

# American Legion Department of Illinois Department News

2020–2021 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROY WEBER

THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION **FAMILY**



MARCH 2021



## MARCH IS THE AMERICAN LEGION'S BIRTHDAY MONTH!

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Top 10 District &  
Division Rankings  
AS OF 02/26/2021

#### District Commander

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

#### Division Commander

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



## 2021 Lincoln Pilgrimage

This year marked the 87th Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage. Things looked a little different this year, but with a "Can do!" attitude, American Legion Post 32, Post 809, and the Pilgrimage Committee still managed to find a way to make it happen. With safety precautions, downsized attendees, and social distancing in place, we were able to add another successful pilgrimage to the books. We look very forward to next year's event and hope that we are able to extend an open invite to all and gather as we have in past years.





# From the Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber



Fellow Legionaries,

So much for a mild winter as we have been plunged into subzero temperatures! It's finally starting to warm up, but I hope all our veterans have been keeping safe in the frigid temperatures. We as Legionnaires should put more effort into making those Buddy Checks to ensure the needs of our comrades and their families are met. I know we still have a severe homelessness problem, so check with shelters in your area for any needs they may have.

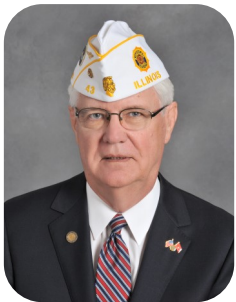
needs they may have.

Although much different than past years, we have just finished the 87<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Pilgrimage. Thanks to the planning efforts of our chairman to the Pilgrimage committee Robert Wesley and the hospitality of Post 32 and Post 809. The guest speakers: National Vice Commander Rich Heigart and National President Nicole Clapp, presented interesting and informative speeches. We had very limited access to Lincoln's Tomb and spent some time outside with cold temperatures. All in all the ceremony went very well. (Lincoln's bust outside however, had a very COLD NOSE!!)

Now we get ready for our Final Push for achieving 100% of member

renewals. As always the last 10% is the toughest to achieve. Incentives are in place to encourage District Commanders to renew present members and get new members transferred from Post 2910, to their local Posts. All of our great Legion Programs depend on US doing our BEST to keep members current and active at our Posts. I know that with our "Can Do Attitude" we will meet our set goals. The 24<sup>th</sup> District has scheduled a revitalization for this month and the 1<sup>st</sup> Division has plans for one next month. This is great and I would like to see even more scheduled as this is a great tool to work up membership. Department HQ is ALWAYS

*(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,

**"LET'S MAKE 'OVERCOMING THE EFFECT OF THE COVID PANDEMIC' OUR REAL TARGET FOR THIS YEAR"!!!!**

Things do seem to be improving in dealing with this Pandemic, and hopefully will keep improving. While many Posts have opened again for meetings and socializing, and as we all practice the "rules", hopefully all Posts will be open and moving forward shortly.

In the meantime, we can invest our time and do **"Buddy Checks"**

time and do **"Buddy Checks"** with those Legionnaires that are forced to stay pretty much confined at home. It only takes a few minutes and will be highly appreciated. Also, now that we are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of our Legion Year, it is urgent that we reach out to all our Post non-renewals and those that have not maintained their membership for the past 2 years. Believe it or not, if we do not step up, nobody else will be doing it for us. We have lost enough Legionnaires over the past 10 years by letting them feel forgotten, and now is the time to do our part to make them feel welcomed again.

By the time you read this we will have completed our Division and District Vice Commander Training here at Department. One of the primary purposes of this training is to prepare our current Vice Commanders to move up to greater

responsibility. We will also be working on implementing efforts to finish this year strong. We do a weekly **"Leave No Legionnaire Behind"** report that goes to all Division and District Officers and Adjutants to show where we are at by District and Division vs. last year for the same week ending. And it also shows how many **"Cards"** we need to reach 100% by Close of Books. If you know of anyone that would like to be added to this email, please let me know.

Finally, we will have presented at this meeting that was held February 20<sup>th</sup>, our **2020-2021 District "Final Push" Membership Campaign**. Here is your opportunity- **"For every 15 renewal or new member cards turned in between**

*(Continued on page 9)*





## From the Desk of Department Auxiliary President Sue Cumniff Coughlin



Greetings!

