

American Legion Department of Illinois Department News

2020–2021 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROY WEBER

THE AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY**



DECEMBER 2020



2021 MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN

MEMBERSHIP

UPDATE

Top 10 District &
Division Rankings
AS OF 12/01/2020

District Commander

17	Young
8	Mitchell
13	Gibbs
16	Talaska
20	Gann
15	Dearborne
15	Schlieper
18	Tincher
12	Latham
14	Percy

Division Commander

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



National Membership & Post
Activities Chairman
Jay Bowen



Department Commander
Roy Weber



Department Auxiliary President
Sue Cunniff-Coughlin



SAL Detachment Commander
Phil Stander

The Illinois American Legion is pleased to announce that National Membership and Post Activities Chairman Jay Bowen, will be our special guest during the 2021 Legion Family Membership Caravan. Find a stop near you to hear his encouraging message during the Illinois American Legion Family Caravan. We look forward to seeing you ALL!





From the Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber



will change again." I sure am tired of the COVID-19 virus and am looking forward to the restrictions being lifted. Although COVID-19 has dramatically changed the way we live and work, caring for our Veterans and their families doesn't change.

and it is good to see that a lot of our Posts are doing the same. President Sue, Commander Phil and I will continue to distribute the face masks we received from National to all the Veterans homes in the Department, for as long as we are able to do so.

Our valuable programs **Must** continue even if modified and membership though challenging is still the life blood for success. Restrictions come and go but we still need to do those Buddy Checks, calling on those that can't get out in public.

We can still do revitalizations, calling on membership and even door knocking can be done using cautions, such as masks and distancing. New members are signing up every day through the internet and our 2910 Post is growing.

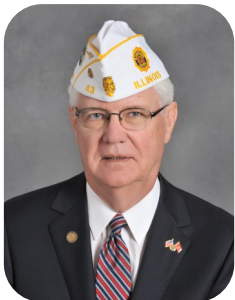
Today drive through eating and shopping seems to be the norm

The Department is trying new
(Dept. Commander continued on page 7)



Fellow Legionnaires:

With Thanksgiving behind us and the election over (for the most part), the year is quickly coming to an end. I thought summer returned when we had eight days of 70 to 75 degree temps, but the weatherman let me down again! Oh well, it's been said: "If you don't like the weather in Illinois, just stick around and it will change



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



certainly reduced their opportunity to operate on a normal basis. But I am sure over the years we have faced many other challenges and have overcome them, and this is no different.

31st which means for all Legionnaires to maintain their American Legion Benefits they must be renewed by that date. Now is the time for all Posts to make this their #1 Membership Objective during December. December 31st is also the 2nd 100% Post Cash Award (1pm Cut-off). Also, our **"Leave No Legionnaire Behind"** Push has set a Target of ending the calendar year at (100%) or ahead for the same time last year (100%+). Check with your District or Division Officers for details. They receive a weekly report detailing how your District and Division are doing vs last year. And they can share with you how your Post is doing.

As we look forward to the Christmas Holiday's we may still face reduced opportunities to gather to celebrate this special time of the year. But what we can do is to reach out to our respective Post Members and do a 'Buddy Check'. See how they are doing and if they need assistance help them weather the storm. It is what we are all about. And phone service is still working.

Now on to Membership. We are rapidly approaching December



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

A belated "Happy Thanksgiving" to All!!! Hopefully by the time you read this we will be ready to launch several vaccines proven to be effective in slowing and hopefully stopping the spread of the Covid-19 virus. I hope we all have and are continuing to do what we can to stop the spread of this deadly virus. I know the impact of this pandemic has caused many Posts to remain closed or

(Dept. SVC continued on page 7)



From the Desk of Department Auxiliary President Sue Cumniff Coughlin



Season Greetings!

Our Legion Family revitalization effort was a wonderful experience for us. The Auxiliary does not hold revitalizations like the Legion does so this was a first for us. We learned a lot from the Legion, and we should be able to do a better job next time. In my opinion, it was a successful event. I even went knocking on

doors with Commander Roy That was a little scary, but extremely rewarding as we met some Veterans and their families. Thank you to everyone who helped over those two days. Hopefully, we can work together on a few more of these this year. If you know of any Auxiliary Units or Districts that are interested in doing a revitalization, please give me a call.

