

# American Legion Department of Illinois Department News

THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION **FAMILY**



APRIL 2021

2020–2021 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROY WEBER



## APRIL IS CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH

## GET READY FOR STATE CONVENTION!

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Top 10 District &  
Division Rankings  
AS OF 03/26/2021

#### District Commander

3	Thompson, Ill
17	Young
16	Talaska
22	Scheyer
24	Hatcher
23	Owens
8	Mitchell
20	Gann
15	Schlieper
12	Latham

#### Division Commander

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

We at Department Headquarters are excited to announce that we will be having an IN-PERSON State Convention this year. Please prepare accordingly. We look very forward to seeing you all there!



## NOTICE: DUES INCREASE

The American Legion Department of Illinois is facing the **fact** that our annual expenses have overcome our annual revenue. The **fact** is that the Department of Illinois has not raised the State dues per capita in 5 years. The **fact** is that if we want to keep the level of service to Veterans and all the Legion programs, a dues per capita increase is needed.

A resolution requesting a \$4.00 dues per capita increase will come before The American Legion, Department Convention assembled July 15-17, 2021. This will bring the total per capita submitted to \$35.00. If passed, all 2022 membership will need to submit \$35.00 when processed.



# From the Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber



Fellow Legionaries,

Well another month has gone by and Spring is here. A quick reminder that April is Children & Youth Month. I can see some movement within the Department; posts are opening more and more, which means Post activities have been reinstated. Division, District and Post meetings are back on the schedule. I intend to attend as many as physically possible.

I recently attended some 102 year Legion Birthday dinners and with

Legion Birthday dinners and with restrictions being lifted, I suspect more celebrations will be planned throughout the Department.

As requested by Sr. Vice Wayne and I, dates are set for 3 day revitalizations in each Division. The 5<sup>th</sup> Division had a successful membership drive which placed it in first place. I hope others take notice and compete for top membership. We all know that the last 8% of membership is always tough to get renewed. Department membership Director Chad is always ready to get you some help to achieve your goals, from paperwork to manpower assistance. Don't hesitate to contact our staff if you need help.

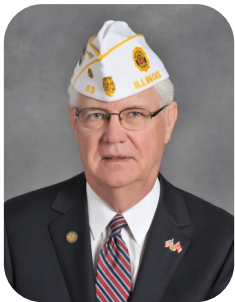
The Hyatt Regency in downtown

Phoenix is the Illinois location for the National Convention in August. It is located just across the street from the Convention Center, so we have easy access to the convention floor. We have set up for the Illinois Party so plan to attend if possible.

We are planning for a full DEC on April 10, at the Holiday Inn in Normal. We have used this location before and they are ready to accommodate those that attend.

Also we intend to have a regular Department Convention in Springfield in July. Meeting dates, times and places are being scheduled. I expect a great Convention with the usual street

*(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,

Well, Spring is in the air and it is starting to open more doors for everyone and our Posts. Now is the time to begin planning what and how you are going to take advantage of this. I trust that "Membership" is every ones' #1 Program to begin with.

With that said, by now every Post; District; and Division Officer and Adjutant is familiar with our 2 New Membership Programs that are designed to get our Membership moving ahead to

reach our initial goal of 100% for 2021. To accomplish this, we need our 2020 unpaid members back on board (Retention); our 2021 unpaid members paid (Renewals); and reach out to get our 2910 Members to get their approval to transfer to their local Post. Keep in mind that 2910 Legionnaires are already on board. Now it is up to all of us to get them to transfer to their local Post. Many have already paid for this year.

Lets' quickly review the 2 Programs to help every Post grow their membership:

**"Renew (Including New) 15 Legionnaires and receive 1 FREE Membership Certificate."**

These certificates will go to the District Commanders and they will handle the distribution of these to their Posts. -AND-

**"\$3.00 OFF to all Non-renewed Legionnaires"**. Our Department will be mailing this offer to all "non-renewed" members and the Post will deduct the \$3.00 from the normal \$31.00 per capital they normally pay for a total of \$28.00 per renewal. This way, Department is covering the \$3.00 for each Renewed Legionnaire with out the Post paying anything out of pocket.

