

2023-2024

American LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

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Department Commander
Delmar Buske



MEMBERSHIP CALENDAR AND AWARDS PROGRAM



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DELMAR BUSKE



(I) NTEGRITY (S) ERVICE (P) ROGRAMS

My goal for this membership year is "Integrity, Service, Programs." These three words truly encompass the mission of our organization.

- (I) INTEGRITY** - The Department of Illinois should be known as an organization of strong moral principles. As members, we should follow a set of values, be honest, help others, lead by example and take responsibility.
- (S) SERVICE** - The American Legion is known as the largest veterans service organization in the world. The real meaning of service is more than the use of a simple word. It is a lifelong dedication and commitment to the betterment of others. As American Legion members, our priority should always be to provide service and assistance to our veterans and their families.
- (P) PROGRAMS** - Within the American Legion family, there are many (and varied) programs provided. If we all take the time to find the ones that best fit our post, unit or squadron, our programs will flourish. By working together, we can cover them all and raise awareness and participation.

To achieve the above goals, we must maintain and continue to grow our membership. Membership is the true foundation of this organization. The more members we have, the bigger difference we can make in our communities.

I am excited to see what will be accomplished with us all working together to achieve our goals of integrity, service and programs. Let's kick it into high gear and have a successful year.

For God and Country,

Delmar Buske
Commander
The American Legion
Department of Illinois





2023 - 2024

THE AMERICAN LEGION

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF	SEPTEMBER 13, 2023	50%
FALL MEETINGS	OCTOBER 18, 2023	55%
VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 15, 2023	65%
PEARL HARBOR DAY	DECEMBER 13, 2023	75%
MID-WINTER	JANUARY 18, 2024	80%
PRESIDENT'S DAY	FEBRUARY 14, 2024	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 13, 2024	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	APRIL 10, 2024	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 15, 2024	100%
** DELEGATE STRENGTH	30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION	

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week. Some target dates were moved to the third week to maximize end of year renewal notices.

Since Columbus Day falls on a Monday, the October target date will be on a Thursday.

To maximize the December renewal notice, the January target date will be on the third Thursday of the month because of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



2023 - 2024

THE AMERICAN LEGION

RENEWAL SCHEDULE

CUTOFF DATES

MAY 15, 2023

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

OCTOBER 18, 2023

DECEMBER 13, 2023

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

APRIL 10, 2024

RENEWAL MAIL DATES

JULY 1-8, 2023

OCTOBER 7-14, 2023

NOVEMBER 10-18, 2023

JANUARY 6-12, 2024

MARCH 2-8, 2024

May 4-10, 2024

Transmittals not received by the cutoff date may prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date.

Please note, renewals transmitted and received by the cutoff (which is also a National Target Date) will be updated prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be successfully scanned. Membership that must be hand-keyed (new members and renewals that can't be scanned) will take longer to process.

Please transmit as early and as often as possible in advance of the Target Dates to help avoid delays in processing.



In the 2024 card year, we will continue to promote the 5-year card program. For every 10 new 5-year cards processed starting in the 2024 membership year, the Post will receive a FREE 5-year membership. To qualify for this incentive, a Post must have a current Certification of Officers form and a Consolidated Post Report on file. Your post must also be above the threshold to be a Post in good standing (above 15).

5 YEAR GOLD CARD PLAN

Spread the word to your members regarding the 5 Year Gold Card. This will not only benefit the member, but the post as well. Here are some of the benefits:

- It's money the Posts can invest
- It's cheaper than a Paid Up for Life membership
- It's a convenience for the Post and the member. Department will update all 5 year members at the start of a new card year, which means the posts do not have to collect money on those members. The member then does not have to worry about sending in dues.
- Each 5 year member will receive a "5 Year Gold" card with their name, post number, card & ID number and the years in which they're covered by the plan.
- The cost of a 5 year card is \$175.00. The Post would collect 5 years of post dues and then would submit \$175.00 per capita ($\$35.00 \times 5 = \175.00)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR "NEW" 5 YEAR MEMBERS

- There is NO form for a New 5 YR Member. Follow the instructions below:
- Please mark the upper right hand corner "New 5 YR" (see example above) and place on top of all other renewals when submitted to Department.

