.wood@gmail.com

or call 618-444-5925



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

That the American Legion VA&R Chicago office has been locked down since March. Our office is located in the VA Regional Office, along with our sister Veterans Service Organizations (VFW, DAV,

IDVA, AMVETS, VVA and the PVA). As a result of this lock out, we have been working from home since then. However, even at home we have access, via the internet, to the VA computer systems. But some of us lack fax machines and our home printers don't always work. Sometimes we must rely on snail mail or fill out certain forms by hand, but we are getting the job done. We are proud to say that calls and e-mails are being responded to in a timely fashion. Within 48 hours, 97% of them were serviced and we hope to continue with that response time. Looking back at these last seven months I want to highlight some of the more interesting and successful claims or situations we handled.

1. The son of a veteran, who lived in the Amboy area, was being proactive and getting his dad's stuff in order. The dad was in hospice with only a few months remaining. Arthur G. Pym (the dad) final wishes were to be buried at Abe Lincoln but the son was unable to locate dad's DD 214. Having advanced dementia he seldom responded to questions and only remembers serving in the Army and being drafted. I suggested an old trick I learned. Got his date of birth and based on that knew that his service number would have started with US 55..... Told the son next time he visited his dad to keep on saying US 55, US 55 over and over. Dad's eyes lightened up on the second try and he rattled out his full service number in an instant from rote. With that I was able to track down the DD 214 and dad is now buried at Abe Lincoln.

2. Received a call from a concerned veteran out of Rock Falls. He was at an estate sale and found a silver urn containing the ashes of a veteran along with his bronze star. Seems the vet died 20 years ago and the widow kept those on her mantelpiece. The executor was unable to locate any next-of-kin so

he was selling those items. My caller had bought them and took it upon himself to try and locate any relatives. Neighbors on the block remember they had children but they had long ago moved away. We decided to run a classified ad in the local paper seeking information on where the children may have moved to. As it happens, the local High School was having a 40 year reunion and one of the vet's children attended it, saw the article in the paper and made contact. He will have the ashes interred at Abe Lincoln cemetery.

3. After a Power Point Presentation on VA benefits at the Franklin Park Post 974, the Commander introduced me to a widow. She had started a claim for survivors benefits, her husband had died from cancer caused by radiation. She was denied. I agreed to try and assist her. I reviewed his VA file and the vet was involved in atomic bomb test sites in the Pacific after World War II. While alive, the vet told her about these tests but never mentioned what ship he was on. Most of his Navy personnel file was destroyed in the St. Louis archives fire in 1973. I had her go through all her old love letters from her husband and she found correspondence from him during that time of testing. The envelope actually had the name of the ship and postmark on the envelope. With that, we were able to prove he was in the area of the testing. She got her benefits.

4. A veteran in Clayton was trying to get service-connected disability for arthritis of both hands due to using a wrench on airplanes. Appealed and judge ordered a new exam. He took the LARGE wrench (he used on airplane bolts) to the exam to show the doc and he agreed. Previous doctors pictured a tiny wrench like you would use to fix your bicycle. He got a very large retroactive check.

Until next month, stay safe, healthy and GOD bless all of us during this season of time.



<https://www.orders.giftstotheyanks.org>



S-3XL

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



BUDDY CHECK

Prepare for Buddy Checks around Veterans Day



As American Legion members, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. As a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019. The resolution calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day. The idea is to re-connect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. For expired members, they may have just been waiting for a personal call or visit to renew. These contacts may be made by a personal visit, phone or email, or a combination. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and can provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.

How do I organize a Buddy Check?

- 1) Gather up a team if possible to call or personally visit members and former members of The American Legion. If each member in a team of 10 contacts just 10 Legionnaires or former Legionnaires, 100 veterans can be reached in one sitting.
- 2) If you don't have a list of members and former members at your fingertips, visit myLegion.org and download the names of current members and those who have let their memberships expire.
- 3) Save the file of members and those whose memberships have expired onto a spreadsheet or copy and paste into a Word file to distribute among your team members. Print several copies of the lists.
- 4) Divide up the call list among your team members. Some may have personal connections with the member or the former member and should make that particular buddy check.
- 5) Start making connections – either from a quiet place inside the post or from your home – to see how the members and former members are doing, ask if they need anything and invite them to any event or activity planned to help celebrate the Legion's birthday or Veterans Day.
- 6) Make sure you thank the member or former member in the beginning and at the end of your call.
- 7) If the member or former member wishes to renew, be sure to have your post's payment procedure at your fingertips, the address to send a check or offer to stop by in person to pick it up (another opportunity to connect).
- 8) Leave contact information in case the member or former member can't take the call or needs anything in the future.