Again, these 2 Membership Programs are designed to focus the next several months on reaching our initial 100% Membership Goal for this 2021 Year. Let us get everyone up and running on this. If you have any questions please call Chad Woodburn, our Membership Director. Now, I would like to share with you a program that recognizes our Vietnam

*(Continued on page 9)*





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



**G**reetings Legion Family!

Spring is here and I hope Mother Nature provides some spring weather to go along with the calendar. With the vaccine rolling out, our restrictions are being lifted and we should be able to get out more. I am sure we are all excited to be able to get out again.

The month of April will be busy as we will have the first of three Junior Conferences. I hope we will have more participations having them across the state and for only

them across the state and for only day. I know our Chairman Tina has some fun events planned for each conference. She is also very conscious about maintaining social distancing. Please encourage your Auxiliary Juniors to attend. We are having a 50's and 60's birthday party. So have your Juniors dress up!

As of this writing, ALA Illini Girls State is still going to be held. I am getting calls that people have heard that it is virtual. **At the time I am writing this, no decision has been made as to whether it will be in person or virtual.** We will post something on our web site if we change to virtual.

We are continuing to work revitalizations as a Legion Family. It has

been exciting as we continue to learn more from our Legionnaires. Working together, we can work membership for the entire family. Remember to ask your members if their family members are signed up.

Since our restrictions are starting to lift, I am sure many of you will start holding meetings and events again. If you invite Commander Roy, please remember to invite Commander Phil and me. We would love to visit with our family members. I know I miss everyone, and I also would love to meet members that I have not met in the past.

Here is a spring quote from  
*(Continued on page 9)*



## From the Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander



**I** pray this finds you all Safe and Healthy.

Happy Spring!!!!

The Detachment Spring DEC was held Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>. We were Honored to have Son's of the American Legion National Commander Clint Bolt in attendance. Also in attendance was PNC Marty Conatser, PNP Sharon Conatser, Commander Roy Weber, Sr Vice Wayne Fisher and President Sue Cuniff Coughlin. This was Commander Bolts first visit in 13 months and we made the best of it. Commander Bolt spoke of National Highlights including the upcoming NEC that

will be virtual. Also spoke about Vietnam Veterans Day and veterans affairs, Membership/renewals Children and youth, and CWF. Speaking of CWF, Donations exceeding \$8000.00 were accepted.

Saturday evening, we were finally able to have my Homecoming. I would like to thank everyone who attended and made it such a fun and memorable evening. A couple quick highlights. After dinner we had a visit from Mary Colata dressed in an inflatable rooster costume, she did a dollar dance to the chicken song for charity. I also

took a pie to the face and raised over \$300 for CWF.



Membership continues to be a struggle this year. Making those phone calls is the most effective way to get those renewals. I encourage every Squadron to set time aside and make those calls.

If you have an event coming up please submit a flyer to our Public Relations Officer, Eugene Gort at  
*(Continued on page 9)*



# Did You Know...?

## By Raymond P. Toczek

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

That maybe two months ago I was discussing a recent law change which would affect many veterans. As I said, these law changes do not come out too often, so I wasn't expecting to devote another article to that topic for quite some time. However, lo and behold, Public Law 116-283 was also recently signed into law and it has a major change to the list of presumptive conditions linked to Agent Orange. Here are the new additions to that list, which currently include diabetes, prostate cancer, coronary artery disease and Parkinson's Disease.

The first one is **HYPOTHYROIDISM** (underactive thyroid). It is a condition in which your thyroid gland does not produce enough of certain crucial hormones. **HYPOTHYROIDISM** does not cause noticeable symptoms in the early stages.