2016 The American Legion Record				Department Card 2016			
XXXXXXXXX 16 16000000 101028 4 X				<div style="text-align: right;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW 5 YR <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSFER </div>			
MEMBER ID NO. 123456789		POST NO. 000	CONT.YRS 5	DATE PAID _____ POST ADJT INITIALS _____ <input type="checkbox"/> WWI <input type="checkbox"/> WWII <input type="checkbox"/> KOREA <input type="checkbox"/> VIETNAM <input type="checkbox"/> LEBANON/GRENADA <input type="checkbox"/> PANAMA <input type="checkbox"/> GULF			
NAME (FIRST MIDDLE LAST) JOHN A DOE				NAME (FIRST MIDDLE LAST) JOHN A DOE			
MAILING ADDRESS 123 N ANY ST SOMEWHERE IL 12345				ADDRESS TELE.# () _____ 123 N ANY ST SOMEWHERE IL 12345			
<input type="checkbox"/> CORRECT WAR ERA <input type="checkbox"/> CONT.YRS. OR NAME CHG.				Place X (in #2 pencil) for change or correction in boxes provided. Use the space under the name for name correction. Do not use this card for address changes.			
<input type="checkbox"/> WWI <input type="checkbox"/> WWII <input type="checkbox"/> KOREA <input type="checkbox"/> VIETNAM <input type="checkbox"/> LEBANON/GRENADA <input type="checkbox"/> PANAMA <input type="checkbox"/> GULF 1,028				Duplicate <input type="checkbox"/> Deceased <input type="checkbox"/>			

AUGUST 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		01	02	03	04	05
						STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT 5-6TH (DANVILLE)
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT 5-6TH (DANVILLE)				BASEBALL WORLD SERIES 10-15TH (SHELBY, NC)		
					FALL BOARD MEETING (ROCK ISLAND)	AUX PRESIDENT HOMECOMING (COLONA)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
BASEBALL WORLD SERIES 10-15TH (SHELBY, NC)						
STATE FAIR VETERANS DAY						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					NATIONAL CONVENTION (25-31)	
					SAL NATIONAL CONVENTION (25-27)	
27	28	29	30	31		
AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION (25-31) CHARLOTTE, NC						
SAL NATIONAL CONVENTION (25-27)						

LEGION

AUXILIARY

SAL

SEPTEMBER 2023

S

M

T

W

T

F

S

01

02

03

04

LABOR DAY
(OFFICE CLOSED)

05

06

CMDR APPTS:
4TH DIV - 9:00 AM
3RD DIV - 10:00 AM
2ND DIV - 11:00 AM
1ST DIV - 1:00 PM
5TH DIV - 2:00 PM

07

08

09

10

11

PATRIOT DAY

12

13

14

15

16

FALL D.E.C./CMDR
HOMECOMING
(SPRINGFIELD, IL)

AMERICAN LEGION DAY

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

DIST/DIV
SR/JR VICE
TRAINING

FALL FORUM
TRAINING
(2ND DIV)

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

CMTE/CMSN
FALL MEETINGS

FALL D.E.C./CMDR
HOMECOMING
(GENOA, IL)

OCTOBER 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
01	02	03	04	05	06	07 CMTE/CMSN FALL MEETINGS FALL FORUM TRAINING (1ST DIV)
08	09 COLUMBUS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED) FALL MEETINGS (9-12)	10	11	12	13	14 FALL FORUM TRAINING (4TH DIV)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 FALL FORUM TRAINING (4TH DIV)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 FALL FORUM TRAINING (5TH DIV)
29	30	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN!				

