

American Legion Department of Illinois Department News

2020–2021 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROY WEBER

THE
AMERICAN
LEGION **FAMILY**



FEBRUARY 2021



FEBRUARY IS AMERICANISM MONTH

MEMBERSHIP

UPDATE

Top 10 District &
Division Rankings
AS OF 02/02/2021

District Commander

3	Thompson, III
17	Young
22	Scheyer
16	Talaska
15	Schlieper
8	Mitchell
12	Latham
13	Gibbs
20	Gann
24	Hatcher

Division Commander

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



2021 Membership Caravan THAT'S A WRAP!

(From left to right) Dept. Commander Roy Weber, Detachment Commander Phil Stander, Auxiliary President Sue Coughlin, National Membership and Post Activities Chairman Jay Bowen, and Senior Vice Commander Wayne Fischer

The Department of Illinois just completed the 2021 Membership Caravan! Turn to page 6 to read more.



From the Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber



Fellow Legionaries,

Well we just finished with the Department Annual Membership Caravan. A big **THANK YOU** to Chad Woodburn, Dee Dalton and all the Department staff that made it happen. Thanks also to our keynote speaker and National Membership & Post Activities Chairman, Jay Bowen. Jay's message from National Commander Bill Oxford and

from his own experience, in membership, was informative and interesting. Thank you Chairman Bowen. We wish him success in Colorado and with his future plans with the American Legion.

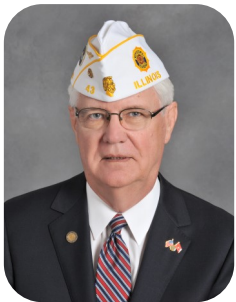
This year's membership drive was not as productive in members as in past years. However, **AGAIN** Covid-19 threw a "wrench in the gears." We made an effort to visit those Posts on the route and show that the Department of Illinois is still moving forward. Thank you to all the Posts that brought in cards and to our Division and District officers that attended.

During our visit, some Posts received word that they could open the door (with limits) again. I look forward to more visiting around the state and for Division and District meetings to be re-scheduled.

Congrats to those Districts in the "Top Ten" for their efforts. I'm sure that our percentage will steadily improve in the Department in the coming weeks.

The Oratorical Contest, Boy's State, Girl's State, Youth Police and Legion Baseball are still scheduled, so please reach out to schools in your area for

(Continued on page 9)



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



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

The 2021 Membership Caravan is over, but our Department of Illinois Membership Drive is never over. While the Caravan experienced new challenges this year, we were able to make every stop and thanks to our "Host Posts," all went well. I would like to personally thank every Host Post for their hospitality and for making the time and effort to supply great

"chow" and a good time. **THANK YOU ALL!!!!**

Moving Forward, membership: Please take the time to look at your Post; District and Division membership numbers every week so you know where your area of Membership responsibility stands vs. last year. As I am writing this article, we as a Department are approximately 87% of last year with just over 9,000 more members to add by Close of Books in June to make 100%. Another way to measure our progress: we need to average roughly 450 current paid Legionnaires to our total. If we average 550 a week starting February, we will achieve our National Goal of +3% over last year. That would be phenomenal. And it can be done. On our Membership

Caravan we talked a lot about Membership. The Legion Act generated 575,000 Eligible Veterans for the American Legion just in the State of Illinois alone. As of Close of Books for 2020, we had 12% of those eligible Veterans, but as always, we can use a lot more. They are everywhere. We just need to keep Our American Legion and our programs highly visible and available to all eligible Veterans. Also, please reach out to our National Guard as they are eligible also.

Revitalizations are highly recommended to focus on "Renewals; Post 2910 Transfers and on our National

(Continued on page 9)



From the Desk of Department Auxiliary President Sue Cumniff Coughlin



Greetings! We just wound up the 2021 Family Membership Caravan. It was a wonderful experience again, although a little different than years past. A big thank you to everyone that made the Caravan possible. Whether you hosted a stop, came out to the program, or brought membership, you made a difference. We are grateful for all of your efforts. With all the restrictions we have been experiencing, it

was great to be able to visit with our members.

The American Legion Auxiliary was founded to support The American Legion. Eligibility in the Auxiliary includes Auxiliary spouses, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the armed forces of the United States during the defined time periods, and any women that served during these time periods. With all of these groups eligible, the Auxiliary membership should surpass The American Legion membership! I know many of you have these

eligible family members already signed up, but based on our membership numbers, many do not. Please think about getting some of these family members signed up in the Auxiliary.

