



The Insider

American Legion Department of Illinois News

AUGUST 2024



CONTENTS



01 MEET YOUR NEWLY ELECTED LEADERSHIP!

03 Important Dates & Membership Dues Update

04 Local Happenings

05 Commander's Homecoming Reservation Sheet

06 Department Convention Membership Awards

07 Photos from Department Convention

07 Photos from Department Convention

NO MEMBERSHIP REPORT

2024—2025 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	DETAILS & LOCATION
08/17/2024	22ND DISTRICT	11:00 AM	ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING @NASHVILLE POST 110
08/18/2024	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	DIVISION MEETING @ MT. STERLING POST 374
09/18/2024	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ LINCOLNWOOD POST 1226
09/20/2024	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ ROUND LAKE POST 1170
09/29/2024	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	DISTRICT MEETING @ GRANVILLE POST 180
10/06/2024	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ SPRINGFIELD POST 809
10/06/2024	22ND DISTRICT	11:00 AM	DISTRICT MEETING @ O'FALLON POST 137
10/13/2024	19TH DISTRICT	TBD	FALL MEETING @ STEWARDSON, IL
10/13/2024	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	MACOMB POST 6 MEETING @ VFW
10/16/2024	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ NORTHBROOK POST 791
10/20/2024	4TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	DIVISION MEETING @ CISSNA PARK POST 527
10/20/2024	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	DIVISION MEETING @ MARION POST 147
11/02/2024	19TH DISTRICT	TBD	19TH DISTRICT CARAVAN—OCT 2 & 3
11/03/2024	19TH DISTRICT	TBD	19TH DISTRICT CARAVAN—OCT 2 & 3
11/15/2024	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ GURNEE POST 771
11/20/2024	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ MORTON GROVE POST 134
01/15/2025	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ MORTON GROVE POST 134
01/19/2025	22ND DISTRICT	11:00 AM	DISTRICT MEETING @ EDWARDSVILLE POST 199
01/26/2025	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	(TENTATIVE) DIVISION MEETING @ ST. LIBORY POST 683

MEET YOUR NEWLY ELECTED



Department
Commander,
**JOSEPH
LAMPERT**

Joe Lampert has been a member of The American Legion for 22 years. He is from Morton Grove, Illinois and is an active member of Morton Grove Post 134.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in September of 1984 and served 14 years on active duty in the Submarine Force and 10 years in the Naval Reserve with the Seabees. In 2006 Joe was deployed to Iraq for Operation Enduring Freedom / Iraqi Freedom. He retired in September 2009 at the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

He has gone through the chairs at the Post, District and Division Levels and is currently the Post Judge Advocate & Parliamentarian. He has completed The American Legion Extension Course, The American Legion Basic Training and is a 2014 National American Legion College Graduate. He is a member of ANAVICUS, VFW Post 450, The 40 & 8 Voiture 220, DAV & Egyptian Past Commanders Club. At the Department level, he served on the National Security Commission and is the Chairman of The American Legion Riders Advisory Committee. At the National level he has been serving on the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee since 2015. He has served as Assistant Sergeant at Arms for both Department and National Conventions.

He currently works for Cleveland Cliffs Steel in East Chicago, Indiana as the Section Manager for Contractor Administration. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organization Management from Calumet College of St. Joseph and a Master of Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University. He has two daughters, Elizabeth (35) and Megan (32), who both live in Florida and are Auxiliary members.



Department Sr.
Vice Commander,
**ROY
SMITH**

Roy E. Smith has been a member of the American Legion for over 32 Years. His eligibility in the American Legion Comes

from his enlistment in the U.S. Navy in 1977 and retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer 2 in 1998.

After his retirement from the US Navy he continued working in power plants as a maintenance Supervisor, and as the Senior Outage Coordinator/Planning Supervisor for Thomas Hill Power Station, culminating his working career as Operations manager at Clay County Hospital.

In his Tenure in the American Legion, he has served as Post, District and Division Commander, he has also been the Post adjutant, District Adjutant and Finance Officer. He has been the Department Asst. Medical Officer and Asst. Sargent at Arms. He has also currently serving as the Vice Chairman of the Dept. of Illinois American Legion Riders Committee, and a member of the Department of Illinois Internal Affairs Commission, and past Vice Chairman.

At the National Level he has served on the Nation Security Council. Currently serving on the National American Legion Internal Affairs Commission and is a member of the National Sons of the American Legion Commanders Advisory Committee.

Roy is active in the Louisville Post 914 in Louisville Illinois

Served as the Past President of the Egyptian Past Commanders Club Haven Board, and is currently a member of the Haven Board of Directors

Recipient of 2020 Terry L. Woodburn, Illinois American Legion Rider of the Year.