On behalf of all our American Legion Auxiliary members, we wish you a very happy birthday and many more!!

Lincoln Pilgrimage was attended by only the National, Department, and the two Springfield Legion Families. Although it was a small gathering, it was still very impressive. Our National speakers were interesting and inspiring. Thank you to Chairman Bob Wesley, Post 32 and Post 809

Wesley, Post 32 and Post 809 Legion families for making it a very successful event even with all of the restrictions in place.

We are looking forward to our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on March 18, 2021 from 4 to 7 at Department Headquarters. Our National President Nicole Clapp will be there along with members of our American Legion Family leadership team. There will be hors d'oeuvres and refreshments available. The cost will be \$10. Please let Sharon or Renee at our office know if you are going to attend. We would love to see many of you stop by and help us celebrate.

Our Patriotic Conference will be held the next day in Springfield.

Due to the pandemic, we cannot extend the invitation to everyone. I would have loved to welcome everyone to join us. We always have great speakers, and it is a really fun event.

It was sad to see that we had to cancel the Department Oratorical Contest. This is a great opportunity for our young people to challenge themselves and earn some scholarship money. I always look forward to attending because the students are amazing. Over the next year, reach out to the high schools in your area and let them know what a wonderful opportunity this is for their students.

*(Continued on page 9)*



## From the Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander



I pray this finds you all Safe and Healthy.

Winter has finally arrived around here. 28 inches in 20 days. I am definitely ready for spring, however we still have some time yet to stay inside and be productive. Renewals are key to our success. Every squadron should set aside a time to split up the renewal list amongst officers and blanket your membership. Let them know how important they are and see if there is anything the Son's of the American Legion can do for them.

The Lincoln Pilgrimage was held February 12<sup>th</sup> in Springfield. The

scaled back version went quite well. Wreaths were presented at the Tomb with encouraging Words from National Vice Commander Rich Heigert and National President Nichole Clapp. Roy, Sue and I also gave remarks. This is always a fantastic event. If you have not been to a pilgrimage yet you are missing out. We hope the next Pilgrimage can be held with an open invite to all.



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](mailto: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"



# Did You Know...?

## By Raymond P. Toczek

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

As defined by Webster, Serendipity is a propensity for making fortunate discoveries while looking for or doing something unrelated. One of the most interesting and pleasant occurrences in a Post, District or Division service officer's duties are those instances of "Serendipity" that we run into, both during and after our normal working hours. Here are just a few examples from the last year and they all **actually happened**.

While attending my eldest daughter's Block Party, I struck up a conversation with their mail carrier. Turns out she served in the Marine Corp and didn't have an inkling that she could file a claim for the residuals of a broken wrist. Since it happened while playing baseball after hours, she thought service-connected compensation wasn't applicable. Wrong! I filed and now she receives a small tax free VA check each month for life. As an added bonus, she was in the middle of obtaining a VA home loan. Disabled vets don't pay the funding fee and she saved \$2,500 at closing.

At my granddaughter's baseball game, a guy started up a conversation with me. He had noticed the Legion cap I was wearing. Turns out he just got laid off and lost his health coverage. Didn't realize that any vet who served in Vietnam was able to use the VA hospital system. He signed up and now is a regular patient. Only thing he pays is a small copayment for his medications. As an added bonus, he didn't realize Chicago veterans get one free vehicle sticker (as long as "veteran" is on their driver's license). He got his at the next renewal.

Our Post put a wreath on one of our deceased WWII vets last Memorial Day. A lady came up afterwards and talked. One thing led to another, she never knew that she could obtain a Bronze Medallion for her dad's private headstone. He had served in the Navy. Helped her get that. As an added bonus, she had a neighbor who didn't know what to do with the

ashes of her late husband, who was also a vet. Explained that neighbor could have them interred at Abe Lincoln National Cemetery, without charge.

A friend of a friend referred a vet to me. She uses the VA and takes a lot of medication. The copays were killing her! Turns out, a few months ago, she was rated 50% service-connected disabled. For some reason the VA hospital never got notified. We had that corrected. Vets who are rated 50% or more are not required to make copayments for their prescriptions. As an added bonus, since that recent VA decision was effective back to June 1, 2019, she got a refund of what she had paid since then.