During the next few weeks, we will be contacting our Units that we know are struggling, those that do not have enough members to continue their charter and those that have a low paid membership. We will also inform the Post and District Commanders about these Units. We would really appreciate any help that you

(Continued on page 9)



From the Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander



I pray this finds you all Safe and Healthy.

This years Membership Caravan was a great success. It has been fantastic to finally be out and about. Each stop was well attended, and many cards were turned in. The Sons collected 455 cards and 2 Squadron Charter applications. Chairman Bowen inspired and educated us all with updated information and some new ideas that you will hear more about soon. Commander Roy and President Sue Spoke about current and upcoming events.

Membership is always a challenge and this year is no different. We all must be willing to make those calls. Keep members engaged and active. Chairman Bowen talked about a program at his post called "Sponsor a vet ". This could be a great way for the Sons to support veterans and boost the Legion membership.

Visit <http://www.il-sal.org> for all the latest information and upcoming events.

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"

Stay safe and we will see you soon.



Did You Know...?

By Raymond P. Toczec

Raymond P. Toczec, Legion Service Officer, O: 312-980-4266 E: Raymond.Toczec@va.gov

That each year over 300 bills are submitted in Congress that are related to various veteran benefits. After many committee meetings, rewrites and compromises only a hand full are approved and sent to the President to sign. Most don't impact the general veteran population e.g. naming a National Highway stretch after a Medal of Honor recipient or issuing a postage stamp about a famous World War II battle. But some have major impact. The recent Blue Water Navy Veterans Act comes to mind. Passed into law last January, it has generated over 500 million dollars in VA compensation benefits to those Navy vets who served off the coast of Vietnam and the DMZ in Korea (12 miles) during the Nam War, and were exposed to Agent Orange.

HR 7105 was recently signed into law and is hundreds of pages long but I wanted to bring your attention to certain provisions of that legislation. Veterans will once again be able to submit Disability Benefit Questionnaires from PRIVATE doctors to support their claims for service-connected compensation. The VA had banned that for a while.

The Vietnam War Era has been extended back to 11/1/55, which means peacetime veterans who served from that date up to 1961 may now be able to qualify for Non-Service Connected pension.

Vocational Rehabilitation benefits for disabled vets used to have a 12 year limit of use after the VA rating. For those disabled vets who were discharged after 1/1/13, they will now have no time limit.

Child care for veterans who use the VA hospitals or clinics will now be available.

Widows and widowers who's spouse died of their service-connected condition, etc. can now remarry at age 55 and still keep their DIC benefits. The age was 57.

Veterans filing claims for Military Sexual Trauma can choose whether they are examined by a male or female doctor.

Homeless programs and vouchers at the VA may be extended to those veterans who received an "Other than Honorable" discharge.

As with any new law, the VA must first prepare regulations, then guidelines and policy mandates before all these take effect. But if you think you may be affected by any of the above, be sure to reach out to your VA hospital, clinic or the VA benefits department.

They can be reached at 1-800-827-1000.

As this law is implemented, if I see any other sections that may have a big impact on our veterans I will let you know. And, as with all new laws, there may be items in the fine print that may clarify some of the above items.

I don't know about you, but this COVID has started to give me nightmares. Just last week, I had a dream I was a muffler.....work up exhausted!

PREPARE FOR BUDDY CHECKS



It's time for American Legion Family members to strategize about the second round of Buddy Checks, an initiative calling on posts to re-connect with veterans in their communities.

The National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019, which calls for the twice-annual Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday and Veterans Day.

During the inaugural Buddy Checks in March of this year, posts across the United States reached out to veterans to see how they were doing.

In Somers, Conn., Buck-Dubiel Post 101 Commander David McCaffrey and Public Affairs Director Sherri Marquis **focused Buddy Checks on wellness checks of veterans.** They also coached volunteers on the process of tailoring the scripts to the callers' personalities. Marquis said the Buddy Check benefitted both sides of the phone calls. "It was an experience every buddy check team member thought was fulfilling and very much needed," she said. "We learned of members who were in poor health, needed assistance with VA benefits, (and) wanted to attend meetings but had no means of transportation, and were home bound and lonely and could use a visit/camaraderie."

In District 22 in California, Legion posts used a three-tier method to connect with veterans. They started with a letter going out to expired members a few months before the March target date. That was followed up with a phone and a personal visit to the homes of veterans.

