

Fall Report

Community Service

Community Service	X
Disaster Relief	
Legion Riders	X
Public Relations	
Religious Emphasis	
Sons of American Legion Liaison	
State Fair/Veterans Day	X
Legislative Commission	X
Flag Alliance	

VETERANS SERVICES

Veterans Employment & Education Commission	
Gifts to the Yanks who Gave	
Hospital Services	
National Cemetery/Monument (cem.va.gov)	
Poppy Sales/Production	X
Technology	X
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	X
Veterans Assistance Liaison	
Veterans' Home Advisory	X

YOUTH & FAMILY

Americanism Commission	X
American Legion Baseball	
Boy Scout Committee	X
Children & Youth	X
Premier Boys State	
Safety Law & Order	X
Education Scholarships/Awards	X
Temporary Financial Assistance	

SUPPORT THE TROOPS

National Security	X
POW/MIA	X

DEPARTMENT

Internal Affairs	
Finance	
Leadership	X

Community Service Committee Report: September 27, 2024.

The Community Service Committee has prepared this first report for the 2024-25 year for the Department of Illinois. The Committee held a Zoom call meeting September 26, 2024 for the purpose of discussing the goals and the actions we plan to take this year. The Committee is Jerry Howard, Chairman, Josefina Frances, Vice Chairman, Gary Reynolds, Ron Hoffman and William Seward.

The following is a description of the discussions, the recommendations and plans for this year.

1. The \$3,715.00 budget was recommended for the year. This is the same as previous years.
2. The brochure we had last year will be updated for the current year. Photographs of last year's winners will be inserted into the brochure. No major wording changes were recommended for the brochure. We will ask all 2024-25 winners for new photos of themselves for our use.
3. Jerry Howard and Josefina Frances will work together to come up with new guidelines and suggestions for Post Scrapbooks. We would like to see more continuity for the scrapbook entries.
4. The Committee agreed to submit for review by the Department of Illinois a new award program called "Commander's Post Achievement Award". The award will go to Posts that have completed an outstanding single activity/project in their community. A full description of the new award rules and procedures are about finished. Shandi Green has agreed to design the certificate. The Committee believes the program will become a big success statewide.
5. The Committee would like for more of the photos of award winners to be added to Facebook. We will continue to work with Department to learn more.
6. The Committee agreed that we should continue to use all communication resources used last year (like Constant Contact, Zoom calls, emails) to contact our Posts about the Community Service Committee Programs. We will continue to communicate with Posts at all levels (Department, Division, County, District).
7. The Committee agreed to continue more Zoom calls this year. No next meeting date was set. All members agreed to meet as often as needed.

Submitted by the Community Service Committee.

For Veterans, Youth and Community,

Jerry Howard

Chairman

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

Chairman Reece called the meeting to order at 1300 at Department Headquarters.

3 members of the committee were present.

- Joe Lampert – 1st Division (Dept Commander) Excused
- John Reece – 2nd Division – Chairman - Present
- Ron Harkness – 3rd Division - Present
- Mike Lee – 4th Division – Vice Chairman - Present
- Roy Smith 5th Division (Dept Sr. Vice Commander) Excused

Mike Lee brought up the importance of communication from the Committee to the Chapters and vice versa. This will be a primary focus within the committee this year. We will be reaching out and requesting ALL Chapters check and refile their Chapter info as well as their Officer Certification forms (Please use the form on the Department website). You can expect to receive info via email (for those on file), or from the Department newsletter. **IT IS IMPARITIVE THAT WE HAVE GOOD AND CORRECT EMAILS, AND PHONE # FOR ALL CHAPTERS.**

It has been brought to our attention that some of the info under the rider's tab on the Department website is incorrect. We will be working on updating/correcting that issue with Webmaster.

Also, we are constructing a website for Illinois ALR. The name is reserved and the website will be live sometime during the weekend of October 5. The website is www.illinoisamericanlegionriders.com.

Mike Lee and his Chapter in Springfield are working on a run to the department convention that will allow for riders to stay for the Friday of convention, thus enabling more growth and spread of information. More will be coming via email and newsletter.

The committee is also looking into creating a "Ride in event" where Chapters from all over the State can come together and work on our goals together. Again, more info will be coming via email and newsletter.

The Legion Riders, Nationally, raised over 1 million dollars for the old Legacy Run (now called the Veterans and Children's Fund).

Department Commander Lampert and Sr. Vice Smith stopped by our meeting and expressed wishes for a successful year as well as strongly supporting our wish to increase and improve communication throughout the organization. Both remain committed to the ALR during their term of Office at Department. We wish them well and offer our support.