Finally, while at my dentist for my periodic cleaning, got into a conversation with a man in the waiting area. He had also noticed my Legion cap. Took a while to converse since we were both wearing masks, but found out that he was making out his final burial arrangements, never knew that his wife could also be buried with him at Abe Lincoln National Cemetery. As an added bonus, he found out he could get a burial flag, honor guard and a small burial stipend (he was 20% service-connected disabled).

Many people ask me why, after working 33 years for the VA and retired, I went back to work part-time for the Legion (14 years now). It's because I enjoy my job so much, and the above are a few examples of the Serendipity I run into periodically. As always, if you or any of your Post members have any questions, please contact me at the above telephone number or e-mail address.

Serendipity is looking in a haystack for a needle and discovering a farmer's daughter.



# PREPARE FOR BUDDY CHECKS



The COVID-19 pandemic is not over and as many of our Veterans may still be keeping their distance, The American Legion is encouraging posts and members to shift their Buddy Check programs to assist veterans coping with mental health and well-being challenges.

The nation's largest veterans organization is also urging Congress to pass the Buddy Check Week bill which will make wellness checks a national priority for the Department of Veterans Affairs. With military suicides up 20 percent in October from the previous year, Legionnaires are urged to make check-in calls to at-risk veterans across the nation and offer support and access to wellness programs.

Many veterans are disproportionately hard-hit by the pandemic due to age, chronic health issues, post-traumatic stress disorder and isolation. The Buddy Check program is designed to give Legionnaires the tools to make contact, engage in conversation, assess risks and direct veterans in need to the appropriate services.

"The American Legion knows from 100 years of experience that it's veteran-to-veteran contact that can make the difference for someone in a crisis situation," says James W. "Bill" Oxford, national commander of The American Legion. "So, we're putting some muscle behind this effort and giving our members the tools they need to reach out to fellow veterans in their hometowns who may be hard hit by the triple whammy of the pandemic, isolation and the holidays."

Resources and toolkits for Buddy Check teams are available at [legion.org/buddycheck](https://legion.org/buddycheck) on the web. Also posted on the platform are American Legion Buddy Check success stories.

## 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



# The Illinois American Legion Second Division is Proud to Host Armed Forces Day Dinner

Saturday, May 15, 2021

TO BE HELD AT THE CROWNE PLAZA \* 1250 ROOSEVELT RD. \* GLEN ELLYN, IL  
ONE MILE EAST OF I-355 ON ROOSEVELT ROAD (RT.38) AT FINLEY

Key Note Speaker

**National Commander  
James W. "Bill" Oxford**

Social Hour starts at 5:00 pm (cash bar), Dinner at 6:00 pm  
\$30 per person (CHECKS WILL NOT BE CASHED UNTIL MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2021)

Dinner Selections are: \* Sliced Sirloin of Beef with Mushroom Dei

\* Penne Pasta Primavera

\* Roasted Chicken Breast

\* Vegetable medley, Red Roasted potatoes and Ice Cream dessert included.

☆ Deadline: May 1, 2021

☆ Seating is limited to 200 people

☆ Only full tables of 8 may be reserved, list names on back of reservation form.

☆ Pick up tickets at the door

☆ Questions? Contact: 2nd Div. Cmdr. Ray Powroznik at  
(847) 638-6638 RPHP123@AOL.COM

Please contact the hotel directly to make housing reservations. As for group rate.

☆ CROWNE PLAZA (630) 629 6000

1250 ROOSEVELT RD. GLEN ELLYN, IL

☆ 60137 \$104.00, Per Night. breakfast included.

Reservation Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

► My Dinner Selection is: \_\_\_\_\_ SIRLOIN; \_\_\_\_\_ PASTA; CHICKEN; \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 30.00 PER PERSON

► Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I am reserving a table of 8 (provide names on back of form)→