The national organization has made a kit available to help guide posts on Buddy Checks.



Legion Birthday is
March 16th

American Legion 2021 State Convention Book Application for Ad placement

BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

[Post use only] American Legion Post name: _____ Post No. _____

Slogan Choices: (three choices—choose one)

- _____ 1. We Are Proud To Be Part of
The American Legion Family
- _____ 2. Helping The American Legion
Help American's Veteran's
- _____ 3. We Proudly Stand Behind
The American Legion

Ad Choice: (please choose black & white or color)

- Medal of Honor (full page--7-1/2 x 10 in.)
- Silver Star (half page--7-1/2 x 5 in.)
- Bronze Star (quarter page--3-3/4 x 5 in.)
- Purple Heart (3-3/4 x 3-3/8 in. "Business card")
- Commander Salute (3-3/4 - 1-11/16 in.)
- Flag Page (1-3/4 - 1 in.)

Black & White Ad

Color Ad

\$230.00	_____	\$250.00	_____
\$120.00	_____	\$125.00	_____
\$90.00	_____	\$95.00	_____
\$75.00	_____	\$80.00	_____
\$60.00	_____	\$65.00	_____
\$25.00	_____	\$25.00	_____

Method of Payment (please check one) All credit information will be kept confidential

_____ Check (Make Check payable to: AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF IL)

Send Check to: American Legion, Dept. of IL 2720 E. Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 61704

_____ Credit Card _____

EXP Date: _____ / _____ Security Code #: _____

Card type: / MC / Visa / AmEx / Disc

2021 LEGION FAM MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN

The 2021 Illinois American Legion Family membership caravan is in the books. Even with COVID restrictions, The Legion family leadership was determined to reach out to our members. According to Senior Vice Commander Wayne Fischer, "The caravan is a great way to start off the second half of the membership year." The need to retain membership and show that The Legion family is still working to support veterans and their families is more important than ever in these uncertain times.



This year our special guest speaker was National Membership and Post activities chairman Jay Bowen, from The Department of Colorado. In his strong message, Jay talked about the strength a post can have when the entire Legion Family is involved during post events. He also talked in length about the National Commander's charge for the immediate need for retention and recruiting new members into The Legion. Bowen said, "I am extremely grateful I was given the opportunity to be a part of this amazing program. This Membership Caravan is a great way to accomplish many things. It demonstrates to members the importance their Department puts on membership. Because the Caravan includes the entire Legion family, it emphasizes the need to work together and reinforces the value the Department places on their members. All of these things help build a 'Foundation for the Future'."

This year was the 25th anniversary of The Illinois American Legion family caravan. The caravan was started after noticing a trend of slow membership turn in January. Department Adjutant and Past National Commander Marty Conatser, who started the Caravan said "The Caravan gets our Posts back to working membership after the holidays. This year it was even more important to contact Post members."



Donned in masks and doused hand sanitizer, the caravan traveled Illinois collecting cards. In ten days the Legion gained 812 renewals, The Auxiliary gained 338 renewals (an increase of almost 100 renewals from last year's caravan), and The Sons gained 427 renewals, for a grand total Legion Family gain of 1577 renewals. "Even with the Covid restrictions, we were excited that the ALA collected more membership than last year," stated Auxiliary President Sue Coughlin. These great numbers show that not even COVID can slow down the Department of Illinois Legion Family membership team.

Also along the way, The Legion Family leadership stopped at a VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic and The Haven to drop off masks that were donated by Taiwan's government to our National Headquarters. Commander Roy Weber says "however disruptive Covid 19 is to our plans, the Department of Illinois is committed to our membership and the legion programs. We will continue to be Veterans serving Veterans and their families while at the same time growing our department membership." The American Legion Family has delivered over 25,000 masks to Veterans Homes and VA facilities throughout Illinois. The Haven is a veterans retreat in Carbondale, Illinois that was designed as a place for veterans from the Marion VA hospital to take a break from the hospital environment. It is now open to all veterans.

Traveling 1,678 miles and making 19 stops in 10 days, the Caravan touched all parts of Illinois, offering the opportunity for members to meet our National guest and the Illinois Family leadership. Updates on how the State and National programs were impacted by Covid 19 was of interest to all that attended.