If you have questions or something you need help with or just want to start a Chapter, please contact your Division ALR Chairman.

Sincerely,

John B. Reece Jr.

Illinois ALR Chairman

State Fair and Uniform Groups Minutes

Oct 5, 2024

Chairman Larry Miller called meeting to order at Department Headquarters at 1300.

Members present:

3rd Div Craig Fetzner

5th Div Larry Miller, Chairman

Excused:

2nd Div Thomas Lynch (GTTY Meeting at same time)

4th Div Mark Friedman (family business)

Asked for resignation:

1st Div James Kostka

Gold Star and Veterans Day at the Springfield State Fair is August 10, 2025. The DuQuoin State Fair runs from Aug 26-Sep 5, 2025, so it is suspected Veterans Day at the DuQuoin Fair will be Sunday Aug 31, 2025. At the Fair in Springfield, Veterans and their immediate families are admitted to the fair grounds free. A Veterans Parade and activities are some highlights. Discounted ride passes for families of the military veteran will be available in Springfield.

The veteran activities and events at the Springfield Fair are suggested by the Illinois Veterans Day State Fair Committee, a 501(c)(3) organization. The purpose of the committee is to publicize the Illinois State Fair Veterans Day program throughout the state, attend and actively participate during the day of activities at the fairgrounds, and to fund raise for the day's events. The committee's monthly meeting is held at the offices of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) in Springfield, with a virtual option available.

A discussion on the parade at the fair took place. In the past, the various veteran service organizations would provide a color guard and lead the parade at the fairgrounds, rotating the lead organization each year. In 2024, the VFW provided the color guard and led the parade. The determination as to who will lead the parade in 2025 has not been made as yet. Also discussed was parade entry registration. The form was apparently sent to the department and the committee wasn't notified. Registration forms need to be sent out several months prior to the parade to allow for anyone wishing to join in, to make their wishes known.

To raise funds for supporting the activities for the Veterans Day at the State Fair, a fund raising letter was developed to request sponsorship and donations from businesses.

Chairman Miller pointed out the description of the tasking for the State Fair Veterans Day and Uniformed Groups Committee is in the Department Directory. He pointed out that the duties of the committee are to help on Veterans Day at the fair and duties are assigned by the superintendent of the fair. The fair no longer has a superintendent, but now a Fair Manager. However, the organizing committee asks for volunteers to pass out the state fair pins and food vouchers, and other activities as needed.

The budget for the State Fair Committee remains the same as last year and the year before that at \$3,150. About the only expenditures that came from the 2023-2024 budget was travel. The American Legion did not provide any money for the JROTC awards in the past several years. In the past, different veteran service organizations would rotate funding the JrROTC 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaques. That practice ceased 2022, with the awards presented to the winners bearing the names of the

supporting veterans service organizations.

Another duty of the Department State Fair committee is to promote the organization, maintenance and sponsorship of the various types of musical and drill groups in the Post, Districts or County Councils and arrange for competitions to conform to the rules of the National and Department Convention. We need to query within their division to determine if there were any color guard units active in their divisions. If so, then we could move forward and attempt to make arrangements for competition at the Department Convention.

Commander Lampert and Adjutant Conatser needed to leave for Indianapolis, so briefed Chairman Miller on some items to share with the committee.

First, Commander Lampert thanks the committees for their dedication and involvement, and as the first line in communicating to the legionnaires in the Posts, districts, and divisions. The communications regarding what is transpiring in the organization in relationship to activities begins at the commission/committee level. Share the information within posts, districts, and divisions; so that Legionnaires and the public can see what the Legion is doing. Let's not keep the Legion our best kept secret. Rather than just reporting what happens in the commission/committee meetings, share a bit about the programs the commissions/committees support and be the advocate for those programs.

Ensure your contact information is up to date in MyLegion.

Commissions and committee chairs must make an end of year report for inclusion in the convention book. Start making notes now.

Adjutant Conatser commented on the Department gun raffle. The last of the mailings have gone out through the hard work of Legion volunteers. Using in house volunteers helps save the department several thousands of dollars, over using an outside vendor to run the raffle.

Meeting was adjourned at 1350.

Respectfully, submitted Larry Miller, Chairman

American Legion Department of Illinois

Legislative Commission

Meeting - September 28, 2024

The Legislative Commission meeting was held at Department Headquarters on September 28, 2024. Chairman Kilkenny called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and led with a salute to the colors and pledge of allegiance. Mark Young offered prayer.

