



# The Insider

American Legion Department of Illinois News  
OCTOBER 2023

BE THE ONE

# 2023—2024 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
10/15/2023	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING—15TH DIST. CANTON POST 16	CANTON
10/18/2023	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	GEORGE W. BENJAMIN POST 791	NORTHBROOK
10/21/2023	20TH DISTRICT	11:00 AM	ELDRED POST 1135	ELDRED
10/25/2023	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	PALATINE POST 690	PALATINE
10/29/2023	4TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	WESTVILLE POST 21	WESTVILLE
11/15/2023	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
11/15/2023	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	RIVER GROVE POST 335	RIVER GROVE
11/17/2023	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	GURNEE POST 771	GURNEE
12/20/2023	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	ELLSWORTH-MEINEKE POST 1983	HOFFMAN ESTATES
01/24/2024	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	MERLE-GUILD POST 208	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
02/04/2024	11TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	NEW LENOX POST 1977	NEW LENOX
02/21/2024	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	ROGERS PARK POST 108	EVANSTON
02/25/2024	16TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	NEPONSET POST 825	NEPONSET
02/28/2024	9TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	BILLY CALDWELL POST 806	FRANKLIN PARK
03/10/2024	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	3RD DIV. SPRING MEETING—20TH DIST.	TBD

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send Dist/Div meeting dates, happenings at your post/community, announcements, etc!

**Email [sgreen@illegion.org](mailto:sgreen@illegion.org) OR send by mail to:**

**American Legion, Dept. of IL**

**P.O. Box 2910 Bloomington, IL 61702**

**ATTN: SHANDI GREEN**

**Please submit any changes or updates to previous submissions to Shandi Green as soon as possible.**

**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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# Delmar BUSKE



# Joseph LAMPERT

**G**reetings Everyone,

It was nice to get back from National Convention and slow down a little bit—YEAH RIGHT! We got two days of rest and then it was off to Lincoln, Nebraska where Luella had her National 8 + 40 meetings. Luella is going up through the National offices there for the next couple of years.

I had a meeting in Marion with the “Retired State Police Association.” I think it was worth my time as we got a \$1,000.00 check for our Youth Police Program and a \$500.00 check for The Haven in Southern Illinois. The Haven Jamboree at The Haven is coming up in November and that is always a good time for all.

My Homecoming in Springfield was great. The DEC that Saturday was fairly well attended. Of course, we would always like to see more people there!

I would like to thank the State Police Honor Guard for bringing the colors in. They are always so professional and we appreciated their presence at the event. We had great entertainment that night, provided by Wes Wheeler. It seemed like everyone had a very good time. It was nice to see the whole family—Legion, Auxiliary and Sons there. I am looking forward to the “family” working together this year.

I am also looking forward to doing the Veterans Outreach (revitalizations) this year. We have all five Divisions lined up and we are excited to hear from the individual Districts and Posts that need help in their membership so that we can line up dates to help and support them in their efforts.

Until next month!

**T**o Our American Legion Family—

Time is flying! I can’t believe that we are one quarter of the way through the Legion Year!

In early August, I had the pleasure of attending the Auxiliary’s Board Meeting and Department President Angie Golightly’s Homecoming. I rode in the Legacy Run from Kokomo, IN to Charlotte, NC. After returning from National Convention, we rolled right into the Fall DEC and Commander Buske’s Homecoming. After that we had our training session with the District and Division Officers. It was well attended and productive as we had some good questions brought up.

At National Convention, a resolution was passed to increase dues by \$5.00 for the 2025 membership year. This means the per capita will increase from \$35.00 to \$40.00. This is a perfect time to get a 5 year membership. With a 5 year membership, the per capita is locked at the current amount.

As I stated, during the DEC, we have improved on membership from a year ago. This is due to all of your hard work. We need to keep the intensity up and I know we will be successful!

Joe Lampert

Sr. Vice Commander



# Angie GOLIGHTLY



# Michael VOZAR

**H**ello American Legion Family,  
Hello from the American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Illinois!

In about 6 months our Auxiliary will start reporting on all that we've done for this year, though it seems we are just getting started. I see many volunteers doing great work throughout the American Legion Family.