LEGION

AUXILIARY

SAL

NOVEMBER 2023

S M T W T F S

			01	02	03	04
						PAM RAY FUNDRAISER (17TH DIST)
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
					HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALA!	VETERANS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			75% CUTOFF (VETERANS DAY)		EGYPTIAN PAST CMDR CLUB (CARBONDALE)	
AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE (12-17TH)						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				THANKSGIVING (OFFICE CLOSED THURS/FRI)		
26	27	28	29	30		

LEGION

AUXILIARY

SAL

DECEMBER 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
				PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY		SAL D.E.C. (DEPT HQ)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	CHRISTMAS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)					
31						
NEW YEAR'S EVE 85% CUTOFF						

LEGION

AUXILIARY

SAL

JANUARY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	01 NEW YEAR'S DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY CARAVAN (11-20)						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY CARAVAN (11-20)						
	MLK DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
					90% CUTOFF (LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE)	
					ALA LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE AWARD CUTOFF	
28	29	30	31			

LEGION

AUXILIARY

SAL

FEBRUARY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE (SPRINGFIELD, IL)						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	PRESIDENTS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)					WASHINGTON CONFERENCE
25	26	27	28	29		
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE (24-28TH)						

LEGION

AUXILIARY

SAL

MARCH 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					01	02
					ORATORICAL CONTEST (01-02) SPRINGFIELD, IL	
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE AMERICAN LEGION!	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					SPRING BOARD MEETING (22-23)	
					PATRIOTIC CONFERENCE SPRINGFIELD, IL	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					GOOD FRIDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)	
	31					SAL SPRING D.E.C. (EFFINGHAM)
HAPPY EASTER						

- LEGION
- AUXILIARY
- SAL

APRIL 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	01 95% CUTOFF	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13 SPRING D.E.C. @ HOLIDAY INN (NORMAL, IL)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

LEGIONAUXILIARYSAL

MAY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
	SPRING MEETINGS (6-9TH) - INDY					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
						ARMED FORCES DAY DINNER (1ST DIVISION)
		ARMED FORCES WEEK				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	MEMORIAL DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)					

LEGION

AUXILIARY

SAL

JUNE 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
						BOYS STATE
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
PREMIER BOYS STATE (EIU-CHARLESTON) 8-14TH						
					FLAG DAY	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
ILLINI GIRLS STATE 12-22ND						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
YOUTH POLICE SCHOOL 23-28TH						
30						

LEGION

AUXILIARY

SAL

JULY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	01	02	03	04 4TH OF JULY (OFFICE CLOSED)	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
			ANNUAL TAL & ALA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 10-14TH			
					ANNUAL SAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 12-14TH	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
ANNUAL SAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 12-14TH						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

2024

ILLINOIS

MEMBERSHIP YEAR TARGET DATES



75% *VETERAN'S DAY*
NOVEMBER 15, 2023



85% *NEW YEAR'S EVE
DAY* DECEMBER 31, 2023



90% *LINCOLN*
PILGRIMAGE*
JANUARY 26, 2024



100% *ARMED FORCES
DAY* MAY 15, 2024 **

2023-2024

* ALL DISTRICTS AND DIVISIONS THAT EXCEED THIS ILLINOIS TARGET
WILL BE AWARDED A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE AND BASEBALL CAP WITH YEAR

** ALL DISTRICTS AND DIVISIONS THAT EXCEED THIS ILLINOIS TARGET WILL BE AWARDED \$200.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

MOST FORMS AVAILABLE ON ILLEGION.ORG

GOLD BRIGADE AWARDS

Legionaries who recruit 50 or more new members into The American Legion by April 12, 2024 will receive a designer windbreaker, cap, and pin.
Certification forms must be received at Department Headquarters by May 01, 2024.
A list of new members (including name, I.D. number, and Post) must accompany the form.

Only "NEW" members will count. 2910 transfers are not considered 'new' unless expired for 2 or more years.

All "Gold Brigadiers" are entered in a National drawing for a \$1,000 award certificate.

SILVER BRIGADE AWARDS

A legionnaire who recruits 25-49 "New" members into The American Legion by April 12, 2024 will qualify for this award. A silver pin and certificate will be awarded.

Certification forms must be received at Department Headquarters by May 01, 2024.

Only "NEW" members will count. 2910 transfers are not considered 'new' unless expired for 2 or more years.

A list of new members (including name, I.D. number, and Post) must accompany the form.

BRONZE BRIGADE AWARDS

A legionnaire who recruits 12-24 "New" members into The American Legion by April 12, 2024 will qualify for this award. A bronze pin and certificate will be awarded.