Attending were commission members:

Division 1, Ken Trumbull

Division 2, Ed Stash

Division 3, Kevin Kilkenny, Chairman

Division 4, Division Commander Mark Young sitting in for Commission Member George Elzy

Division 5, Larry Miller, Vice Chairman

There were two guests, Glen Goodrich, 21st District Commander and Jan Sanders, 21st District Sr Vice.

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Attached to these minutes are legislative actions that were introduced in the 103rd General Assembly. Miller spoke briefly about the status of these actions. Several were passed and became public acts, many others remain assigned to committees, with potentially no action in sight before the end of the 103rd General Assembly on January 5, 2025. The 104th General Assembly begins on January 6, 2025. Any legislation from the current assembly that needs to be re-introduced to the 104th, will need to be identified and sponsors acquired. The next time the General Assembly will meet will be for two weeks in November when they come together for

Legislative news and legislation to watch.

The Illinois 103rd General Assembly will end in January 2025 when the 104th General Assembly begins on January 6, 2025.

The House and Senate have been out and haven't had any meetings recently. The next time they will be in session is during the Veto Sessions in November. Veto session is held for six days every fall to allow the General Assembly to take action on bills that the governor has vetoed. Since the governor hasn't vetoed any bills in the 2nd session of the 104rd GA, we need to keep in mind the veto session is not limited to bills that have been vetoed, meaning almost anything could be called over the upcoming veto session.

What follows are several bills in the General Assembly that have an impact on veterans.

To research any bill the Illinois General Assembly Site at <https://ilga.gov>

Type in bill number (must be 4 numbers after the HB or SB)

I encourage those interested to visit or bookmark a link to Illinois General Assembly Dashboard at <https://my.ilga.gov>

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Discussion regarding submission of witness slips. Whenever legislation is discussed in committee meetings, citizens are able to submit witness slips identifying their position on the legislation, whether they are a proponent or opponent on the subject legislation. The ILGA Dashboard may be found at <https://my.ilga.gov>. This dashboard shows the General Assembly session schedules. When committee meetings are scheduled, users may submit a witness slip.

In March of 2024, several veterans organizations visited Capitol Hill in Springfield to meet with legislators. Those present gathered in three groups representing northern Illinois, central Illinois, and southern Illinois to visit senators and representatives from their areas. It was generally considered successful and created a presence in the capital office buildings of the various organizations head covers. The plan is to conduct another Veterans Lobby Day on March 12, 2025.

A question came up about the appropriations for the PACT act.

There was a brief discussion regarding county Veterans Assistance Commissions (VAC), and information provided for information.

At 10:25, the meeting was visited by Department Commander, Joe Lampert; Department Sr Vice, Roy Smith; and Department Adjutant, Josh Thielen.

Commander Lampert encouraged communication at all levels, up and down. We owe it to legion members to let them know what is going on.

Sr Vice Smith spoke on membership. As of the date of the meeting, Illinois was in 14th place in the nation for membership. Need to conduct or keep conducting Buddy Checks, part of the communications process.

Adjutant Thielen addressed the need for members to keep their MyLegion information up to date. He also encouraged commission and committees to keep their portion of the web site up to date. All commission and committee chairmen should be turning in an End of Year report prior to the convention for inclusion in the convention book.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting ended at 10:35am. The next meeting will be held via Zoom, date to be announced.

Submitted by:

Larry Miller
Vice Chairman
Acting Secretary

Legislation considered during the 103rd General Assembly that became public law or resolutions that were adopted:

HB0612 - REVENUE-TECH Rep Kifowit

Public Act 103-0596, 7/1/24

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Property Tax Code. In a Section granting a homestead exemption to veterans with disabilities, provides that property that is used as a qualified residence by a veteran who was a member of the United States Armed Forces during World War II is exempt from taxation regardless of the veteran's level of disability. Provides that a veteran who qualifies as a result of his or her service in World War II need not reapply for the exemption. Makes changes concerning service-connected disabilities. Makes changes concerning surviving spouses.