► Checks to be made payable to: American Legion 2nd Division

► Mail reservations to: Ray Powroznik 33236 N. Cove Rd., Wildwood, IL 60030





## Commander's Homecoming

**March 27th 2021**

**Wauconda Post 911**

**515 S Main st**

**Wauconda, IL 60084**

**847-526-9718**



### *A Night to Remember*

6:00 pm Cocktails

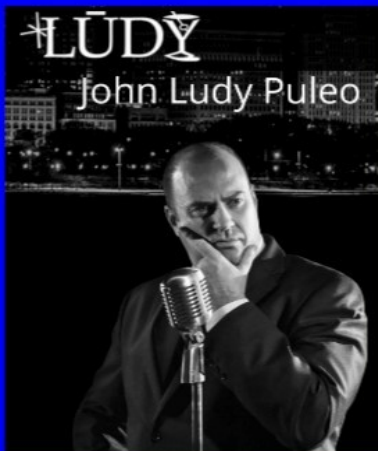
7:00 pm Dinner

8:00 pm Program

8:30—11:30 LUDY

**RSVP by  
March 20th!!!**

**Attire for the evening is  
Legion Casual**



**WORLD CLASS  
ENTERTAINMENT**

SINATRA, DEAN MARTIN, TONY BENNETT,  
TOM JONES, & MORE

50/50 and Raffles

Proceeds to benefit the

Commanders Project

C.W.F.

R.S.V.P Deadline is March 20th

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ dinners @ \$20 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send payment along with reservation to:

Son's of the American Legion

P.O. Box 146

Wauconda, IL 60084

Checks can be made out to: SAL 911



## Legionnaire Donald J. Sleeman Honorary Street Name Ceremony



On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 Don Sleeman, Post 57 member and 66-year member of the American Legion, was Honored in having a street named “DONALD J. SLEEMAN AVENUE” in recognition of his many years of outstanding service to the Elgin Community. The “Donald J. Sleeman Avenue” is along that portion of Chester Avenue between Dundee Avenue and North Liberty Street. Don’s personal commitment to Our American Legion was also recognized during the Ceremony. To honor Don there were many family members along with fellow Legionnaires in attendance. It was truly a special day for all. Don’s Service and Commitment will always be part of the Elgin Community.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Washington Conference,  
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,  
Legion Birthday/Spring Fling  
March 19  
~ ~ ~

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

SAL Spring DEC,  
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  
~ ~ ~

2021 National Renewal Date  
April 30  
~ ~ ~

ALA Junior Conference(continued)  
@ Strasburg  
May 1  
~ ~ ~

National Spring Committee &  
Commission Meetings  
(INDY)  
May 3-6  
~ ~ ~

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**  
**May 9**  
~ ~ ~

95% ALA Target Date  
May 10  
~ ~ ~

100% SAL Target Date  
May 11  
~ ~ ~

100% Illinois Target Date  
&  
Armed Forces Day Dinner (1st Div.)  
May 15  
~ ~ ~

Ruck March @ Chicago  
May 21  
~ ~ ~

ALA Junior Conference(continued)  
@ Belvidere  
May 1

*(Dept. Commander, Continued from page 2)*

ready and willing to support any membership drive.

I believe that with more vaccinations taking place our Post activities will resume soon. Congratulations to our Top Ten Districts Commanders for their efforts. Keep up the good work! Although the Oratorical Contest has been cancelled for this year the other programs are still in place as scheduled. Let's contact the High Schools for students to apply to Premier Boys State, Girls State, and Youth Police Academy and Legion baseball.

Now is also the time to reach out to Law enforcement for Law Officer of the Year and Fire Departments for Firefighter of the Year awards.

On an end note, I'd like to sincerely thank all of you who have donated to my special project. The Illinois Disaster Relief Fund is just another great resource we look forward to helping our native Veterans with. I look forward to improved weather and the opportunity to travel again to meetings and Legion Family events.

*(ALA President, Continued from page 3)*

We need to keep working on membership. Be sure that you have all your eligible family signed up. We can do so much more when we all work together as a family. If you know anyone that is interested in joining, please put them in contact with your local Units or have them contact me. We are also looking for Posts to start up new Units. If you know a Post interested in starting a Unit, they can also reach out to me. We would be happy to help.

The month of March brings us Daylight Savings time, St. Patrick's Day, and the start of spring. I know I am so ready for spring after this brutal February weather. Hopefully spring will be here soon.

In closing, I would like to share an Irish blessing with you. "May your best day of your past be the worst day of your future." Or "May your troubles be less. And your blessings be more. And nothing but happiness come through your door."

Stay safe and stay healthy.