The second one is **BLADDER CANCER**, which is an extremely dangerous type of cancer and often leads to death.

The third one is **PARKINSONISM**. It is any condition that causes a combination of the movement abnormalities seen in Parkinson's disease — such as tremor, slow movement, impaired speech, or muscle stiffness — especially resulting from the loss of dopamine-containing nerve cells (neurons). So, if you have not been officially diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease but have the early symptoms, you may qualify.

Let's refresh your memories. If you served in Vietnam, or within 12 miles of the coast anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, the VA presumes your exposure to Agent Orange. If you served extremely near the DMZ in Korea between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971, or within 12 miles off the coast, or at certain bases in Thailand, the VA would also presume your exposure. One day in any of these areas is usually enough, you did not have to do a full tour.

Please bring this up at your next Post, District or Division meetings. If anyone has been diagnosed with the above, a VA claim should be started. Also, I am sure we have many veterans who have passed away before this law change due to one of these new conditions, especially the bladder cancer. If they left a surviving spouse, minor or severely disabled child, they may also qualify and should file.

For a complete list of the current Agent Orange conditions and other info, you can go to the following websites of the VA:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp>

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5388>

What is the difference between a good lawyer and a great lawyer?

A good lawyer knows the law. A great lawyer knows the judge.





# 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

# AMERICAN LEGION POST 199 ESTABLISHES WOMEN'S VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Edwardsville American Legion Post 199 established a Women's Veterans Affairs Committee at their most recent regular monthly post meeting. Post Commander John Pinegar appointed post member Tracey Bohnert to chair the committee. The committee's role is to ensure all female veterans are made aware of local resources, assist with identifying support groups, assist with registrations to the county Veterans Assistance Commission and veterans hospitals, and all other current services available to the woman veteran. Post 199 currently has 23 women veterans as post members.

For any veteran transitioning from military to civilian life, many programs are offered to ease the return to life outside of the military. In the past, the unique needs of women veterans were not fully addressed. Attempting to navigate through the Veterans Affairs (VA) system is difficult, but more so for the woman veteran. Health care in the traditionally male dominated VA system is recognizing and providing the specific needs of the woman veteran.

Women veterans face unique challenges and conditions once they transition from active duty back into the community. Whether retiring from service or separating after fulfilling an obligation, the transition can be a difficult one. If not properly planned, it can lead to complicated obstacles and difficulties in coping with the challenges that lie ahead. The Post 199 newly established committee will be responsible for guiding women veterans, identifying risks, service, and prevention of health and family issues as requested, while maintaining confidentiality and group support.

## 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**



# DONATE LIFE

## APRIL IS NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH and COTA's 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MONTH

The Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) was founded in April 1986 when residents of Bloomington, Indiana, rallied around a toddler who needed a life-saving liver transplant. In less than eight weeks, the community raised more than \$100,000 to place the boy on the organ waiting list. But he died before an organ was found. Those

community volunteers, along with his parents, turned tragedy into triumph by using those funds to help other transplant families. That was the beginning of COTA and those volunteers were our first Miracle Makers.

For 35 years, thanks to the help of the men and women of The American Legion Family, COTA has assisted thousands of children and young adults by helping to raise funds for a lifetime of transplant-related expenses. Extensive volunteer networks across the nation are working to ensure that no child or young adult needing an organ or tissue transplant is excluded from a transplant waiting list due to lack of funds.

**We need your help today to make sure that tragedies, like the one that was the catalyst in founding COTA 35 years ago, are not repeated.**

Sadly, 20 people in the United States die each day waiting for an organ transplant. One organ donor can save eight lives. April is National Donate Life Month and COTA is asking everyone within The American Legion Family to go to [www.RegisterMe.org](http://www.RegisterMe.org) and register to be a designated organ and/or tissue donor.

You can become a COTA Miracle Maker. Find out how your Post, Unit, Squadron or Legion Riders can help a COTA transplant family near you by visiting [COTA.org/Legion](http://COTA.org/Legion).