HB4661 - PUBLIC UTILITIES-INFRASTRUCTURE

Public Act 103-0679, 7/19/24

Amends the Public Utilities Act. Provides that no electric utility shall establish or maintain any unreasonable difference as to rates or other charges, services, contractual terms, or facilities for access to or the use of its utility infrastructure by another person or for any other purpose. Amends the Electric Service Customer Choice and Rate Relief Law of 1997. Prohibits an electric utility in a county with a population of 3,000,000 or more from authorizing any other person or granting any other person the right, by agreement, lease, license, or otherwise, to access, control, use, or operate any electric utility's infrastructure, facilities, or assets of any kind or to deliver or provide to the electric utility's retail customers or any other person's customers, broadband services, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services, telecommunications services, or cable or video programming services. Specifies, however, that an electric utility in a county with a population of 3,000,000 or more may authorize or grant another person the right to access or use the electric utility's infrastructure, facilities, or assets, including, but not limited to, middle mile infrastructure, to facilitate the delivery of broadband services to Illinois residential and commercial customers on the condition that the access to and use of that electric utility's infrastructure, facilities, and assets (A) be granted on a non-discriminatory, non-exclusive, and competitively neutral basis; and (B) comply with all other State and federal laws, rules, and regulations, including, but not limited to, all applicable safety codes and requirements. Provides that, if there is any dispute regarding the terms, rates, or conditions of access to or use of the electric utility's infrastructure, facilities, and assets to facilitate the delivery of broadband services to Illinois residential and commercial customers, then the Commission shall hear and decide the dispute upon petition of any party. Provides that nothing in the amendatory Act shall be construed to alter or diminish the rights or obligations of any person nor shall it be deemed to conflict with the federal Pole Attachment Act. Specifies that these prohibitions become inoperative after December 31, 2027. Defines terms.

HB4757 - VETS-BENEFITS NOTICE POSTER

Public Act 103-0828, 8/9/24

Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Provides that the Department of Veterans Affairs shall create, and the Department of Labor shall make available, at no cost, a veterans and service members' benefits, services, and protections poster. Requires the poster to include, but not be limited to,

information regarding free veterans' benefits and services provided by the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and other veterans service organizations, tax benefits, the Illinois veteran driver's license and non-driver veteran identification card, and Illinois protections for survivors of sexual violence in the military. Requires the poster to also include contact information for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs; and the Veterans Crisis Line. Effective January 1, 2025.

HB5640 - VETERANS-SPACE FORCE

Became Public Act 103-0746, 8/2/24

Amends the Statute on Statutes. Provides that whenever there is a reference in any Act to "armed forces", "armed forces of the United States", "U.S. Armed Forces", "United States Armed Forces", or "uniformed services", these terms shall be construed to include the United States Space Force. Amends the Flag Display Act, the Secretary of State Merit Employment Code, the Veterans Preference Act, the Veterans Burial Places Act, and various other Acts. In all occurrences of the definition for "armed forces of the United States" and "member of the Armed Services or Reserve Forces of the United States" expands the list of armed forces branches to include the Space Force. Makes conforming changes in the definition of "veteran" under the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Law, in the definition of "military service" under the Illinois Pension Code, and in a provision under the Veterans Burial Places Act that lists the various military branches that make up the Reserve Officers Training Corps. Makes other conforming changes.

HB5655 -VETERANS' SERVICES TASK FORCE

Became Public Act 103-0871, 8/9/24

Amends the Public Higher Education Act. Provides that the governing board of each public institution of higher education shall adopt a policy to allow a student who is a member of the National Guard of any state, the District of Columbia, a commonwealth, or a territory of the United States or any reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States to submit classwork and complete any other class assignments missed due to the student participating in a drill required as a member of the National Guard or the reserve component.

HR0506 - SUPPORT FAMILY CAREGIVERS Veteran Caregiver Benefits

Resolution Adopted 5/3/24

Urges the passage of important policies to better support family caregivers, particularly by enacting policies that: (1) provide increased funding for Illinois' Community Care Program, Home Delivered Meals, the Illinois Family Caregiver Act, Illinois Area Agencies on Aging, Illinois Case Coordination Units, Long-Term and Home Care Ombudsman, and other older adult programs and resources for Illinois caregivers at the Illinois Department on Aging and other State agencies, and examine policy changes to improve the navigability of these resources, (2) improve the inclusion of family caregivers in their loved one's care and hospital discharge and planning, and provide them with the education, training, and support they need, including as their loved one moves from one place of care to another, in Hospital at Home programs, in Medicare more broadly, and in measures of provider engagement with and in support of family caregivers and family caregivers' experience of care and support, and support veterans and their caregivers, (3) increase access to options and eligibility for care at home, including but not limited to providing permanent financial protections for the spouses of individuals receiving Medicaid Home and Community Based Services, incentivizing Home and Community Based Services expansion, expanding caregiver and senior support options and resources in the State's

Community Care Program, and more, (4) attract and retain direct care workers through increased pay and benefits, improved training, career pathways, and other job improvement initiatives, and (5) provide financial relief for family caregivers, such as through a family caregiver income tax credit, to help offset a portion of caregiving expenses paid by caregivers.