November was quite a different month with all the restrictions in place. I was able to participate in a car parade and speak about Veterans' Day in Morton Grove. We also did some

car parades at our local nursing homes and provided thank you for your service cards for the Veterans. It is so sad not to have the Haven Jamboree this year. I know I will really miss it. Our Holiday Gift shops are also taking on a new approach. Many facilities are not able to distribute the gift cards. Commander Roy, Commander Phil and I were able to attend the gift shop at James A. Lovell. It was much smaller this year and the Veterans were not able to pick the gifts for their family members as they usually do.

(ALA President continued on page 7)



From the Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander



I pray this finds you all Safe and Healthy.

We all are ready for COVID to go away. Fundraising and donations are down across the country. Many posts are struggling to survive. I have heard of many Squadrons donating funds to their post to keep the post funded. Struggling posts need to take care of themselves and their members before sending money to National Programs. Posts and Squadrons that are doing well will hopefully increase donations where they can.

Times are tough and if we all work together, we will come out of this strong and continue to support all the American Legion Programs.

Recently Roy, Sue and I have donated masks to a few VA facilities and will continue to visit and donate masks.

The Detachment has completely renovated our website. The site is fresh and up to date. Mobile devices will now display the site and all links function properly from those devices. The new site is scheduled to be online by 12/06/2020. Thank you to our PR committee and Mergz Media for making this happen.

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 and he will post the info. His email is eugenegort@yahoo.com

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.





MERRY CHRISTMAS

*Holiday Wishes From
The American Legion Department Staff
and VA&R Staff*

*Department Commander Roy Weber
Department Sh. Vice Commander Wayne Fischer*

*Marty Conatser
Christy Rich
Terry Abdelnour
Tina Abdelnour
Dorothy Wagner
David Scott Jr.*

*Chad Woodburn
Dee Dalton
Marsha Nalley
Shandi Green*

*Joy Jenkarnchang
Wayne Macejak*

*Ray Joczek
Marlene Kuhl
Bill Slider*





Dept. of IL Attends Ribbon Cutting On Chicago-Area Veterans' Home After 12 Years

A veterans' home in the Chicago area that took 12 years, three governors and more than \$100 million to build is now open, but not entirely.

The 187,000 square-foot facility in Oak Park cost \$118 million. It's been years in the making and previously had a scheduled opening date of spring 2020 but won't be taking residents until February 2021.

Commander Roy Weber and President Sue Cunniff Coughlin were in attendance for the ribbon cutting ceremony last month.

Senator Tammy Duckworth said that the project means families will be closer to their loved ones. "Now our families in Chicago can see their veterans here much more easily, much more cheaply and much more frequently."

According to Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Director Lina Chapa LaVia, this was a soft opening and the first batch of Veterans is expected to come in on Feb. 1, 2021. The home will accommodate 200 retired Illinois Veterans.

Excerpts from Greg Bishop's article for patch.com

CONGRATULATIONS to all who made 100% by the Veteran's Day cut-off. Those recognized below received the Post Cash Award.

Post	Dist.	Post Name
79	17	LeRoy
82	25	Valier
230	24	Sailor Springs
272	3	Fred Schweitzer
289	19	Strasburg
357	13	Lanark
380	23	St. Peter
390	15	Altona
397	10	North Chicago
426	12	LaSalle
451	17	Emington
459	12	Newark
473	2	Lincoln Square
499	18	Gilman
529	11	Big Rock
546	15	Woodhull
555	3	Jackson Park
565	22	New Athens
611	19	Stewardson
617	17	Arrowsmith
632	20	Harrell Mager
641	17	Roberts
653	17	Colfax
698	4	Archer-Highland
700	18	Thawville
716	9	Gen. George Bell Jr.
848	17	Chestnut - Beason
875	16	Neponset
878	20	Chapin
917	22	Julius Zupan
924	23	Teutopolis
1077	15	Henry
1083	20	Kampsville
1217	17	Long Point
1224	13	Cedarville
1269	20	San Jose
1922	21	State Police
1944	11	Walter E Truemper
1972	19	Decatur
2019	19	Shawna M Morrison Collegiate
2020	9	South Arlington Heights



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

That almost all of my articles over the years have dealt with what veterans should do. This month we will take a 180 degree turn and delve into what veterans and their survivors should **NOT** do. There are always two sides to a coin.

If you are sent a flyer stating you can have a free meal if you just will listen to lawyers talk about the Veterans Administration Non-Service Connected pension benefit with aid and attendance be careful. They can't charge you for filing a claim for that benefit but they usually will talk you into setting up various trusts and wills which will cost you money. **DON'T** sign anything unless you know exactly what you are doing. If need be, bring a son or daughter along.