Samples of scripts, FAQ's and answers, along with worksheets are all available online @ <https://www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck>

"Illinois Posts are encouraged to take the time to connect with your Illinois comrades aka: 'Buddy's'". They value our efforts, communication and wellness checks along with any extra time you can share with them just to know we still care. All it takes is a **CAN DO** attitude.", stated Department Commander Roy Weber.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP RETENTION MONTH

75% Illinois Target Date
November 11

Veteran's Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
November 11

1st 100% Post Cash Award
(1:00 PM cut-off)
November 13

2021 National Renewal Date
November 13

Thanksgiving Day
November 26
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
November 26 & 27

SAL Winter D.E.C.
(Columbia)
December 5

2021 National Membership
Cut-off Date
December 9

Christmas Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
December 25 & 26

50% ALA Target Date
December 30

85% Illinois Target Date
AND
2nd 100% Post Cash Award
(cut-off 1:00 PM)
December 31

New Year's Eve
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
December 31

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New Year's Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
January 1



REMEMBER
our fallen U.S. veterans.

HONOR
those who serve.

TEACH
your children the value of freedom

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

For three decades, Americans have gathered in to "remember our fallen U.S. veterans, honor those who

serve, and teach children the value of freedom" through the placing of wreaths on veterans' graves.

This year will mark the 29th National Wreaths Across America Day. More than 1 million remembrance wreaths will be laid on the graves of America's fallen veterans throughout the country and overseas as part of National Wreaths Across America Day.

American Legion Family members have shown to be big supporters of Wreaths Across America. American Legion posts and Legion Family members are encouraged to participate in this annual event and share your story of how your post supports this program by emailing, sbrooks@legion.org. Share with him your plans for potential coverage in American Legion media.

Department News

From Children and Youth Commission

This is just a reminder to all posts who haven't sent in their Christmas Money. We went from \$5.00 gifts to \$10.00 gifts for our institutionalized children two years ago. It was a program started by Legionnaires long ago to give a gift to forgotten children in state supported homes. The ladies of the Auxiliary do the leg work by checking on the number of children, selecting items they might need, and even making some Christmas cookies to give to each one.

As Legionnaires, it is our task to help raise money to help pay for the items. Our lovely ladies split the cost and the children get a gift for Christmas. Win-win!

Take up a collection at your post meeting, district, and division meetings to help with the costs. We spent just under \$10,000 last year with the help of our Auxiliary.

Send it to Department and in the memo put: Christmas Program for Children.

Merry Christmas!



84th Haven Jamboree Update

After much discussion and review of the Covid-19 pandemic situation, it is with much sadness, the Board of Directors of the EPCC have decided to cancel the November 2020 Jamboree.

At the August 16 board meeting, several options were reviewed regarding the Jamboree and possible scenarios for having it this year. But the health and welfare of all involved was too much to jeopardize. In 2021,

the Jamboree will be reviewed again and, hopefully, we will be able to host the Jamboree in November of 2021.

This being said, your help with continued support with the raffle, dues and acceptance of donations, ***to keep The Haven open, is of utmost importance.***

Included below is a page for dues. All tickets and monies can still be sent to Sec/Trea Bill Flanagan, 409 East Oak Street, New Baden, IL 62265, as before. Also, all donations can be sent to him, and will be greatly appreciated. Through the proceeds of the raffle and donations, the monies usually made from the steak fry and banquet will need to be replaced, as much as possible.

As you all know, The Haven is run solely by donations.

The raffle will be held at the annual meeting of the EPCC, on November 22, 2020, at The Haven. Winners will be contacted, as usual, the same day. Time of meeting to be announced later.

P. S. Remember to cancel your hotel reservations!

For raffle tickets and donation forms, please call 618-978-5752

Board of Directors, The Haven

PAST PRESIDENTS 2020 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Dues are \$5.00 per year.