SB2626 - CRIM ID ACT-EXPUNGEMENT FILING

- Expungement from Veterans Treatment Court

Became Public Act 103-0755, 8/2/24

Amends the Criminal Identification Act. Provides that, in anticipation of the successful completion of a diversion program, a petitioner may file a petition for expungement at least 61 days before the anticipated dismissal of the case. Provides that, if a petition is filed, and upon the successful completion of the diversion program and dismissal of the case, the court shall review the petition and shall grant expungement if the petitioner meets all requirements. Amends the Drug Court Treatment Act, the Veterans and Servicemembers Court Treatment Act, and the Mental Health Court Treatment Act to make conforming changes.

SB3479 - Claim Shark Amendment

Became Public Act 103-0783, 8/6/24

Amends provisions of the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act concerning deceptive practices targeting veterans and military members. Changes the definition of "veteran or military benefits services" to any services offered or provided to a veteran, military member, or family member who is entitled to receive benefits under federal, State, or local law, policy, or practice as a result of, at least in part, qualifying military service. Such services include assistance, consulting or coaching in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of claims or other attempts to obtain benefits, increase benefits, or appeal a decision related to obtaining or increasing benefits. Adds a veterans services disclosure to be made by any person providing veteran or military benefits services. Makes it an unlawful practice for any person providing veteran or military benefits services to fail at the outset of the business relationship to clearly provide, both orally and in writing, veterans services disclosures when veteran or military benefits services are provided in exchange for any financial compensation, benefit or thing of value. Makes other changes.

Legislation of the 103rd General Assembly that remains to be considered:

HB2239 - INTERNET GAMING ACT

Filed with the Clerk 2/8/23

4/5/24 Re-referred to the Rules Committee

Creates the Internet Gaming Act. Authorizes an Internet gaming operator to offer Internet gaming in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Provides that Internet gaming shall only be offered by an Internet gaming license or an Internet management services provider that has contracted with an Internet gaming licensee. Provides that an internet

gaming licensee shall offer no more than 3 individually branded Internet gaming skins. Provides that an Internet management services provider may conduct Internet gaming on its own Internet gaming platform pursuant to the agreement between the provider and an Internet gaming licensee and in accordance with the rules of the Board and the provisions of the Act. Includes provisions for: requirements of an Internet gaming platform; Internet wagering accounts; license requirements; age verification, location, and responsible gaming; diversity goals in procurement and spending by Internet gaming licensees; acceptance of out-of-state wagers; and limitations on home rule units. Provides that a 15% privilege tax is imposed on Internet gaming to be deposited into the State Gaming Fund. Authorizes the adoption of emergency rules to implement the Act and makes conforming changes in the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. Effective immediately. **OPPOSE**

HB4128 - VETERANS DAY-PAID LEAVE

Filed with the Clerk 8/23/23

4/5/24 Re-referred to the Rules Committee

Creates the Veterans Day Paid Leave Act. On and after January 1, 2025, requires each employer to provide each employee who is a veteran with a paid day off on Veterans Day if the employee would otherwise be required to work on that day. Provides that the employee must provide notice to the employer that he or she intends to take time off on Veterans Day and must provide the employer with documentation verifying that he or she is a veteran. Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Creates an income tax credit in an amount equal to 100% of the wages paid by the taxpayer to a veteran as a result of the paid day off required under the Veterans Day Paid Leave Act.

HB4187 - REPEAL ILLINOIS TRUST ACT Changes to Illinois ID Card

Filed with the Clerk 10/23/24

10/25/24 Referred to Rules Committee

Repeals the Illinois TRUST Act. Makes corresponding changes in the Illinois Identification Card Act and the Illinois Vehicle Code.

HB4574 - CD CORR-AGGRAVATING FACTORS Crimes Against Veteran, aggravated circumstance

Filed with the Clerk 1/24/24

1/31/24 Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the Unified Code of Corrections. Provides that if the defendant committed the offense in or on the grounds of a hospital, ambulatory surgical treatment center, physician's office, or other medical facility that treats patients and the offense was a crime of violence committed against a licensed health care professional or an employee of a hospital, ambulatory surgical treatment center, physician's office, or other medical facility that treats patients, this factor shall be accorded weight in favor of imposing a term of imprisonment or may be considered by the court as a reason to impose a more severe sentence. The act already provides for acts against the elderly, members of the Armed Forces, veterans performing duties as a representative of a veterans' organization.