If you get a telephone call from someone claiming they are from the Veterans Administration hospital prescription department and they just need to confirm your Social Security number **DON'T** give it to them. That's a big scam to steal your identity. Or if they call and say your savings account was hacked and they need your account number **HANG UP**.

When you get that call from a person asking for donations to help needy veterans **DON'T** make a contribution over the telephone unless you are 100% sure the group is on the up and up. If concerned, simply ask them to send you a request in the mail. Then when you get that info check them out at one of the many websites like www.givewell.org or www.charitywatch.org

If you are on the VA non-service connected pension program and someone asks you to collect their winnings for a lotto ticket or gambling casino **DON'T**. Regardless of their excuse (lost wallet, left driver's license at home, etc.) by collecting the winnings for them, the IRS will be notified under your Social Security number and name. Later when the VA and IRS computers run their cross matches you will end up with a major headache and a large debt.

If you decide to appeal your Veterans Administration claim and hire a lawyer **DON'T** just accept any fee agreement. The lawyer must get their fees approved by the VA.

If you have forgotten to take your medications and have a lot of pills left over **DON'T** give them to someone who has the same illness e.g. hypertension. Everybody is different and what is a valid dose for you could kill someone else, or at the very least make them very sick.

If you're like me and have dozens of passwords for various online accounts **DON'T** use the same password. If a hacker gets your password, they can have a field day with your other accounts.

DON'T just notify the VA hospital or clinic when you move. You must also notify the VA benefits side, especially if you have a claim or appeal pending. These two large VA computer systems don't yet talk to each other. So if you don't notify both parts of the VA you may get your medicine and appointment info at the new address but important information on your appeal may be returned by the Post Office as undeliverable. PS The Post Office will still forward mail for at least six months and perhaps even up to a year.

Safe deposit boxes are nice places to keep important documents but **DON'T** keep your only copy of your military discharge papers in it. Have another copy somewhere at home so that when you pass away your next-of-kin will have access to it. Most bank vaults are not open on weekends, nights and holidays. In most cases the Funeral Home only needs a clear, readable copy, not the original.

Finally if you have been dating several months or having been living with someone for a while **DON'T** add them to your checking or savings account if your VA checks are on direct deposit. If you have a falling out or a lovers tiff that person can clean out your account and you have no recourse with the VA.

That was fun! And I'll leave you with one final tip; **DON'T** forget to read my article in next month's newsletter.

Christmas shopping idea.

Buy one of your veteran relatives, friends or neighbor, one year membership in your Post. You'll not only make your shopping list less, but you will help out your Post and the Legion!

(Dept. Commander, continued from page 2)

ways and providing incentives to re-sign those we left being in, the past couple of years.

We are still anticipating a full National Caravan, so be prepared to attend those Post on our stops that are in your area. President Sue, Commander Phil and I have been visiting our Veterans homes and have donated face masks received from National Headquarters. Thus far we were at Hines VA and Lovell VA at Great Lakes. Although unable to visit with the residents we received by their administration representatives.

Remember that with a Can DO attitude and perseverance we will remain as the nation's largest ACTIVE Veteran's service organization.

(Dept. SVC, continued from page 2)

Hopefully, they are doing that now. We owe it to our fellow Legionnaires to not forget them and this is where and why the **"Buddy Check"** Program is so important to all members. Give them a shout and make them feel and want to be part of our great American Legion.

Membership Growth is the key to insuring successful American Legion Programs. Let us all commit to making this year memorable and successful. We have talked a lot about renewals but let us not forget about signing up New Legionnaires. They will ensure the future of our American Legion. Remember Commander Roy's Motto **"Veterans Can Do"!!!!**

Finally, we want to wish all our fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion a Very Happy Holiday Season and stay safe.

(ALA President, Continued from page 3)

With some hope and prayers, maybe we can have Christmas in June for those facilities that were not able to have them this year. Our birthday celebrations were also put on hold as we passed our 101st birthday.

The Department Family Membership Caravan will be traveling around the state in January. It may be different this year due to the pandemic, but we will have one. If you can, please be sure to attend a stop near you. **Everyone is welcome**; this is not just for Legionaries. I would love to see more Auxiliary members at these types of events. Please let's try to make this more of a family event.