Sincerely,  
Rick Lofgren, President  
[rick@cota.org](mailto:rick@cota.org)

***COTA's priority is to assure that no child or young adult is denied a transplant or excluded from a waiting list due to lack of funds. 100% of funds raised in honor of patients assist with a lifetime of transplant-related expenses.***



## 100 MILES FOR HOPE

2021 CHALLENGE



## The American Legion 100 Miles for Hope

The American Legion's second annual 100 Miles for Hope has been

expanded for 2021. There are two ways to register and participate. In order to allow participants to track their activities and encourage others to fundraise, we are using an app from a company called Kilter. To get started, visit <https://www.legion.org/100miles/getstarted>

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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 22

~ ~ ~

## NATIONAL POPPY DAY

&

## MEMORIAL DAY

DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED

May 31

~ ~ ~

CPR Forms Due @ Dept. HQ

June 1

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

fest and all the fan- fare.

We are looking forward to a Premier Boy's State Program at EIU in June, however modified it may have to be. Chairman Benigno is holding regular meetings to keep us updated on the Program. Please reach out as we are very short on applicants, even with the seniors that could not attend last year. Likewise, the Youth Law Enforcement Cadet program is scheduled. We need at least 10 students minimum to hold the classes. Let's try to get 20 or more to attend!!

Last Friday I attended the ALA Patriotic Conference at the Abe Lincoln Hotel in Springfield. It was great to hear National President Nicole Clapp as keynote speaker and the event was both informative and entertaining. The weekend weather was great for travel and kind of a tease of springtime.

I look forward to a NORMAL end to this Legion year and anticipate more travel to meetings and membership drives throughout the Department. Best of luck to those shooting for the Top Ten awards and with our "CAN DO" attitude, we will all meet our membership goals. A special shout out to those Districts at 95% already! Keep up the great work.

*(ALA President, Continued from page 3)*

Amelia Earhart. "A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees". Be sure to find some time to do some acts of kindness. Stay safe!

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

Veterans. Every March 29<sup>th</sup> there is what is called "**Vietnam Veterans - Veterans Day**". March 29<sup>th</sup>, 48 years ago, was the date that our US Forces officially left Vietnam. That means on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 it will be 50 years since we officially left Vietnam. Here is a thought-maybe many of our Posts would like to organize a special program that day to "**Recognize and Honor their Vietnam Veterans**". "**The Vietnam Commemoration Program**" is still offering support for any events supporting and recognizing our Vietnam Veterans. Again, just a thought to show support for our fellow Legionnaires. Trust me-they will appreciate this.

*(SAL Detachment Commander, Continued from page 3)*

[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." Stay safe and we will see you soon.



## **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)



# 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)



**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](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.

## 2020—2021 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
04/14/2021	2ND DISTRICT	7:00 PM	TATTLER POST 973	CHICAGO
04/21/2021	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
04/22/2021	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EDWARD SCHULTZ POST 697	LANSING
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	8TH DISTRICT ELECTIONS & POST EVERLASTING EVERGREEN PARK POST 854	EVERGREEN PARK
06/13/2021	5TH DIVISION	11:00 AM	CONVENTION—CHESTER POST 487	CHESTER
06/16/2021	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
06/23/2021	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	IWASZUK—CETWINSKI POST 943	CHICAGO
06/26/2021	3RD DIVISION	10:00 AM	BARTONVILLE POST 979	BARTONVILLE
06/28/2021	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	MARS—MEYER POST 991	WORTH

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 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



## William McKinley American Legion Initiates New Scholarship Program

Southwest Side college student Claudia Vasquez now has an additional \$1,000 to apply toward her dream of becoming a sound engineer, thanks to her award of a new scholarship from the William McKinley American Legion Post 231 in Chicago's McKinley Park neighborhood.