HB4599 - HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM ACT

Filed with the Clerk 1/29/24

4/5/24 Re-referred to Rules Committee

Creates the Home Modification Program Act. Provides that the purpose of the Act is to establish a home modification funding system that is streamlined, effective, and administered by experts within the disability community. Provides that, subject to appropriation, the Department of Human Services shall establish a Home Modification Program to provide financial assistance to persons with disabilities for home modification projects. Requires the Department to designate a statewide association that represents centers for independent living to serve as the lead agency to administer the program. Requires the Department to provide funding for the Program. Requires the lead agency to distribute any moneys it receives from the Department to the State's 22 centers for independent living, covering all 102 counties. Provides that the lead agency shall ensure that each center for independent living has access to at least \$105,000 to use for home modification projects, with the excess funds subject to reallocation during the 4th fiscal quarter of each year. Contains provisions concerning eligibility requirements for applicants under the Program; the lead agency's establishment of a Home Modification Subcommittee to provide additional oversight of the home modification projects; and an administrative fee to the lead agency.

HB4677 - CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Filed with the Clerk 2/1/24

4/19/24 Passed House

4/24/24 Arrive in Senate

5/17/24 Re-referred to Assignments

Creates the Illinois Caregiver Assistance and Resource Portal Act. Requires the Department on Aging, in consultation with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, to be responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Illinois Caregiver Assistance and Resource Portal (Portal). Provides that the Portal shall serve as a centralized and trusted online platform offering a wide range of resources related to caregiving, including, but not limited to: (1) information on State and federal programs, benefits, and resources on caregiving, long-term care, and at-home care for Illinois residents who are 50 years of age or older; (2) educational materials, articles, and videos on caregiving best practices; and (3) accommodations for users with different language preferences, ensuring the information is accessible to diverse audiences. Sets forth additional resources and information that the Portal may feature, such as information on caregiving resources, home and community-based services that support family caregivers, nursing home care, services and programs offered by Area Agencies on Aging, relevant health care and financial assistance programs, and local support group opportunities for caregivers. Requires the Portal to be designed to be user-friendly and accessible to individuals of all ages and abilities and to include features such as search functionality, language accessibility, and compatibility with assistive technologies to ensure that a diverse range of caregivers can use it. Contains provisions concerning required outreach and promotional campaign efforts to raise awareness of the Portal, reporting requirements, and State and federal funding for the Portal. Requires the Portal to be implemented one year after the effective date of the Act.

House Committee Amendment No. 1 *adopted 4/18/24*

Provides that the Illinois Caregiver Assistance and Resource Portal shall be implemented 3 years (rather than one year) after the effective date of the Act.

House Committee Amendment No. 2 *adopted 4/18/24*

Makes the creation and establishment of the Illinois Caregiver Assistance and Resource Portal subject to appropriation.

HB4868 - VETS-IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Filed with Clerk 2/6/24

2/7/24 Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Establishes a military immigrant family legacy program within the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Requires the program to be jointly developed and implemented by the Director of Veterans' Affairs (Director) and the Adjutant General of the Department of Military Affairs, in consultation with the Department of Human Services' Office of Welcoming Centers for Refugee and Immigrant Services. Provides that the primary purpose of the program shall be to assist uniformed service members, veterans, reserve component members, and their family members to secure legal immigration status in the United States, including, but not limited to, citizenship. Provides that 2 military immigrant family legacy program coordinators shall be appointed to administer the program. Sets forth the coordinators' duties, including, but not limited to: (1) assisting intended recipients, who may qualify for adjustment of status, special immigration status through the federal Parole in Place program, or any other sort of immigration relief, including relief that can lead to citizenship; communicating with the Director and the Adjutant General and the Department of Human Services' Office of Welcoming Centers for Refugee and Immigrant Services regarding existing policies and regulations pertaining to the needs of intended recipients and to make recommendations regarding the improvement of benefits and services to such intended recipients; and (3) developing and maintaining a clearinghouse for information and resources relating to the program as well as other federal, State, local, and nonprofit programs that may offer assistance to intended recipients in immigration matters. Requires program coordinators to submit a report to the Director and the Adjutant General on January 1, 2026 and each January 1 thereafter that provides a description and evaluation of the coordinators' activities for the preceding calendar year as well as any recommendations for future programmatic changes. Requires the Director and the Adjutant General to jointly submit the report on an annual basis to the Governor and the General Assembly. Makes conforming changes to the Department of Human Services Act and the Military Code of Illinois.

HB5074 - MEDICAL RECORDS-COPY EXPENSE

Filed with Clerk 2/8/24

2/8/24 Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the Code of Civil Procedure. Prohibits a health care provider from charging a handling fee for providing medical records to a patient or patient's representative if they are electronic records retrieved from a scanning, digital imaging, electronic information, or other digital format in an electronic document. Repeals the annual adjustment for the handling fee for inflation.