Roy is married to Tena (aka Little Bit). They have 2 children and 3 grandchildren, daughter Katherine (Katie) Washburn and husband Christian, they have 3 children, Talon, Amelia and Quinn, and son Roy W. Smith wife Sarah. Everyone being a part of the Legion Family.

2024-2025 LEGION LEADERSHIP



Department
President,

**ARLENE
HOLTGRAVE**

Arlene Holtgrave is a 42 year Paid-up-for Life member of the American Legion Auxiliary Timmermann-Benhoff Unit 252 Breese, Illinois.

Her eligibility is through her husband Ronald “Moose” Holtgrave, who served in the United States Army 1971-1973 during the Vietnam Era in Okinawa, Japan. She is also a Gold Star Sister through her brother Ronald J. Tebbe, who died in Vietnam July 1968. Her two daughters and granddaughter are also members of Unit 252, and her 3 grand sons are members of Sons of the American Legion Squadron 252.

Arlene found her love for the American Legion family during her time volunteering on many chairmanships at the Unit, District, Division and Department levels. She served as 23rd District president as well as unit president. She has also been the unit secretary and membership co-chair for over 20 years. She has also served as Poppy Chairman and several other committee chairs at the Unit level. She has held all available officer positions and Finance, Legislative and Illini Girl State chairman at the district level. She has served numerous times as Sgt-at-Arms, Asst. Sgt-at-Arms, Finance and other numerous chairmanships at the Division level. She has served on the Finance Committee, Legislative, and Americanism chairs as well as Asst. Sgt-at-Arms and an Illini Girl State staff member at the Department level. She has attended several National Conventions and leadership courses as well as department convention for many years.

Arlene has been a beautician for over 50 years and retired from driving a school bus after 24 years of service. Arlene has been married to her husband, Moose, for 47 years and a proud mother of 3 children, Ronnette Elliott and husband Nathan, Jessica Luebbers and husband Matthew and Terry Holtgrave (deceased). Arlene has 4 grandchildren, three boys and one girl.

Theme: Building a Brighter Future for our Veterans
President's Special Project: Auxiliary Emergency Fund



Detachment
Commander,

**RICK
ALLEN**

Rick Allen is a 13 year charter member in good standing with the Sons of the American Legion at Skinner Trost Squadron

122 in Cullom, Illinois. His eligibility is thru his father, Richard Allen who served in the United States Army from 1955 to 1957 in Korea. His father was a member of the Skinner Trost American Legion Post 122 and served as Commander in Cullom, IL. Rick has always been a volunteer for many organizations. It wasn't until he retired that he found his real vision to work with the Sons of the American Legion and working with the legion and their programs to support the Veterans. He believes in the Legion Family and their support. Rick has been elected at Squadron, District, and Detachment positions in the Sons of the American Legion. He has taken part in many Revitalizations with the legion in 2022. He was 4th Division Member of the Year and on December 4, 2023, he was recognized by the National American Legion for his work in Training and field work in the 4th Division Revitalization Program. He has taken part in cooking for the Veterans at Danville VA. During his 2023-2024 term as Detachment Sr. Vice Commander, which ended on June 10, 2024, they were over 100 % of the Goal and 90% plus retention. His program is Operation Comfort Warrior designed to help Veterans with needs they could not receive from the Federal programs. Those who suffer from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), this program offers support. 100% of donations go directly to veterans. A graduate of Tri-Point High School, Cullom, Illinois. Rick worked for the Illinois Department of Transportation as a Highway Maintainer for 28 years. He retired and now works on the farm. He has been married to his wife Vicki for 42 years, and is the proud father of two children (and spouses), Jeremy and wife Lisa and Rebecca Henrichs and husband Justin. Rick has 4 grandchildren, three girls and one boy. Motto: Planting the seeds of progress for a stronger family. Commander's Project: Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW)

mark your calendar!

AUGUST

AUG 16-17: **INDY RACES (ST. LOUIS)**

AUG 23-29: **NATIONAL CONVENTION**

SEPTEMBER

SEPT. 2: **LABOR DAY**

(OFFICE CLOSED)

SEPT 4: **CMDR APPTS(@HQ)**

SEPT 11: **PATRIOT DAY**

SEPT 14: **FALL D.E.C. & CMDR**

HOMECOMING (CHICAGO)

SEPT 28: **FALL MEETINGS / SAL FALL**

DEC (BARTONVILLE POST 979)



On 7/23/2024 the first application for property tax exemption for WWII veterans was filed in McLean County. This was done under Public Act 103-0596. The member was for Harlan Bottles of Post 79. The process was done by Art Rodriguez, 17th District Commander, and Jerry Vogler, District Adjutant. This tax break is long time coming for our WWII Veterans. This will bring the property tax to zero in 2025 for the taxing year 2024.