Detachment Commander Phil Stander thinks "the caravan is an innovative idea that continues to create a pathway to membership success." The American Legion Family looks forward to many more years of successful family caravans.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:



Department Oratorical Contest for 2021 Has Been Cancelled

Due to Illinois hotel safety mandates in response to Covid-19, we regret to inform all applicants that this year's contest has been cancelled. Applicants will be contacted soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

4 Chaplain's Sunday
February 4
~ ~ ~

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

Lincoln Pilgrimage
Springfield, IL
February 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
February 20
~ ~ ~

2020 National Renewal Date
February 24
~ ~ ~

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

American Legion's 102nd Birthday!
March 16
~ ~ ~

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!
March 17
~ ~ ~

75% ALA Target Date
AND
Legion Birthday/Spring Fling
March 19
~ ~ ~

ALA Patriotic Conference
Springfield, IL
March 19-20
~ ~ ~

SAL Spring DEC
AND
Detachment Commander's
Homecoming @
Wauconda Post 911
March 27
~ ~ ~

D.E.C. Gold Pin Cut-off Date
(1:00 PM Cut-off)
April 1
~ ~ ~

Good Friday
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
April 2
~ ~ ~

HAPPY EASTER!
April 4
~ ~ ~

95% Gold Pin Award
April 9
~ ~ ~

Spring Meetings & D.E.C.
1:00 PM @ Normal
April 10
~ ~ ~

90% SAL Target Date
April 13
~ ~ ~

2021 National Membership
Cut-off Date
April 14
~ ~ ~

ALA Junior Conference
(will be continued in May)
@ New Baden
April 17
~ ~ ~

(Dept. Commander, Continued from page 2)

candidates for those programs.

During the Caravan stop, I asked the attendees if they had heard of Program Mission Blue from National. Only a few raised their hand. Please see the article in this newsletter, as I am sure every Post could use a grant of \$1000.00 (that doesn't need to be repaid) for the Post building expenses.

District Commanders please set up a revitalization in your District, with the help of our Membership Director. I attended the 23rd District meeting, the day after the Caravan ended. District Commanders: Keep up the good work and strive for the Top Ten" awards. As always, use the "Can Do Attitude" to serve our Veterans and their families.

(ALA President, Continued from page 3)

could provide to keep these Units going. We have found that many times a Post doesn't know the Unit is struggling or even that the Unit is thinking of closing.

Hopefully, our restrictions will continue to loosen a bit so Commander Roy, Commander Phil and I can attend more meetings and events across the state. The American Legion Family members must continue to move forward no matter how difficult it is right now so that we can be here for our Veterans in the future. In February, we honor President Lincoln. I will close with one of his quotes. "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today."

Stay safe and stay healthy.

(Dept. Sr. Vice, Continued from page 2)

Direct Mail Solicitation Program". These are all Veterans that already choose to become a Legionnaire. Now it is time we all work together to sell them on transferring to their local American Legion Post.

We all know that this is an exceedingly difficult time with Covid-19 and all related issues, but we cannot and will not give up. Don't try and solve everything yourself. Establish Teams-especially Membership Teams to bring reality and positive results to our Membership Drives. The 2nd half of our Legion Year is here and now let us all do our part to bring success to the table. **As Commander Roy's slogan says, "Veterans Can Do!"** Let's all be those Veterans that step up and generate positive results for **"Our Great American Legion Organization."** And as I told those of you at Caravan, remember to **"Keep your turns up!"**

Mission Blue Post Assistance Program



To provide some relief during these challenging times, financial grants are now available for eligible American Legion posts.

Mission Blue Post Assistance Program, will provide \$1,000 grants to posts that are in good standing with their respective department.

These funds must be used exclusively to pay current or past due rent, mortgage, utilities and insurance.

The American Legion National Executive Committee approved Resolution No. 36 Oct. 14, during its annual Fall Meetings. Funds for the approved grants will be provided through The American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF).

Eligibility for a Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant requires posts to have:

1. A Consolidated Post Report on file.
2. Filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date.
3. Filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the department.
4. Actively participated in one or more American Legion programs in the last 18 months.
5. A financial need.
6. A certificate of insurance naming The American Legion doing business as American Legion National Headquarters, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204 as an additional insured.
7. Documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated.