HB5653 - VETERANS' SERVICES TASK FORCE

Filed with the Clerk 2/9/24

Passed House on 4/17/24

Arrived in Senate 4/18/24

5/17/24 Re-referred to Assignments

Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Reenacts a provision concerning the Veterans'

Service-Related Ailments Task Force repealed by Public Act 102-417. Changes the name of the Veterans' Service-Related Ailments Task Force to the Veterans' Services Task Force. Changes the frequency of Task Force meetings to at least twice a year and at any other times the Task Force deems necessary. Requires the Task Force to submit its report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2025. Repeals the provisions creating the Task Force on December 31, 2026.

HB4680 VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Introduced 2/1/24, in Rules Committee 2/6/24

Amends the Veteran Service Organizations State Charter Act. Changes the name of the Act to the Veteran Service Organizations Equal Act. Provides that a veteran service organization shall be considered to have veteran service organization status (rather than shall be considered state chartered). Requires a veteran service organization to have annual expenditures that demonstrate that 20% (rather than a majority) of the organization's expenses reflect support for veterans in order to qualify for veteran service organization status. **OPPOSE**

SB2315 - INC TX-STANDARD EXEMPTION

Override of Gov veto on Homestead Exemption Provision now in the Senate Assignment Committee

Filed with the Secretary 2/10/23

3/29/23 Passed Senate **3/30/23 Arrived in House**

11/8/23 House Floor Amendment 1 (HFA 31) Filed

11/9/23 Passed House

11/9/23 Arrived Senate on calendar for concurrence of HFA #1

12/10/23 Referred to Assignments

HFA #1 to SB 2315—Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Property Tax Code. In a Section granting a homestead exemption to veterans with disabilities, provides that property that is used as a qualified residence by a veteran who was a member of the United States Armed Forces during World War II is exempt from taxation regardless of the veteran's level of disability. Provides that a veteran who qualifies as a result of his or her service in World War II need not reapply for the exemption. Makes changes concerning service-connected disabilities. Makes changes concerning surviving spouses.

SB2665 - OMA-SERVICE MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Filed with Secretary 1/10/24

4/9/24 Passed Senate, arrived House

4/10/24 Referred to Rules Committee

5/31/24 Re-referred to Rules Committee

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Provides that, if a quorum of the members of the public body is physically present, a majority of the public body may allow a member of that body to attend the meeting by other means if the member is prevented from physically attending because of performance of active military duty as a service member. Defines "active military duty" and "service member".

SB2666 - MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS LEAVE

Filed with Secretary 1/10/24

6/26/24 Referred to Assignments

Amends the Family Military Leave Act. Changes the name of the Act to the "Military Leave Act". Provides that an employee may use up to 8 hours per calendar month to participate in a funeral honors detail, up to a total of 40 hours per calendar year, or more if authorized by the employer or if provided for in a collective bargaining agreement. Provides for requirements to take leave for funeral honors details. Provides that an employee that takes leave may do so in lieu of, and without having exhausted, his or her vacation leave, personal leave, compensatory leave, or any other leave that may be granted to the employee, including sick leave and disability leave. Defines terms. Provides that the employer of an employee that takes leave must pay the employee his or her regular rate of pay for the leave taken to participate in a funeral honors detail. Makes conforming changes.

SB2674 -PROCUREMENT-VETERAN PREF

Filed with Secretary 1/10/24

6/26/24 Referred to Assignments

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Provides that the certification of service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses and veteran-owned small businesses is an exclusive power and function of the State. Denies home rule powers.

SB2700 - PROP-TX-DISABLED VETERAN

Filed with Secretary 1/10/24

5/3/24 Re-referred to Assignments

Amends the Property Tax Code. In provisions concerning the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities, provides that the exemption applies to all real property that is the primary residence of a veteran with a disability (currently, property with an equalized assessed value of less than \$250,000 that is the primary residence of a veteran with a disability). Provides that, with respect to veterans with a service connected disability of 70% or more and surviving spouses of veterans whose deaths were service-connected, the first \$250,000 in equalized assessed value of the property is exempt.

SB2751 - LOCAL-DISABLED VET PERMIT FEE Home Improvement due to Disability

Became Public Act 103-0621, 7/1/24

Amends the Counties Code, Township Code, and Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that a veteran with a disability or the veteran's caregiver shall not be charged any building permit fee for improvements to the residence of the veteran with a disability if the improvements are required to accommodate a disability of the veteran. Provides that the applications, forms, and other paperwork required to obtain a building permit must still be submitted. Limits the concurrent exercise of home rule powers. Effective January 1, 2025.