The scholarship program, which is co-sponsored by Illinois 1st District State Senator Antonio "Tony" Muñoz, awarded Vasquez the funds during a brief ceremony at St. Patrick's Day observances at the post headquarters at 1956 W. 35th St., Chicago. Post officers and members congratulated Vasquez, whose father, Marcelino Vasquez, is a post member.

Vasquez is finishing her final year at Flashpoint Chicago, a campus of Columbia College Hollywood that focuses on media production. "I want to go into studio recording," Vasquez said.

Excerpt from McKinley Park News article by Justin Kerr

## ATTENTION:

Greetings Legionnaires!

On November 8, 2020, the Veterans of American Legion post 335 and Veterans of Foreign Wars post 5979, dedicated the Chicagoland Combined Veterans Museum. It is quite a neat little museum, however we have a need for female military uniforms. If anyone has any female military uniforms, we would love to add them to our displays.

If you should ever find yourselves in the area of River Grove, we would be happy to accommodate you with a tour.

You can contact Richard Wojewnik at [richard8101@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richard8101@sbcglobal.net) or Lorenzo Fiorentino at [lorenzoafiorentino@yahoo.com](mailto:lorenzoafiorentino@yahoo.com). You can also view our dedication ceremony on our Combined Veterans Command Post you tube page:

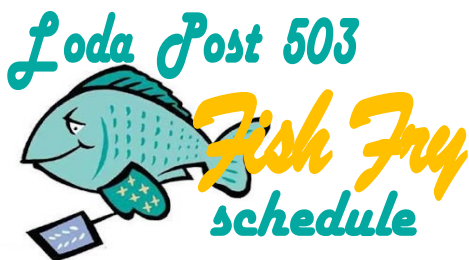
<https://youtu.be/cpSzRwpRKTU> or

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwE3L9\\_uzL0&list=UU1dLCWrOOh33uAbkIR461VQ&index=15](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwE3L9_uzL0&list=UU1dLCWrOOh33uAbkIR461VQ&index=15)

Thank you!

Lorenzo A. Fiorentino, MA-HSA  
Major, Military Police, U.S. Army (ret.)  
Commander, American Legion Post 335  
Junior Vice Commander, American Legion 9th District Council  
Adjutant, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5979  
Founder, American Legion Riders 335  
708-606-0742





107 N. 600 East Rd., Loda, Illinois

**April 9th**—Friday at Loda Post 503  
**April 23th**—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

## American Legion 2021 State Convention Book Application for Ad placement

BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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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**

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\$60.00 _____	\$65.00 _____
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Send Check to: American Legion, Dept. of IL 2720 E. Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 61704

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MARTY CONATSER

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## APRIL TRIVIA

1. How long was the longest game ever played in Major League Baseball?
2. Who wrote the song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game?"
3. Who was nicknamed "The Wizard" that played shortstop for the St. Louis Cardinals from 1981 until he retired in 1996?
4. What is the name of the Chicago Cubs home ball-park for spring training?
5. Which MLB team has thrown the most no-hitters?
6. Which pitcher has thrown the most no-hitters?

### ANSWERS:

1. The longest game was 25 Innings between the Milwaukee Brewers vs. Chicago White Sox on May 8, 1984.
2. It was written in 1908 by Jack Norworth and Albert von Tilzer.
3. Ozzie Smith, who won 13 gold gloves and played in 15 All-Star games.
4. Sloan Park in Mesa, Arizona, which opened in 2014.
5. Los Angeles Dodgers
6. Nolan Ryan who threw seven in his 27-year career.



## Easter Word Search

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



BASKET  
BUNNY  
CARROT  
CELEBRATION  
CHICK  
CHOCOLATE  
DECORATED

DUCKINGS  
EASTER  
EGGS  
FLOWERS  
GRASS  
HOP  
HUNT

JELLYBEANS  
PARADE  
RABBIT  
SPRING  
SUNDAY  
TULIP