Detach and mail to: Judy Zimmerman
5531 Oak St., Highland, IL 62249-3155

Name _____

Dist. _____ Unit _____

Address: _____

CHECKS FOR PAST PRESIDENTS DUES
MAKE PAYBLE TO: EGYPTIAN PAST
PRESIDENTS CLUB

PAST COMMANDERS 2020 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Dues are \$5.00 per year.

Detach and mail to: William Flanagan
409 E. Oak, New Baden, IL 62265

Name _____

Dist _____ Post _____ Squadron _____

Address: _____

CHECKS FOR PAST COMMANDERS
DUES
MAKE PAYBLE TO: EGYPTIAN PAST
COMMANDERS CLUB

2020 AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



American Legion Department of Illinois

4 Pillars Pin

100% of the money will be distributed evenly to the four American Legion Dept. of Illinois Programs.

ORDER TODAY!

Call (309)663-0361 to order yours!



2019 Veterans Day Free Meals, Discounts, Sales and Deals

by MilitaryBenefits

Veterans Day is Monday, November 11, 2020. There are many Veterans Day discounts, free meals, deals and sales. For a complete list of National Retail and Services Offered or Local Veterans Day Offers, visit...

<https://militarybenefits.info/veterans-day-discounts-sales-deals-free-meals/>

Tips Before Heading Out—

Review the official site information and rules before heading out. Many websites are listing previous years' promotions that are no longer valid. Be sure to bring proof of military service, uniform photo or be in uniform. Proof of military service varies by company. Pay attention to the dates on the Veterans Day offer as some offers are for days other than Veterans Day or extended over several days. Most of the restaurant free meals are for dine-in only. Verify that you're eligible for the offer. You should tip your server. They're working hard to serve you and depend on the income. We recommend tipping on the actual cost of the meal. Many of these promotions include small print that says participating locations only. Unfortunately individual franchisees may choose not to participate. Fortunately, some franchisee's participate even if the corporate company does not. Call ahead if you're unsure about anything. Reminder: presentation of military ID is required for most of offers!

Thank you for your service!

Membership Retention Tips

WAYS TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERS

From "101 Ways To Keep Your Members"

Compiled by Mark Levin, CAE President, B.A.I., Inc.

You'll find the description for each tip @ www.legion.org/membership/retentiontips

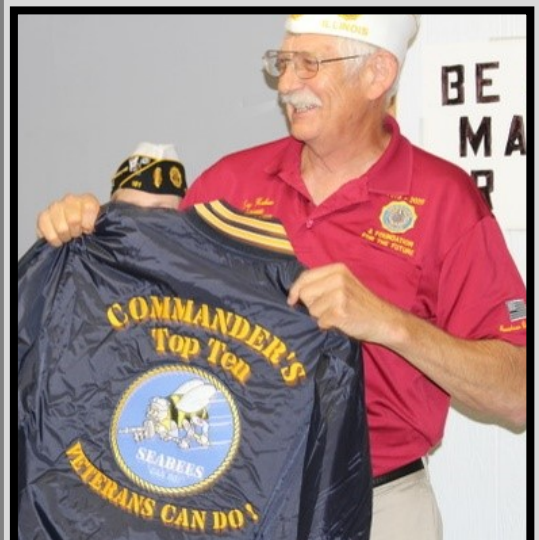
1. Have a program, not a campaign.
2. Recognize members who reach milestone membership anniversaries.
3. Start a regular column in your newsletter to thank members for their involvement.
4. Provide and encourage the use of The American Legion Emblem.
5. When important issues come up, call some inactive members for their opinions.
6. Accept credit and debit cards for dues payments.
7. Send an audio CD with your regular publications.
8. Create an annual slogan or theme for membership each year.
9. Recognize your members as often as possible.
10. Get members involved at SOME level. Involved members don't drop.
11. Publish an annual report in the local media. Thank the community for their support and send a copy to members.
12. Set up car pools to get people to meetings, especially new members.
13. Set up a speaker's bureau: Speak at other organizations' meetings.
14. Be sure non-members pay a higher fee than members for programs and functions.
15. Remind members how much money they have saved by participating in programs and functions at the member rate.
16. Keep members' names and addresses current and accurate it's the best sign of a caring organization.
17. Make sure you capture e-mail addresses whenever possible.
18. If you ask a member to do a volunteer job, make sure it's a WORTHWHILE job!
19. Call your annual dues an investment rather than dues.
20. Assign an officer to contact a certain number of inactive members each month - just a little say Hil call.
21. Bring a list of inactive members to a post meeting and have members contact them.
22. Get spouses active - it assures renewal.
23. Bring in National speakers to describe how National adds benefits to state/local membership.
24. Hold leadership-training programs - give your members the tools to be successful volunteers.
25. Create a new member welcoming committee.
26. Send a New Member Newsletter to first year members during their first year.
27. Send new members a letter or postcard saying, Here's where your \$25.00 dues went: \$3.00 for VA&R Programs; \$3.00 for Americanism Programs, etc.
28. Offer plenty of member-only programs and benefits.
29. Send a mini-survey to members about six months after they join to see how they rate your post's services.
30. Get new and inactive members to attend Department Conventions or Conferences.
31. Hold a new member reception at Conventions.
32. Give new members a special ribbon to wear.
33. Use groups of volunteers for renewal phone-a-thons.
34. Make sponsors or recruiters responsible for the first renewal, too.
35. Give discounts or perks for early renewals.
36. Give rebate vouchers for early renewals.
37. Send a checklist entitled What's your reason for not renewing?
38. Have the Commander send a pre-renewal letter on his/her letterhead a few weeks BEFORE the renewal is sent.
39. Have a retention committee - give it goals!
40. List names of non-renewals at leadership meetings.
41. Reward renewal efforts as much as you do recruitment efforts.
42. After a couple of renewal notices, begin personal contacts.
43. Send non-renewals a newsletter with the front and back cover printed and the inside blank.
44. Dig beyond the never did anything for me answer.
45. Pay special attention to those who renew last.
46. Hold a retention contest, just like a recruitment contest.
47. Offer incentives to the first 10% who renew (free dinner, etc.).
48. List first-time renewals in a special section of your newsletter.
49. Be sure to acknowledge renewal checks, just like new member applications.