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

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday June 4<sup>th</sup> the District will receive 1 FREE Membership Certificate to be used as the District Officers determine". These must be used by Close of Books on June 18<sup>th</sup> thru Department. Check with your respective District Officers for any questions.**

Yes, we need to overcome the COVID-19 Pandemic and its impact on our American Legion starting with Membership. Remember Commander Roy's Motto **"Veterans Can Do"!!! That is us!!!! AND "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)

# **AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HAVEN RUN**

(2, 3 OR 4 WHEELS)

## **MAY 1-2, 2021**

HAVEN RUN

**START AT SPRINGFIELD POST #32**

**REGISTRATION @ 8:30 AM / LEAVE @ 9:00 AM**

**(BE AT POST BY 7:30 A.M FOR HARDEES BREAKFAST  
PROVIDED BY SPRINGFIELD POST 32 RIDERS)**

Stops include:

### **May 1st:**

Pana American Legion Post 168

Greenup American Legion Post 566 (Lunch Stop)

Casey, IL (Stop to See World's Largest Attractions)

Louisville American Legion Post 914

Salem American Legion Post 128 (Dinner Stop)

Overnight – Holiday Inn Express, Salem IL – 618-740-0913

(Rooms Blocked -- Make Reservations by April 1st – Code  
American Legion - \$99 plus tax)

### **May 2nd:**

Depart Salem Post 128 at 9:00 a.m.

Keysport American Legion Post 1944

Collinsville American Legion Post 365 (Lunch & End of Run)

**COST \$25.00/PERSON**

**YOU CAN JOIN THE RUN AT ANY STOP**

**IF YOU WISH TO DONATE TOWARDS THE HAVEN,  
MEET US AT ANY STOP**

**CALL WAYNE MADSON**

**WITH ANY QUESTIONS AND TO PRE-REGISTER**

**(618) 806-1408**

**[madsonwsr@gmail.com](mailto:madsonwsr@gmail.com)**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE HAVEN**



Sponsored by American Legion  
Post 171 Crystal Lake, IL

## UNITED FOR PREVENTION OF VETERANS SUICIDE



**Saturday, June 26th, 2021**  
**Time: 1000-1400**

**LOCATION:**  
Immanuel Lutheran Grounds  
300 S Pathway Court  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014



### BraveHearts

Statistics indicate 20  
veterans per day take  
their own life



- Featuring Two local Equine Organizations BraveHearts & Veterans R & R
- Create Awareness of Suicide Epidemic
- Numerous Resources for Help
- Family Friendly
- Free of Charge

For more information contact Bob Dorn at [rdorn2@gmail.com](mailto:rdorn2@gmail.com)

## 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)

## American Legion Sweepstakes Drawing February 12, 2021

	AMOUNT WON	WINNER	City / State	ID #	Group
1st Place	\$ 10,000.00	Jerry Malcolm	Carman, IL	200747844	Legion
2nd Place	\$ 5,000.00	Mack A. Hutchison	Pontiac, IL	205037179	Legion
3rd Place	\$ 2,500.00	Nancy Rose Hlinsky	Chicago, IL	121844972	Auxiliary
4th Place	\$ 1,500.00	John E. Costin	Toulon, IL	101250834	Legion
5th Place	\$ 1,000.00	Gary W. Triplett	Efland, NC	203434152	Legion
6th Place	\$ 1,000.00	Paul F. Birk	Rinard, IL	101316057	Legion
7th Place	\$ 750.00	Jack D. Crafton	Moweaqua, IL	101298794	Legion
8th Place	\$ 750.00	Carol S. Burke	Dixon, IL	300820712	Auxiliary
9th Place	\$ 500.00	Fred E. Hicks	Darlington, WI	205073790	Legion
10th Place	\$ 500.00	Robert A. Wiesman	Schaumburg, IL	202565935	Legion
11th Place	\$ 250.00	Richard P. Webb	Springfield, IL	205699098	Legion
12th Place	\$ 250.00	Rocky L. Goolsby	Elizabethtown, IL	205509528	Legion
13th Place	\$ 100.00	Thomas S. Bucklin	Glenview, IL	201838507	Legion
14th Place	\$ 100.00	Betty Grimm	Great Springs, IL	300774063	Auxiliary
15th Place	\$ 100.00	Micahel e. Marchese, Jr	Port St. Lucie, FL	202291137	Legion
16th Place	\$ 100.00	Robert L. Mullen	Jacksonville, IL	203294942	Legion
17th Place	\$ 100.00	Vern E. Simpson, Jr	New Richmond, WI	100054003	Legion
18th Place	\$ 100.00	Vicki L. Lynn	Rockton, IL	301742927	Auxiliary
19th Place	\$ 100.00	James F. Sotzen	Tinley Park, IL	261329140	SAL
20th Place	\$ 100.00	Joe O'Donnell	Pittsfield, IL	200804941	Legion
21st Place	\$ 100.00	Danna Sanders	Le Roy, IL	122002695	Auxiliary
22nd Place	\$ 100.00	Lester J. LaPierre	Lake in the Hills, IL	205553303	Legion
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>				