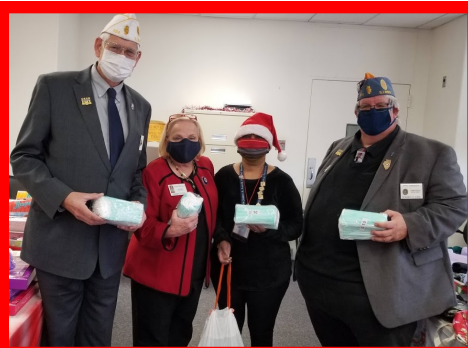
Commander Roy, Commander Phil and I are distributing face masks to our Veteran Facilities and Homes during November and December. Due to the pandemic, we must drop them off and stay outside. It's just a little something to show that we care and are still here to support them.

The holiday season is here, but our holiday celebrations may be quite different this year. As you go about your holiday celebrations, be sure to reach out to our fellow members. The holidays can be a difficult time for many people. With the added stress of the pandemic it can make it even more difficult. The smallest gesture can mean so much.

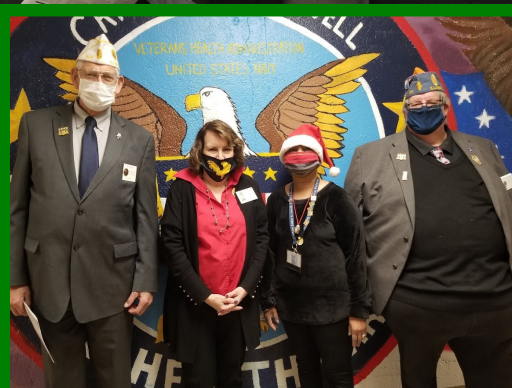
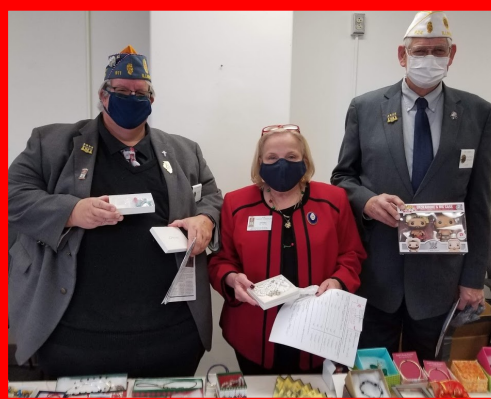
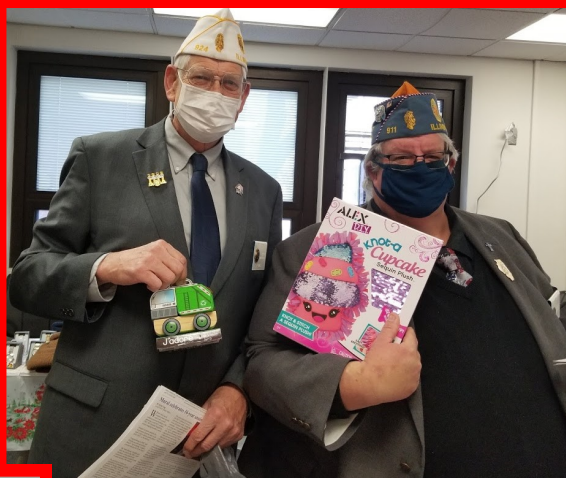
When looking for gifts to give for the holiday, think about giving your eligible family members or friends a gift of membership in the Legion, Auxiliary or SAL. Share with them the wonderful benefits we get from our membership.

Here is a quote from Agnes M. Pharo that is appropriate for our theme this year. "What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace."

My family sends their heartfelt wishes to all for a wonderful and blessed holiday season and a happy and healthy new year! Let's hope that 2021 is a much better year. Stay safe and healthy.



Commander Roy, President Sue, and Commander Phil visited James A Lovell Federal Health Care Center on November 21. They helped the residents with their Christmas shopping and finding the perfect gifts for their loved ones.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

45% SAL Target Date
December 9
~ ~ ~

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
~ ~ ~

2021 National Membership
Cut-off Date
January 6
~ ~ ~

Illinois American Legion
Family Membership Caravan
January 14—25
~ ~ ~

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
January 18
~ ~ ~

60% SAL Target Date
December 19
~ ~ ~

90% Illinois Target Date
AND
3rd 100% Post Cash Award
AND
Cut-off for Lincoln Pilgrimage
(cut-off 1:00 PM)
AND
60% ALA Target Date
January 31
~ ~ ~

