



The Insider

American Legion Department of Illinois News
JANUARY 2023



Lomac Payton



Happy New Year!

There are times we wake up in the morning wondering what our day will be like. Do we have plans in place for the day? Or do we just sit back and leave our responsibility as legionnaires in the hands of others, hoping they will be very successful for our organization? Please don't take this cop-out. We should care enough about our members to spend as much time as possible checking on them and making sure that they are doing well. That's what the buddy check was created for; to keep the line of communication open to our members. It only takes a few minutes to make a phone call.

This month starts a new calendar year and we should be thinking about how we can improve our strategy for signing up our members whose dues are delinquent. We must inform them that all their benefits are null and void as of December 31, 2022. One thing I feel that we fail to do is to work close with District Commanders to make sure they are making contact with Post Commanders, Adjutants and Officers. If a District Commander knows his/her responsibilities, it would be much easier to retain our present members and to recruit new Veterans in the American Legion.

There is one thing that all of us should do and that is to educate ourselves about The American Legion and its programs. When we approach a Veteran about joining The American Legion, it would be easy to explain the wide range of programs we offer for Veterans, their families, children and youth. We wouldn't have to think about what to say; it would be second nature. It is very important for us to increase our membership by recruiting young veterans to join and become active. They're a new generation with a new way of seeing things. They are the key to our future. We need to include their fami-

(Continued on page 5)

Delmar Buske



To Our American Legion Family—

Seems like another month has flown by. I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and wishing you a Happy New Year. I suppose I was "nice" enough to get some presents from Santa this year.

We recently went to Harrisburg in the 5th Division for our last training session of the year. I have truly looked forward to attending these throughout the year and have learned something new at each session. This is a good program for everyone. If you can get to one of them, it is well worth your time.

I have enjoyed doing post visits. If your post would like me to attend your post meeting, please call the office at Department to set it up. If I am free, I would be glad to come.

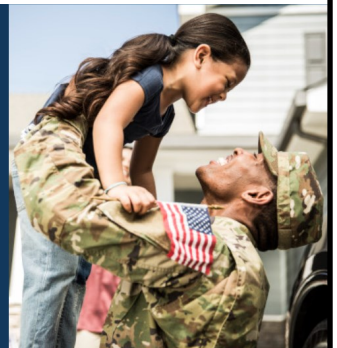
I am looking forward to the upcoming caravan. I have done this caravan several times and I've always enjoyed it. This is always a long ten days, but it sure is nice seeing old friends and making new ones! The caravan is a chance to meet your Department Officers and the National Senior Vice Commander.

Again, I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Years and I look forward to seeing many of you this month!

JOIN USAA

Membership means more.

We offer benefits, products and discounts for U.S. military members and their spouses, as well as children of USAA members. We're committed to providing our members with exceptional service.



Janet Bacon



Happy New Year!

The new year has started, and it is a perfect time to reflect on the mission of our great organization. Remember why you joined and the person that made your joining possible. Let's make this the year that Illinois shines throughout the Legion Family.

The 2023 American Legion Family Membership Caravan will be making its way through the state very soon. I am excited to be visiting the different Posts where we will be stopping. Please remember that this Family Caravan is for EVERYONE! It is a time to turn in membership, hear a few good speeches and enjoy some great food. It is also a time for some great ideas to be shared. I hope to see many of you at the stop or stops near you.

Are making plans to attend the 89th Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield on February 11-12? We will get to hear from our National President and the National Commander from the Sons of the American Legion as well as the Legion National Commander. What state will win the Membership Challenge? Don't forget to rub Lincoln's nose for good luck when at the tomb.

Patriotic Conference is March 17, 2023. It is being held in Springfield at the Abraham Lincoln/Doubletree. The American Legion Auxiliary National President will be our special guest.



Kevin O'Connell



Greetings,

I hope everyone had Happy and Safe Holidays. Please let's remember those who are alone or suffering and reach out to them to see if they need anything.