## 2020—2021 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
03/07/2021	16TH DISTRICT	11:00 AM	BRIMFIELD POST 452	BRIMFIELD
03/10/2021	2ND DISTRICT	7:00 PM	TATTTLER POST 973	CHICAGO
03/17/2021	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
03/20/2021	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	MORTON POST 318	MORTON
03/21/2021	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	COLLINSVILLE POST 365	COLLINSVILLE
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
03/28/2021	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	EDGEWOOD POST 1168	EDGEWOOD
04/14/2021	2ND DISTRICT	7:00 PM	TATTTLER POST 973	CHICAGO
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
05/23/2021	23RD DISTRICT	TBA	CONVENTION—CENTRALIA POST 446	CENTRALIA
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

## 2021 Special Olympics Summer Games Have Been Canceled

Special Olympics Illinois has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 Summer Games. We are in plans for hopefully hosting REGIONAL RETURN TO PLAY events in the Fall and will update everyone as we know more information

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](mailto: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).

# 2021 AWARD PROGRAM DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING

All forms are available online at [www.illegion.org/awards](http://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](http://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](mailto:printshop@illegion.org)



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[www.usaa.com/legion](http://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.





**107 N. 600 East Rd., Loda, Illinois**

**March 12th**—Friday at Loda Post 503

**March 26th**—Friday at Loda Post 503

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

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

Price is **\$10.00** for all you can eat.  
Children eat free.

## 14th District Convention

Will be held on May 1st

10:00 AM

Macomb Post 6

Food Provided

## ORATORICAL CANCELLATION UPDATE:

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions currently in effect for the State of Illinois, The American Legion Department of Illinois has made the decision to cancel the 2021 American Legion Oratorical Contest. Having 23 contestants, chaperones, the needed judges and staff to conduct the contest, the amount of people far exceeds the maximum of 50 people allowed for events per state mandate. This discussion was difficult to make but necessary for everyone's safety.

The Americanism Commission will reach out to underclassmen that had applied, as well as other interested students, in December 2021 to offer the opportunity to compete in our 2022 contest.

The American Legion looks forward to the 2022 American Legion Oratorical Scholarship contest.

For God and Country,

Roy Weber, Department Commander & Micheal Carder, Americanism Chairman

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

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY \***

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Department Commander: **ROY WEBER**      Department Editor: **MARTY CONATSER**

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MARCH TRIVIA

- Before the color green, there was another color associated with the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. Which color was this?
- In which country was the first St. Patrick’s Day parade?
- Who was the first President of the United States to attend a St. Patrick’s Day parade?
- In the United States, it is a tradition to plant what seeds on St. Patrick’s Day?

ANSWERS:

- Blue, Today it is a tradition to wear green clothes on St. Patrick’s Day. However, this hasn’t always been the case. Wearing blue was initially a staple of this holiday.
- United States. The first St. Patrick’s Day parade is reported to have taken place in New York City in 1762. It wasn’t until sometime in the 20th century that these parades started being held in Ireland.
- Harry S. Truman
- It is a common tradition in America for people to plant pea seeds on St. Patrick’s Day. According to his tradition, the peas bring good fortune to the planter.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

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

BALLOONS  
BIRTHDAY  
CAKE  
CANDLES  
CANDY  
CARDS  
DECORATIONS  
FRIENDS

FUN  
GAMES  
HAPPY  
HATS  
MUSIC  
PRESENTS  
SONGS  
SURPRISE