Certification forms must be received at Department Headquarters by May 01, 2024.

Only "NEW" members will count. 2910 transfers are not considered 'new' unless expired for 2 or more years.

A list of new members (including name, I.D. number, and Post) must accompany the form.

DEPT. TOP NEW MEMBER RECRUITER AWARD

The Top "New Member" Recruiter recipients will be presented a plaque during the Department Convention for signing up the highest number of new members by April 12, 2024. Certification forms must reach Department Headquarters by May 01, 2024.

Certification forms must be received at Department Headquarters by May 01, 2024.

Only "NEW" members will count. 2910 transfers are not considered 'new' unless expired for 2 or more years.

A list of new members (including name, I.D. number, and Post) must accompany the form.

PIONEER AWARD

The Pioneer Award will be presented to the founder or individual who has been instrumental in the formation of a new Post.

The District Commander of the District the NEW Post is in will certify the recipient of the Pioneer Award.

MEMBERSHIP STARS

Membership Stars will be awarded for recruiting 5, 10, 20, 30, 75, and 100 new members by June 14, 2024.

"Membership Stars" order Form is available upon request from Department Headquarters.

POST AWARDS

**ALL - TIME HIGH / 103% ACHIEVED
GOAL CERTIFICATE/PIN**

Will be awarded to Post Commanders and Membership Chairman who qualify by Convention Seating.

**CERTIFICATE OF
MERITORIOUS SERVICE**

Will be awarded to Posts that enroll 2024 membership greater than previous All-Time High (by 12/31/2023)

POST HONOR RIBBON

Will be awarded to Posts with 2024 membership that exceeds their 2023 membership (by 12/31/2023).

**FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS ALL -TIME
HIGH NATIONAL CITATION**

Will be awarded to Posts with five+ consecutive years of All-Time High membership(Recognized by National).

100% POST CASH AWARDS

**POSTS WITH 2024 MEMBERSHIP OF 100% OR MORE WILL BE
AWARDED CASH AWARDS BELOW BY POST SIZE AND DATE:**



POST SIZE: 15-99	\$100.00	11/15/23
POST SIZE: 100-249	\$1.00 per member	11/15/23
POST SIZE: 250 +	\$1.50 per member	11/15/23

SPECIAL RECRUITING AWARD

The Department Commander has designed special pins for those individuals who have gone the extra mile to recruit new members.



**RECRUIT 10
NEW MEMBERS**

**RECRUIT 15
NEW MEMBERS**



Note: Post Adjutant will forward a list of new members recruited by the qualifying individual to Dept. HQ marked: **ATTN: MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

#1 GOLD PIN AWARD

These pins will travel with the winners until the next award date! The winners at Close of Books that meet the 100% target will retain the Gold Pins.

Beginning with the Fall D.E.C. on September 16, 2023 the 14k Gold #1 pins will be awarded to the Top Division Commander and Division Sr. Vice Commander and to the Top District Commander and District Sr. Vice Commander in each Division with the highest percentage of 2023 membership.

If Department Office is closed on a Target date cards will be accepted until 12:00 noon of the next business day.

For the final Gold Pin Award, the Districts must achieve a minimum of 100% to qualify.



MINIATURE #1 GOLD PIN AWARD

Any Division or District Commander and Senior Vice whom at one time during the year received the Large Gold Pin but were not the **final** recipient of the Gold Pin at convention will only receive a miniature #1 gold pin.

REMINDER!

The winning Districts at any target date that do not achieve the minimum percentage for that target date **ONLY** receive a Miniature #1 Gold Pin



TOP 10 DISTRICT PIN AWARD

Dist. Commanders, Sr. Vice Commanders & Jr. Vice Commanders of Districts with membership placing them in the "Top 10" at the Gold Pin target dates will be awarded traveling "Top 10" pins.

The "Top 10" District Commanders, Sr. Vice Commanders and Jr. Vice Commanders at Convention Seating will be awarded and will keep their Pin.

Must be present at award dates to receive pin. Refer to Illinois Target Dates and calendar.