Recently I had a Conversation with Judge Mike Hood who is the Presiding Judge for the Cook County Veterans Court located in Skokie Illinois. Judge Hood prior to becoming a lawyer was a Major in the Marine Corp. Veterans Court is designed to give Veterans a second chance and a way to help them succeed in life. Eligibility for the Veteran Treatment Court program requires a veteran to plead guilty to a non-violent crime with which he or she is charged; sign a treatment contract with the court; appear at all court dates; report to all case-management appointments with Veterans Affairs, probation and alternative treatment programs; comply with all recommendations from the treatment court team; attend any self-help or 12-step programs as required; and complete community service as required. But on top of all of these requirements, the veteran must also be willing to participate.

Judge Hood noted that Veterans Treatment Court accepts participants who suffer from both addiction and mental health issues, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The program takes two years, and provides treatment primarily administered through the Veterans Administration. Participants who successfully complete the program will have their charges dismissed and expunged.

"It's true rehabilitation," said Judge Hood, who has run the Skokie Veterans Treatment Court for seven years. "There's an issue, a mental health or addiction issue, which we address so we can take them out of the cycle of criminal justice. The point is to take them back, make

(Continued on page 5)

LEGION FAMILY POSTINGS



Galena's Sgt. Henry H. Taylor (MOH) bust is delivered to Colorado for next step.

The bust of Sgt. Henry H. Taylor was delivered to the Rocky Mountain Bronze Shop, Loveland Colorado on December 12, 2022 by two Fickbohm-Hissem Post 193 American Legionnaires. The bust will be bronzed and returned by April 2023 to Galena. Plans for the unveiling are for April 29, 2023 at U.S. Grant Park, Galena during the U.S. Grant Pilgrimage (Boy Scouts of America). The Boy Scouts, local Veterans Organizations and the 45th Volunteer Illinois Infantry are planning to attend the ceremony.

Pictured left to right are Legionnaire Thomas Mercker, Owners Amy and Carey Hosterman, and Jerry Howard Post Commander.

- submitted by Jerry Howard, P193 Commander



On December 15, 2022, Cub Pack 93 was presented with a \$500 check from Fickbohm-Hissem Post 193 at their Christmas meeting at the Midwest Medical Strauss home, Galena.

While there, the Cub Pack decorated cookies for the residents. Pictured above is the Galena Cub Pack with their leaders for a "Thank you!" photo. Representing Post 193 was Commander Jerry Howard.

- submitted by Jerry Howard, P193 Commander

American Legion Department of Illinois, Office of VA&R

No one ever plans to be sick or disabled. Yet, it's this kind of planning that can make all the difference in an emergency and/or in filing for a VA claim.

Begin the New Year with planning with regards to important papers. Put your important papers and copies of legal documents in one place. You can set up a file, put everything in a desk or dresser drawer, or list the information and location of papers in a notebook. If your papers are in a bank safe deposit box, keep copies in a file at home. Check each year to see if there's anything new to add.

Tell a trusted family member or friend where you put all your important papers. You don't need to tell this friend or family member about your personal affairs, but someone should know where you keep your papers in case of an emergency.

**Post 1922
members
presenting the
annual “Gift to
Yank's” donation
of gloves, hats,
and personal
care items to the
Spring Street
Veterans Center.**



2022—2023 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
01/08/2023	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	MARION POST 147	MARION
01/15/2023	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	TEUTOPOLIS POST 924	TEUTOPOLIS
01/18/2023	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
01/22/2023	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DUPO POST 485	DUPO
01/22/2023	25TH DISTRICT	TBD	THE HAVEN	CARBONDALE
01/29/2023	10TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	WAUCONDA POST 911	WAUCONDA
02/01/2023	1ST DIVISION	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134 (DEC @7:00)	MORTON GROVE
02/15/2023	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
02/18/2023	14TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	EAST MOLINE POST 227	EAST MOLINE
02/18/2023	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	LANARK POST 357	LANARK
03/05/2023	15TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	IPAVAL POST 17	IPAVAL
03/05/2023	16TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	GLASFORD POST 35	GLASFORD

(TAL Commander, Continued from page 2)

lies as well. The new year is here and it's time to do our buddy checks and make sure we start this year off on the right foot. Take care, be safe and keep one another in your prayers. May God Bless!