Seabees

"CAN DO!"



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!



Commander Roy Weber at the 2nd Division Membership Awards, showing off a Commander's Top Ten jacket with the



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



Card No.: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

(Required)

Department Commander ROY WEBER'S 2021 Special Project

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. Tornadoes, 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.

☆ 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



2020—2021 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
11/01/2020	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MEN'S CLUB	MILLEDGEVILLE
11/18/2020	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	FRANKLIN PARK POST 974	FRANKLIN PARK
11/18/2020	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
11/19/2020	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	GLEN MAKER POST 1160	CHICAGO RIDGE
12/16/2020	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	RIVER GROVE POST 335	RIVER GROVE
01/10/2021	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	SALEM POST 128	SALEM
01/20/2021	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	SESTERHENN POST 166	MORTON GROVE
01/25/2021	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	REHFELDT-MEYER POST 474	MATTESON
01/27/2021	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	H.H. ROHDE POST 888	NORTHLAKE
02/17/2021	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	ROGERS PARK POST 108	EVANSTON
02/21/2021	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	POLO POST 83	POLO
02/24/2021	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	BILLY CALDWELL POST 806	FRANKLIN PARK
02/25/2021	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	ORLAND MEMORIAL POST III	ORLAND PARK

WAYS TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERS

From "101 Ways To Keep Your Members"
Compiled by Mark Levin, CAE President, B.A.I., Inc.

1. Have a program, not a campaign.
2. Recognize members who reach milestone membership anniversaries.
3. Start a regular column in your newsletter to thank members for their involvement.
4. Provide and encourage the use of The American Legion Emblem.
5. When important issues come up, call some inactive members for their opinions.
6. Accept credit and debit cards for dues payments.
7. Send an audio CD with your regular publications.
8. Create an annual slogan or theme for membership each year.
9. Recognize your members as often as possible.
10. Get members involved at SOME level. Involved members don't drop.
11. Publish an annual report in the local media. Thank the community for their support and send a copy to members.
12. Set up car pools to get people to meetings, especially new members.
13. Set up a speaker's bureau: Speak at other organizations' meetings.
14. Be sure non-members pay a higher fee than members for programs and functions.
15. Remind members how much money they have saved by participating in programs and functions at the member rate.
16. Keep members' names and addresses current and accurate it's the best sign of a caring organization.
17. Make sure you capture e-mail addresses whenever possible.
18. If you ask a member to do a volunteer job, make sure it's a WORTHWHILE job!
19. Call your annual dues an investment rather than dues.
20. Assign an officer to contact a certain number of inactive members each month – just a little say Hi! call.
21. Bring a list of inactive members to a post meeting and have members contact them.
22. Get spouses active – it assures renewal.
23. Bring in National speakers to describe how National adds benefits to state/local membership.
24. Hold leadership-training programs – give your members the tools to be successful volunteers.
25. Create a new member welcoming committee.
26. Send a New Member Newsletter to first year members during their first year.