<u>CUTOFF</u>	<u>AWARD DATE</u>	<u>MINIMUM %</u>
Sept. 16, 2023 (12 NOON)	Sept. 16, 2023 Fall D.E.C.	60%
Nov. 15, 2023 (1:00 P.M.)	Nov. 15, 2023 VETERANS DAY AWARD	75%
January 26, 2024 (1:00 P.M.)	February 12, 2024 Lincoln Pilgrimage	90%
April 01, 2024 (1:00 P.M.)	April 13, 2024 Spring D.E.C.	95%
June 14, 2024 CLOSE OF BOOKS	July 12, 2024 Convention	100%

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN AWARD

The POST that turns in the most cards AT EACH STOP during annual The American Legion Family Caravan held Jan.11 - 20, 2024 receives a special award from the Department Commander!

THERE WILL BE TWO SEPARATE AWARDS AT EACH STOP:

MOST CARDS TURNED IN
BEST ATTENDANCE

LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE AWARD FEBRUARY 12, 2024



This award is an effort to recognize Membership Leaders that have gone the extra mile for Illinois. The Top Division Commander and Senior Vice Commander, and the Top District Commanders and Sr. Vice in each Division as of 1:00 pm on January 26, 2024 will be gifted the Lincoln Pilgrimage jacket and will be the honored guest of the Department of Illinois at the Lincoln Pilgrimage Membership Challenge Reception with the National Commander.

After achieving minimum 90% in membership the Top Division AND District Commander along with Sr. Vice Commander — each will receive 1 (one) free night stay at the designated Lincoln Pilgrimage Hotel in Springfield.

Must be present at the Lincoln Pilgrimage Program to Receive the Award!

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JACKET AWARD



ALL DISTRICT COMMANDERS that stay in the Top 10 Districts for at least 4 out of 5 Gold Pin Target Dates will be awarded a specially designed "Commander's Jacket." The jackets will be awarded at Department Convention. This jacket will signify a District Commander as a "Membership Leader" for the 2024 membership year.

ALL DIVISION COMMANDERS that are the Top Division for at least 3 of the 5 Gold Pin Target Dates will be awarded a specially designed "Commander's Jacket." The jackets will be awarded at Department Convention.



DIVISION & DISTRICT AWARDS

TOP 3	The TOP 3 District Commanders that transfer the most 2910 members by December 31 will receive; 1st place: A voucher good for 15 new members 2nd place: A voucher good for 10 new members 3rd place: A voucher good for 5 new members	DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31
TOP DIVISION & DISTRICT PLAQUE	The Division/District Commanders and Sr. Vice Commanders with the highest percentage of 2024 membership by Close of Books will receive this award at Department Convention. Must have a minimum of 101%	DEADLINE: CLOSE OF BOOKS (06/14/24)
TOP DIVISION COMMANDER AWARD	The TOP Division Commander with at least 85% by the cut-off date will receive 20 membership vouchers to be used for AWARDING their Top District Officers.	DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31
ILLINOIS TARGET DATE AWARD	The District Commander with the highest percent by each Illinois cut-off date will receive a voucher good for 5 new members. MUST MEET OR EXCEED TARGET %	REFER TO PG. 3 FOR ILLINOIS CUT OFF DATES
103% PIN & CERTIFICATE	The Division and District Commanders and Sr. Vice Commanders who qualify by Close of Books will receive this award at Department Convention, along with two free nights' hotel stay at National Convention.	DEADLINE: CLOSE OF BOOKS (06/14/24)
DIST. CMDR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD & HONOR RIBBON	District Commanders whose 2024 membership, as of April 30, 2024, exceeding their 2023 membership by at least the number of Posts in their District will receive this award at Department Convention.	DEADLINE: APRIL 30.
DISTRICT & DIVISION CASH AWARDS	\$600 will be presented to the 1st Place Division AND District that achieves 103% on or before Close of Books. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- \$200 to the Commander- \$200 to the Sr. Vice Commander- \$200 to the Jr. Vice Commander *Awarded at Convention	DEADLINE: CLOSE OF BOOKS (06/14/24)



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ILLINOIS