Your State Commander,
Lomac A. Payton I

(SAL Commander, Continued from page 3)

them whole.”

Veterans and service members are eligible for Veterans Treatment Court if their enrollment in the program is approved by the court and is agreed upon by the prosecutor and the defendant.

A defendant will be excluded from the Veterans Court Treatment Program if:

The crime is of violence

The defendant does not demonstrate a willingness to participate in a treatment program

The defendant has been convicted of a crime of violence within the past 10 years excluding incarceration

The Veteran has previously completed or has been discharged from a Veteran treatment Court program within three years of the completion or discharge

Kevin O'Connell, Commander
Sons of the American Legion

JANUARY

Mark
YOUR CALENDAR

JANUARY 12-21: MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN

JANUARY 16: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

DEPT OFFICE CLOSED

FEBRUARY 11-12: LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE

FEBRUARY 14: **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

FEBRUARY 20: **PRESIDENT'S DAY**

DEPT OFFICE CLOSED

FEBRUARY 25: SR. VICE PLANNING SESSION

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Top 10 District & Division Rankings

District	Commander
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13	Gibbs
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22	Swaim
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8	Petersen
---	----------

9	Fiorentino
---	------------

19	Smith
----	-------

18	Morris
----	--------

3	Fitch
---	-------

17	Abdelnour
----	-----------

11	Oikion
----	--------

21	Baumann
----	---------

Division	Commander
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4	Garrett
---	---------

2	Kraut
---	-------

5	Maden
---	-------

3	Seward Jr.
---	------------

1	Thompson III
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The American Legion Springfield Post 32

Home of & Originator of the

National American Legion Pilgrimage

to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln

Saturday, February 11, 2023

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM: American Legion Family Leadership Reception at The Headquarters Hotel.

Keynote Speaker: The Sons of The American Legion National Commander **Christopher Carlton**

4:30 PM – 1:00 AM: FREE shuttle service to Post 32.

4:00 PM – 9:00 PM: Dinner at Post 32

5:00 PM – 1:00 AM: Open House at Post 32

Sunday, February 12, 2023

8:00 AM: American Legion Family Breakfast featuring Keynote Address by The American Legion Auxiliary National President, **Vickie Koutz** Pilgrimage Headquarters Hotel

10:00 AM: Pilgrimage to the Tomb

10:30 AM: Placing of Wreaths and Tomb Ceremony, Mr. Lincoln's Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery

12:30 PM: Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon featuring Keynote Address by The American Legion National Commander, **Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola** Pilgrimage Headquarters Hotel

Breakfast tickets are \$30.00 each, and luncheon tickets are \$35.00 each. Checks should be made out to **Springfield Post #32, The American Legion**. Tickets, reservations and further information please write to:

American Legion Lincoln Day Pilgrimage
ATTN: Barb Lush, Ticket Chairman
1120 Sangamon Avenue
Springfield, Illinois
62702-1853.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to help us honor our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, on his birthday in his "Hometown." Make sure to visit the beautiful **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library** while you're there!

If you have any questions about the Post 32 Open House, The American Legion Family Breakfast, or The Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon, please contact Pilgrimage General Chair, Bob Wesley by Phone: 217-899-6826 or

ALTON'S 16TH ANNUAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY HONORS VETERANS FROM ILLINOIS TO TEXAS



Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, a wreath-laying ceremony is held at Arlington National Cemetery. In addition, over 3,700 other ceremonies take place throughout the Nation, at sea and abroad, including Alton National Cemetery in Illinois.