I truly enjoyed Commander Buske's Homecoming. Like I said there, and it needs repeated, thank you for voting in such a hardworking, honorable Commander to lead your Department of Illinois American Legion. It is a privilege to work with him and Squadron Commander Vozar. They give us confidence that the membership slide will stop and will continue to climb instead. I can only try to keep up with them.

We are conducting ALA program training throughout the state. You are welcome to attend. Learn everything Auxiliary but were afraid to ask.

Oct 7th	Arlington Hts.#208	at 121N. Douglas
9am		
Oct 14th	Kincaid #905	at 800 Railroad Ave,
10am		
Oct 21st	Havana #138	at 407 S Broadway
10am		
Oct 28th	Collinsville #365	at 1022 Vandalia
St 9am		

We are looking forward to celebrating 'your day' especially at 11:11 on 11/11/2023. We will honor your service throughout the USA. Hope you all feel the love that we are sending to you.

Thank you very much for your service,  
Angie Golightly  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Illinois President  
ago\_lightly@hotmail.com

**G**reetings from The Detachment of Illinois,  
I hope this finds everyone well and enjoying the start of Fall!

I am excited we are off to a good start in membership trying to improve further on last year's 101% finish. Senior Vice Commander Rick Allen is working hard with our District and Division officers on retention and recruiting.

We currently hold 11th place nationally for membership and are in second place in the Central Region

Our Detachment Training and Education Chairman Wayne Madson has scheduled some great training meetings for all Divisions in October.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation is one of the Four Pillars of The American Legion. I had the pleasure of visiting the Danville VA Medical Center on September 22nd for a veterans cookout to help celebrate the hospital's 125th Anniversary. Past Department President Pat-ti Williamson and her husband, my SAL comrade Bruno Williamson, worked hard to organize this event. Both have been passionately involved with VA&R. It was wonderful sharing camaraderie with them as well as PNP Sharon Conatser and Adjutant Marty Conatser for a day of service to our veterans.

Hard to believe we had our first American Legion Family Caravan planning meeting is scheduled for October 4th. Caravan will be here before you know it!

Veterans Day is approaching on November 11th. I look forward to joining the American Legion Family in a Veterans Day event or service.

Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage,  
Michael Vozar, Commander - Detachment of Illinois

# DYING BREED

*Submitted by Michael L. Wojciechowski*

We are what's been categorized as "Baby Boomers." Babies born after World War II, born between 1946-1964. Most of us veterans have served in any number of conflicts over the years: the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Iran/Iraq war, Grenada, the Gulf War, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Afghanistan, or the Iraqi War.

We have managed to survive those conflicts. Some of our brothers and sisters in blood weren't as lucky. We honor them for their service and dedication. We remember them on Memorial Day. We pay tribute to them for their loyalty.

The transition from military life back to civilian life often seems near insurmountable to some of us. Others understand the change of life's priorities and are able to adjust. Some unfortunately contract PTSD due to the horrors of battle. They need specialized medical care. Those of us who have been able to adjust and continue to survive will often compare the rules of engagement of military life to civilian life.

And in that comparison, we often seek the association and friendships that the military taught us. Accepting people for who they really are. Not judging them by their ethnicity, their gender, or their age. The common denominator despite what war or conflict, we all served at one time or another: we become brothers and sisters in arms.

For those of us that sought out those associations have been fortunate to have joined the American Legion, or the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Friends or former battle buddies suggested looking into joining the Legion or VFW. The circle of life that the American Legion and VFW teaches us is to give back. Give back and support other veterans, their families, and the Posts communities.

As an example, American Legion Post 42 Evanston supports the Midwest Veterans Closet, Boy and Cub Scouts, Fisher House, Lovell Legends Olympic Wheelchair Team, PAWS (Pets Assisting Wounded Warriors), and Rebuilding Together. Rebuilding Together is a local annual project where we coordinate and perform maintenance of a specific older local resident's house withing the Posts jurisdiction.

But the time has come for us to refocus. Our numbers are dwindling. Our older veterans and Sons of the Legion (SAL) members are passing on. As we all get older, we become dependent on our loved ones. Sometimes God seems fit to take us from this Earth because his will has been done and our lot in life has been fulfilled.