Loda Post 503



107 N. 600 East Rd., Loda, Illinois

November Schedule

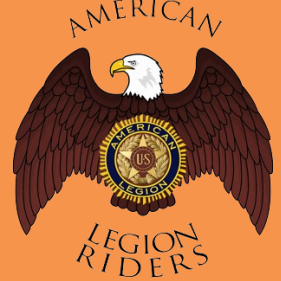
13th—Friday at Loda Post 503

The serving times will be from 4:00PM to 7:30PM on Friday evenings unless specified.

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

Price (at the Loda location) is **\$10.00** for all you can eat. Children eat free.

Commander Roy Weber presenting a check to National Commander Bill Oxford for \$4,500 to bring Illinois total for 2020 to over \$12,000. Since The Legacy Ride started 15 years ago, Illinois has donated over \$486,000.00. Deanna and Chad Woodburn, in the background rode in them with The Legacy Ride Pony Express.



SHARE these Reasons Why you should join The American Legion

«**Free Subscription to The American Legion Magazine:** Our nation's leaders speak directly to citizens on the pages of The American Legion Magazine. The American Legion's organizational goals are promoted using the words of talented writers, professional journalists, and world leaders.

«**Benefits Assistance:** The American Legion offers expert advice, support and representation for veterans and families seeking government benefits they are eligible to receive at the federal, state and local levels.

«**Career Assistance:** Hundreds of job fairs and career events every year, all across the map, are coordinated, sponsored, promoted or produced by The American Legion. American Legion business workshops also help veterans and their families pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.

«**Comfort for the Recovering:** Operation Comfort Warriors helps active-duty military personnel and newly discharged veterans recover and adjust to lifestyle changes.

«**Education Assistance:** The American Legion conducts student-veteran roundtables, networks with Student Veterans of America as well as college campuses, and works with agencies to better apply military experience toward professional and vocational licenses and certification credits.

«**Family and Community Support:** Cash grants and volunteer aid are among the ways The American Legion reaches out to families of

military service members and veterans during times of financial difficulty, short-handedness at home or natural disaster.

«**Financial Services:** The American Legion and USAA, two organizations driven by the same values for nearly a century, are allied through a "preferred provider" relationship that connects Legionnaires with the best advice and service in banking, insurance and personal finance.

«**Homeless Veteran Outreach:** The American Legion offers hundreds of opportunities for homeless veterans across the country, including temporary housing, mentoring and job training.

«**Honor and Remembrance:** American Legion honor guards provide official services at thousands of veteran funerals around the world each year. The Legion is also a leader at every level in the establishment and maintenance of memorials and monuments that honor military sacrifice.

«**Member Discounts:** The American Legion offers members and their families practical, money-saving discounts that can easily save many times the cost of annual membership dues.

«**Advocacy in Washington:** The American Legion is the nation's most influential, effective and dependable advocate of veteran affairs fighting for better active-duty pay, improved housing for active-duty families and helping to ensure that the VA's medical system can properly care for veterans.

«**Volunteer Opportunities:** The American Legion offers volunteer opportunities that fulfill needs in local communities throughout the country and beyond. The Legion and the Sons of The American Legion provide millions of hours of free community service, assistance at VA medical facilities and help at military installations each year.

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NOVEMBER TRIVIA

1. What does ASVAB stand for?
2. Whose picture is on the Purple Heart Medal?
3. What year was The Blue Star Banner created?
4. The BLUE STAR MOMS was chartered by the U.S. Congress in what year?
5. What does "BAH" stand for?

ANSWERS:

1. Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
2. President Washington
3. 1917
4. 1942
5. Basic Allowance for Housing



Thanksgiving Word Search



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

acorn

autumn

cornucopia

family

feast

football

gathering

gobble

grateful

hay

host

horn of plenty

maize

Mayflower

New World

parade

pilgrim

Plymouth

pumpkin pie

thankful

Thanksgiving

tradition

turkey

wishbone