This year, Margaret Hopkins spoke at Alton National Cemetery's 16th Annual Wreaths Across America day. She explained that this project began 30 years ago with the laying of 5,000 wreaths and was originally called The Arlington Wreath Project. In 2007, the mission became a national organization. This year's theme was "Find a Way to Serve." Hopkins explained that we all have something to give; whether it be time, ideas, or resources. Be moved to find a way to serve. Wreaths Across America's mission is to "honor, remember and teach."

8 ceremonial wreaths representing the 8 Branches of Service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, Merchant Marines, POW/MIA) were placed in honor of those who served and continue to serve. This was followed by a touching ceremony where men, women and children came together to lay wreaths on each grave and salute one another. Afterwards, Margaret shared 2 heartwarming stories of the generosity of the Alton community with the crowd.

The first was a conversation she had with a National Committee chairwoman in regards to the hurting community of Uvalde, Texas. In the wake of the horrific shooting at Robb Elementary School last May, volunteer planning had taken a hit. When the City of Alton's Committee learned of this, they voted without a moment's hesitation to provide the 600 wreaths needed in order to cover the graves at Hillcrest Cemetery in Uvalde.

The second blessing was a phone call from Amy Miller of West Elementary School, asking if Hopkins would visit so that they could present her with a check. The fifth grade class held a quarter roll fundraiser to buy wreaths for the event. Hopkins was astonished when she was presented with a check in the amount of \$1,118.53!

22nd District Commander Ronald Swaim informed us that over the years Alton has had a surplus of wreath donations and had raised more than enough to honor their local Veterans this year. In addition to the 600 they sent to Uvalde, another 1,000 wreaths were given to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery! This was Swaim's 3rd year representing the 22nd District and Edwardsville American Legion Post 199 at the ceremony.



(Pictured from left to right: American Legion Department of Illinois 22nd District Commander Ronald Swaim, WWII Veteran Art Williams, and Marsha Moor of Edwardsville Post 199)

During the ceremony, Hopkins took a moment to single out a very special Veteran. Art Williams (center) is a WWII Veteran who served in the South Pacific in the 14th Armored Division from 1942 to 1945. Has been a Veteran volunteer for 16 years and recently celebrated his 99th birthday!

REMEMBER the fallen
HONOR those that serve and their families
TEACH our children the value of freedom



Story submission by Ronald Swaim.

*Additional information gathered from
RiverBender.com*

*Photography, including cover image taken by
Mike Cruz of HMCruz Photography, LLC*



Contribution Form for Department Commander Payton'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)



"STRONGER TOGETHER!"

Illinois Veterans helping their own!
Department of Illinois Commander
Lomac Payton is asking for your
donations, *large or small*, to help with
two important resources that are
dear to his heart; to keep building
the Illinois Disaster Relief Fund
and contributing to The Haven in Car-
bondale. Your contribution will ensure
that funds are available in times of
crisis and also to provide a
place of sanctuary for our veterans.
These funds will be dedicated
to Veterans right here in our very own
state. All donations will be split 50/50
towards the IDRf and The Haven

★ Please make checks payable to the
Department of Illinois and earmarked ***"Commander's Special Project - IDRf/HAVEN"***

★ Send contributions to:
The American Legion—Dept. of ILL
2720 E. Lincoln St.
Bloomington, IL 61704

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE



Children & Youth Committee

2023 Special Olympics Winter Games

Dave or Sue Johnson 815-520-4643

Dates: January 31; 8 am to 4 pm, February 1; 8 am to 4 pm & February 2; 8 am to 12 pm