Those of us in the American Legion, VFW, and the SAL, need to recruit the younger veterans and their families. Our numbers continue to spiral downward. We need to canvass different military bases, reserve centers and our communities. We need to understand the needs of these young veterans and their families. Get them to realize we have the resources to put them in contact with the Veterans Affairs, or a Veteran Service Officer (VSO), or veterans support organizations. They need us just as much as we need them. We are a "Dying Breed" of veterans. Older, yet wiser, and need to share our knowledge in order to help them learn to survive life as we know it.



# mark your calendar!

## OCTOBER

OCT. 7: **CMTE & CMSN MEETINGS / 1ST  
DIV FALL FORUM TRAINING  
(ARLINGTON HEIGHTS)**

OCT 9: **COLUMBUS DAY (OFFICE  
CLOSED)**

OCT. 9-12: **FALL MEETINGS**

OCT. 14: **4TH DIV FALL FORUM  
TRAINING (KINCAID)**

OCT 28: **5TH DIV FALL FORUM  
TRAINING (COLLINSVILLE)**

OCT. 31: **HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**

## NOVEMBER

NOV 4: **PAM RAY FUNDRAISER  
—17TH DISTRICT**

NOV 10: **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALA!**

NOV 11: **VETERANS DAY  
(OFFICE CLOSED)**

NOV 12-17: **AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE**

NOV 15: **75% CUTOFF**

NOV 17: **EGYPTIAN PAST COMMANDER  
CLUB (CARBONDALE)**

NOV 23/24: **OFFICE CLOSED FOR  
THANKSGIVING**

**Loda Post 503**  
  
**107 N. 600 East  
Rd., Loda, Illinois**

**Oct 6, Nov 3 & Dec 1**  
—Fridays at Loda Post 503  
from 4PM to 7PM

The menu includes Fish, Chicken,  
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.

**American Legion**  
**Department of Illinois, Office of**  
**VA&R**

Last month, the American Legion Department of Illinois Office of VA&R provided their first meetings at Headquarters. It was very successful start and will continue to be available every third Wednesday, 0900 until 1400. Veterans and/or their family member will sign in upon arrival. No appointments will be made at this time, those that plan to visit us we ask for your patience as this is new for all those involved. All questions should be directed to 312-980-4266.

It is suggested that you bring the following information with you to help expedite the process.

1. DD-214 and/or activation document
2. A list of your currently diagnosed conditions related to your military service.
3. If there is any relevant records or documents, you may bring them with you however do not bring in boxes. (Call us if you have questions)

# WHAT-A-MELON!



Charlie Kemp, member of American Legion Post 147 in Marion, IL recently participated in the watermelon contest at the Duquoin State Fair.

He won first place with his watermelon of approximately 200 lbs. That's a big melon and the post and District are proud of him!



The American Legion Department of Illinois 25th District was present at the Duquoin state fair on August 27.

Pictured are (left to right) Bill Slider, Commander Bailey Holiday (sitting) Patricia Caraker—VSO, and Senior Vice Commander Gary Reynolds. They had many additional volunteers throughout the day!

(pictured to the right) Jimmy Hunter delivering mini-muffins to the Vets at Manteno Vets Home from S.A.L. Sq 615 Tinley Park. Thanks to George Benda Jr. for the donation!







## 85th HAVEN JAMBOREE

Sponsored by the:

### EGYPTIAN PAST COMMANDERS AND PAST PRESIDENTS CLUBS

**November 17-19, 2023**

The E.P.C.C. has as its main responsibility, the support and maintenance of THE HAVEN, located on beautiful Crab Orchard Lake, Route #13, Carbondale, Illinois. This is an important phase of the rehabilitation work in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. Our main sources of income are: Donations, Annual Dues, Annual Post Per Capita Assessment, Annual Jamboree Raffle, Special Projects, and Poppy Money.

#### JAMBOREE RAFFLE AND DONATIONS

The operation of THE HAVEN is no small undertaking. With your help, the E.P.C.C. has been able to maintain THE HAVEN since 1950. Participation in the Annual Jamboree Raffle will help support THE HAVEN for another year. Please assist by purchasing or selling the enclosed raffle tickets. We will gladly mail extra tickets! Please mail stubs and money to:

William J. Flanagan, Secretary/Treasurer, 409 East Oak Street, New Baden, IL 62265.

If not mailed by **11/10/2023**, please bring them with you.