Applications may be found here: [https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission Blue PAP Application 1.pdf](https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission%20Blue%20PAP%20Application%201.pdf)

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 Seabees patch



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



2021 AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



4 PILLARS PIN \$100 each

Along with the pin, a certificate of appreciation will be included confirming your generous support of our 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)

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 LEGION—SUPPORTING THE CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION
- ★ BOY SCOUTS
- ★ YOUTH POLICE PROGRAM

Be a 100% Supporter for your American Legion Family Programs

2021 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 _____

2020—2021 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
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
03/21/2021	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	MCLEANSBORO POST 106	MCLEANSBORO
03/24/2021	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	RIVER GROVE POST 335	ITALIAN-AMERICAN VETERANS MUSEUM
03/25/2021	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EDWARD SCHULTZ POST 697	LANSING
04/21/2021	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
04/22/2021	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	TINLEY PARK POST 615	TINLEY PARK
04/28/2021	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	DES PLAINES POST 36	DES PLAINES
05/19/2021	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134—POST EVERLASTING CEREMONY	MORTON GROVE
05/23/2021	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CONVENTION—LOCATION TBD	TBD
05/26/2021	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	MERLE-GUILD POST 208	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
05/27/2021	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EVERGREEN PARK POST 854	EVERGREEN PARK

It's that time of year again. If your District or Division would like your scheduled meeting dates, time and location posted in the Department News please submit them to:
American Legion, Dept. of IL ~ P.O. Box 2910 Bloomington, IL 61702 ~ ATTN: SHANDI GREEN

If you have internet access you may email your schedule to: sgreen@illegion.org

NOTE: Please remember if any changes or updates regarding said posted meetings occur submit them as soon as possible to Shandi Green in by email (or in writing).

YOUTH PROGRAM DATES TO REMEMBER

Boys State--June 12-18, 2021 (Charleston, IL)

Illini Girls State--June 20-26, 2021 (Charleston, IL)

Youth Police----June 20-25, 2021 (Springfield, IL)

2021 AWARD PROGRAM DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING

All forms are available online at www.illegion.org/awards

The American Legion has many awards available to posts and individuals. Each year, less and less submissions are sent in. There are nearly 800 posts. Each program has an outline and criteria to meet for each award. Details and submission instructions are available online www.illegion.org. Be sure to check the deadline for all award submissions some are approaching fast. **Don't miss the opportunity for your post to be recognized.** All winning Posts will be notified and receive recognition at the Department Convention this July in Springfield.

- ★ Legionnaire of the Year Award—June 15
- ★ Firefighter of the Year - May 31
- ★ Law Officer of the Year - May 31
- ★ TLW Legion Rider of the Year Award - March 31
- ★ Chaplains Cross/Star of David Award - June 6
- ★ Community Service Award - April 5
- ★ Hall of Fame Award - April 5
- ★ Public Relations Award - June 1
- ★ Photo Contest & Calendar Contest - Friday prior to state convention

Need Forms? Contact the Department Print Shop for a hard copy at 309-663-0361 or email: printshop@illegion.org



**USAA is Proud to Serve
The American Legion**

I SERVED FOR *the open road*

GET A QUOTE

You could save by bundling
home and auto insurance



**Discover what a FREE USAA membership can do for you
www.usaa.com/legion or call 877-699-2654 to learn more.**

We've joined forces with The American Legion to help support their mission and programs. When you join USAA, you become part of an extended, military-based family that can be passed down from generation to generation.

Loda Post 503



107 N. 600 East Rd., Loda, Illinois

Stay tuned! We're hoping to have some new dates for you in the near future!

14th District Convention

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

*To share photos and information about what's going on with your post, etc., email Shandi Green at sgreen@illegion.org to submit input for future newsletters! *

American Legion Department of Illinois



Centennial Coins are still available



*Call Department Headquarters to purchase this one of a kind collectable coin today!
Only a limited supply left.
Available coins are listed below.*

100 YEARS OF VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

Remaining numbers of the Department of Illinois Centennial Coin. Call today!

96	173	200	240	273	309	341	365	412
148	179	202	242	274	310	345	366	413
149	182	204	243	277	313	346	367	417
153	183	207	245	278	314	347	368	418
155	184	209	246	281	315	349	372	420
159	185	214	248	284	316	350	373	422
160	186	215	249	286	322	351	374	
161	188	216	250	288	324	353	379	
162	189	225	251	289	326	356	384	
167	190	226	257	293	327	359	389	
168	191	230	259	295	328	360	391	
169	193	233	260	296	336	361	393	
171	195	238	261	298	338	362	400	
172	197	239	265	308	339	363	403	