Locations: Galena, Illinois

1. Chesnut Mountain, 8700 W Chestnut Mt. Rd.
2. Eagle Ridge, 444 Eagle Ridge Rd.

I will be there from _____ To _____ Tuesday Jan 31

I will be there from _____ To _____ Wednesday Feb 1

I will be there from _____ To _____ Thursday Feb 2

Name _____ Address _____

Phone # _____ Post/Unit # _____ Dist# _____ Div# _____

I will bring _____

Here is my donation of \$ _____ to help with supplies for Special Olympics

<u>Legion</u>	<u>SAL</u>	<u>Auxiliary</u>	<u>ALR</u>
Unpowered gloves M – XL	Plastic Thank You	Store Bought Cookies	Monetary
Cheese Balls	Grocery Bags	Little Debbie/Hostess	Donations
Pirate Boat Puffs	Apple Sauce in	Individual Wrapped	Appreciated
Crackers	Squeeze bags	Individual Muffins	Apples
	Peanut Butter Crackers	Halos	Bannanas
	Veggie Straws	Grapes	
Return to:	Water Bottles	Celery, Gold Fish Crackers, Pretzels,	
The American Legion	OR The American Legion Auxiliary	Chips	
Dept of Illinois	Dept of Illinois		
P.O. Box 2910	P.O. Box 1426		
Bloomington, Il 611072	Bloomington, Il 61072		

2023 AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY January 13 - 22, 2023 MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN SCHEDULE

DATE	Div#	Dist#	Post #	CITY	MEAL
JANUARY 13	3	15	381	ABINGDON	BREAKFAST 8:30 AM
JANUARY 13	3	14	227	EAST MOLINE	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 13	2	13	193	GALENA(@ ELKS LODGE)	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 14	2	12	337	GENOA	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 14	2	10	771	GURNEE	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 15	1	9	36	DES PLAINES	BREAKFAST 8:30 AM
JANUARY 15	1	5	687	STICKNEY	HORS D'OEUVRES 11:30 AM
JANUARY 15	1	2	923	CHICAGO	HORS D'OEUVRES 2:00 PM
JANUARY 15	2	11	80	DOWNERS GROVE	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 16	4	18	51	WESTVILLE	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 16	4	19	55	FARMER CITY	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 17	CARAVAN DAY OFF ★		CARAVAN DAY OFF ★		CARAVAN DAY OFF
JANUARY 18	5	23	1168	EDGEWOOD	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 18	5	24	306	METROPOLIS	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 19	5	25	280	BENTON	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 19	5	22	199	EDWARDSVILLE	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 20	3	20	1083	KAMPSVILLE	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 20	4	21	386	VIRDEN	DINNER 6:00 PM
JANUARY 21	3	16	979	BARTONVILLE	LUNCH 11:30 AM
JANUARY 21	4	17	1115	SPRING BAY	DINNER 6:00 PM



National Vice Commander, Ken Hylton will be our special guest during the 2023 Illinois American Legion Family Caravan. Please make time to come to one of the caravan stops nearest you to visit with him. Also, if you plan on attending the meal you need to R.S.V.P. the host post.



Bring all membership cards with you to turn in...even if it's just ONE!