The American Legion Post 52 was named the 2023 Service Organization of the Year in Romeoville. Member Tom Concannon was named Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations!



Welcome to Hyatt Leverage.

Your list of travel to-dos just got shorter.

We're excited to help your company travel smarter.

To start using your Hyatt Leverage benefits, simply enter your new corporate code, 231467, under Special Rates → Corporate or Group Code when booking on Hyatt.com. Travelers will need to select your company's special rate for their stays to be included in your travel tracking tool, which you can access by logging into Hyatt Leverage using your World of Hyatt #.

Once logged in, you can also easily share the benefits with your travelers by downloading our ready-to-send email templates.

Hyatt Leverage Code:
231467

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

National HQ is now requiring \$40.00 regardless of the card year. Unfortunately, the Department's have no recourse with this requirement.

If any member of your post wants to pay 2024 dues or back, will now be required to pay the \$40.00

If you have any questions, please contact the Dept. of IL 309-663-0361.



On July 28th, The 15th District held their picnic at the Quincy Veterans Home. Everyone was all smiles after we served approximately 130 Veterans charcoal grilled hamburgers, coleslaw and baked beans, and strawberry shortcake and ice cream. Pictured above are photos from the event featuring Quincy home residents and of course our Legion and Auxiliary volunteers from posts 1,37, 381, and 644. Without volunteers and donations this event would not be possible. Thank you!



Junior Members have the honor of laying a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery

Because of the encouragement and generosity of their post, Marrs Meyer American Legion Post 991, two junior members of the Legion family were able to join their school on a once-in-a lifetime trip to our nation's capital, and experience four days of history, art, government and Americanism in Washington, D.C.

On April 26, 2024, Sophie and Mario had the privilege of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. They were granted permission to add a ribbon honoring their post. Sophie is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, and Mario is a member of the Sons of the American Legion. Both are active American Legion volunteers and attend St. Albert the Great School in Burbank, Ill.

*sourced from legiontown.org

"Madam Secretary, are you a Legionnaire?"

Was the simple question Cheri Stanton asked the Honorable Christine Elizabeth Wormuth while lining up for the photo to the right. Her response? "NO, I HAVE NEVER BEEN ASKED!" Upon hearing this, Cheri whipped out an application that she received from Commander Roy at his meet & greet and said "Mark this off your bucket list because it's official. Choose your home post or one from Virginia where you live now. Just be comfortable with your selection."

Joyce Miller, Virginia Echelon 24 Director Rita Chandler, PND Diane Schmidt, PND Cheri Stanton (Past Department Commander), the Honorable Christine Elizabeth Wormuth the United States Secretary of the Army, National Director Gigi Callaway and Tonya L. Meunier at 27th Annual Memorial Day Program at The Military Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.





The American Legion Department of Illinois

proudly presents

JOSEPH LAMPERT

FALL D.E.C.

**Saturday, September
14, 2024 at 1:00 PM**

Meeting will be held in
Garden A & B
Hilton Garden Inn—
Chicago O'Hare Airport
2930 South River Road,
Des Plaines, IL 60018

HOUSING:

**Hilton Garden Inn @
Chicago O'Hare Airport**

2930 South River Road
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Room rate: \$139 per night
+ tax

For reservations,
call 847-296-8900



COMMANDER JOSEPH LAMPERT'S HOMECOMING DINNER

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Social Hour: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn—Chicago O'Hare Airport
2930 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60018

Dinner will be served buffet style at \$70.00 per person
Mail check & reservation form no later than September 3, 2024 to:
Sharon Conatser 2305 Rebecca Dr. Champaign, IL 61821

For questions or special dietary needs:
Sharon Conatser (C)217/369-6211; or email: sconatser44@live.com

Name: _____ Division# _____

Address: _____ District# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone# _____

Number of Person(s) _____ (For group seating, attach request with this form)

Amt Enclosed: _____ (Make checks payable to Sharon Conatser)

Department Convention Membership Awards

We congratulate all the Districts and Divisions that were recognized and appreciate your hard work and dedication to our organization. Without you, there would be no American Legion Department of Illinois. Thank you!



2024 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION



The Legion Family came together to close yet another successful year. We were excited to see **55 first timers** in attendance! Thank you to all who joined us in Springfield. We look forward to another great Legion year.





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

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MEMBERSHIP REPORTS FOR
2024-2025 YEAR WILL BE
INCLUDED IN DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER STARTING IN
SEPTEMBER.



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website.