4 Chaplain's Sunday
February 4
~ ~ ~

Americanism Essay Contest
Deadline (1st Friday in Feb.)
February 5th
~ ~ ~

Lincoln Pilgrimage
Springfield, IL
February 11 & 12
~ ~ ~

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

February 14
~ ~ ~

President's Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
February 15
~ ~ ~

Div. & Dist.
Sr & Jr Vice Cmdrs
Planning Session
10:00 AM-3:00 PM
@ Dept. HQ
~ ~ ~

2020 National Renewal Date
February 24
~ ~ ~

Washington Conference
AND
DSO Training
Washington DC
Feb 28-March 3
~ ~ ~

Department of Illinois
Oratorical Contest
Crowne Plaza—Springfield, IL
March 6
Semi-Finals @ 9:30 AM
Finals @ 2:30 PM
(Contestant Orientation held March 5th)
~ ~ ~



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!

2020 AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

American Legion Department of Illinois

4 Pillars Pin

You can Help by showing your support for The 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 and Boy Scouts on back)



\$100 each

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

- ★ **AUXILIARY**
IL State Veterans Homes
- ★ **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**
Child Welfare Foundation
- ★ **BOY SCOUTS**
- ★ **YOUTH POLICE SCHOOL**

A certificate of program support will be included with each purchase.

2020 American Legion Family ~ Department of Illinois ~ 4 Pillars Pin

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 _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Total Cost \$ _____ Payment type: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ Check number _____

Credit Card Number _____ CVC _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

Schedule for the 2021 Illinois American Legion Family Membership Caravan

2021 Illinois American Legion Family Caravan

JANUARY	DIVISION	DISTRICT	LOCATION	MEAL
Thurs 14 Jan.	3	20	Mt. Sterling	Dinner
Friday 15 Jan.	3	15	Canton	Lunch
	3	14	Moline	Dinner
Sat 16 Jan.	2	13	Rock Falls	Breakfast
	2	12	Belvidere	Lunch
	2	10	Fox Lake	Dinner
Sun 17 Jan.	1	9	Arlington Heights	Breakfast
	1	5	Cicero	Hors d'Oeuvres
	1	8	Evergreen Park	Dinner
Mon 18 Jan.	2	11	Joliet	Lunch
	3	16	Washington	Dinner
Tues 19 Jan.	★ CARAVAN DAY OFF ★ CARAVAN DAY OFF ★ CARAVAN DAY OFF ★			
Wed 20 Jan.	4	18	Greenup	Lunch
	5	23	Teutopolis	Dinner
Thurs 21 Jan.	5	24	Louisville	Lunch
	5	25	Murphysboro	Dinner
Fri 22 Jan.	5	22	East Alton	Lunch
	4	21	Taylorville	Dinner
Sat 23 Jan.	4	17	Lincoln	Lunch
	4	19	Clinton	Dinner

American Legion Honor Guard Posts 635 and 56 find a new way to perform Military Rites in the Midst of a Pandemic



The COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020 caused many events to be cancelled, not the least of which was military rites. The VA National Cemetery Administration closed down all military rites at national Cemeteries and the U.S. Army who operates the Arlington National Cemetery followed that lead in late March. The combined Normal and Bloomington American Legion Honor Guard followed the lead of the VA. While this suspension of military rites was well intended for the safety of the families of deceased Veterans and the Honor guard, it none-the-less caused heartaches and the loss of emotional closure for the loved ones of the fallen Veteran. The Honor Guard requested funeral homes to inform families making funeral arrangements who desired military rites, that the Honor Guard could not conduct the rites during the suspension. However, the families were told that the Honor Guard would offer to conduct the military rites at a later date, or the Honor Guard would arrange for a “Communal Military Rites” ceremony where several families would have joint military rites conducted once the suspension was lifted. The suspension was lifted in late July 2020 and the families who had not been able to have military rites conducted were offered the two options. Thirteen families opted to have communal military rites and on August 29, 2020 at Evergreen Cemetery in Bloomington the communal rites were conducted by the 27 member Honor Guard. Additionally, since September 2, 1945 was the end of World War II and was only a few days away, the ceremony included honoring WWII Veterans and a salute to the five service branches. Taps were played and the ceremony ended with the bagpiper playing “Amazing Grace” with ‘fade away effect’. The group picture shows the Honor Guard with the families seated in front after the ceremony was concluded.