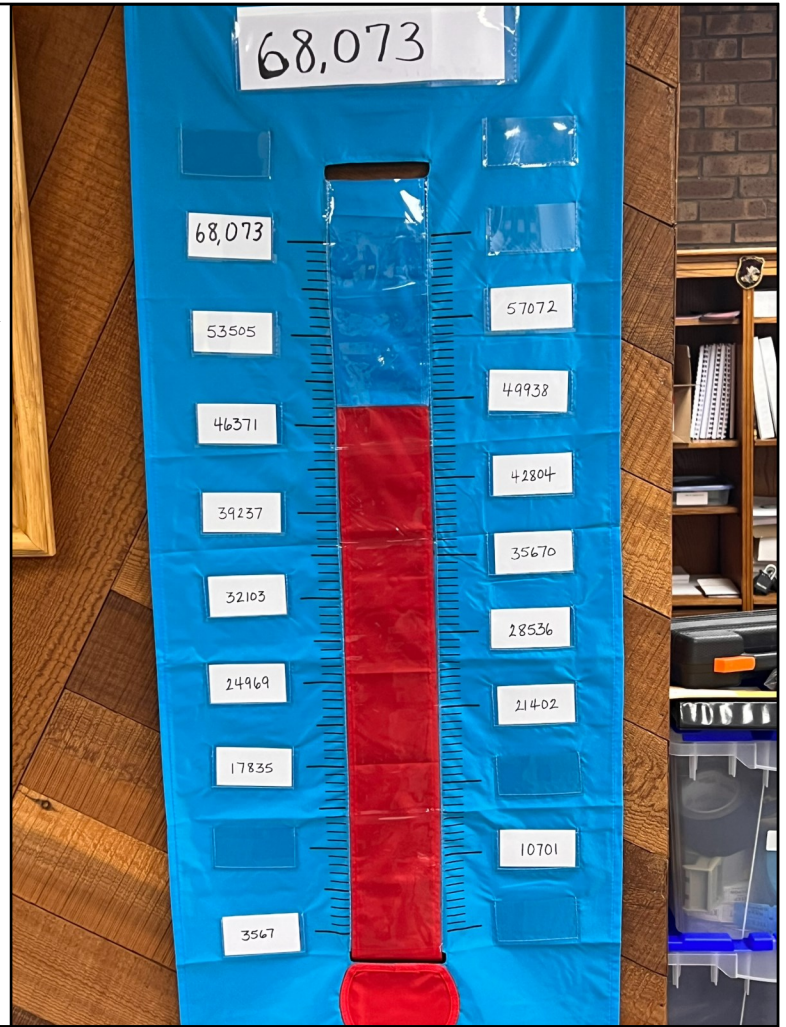
Well, the holidays are past us. The gatherings are over. The decorations are all put away for another year. Now we have to put our focus back on membership. January 13 is the official start of Caravan. 19 stops and over 1400 miles will be covered by National and Department leadership. We hope you come out and show your support for caravan. Bring those membership cards. Remember the post that turns in the most cards at every stop will win a prize. Our goal for total card turn in this year on caravan is 2000.

We have come up in the rankings this year and currently are running about middle of the pack. We have done a lot of work and I know we can move even further up the rungs so to speak. We have the ability to become a 100% Department this year, but it will take everyone's help to get it done.

As of this printing we only need 29 cards per post in the state to get to our goal. Now I know that not every post will be able to do that but there are posts that will go over their goal for the year and help out those who don't make their goal.

If you need help or there is anything we here at Department can do to aid you, please reach out to us and let us know.

We look forward to seeing you on your caravan stop and remember if you are attending, please RSVP to the post if you're coming so they can plan their food accordingly. See all ya'll soon.



13th District Fundraiser Expands to Include All of 2nd Division

13th District Commander Lee Gibbs and Sr. Vice Commander and American Legion Post 193 Commander Jerry Howard have been spearheading an amazing collaboration with Great American Popcorn Company in order to find other ways to grow their Legion funds. 9 American Legion posts participated in the first fundraiser and sold 248 bags.

What started off as a 13th District fundraiser trial run will now be including all of 2nd Division after the executive board voted in favor of expanding the fundraiser. The 2nd Division's fundraiser will be from January 9-February 28.



Pictured: 13th District Commander Lee Gibbs and Sr. Vice Commander Jerry Howard with the 6 featured flavors for their fundraiser

VETERANS CORNER

Submitted by Jerry Vogler

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023! The year 2023 holds much promise and hope for America! Twenty, twenty-two is now in the books! The turmoil and frustration of inflation, high gas prices, and too high crime rates may make you feel depressed and fearsome about our future. The good news for 2022 and continuing into 2023 comes from the Veterans Administration (VA). VA has delivered more care and benefits to more Veterans than ever before over the last two years. VA has completed more than 7 million VA disability and pension claims for Veterans, an all-time VA record that broke the previous year's record high by 12%. Veterans consequently receive over \$5.8 billion in retroactive awards and over \$3 billion in monthly VA compensation awards. VA also provided more than 100 million VA clinical encounters, with VA serving over 9 million patients. Roughly, 38 million in-person appointments and more than 14 million telehealth-telephone appointments. Additionally, the VA implemented the PACT Act which was the largest expansion of Veteran health care and benefits in decades. The PACT Act streamlined the claims process for toxic exposure medical conditions and resulted in more 200,000 PACT Act-related claims and the VA screened more than 900,000 Veterans for suspected toxic exposures as a part of the effort to identify the medical conditions as early as possible. The VA is there for you, if you are eligible. Eligibility requirements change over time. Contact the Bloomington VA Clinic eligibility section at 1-309-827-4090 and ask for eligibility and set up an appointment to have your eligibility vetted. You will need a copy of your DD214 Separation from Service Form and be ready to discuss where and when you served in the military. Be aware that all Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war are considered to have been exposed to Agent Orange and therefore normally will be approved for VA Health Care.