#### JAMBOREE HOUSING FOR 2023

We will again enjoy the accommodations at the Country Inn and Suites, 1306 Halfway Road, Marion, IL, 62959. Please make your own reservations by calling 1-618-997-2444. Be sure to mention The American Legion block of rooms coded **AMERICAN LEGION HAVEN JAMBOREE** for the weekend of **11/17 through 11/19/2023**. Your reservations must be received by **October 19, 2023**. The rate for the rooms will be \$98.00 plus tax for queen/king; \$108 plus tax for king studio or suite.

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

##### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

1:00 P.M. Tour of the Marion Veterans Administration Medical Center. (possible limit in attendees)

5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. Steak Fry at the Haven. COST \$20.00 per person. Due to large turnout for the steak fry, we appreciate your patience and consideration in seating and serving.

##### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

11:00 A. M. - Sons of The American Legion 5<sup>th</sup> Division meeting at The Haven

1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. Open House at The Haven

5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. Cocktail Hour (Courtesy 5<sup>th</sup> Div. Am. Leg.) Country Inn & Suites

7:00 P.M. **Buffet Style Banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1601 W. White St., Marion.** The Menu will be: Pork Loin, Chicken Au Vin, Mashed Potatoes, Caesar Salad, Vegetable Medley, rolls w/butter, dessert (cheesecake), coffee, tea, water. Directions to the Knights of Columbus Hall will be available at hotel. Cost: \$30.00 a person. Cash bar available.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

9:00 A.M. Egyptian Past Presidents Club, Meeting, Country Inn and Suites  
10:00 A.M. Annual Meeting of the Egyptian Past Commanders Club at The Haven

**MAKE ONE CHECK FOR PAST COMMANDERS DUES, STEAK FRY, BANQUET AND RAFFLE TICKETS PAYABLE TO: THE EGYPTIAN PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**

**CHECKS FOR PAST PRESIDENTS DUES PAYBLE TO: EGYPTIAN PAST PRESIDENTS CLUB**

**PAST PRESIDENTS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

Dues are \$5.00 per year.

Detach and mail to: Judy Zimmerman  
5531 Oak Street, Highland, IL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dist. \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PAST COMMANDERS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

Dues are \$5.00 per year.

Detach & mail to William Flanagan 409 E. Oak,  
New Baden, IL 62265

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dist \_\_\_\_\_ Post \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**STEAK FRY RESERVATIONS Friday evening, November 17, 5-8 P.M. Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 per person). Reservations due 11/10/2023**

Detach and mail to: William Flanagan  
409 E. Oak, New Baden, IL 62265

Steak \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**BANQUET RESERVATION FORM – Knights of Columbus Hall, Marion**

**Reservations due 11/10/2023 for Buffet Banquet.** Detach and mail to William Flanagan  
409 E. Oak, New Baden, IL 62265

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$30 per person) for E.P.C.C. Banquet, **Saturday, 11/18/2023.**

Tickets may be picked up at door. Please include all names for reservations.

\_Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_



*Upcoming Fundraising Events in support of*

**PAM RAY**

*For 2024-2025 National President*



**Springfield Post #32 American Legion Family (Post, Unit, Squadron & Riders) are sponsoring a Fundraiser for Pam Ray for National President. We are having a DECEMBER CALENDAR RAFFLE and those that enter have 31 chances to win from \$25.00 to \$1,000.00, plus you are supporting Pam for National President. Tickets are only \$10.00 each and you can purchase as many as you desire. **Send your check made out to American Legion Post 32, for however many tickets you want, along with your name, address and phone number to:****

**American Legion Post 32  
Pam Ray for National President  
1120 Sangamon Avenue  
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853**

**We will fill out your entries for you and place them in the raffle barrel. Thanks all!  
Mike Walton, Past Commander  
American Legion Post 32**

## **Fundraiser for Pam Ray For National Auxiliary President**

**Saturday, November 4, 2023**

**Casino Event 3-6 pm**

**Raffles & Silent Auction will follow @ 6 pm**

**For more information contact:**

**Marsha Haag: (815) 228-2133**

**Rick Allen: (815) 383-1195**

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
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15th of each month for it to be in the next months issue.

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

MEMBERSHIP  
UPDATE

Top 10	
District	Commander
17	Rodriguez
4	Acevedo
8	McNellis
13	Gibbs
16	Hope
9	Kwiatkowski
19	Walker
18	Taylor
23	Mattmiller
10	Sassorossi



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