The picture was taken by Robert Handley, who is a member of our Post 635.

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)

☆ 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

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.***



2020—2021 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

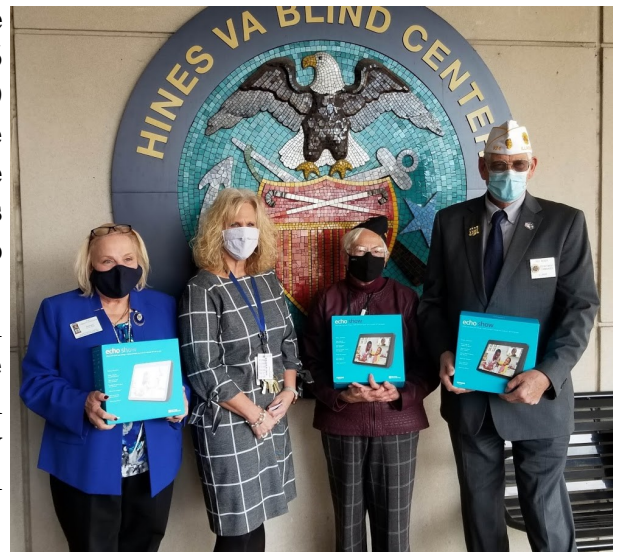
DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
12/16/2020	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	RIVER GROVE POST 335	RIVER GROVE
01/10/2021	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	SALEM POST 128	SALEM
01/20/2021	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	SESTERHENN POST 166	MORTON GROVE
01/25/2021	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	REHFELDT-MEYER POST 474	MATTESON
01/27/2021	9TH DISTRICT	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
03/17/2021	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
03/21/2020	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	MCLEANSBORO POST 106	MCLEANSBORO
03/24/2020	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	RIVER GROVE POST 335	ITALIAN-AMERICAN VETERANS MUSEUM
03/25/2020	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EDWARD SCHULTZ POST 697	LANSING

American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Issues Grant to Unit 474



President Sue, Carolee Junge, and Commander Roy visited Hines VA Blind Center on November 19 to donate PPE and to present them with 37 Echo Show Second Generations. These are being provided with help from a grant from The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. This grant was awarded to the Rehfeldt-Meyer Unit 474 in Matteson, Illinois. It will cover 80% of the purchase price of these devices. One will be placed in all 37 of the Veterans' rooms at the Blind Center. With a 5.5 inch screen and HD camera, these voice activated devices will be utilized by the Veterans to make phone and video calls to their loved ones.

The Echo Show also has the ability to answer questions, such as "Alexa, what are the activities this week?" or "what is the news today?" These wonderful devices will assist Veterans in their everyday lives by making information more easily accessible and providing an easy way of communication with their family and friends!



Loda Post 503



107 N. 600 East Rd., Loda, Illinois

We're very sad to say that we will be canceling until further notice. Thank you for your support and we will keep you posted!

14th District Convention

Will be held on May 1st
10:00 AM
Macomb Post 6
Food Provided



Elvin J. Carey

Post 236

Feeding the Needy

On October 29th, 2020 the Elvin J Carey Post 236 delivered 40 Food baskets to needy residents of Chicago; pictured is Raymond Blanks, Commander Derrick Stinson and Sgt-At-Arms Major Bester who led the effort.

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY *

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

Newsletter articles must be at Department Headquarters by the
15th of each month for it to be in the next month's issue.

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DECEMBER TRIVIA

1. What is a natural Christmas tree a good source of?
2. What is the record for the most Christmas cards sent in one year by a single person?
3. Which historical member of British royalty made Christmas trees mainstream?
4. When was Christmas first celebrated?
5. In what year did Christmas become a federal holiday in the United States?

ANSWERS:

1. Vitamin C
2. The record is 62,824
3. It was Prince Albert, the German husband of Queen Victoria, that made this tradition popular in England.
4. Christmas was first celebrated on December 25, 336AD in Rome.
5. Christmas became a federal holiday in the US in 1870.



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



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

BELLS
CANDLES
CANDY CANE
CARDS
CELEBRATE
CHIMNEY
CHRISTMAS

RUDOLPH
SANTA
SEASON
SLEIGH
STOCKING
TREE
WREATH

ELVES
FROSTY
GIFT
GIVING
GREETINGS
HOLIDAY
JOLLY

JOY
MERRY
MISTLETOE
NOEL
NORTH POLE
REINDEER