WHAT IS A VETERAN?

Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations defines a Veteran as “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. There are Reserve components for each branch of the federal military, and they primarily deliver supplementary support to active-duty forces when obligated. Reserves are under the patronage of the Department of Defense of each federal branch. Members of the National Guard are considered Veterans if they served over 20 years even if they do not get deployed. Prior to 2016, National Guard members were considered Veterans only if they served 180 days or more in a federal status, such as serving on active status. National Guard units attend initial and sometimes supplemental training on Active-Duty Status for Training (ADT) which normally does not count toward federal military service time. National Guard units predominately belong to individual states and under the control of the Governors of the State. It is estimated that in a given month, about 40,000 members of the Air and Army National Guard are performing federal duty overseas. In summary, the National Guard and Reserves are separate units, however, they generally spend two years of their six-year enlistment performing full-time active duty. This service at the federal military level makes many recent and current members of the National Guard and Reserves eligible for many of the benefits similar to Federal Military Active-Duty members.



ILLINOIS PREMIER BOYS STATE REGISTRATION OPEN

Now! Yes, right now. Identify those deserving youth that are excelling all around your community. They are identified in the paper every week as standouts in the high school golf, football, volleyball, cheer squad, poms, fall play, band, and cross country programs amongst others. These are the kids parents you talk to now and have them register for boys and girls state. Registration is open for boys state. Get your commitments early. There is no shortage of kids that can go. Don't undersell or under represent your community. If your local post somehow can't afford to sponsor 6 or so kids interested, reach out to your district officers. They will find a post that will help.

Register at illinoisboystate.org.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

We are happy to include your District/Division Meeting Dates, Happenings at your local post/community, announcements, etc.

*Email sgreen@illegion.org OR send by mail to:
American Legion, Dept. of IL
P.O. Box 2910 Bloomington, IL 61702
ATTN: SHANDI GREEN*

If any changes or updates need to be made to the schedule or other submissions, please submit them as soon as possible to Shandi Green in by email (or in writing).

NOTE: WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO INCLUDE YOUR SUBMISSIONS BUT CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL BE. IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE, PLEASE SUBMIT BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR

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LOMAC PAYTON

Department Editor
SHANDI GREEN

Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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\$20.00 for 11 issues

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

Department of Illinois ~ Official Member of The National American Legion Press Association



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JANUARY TRIVIA

1. The first ball to be dropped in New York's Times Square happened in what year?
2. The first time that January 1st was celebrated as the beginning of a new year was in 153 B.C. when the Romans moved the first month of their calendar back to January. For what reason did the Romans do this?
3. What famous Frank was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, on January 1, 1938?
4. On January 1, 1971, what kind of commercials were banned from American televisions?
5. The tradition of eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day is believed to do what?
6. In some parts of the U.S., eating pancakes with butter, syrup, and whipped cream on New Year's Day indicates what?

ANSWERS:

1. 1908
2. To coincide with elections of the two highest ranking Republic positions.
3. Actor Frank Langella
4. Ads for cigarettes.
5. Bring prosperity for the next year.
6. You are having breakfast at Shoney's or Denny's.



The new PACT Act



- » Expands toxic-exposed Veterans access to VA care
- » Extends health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era combat Veterans
- » Adds new presumptive conditions for radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War toxins, and burn pit exposures

EXPANDED VA CARE & BENEFITS

Learn more at VA.gov
1-800-MyVA4111 (800-698-2411)

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