SB2950 - VETS-MENTAL HLTH CASE MANAGER

Filed with Secretary 1/31/24

5/3/24 Re-referred to Assignments

Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Provides that a veterans case manager shall be appointed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Financial and

Professional Regulation and the Secretary of Human Services, to assist veterans in obtaining the greatest degree of mental health care and mental health care benefits available and to promote policies that would benefit veterans seeking mental health care. Provides that the case manager shall serve at the pleasure of the Director of Veterans' Affairs. Sets forth the duties of the veterans case manager, including, to: (i) act as an intermediary between health care facilities and veterans health care facilities; (ii) provide information to veterans and health care facilities regarding mental health services available to veterans; (iii) apply for, receive, and administer federal aids, grants, and gifts relating to inpatient mental health services for veterans; (iv) encourage physicians, nurses, and other individuals working in mental health care who have military experience to work in Illinois; and (v) collaborate with health care facilities in identifying, upon a person's admission to a health care facility, the person's eligibility for federal veterans benefits, including prescription drug benefits. Amends the Hospital Licensing Act. Requires the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to adopt rules requiring hospitals, upon identifying a person requiring mental health services as a veteran, to establish and implement certain protocols including (1) contacting the veterans case manager regarding the veteran's admission, (2) identifying whether the veteran is at risk for causing harm to the veteran's self or others, and (3) preventing the hospital from treating a veteran with less or different care than nonveteran patients solely because of a person's veteran status. Amends the Department of Professional Regulation Law. Requires the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to establish rules requiring licensed health care professionals, as specified, to receive continuing education credits regarding the treatment of veterans as a condition of license renewal.

SB3074 - VEH CD-REG FEES-VETERANS-WAIVE

Filed with Secretary 2/2/24

2/2/24 Referred to Assignments

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that the standard registration fee for passenger motor vehicles of the first division and motor vehicles of the second division weighing not more than 8,000 pounds shall be waived for any veteran who holds proof from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs of a service-connected disability.

SB3417 - VETERANS COURT-PTSD-PROCEDURES

Filed with Secretary 2/8/24

2/8/24 Referred to Assignments

Amends the Veterans and Servicemembers Court Treatment Act. Provides that if a veteran with a service-connected disability is arrested for or charged with a criminal offense and there is prima facie evidence that the veteran was suffering from an episode of post-traumatic stress disorder or a related mental health condition during the commission of the offense, there is a rebuttable presumption that the veteran is eligible to participate in a veterans and servicemembers court program, and after the arrest or charge, the following procedures shall take place: (1) the veteran shall be evaluated and treated as soon as practicable by a qualified medical professional for post-traumatic stress disorder and any other mental health condition or disorder; and (2) the court shall order a screening and clinical needs assessment and risk assessment and a mental health and substance use disorder screening and assessment. Provides that if a veteran with a service-connected disability is charged for the first time with a criminal offense, including a felony, except certain offenses that would make him or her ineligible to participate in a veterans and servicemembers court program, and suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder or a related mental health condition during the commission of the offense,

then, upon successful completion of the terms and conditions of a court program, the court shall dismiss the original charges against the veteran or successfully terminate the veteran's sentence or otherwise discharge the veteran from any further proceedings against the participant in the original prosecution. Establishes certain procedures to be followed when a combat veteran who is a disabled veteran has an episode of post-traumatic syndrome disorder and needs assistance.

Department of Illinois Poppy Sales and Production Committee-HQ

September 28, 2024

The meeting was called to order by VC Todd Latham at 10:04 AM.

Salute to Colors was offered and Prayer was offered by Todd Latham

All members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Division 2-Todd Latham, Division 3 Ron Harkness, Division 5-Dudley Madden

Absent: Division 1-Frank Thompson, Division 4-Denver Phelps

A motion was made by Harkness, with the second by Latham to approve the previous minutes of April 2024- The motion passed.

Unfinished Business-

Discussion occurred on volunteer help and poppy assembly in and outside of veteran's homes.

Division Poppy Seminars should be held to promote our programs, with the Legion and Auxiliary working together to inform, share, and clarify the poppy program.

VC Latham stressed the seminars are also used to distribute prepurchase and poppies for purchase to reduce shipping costs for post, units, and the Department.

The committee would like the Department to provide a list of posts that assembled poppies last year and any credit on file for use with the 24-25 program.

New Business-

The committee reviewed the current Poppy Post Contest Rules and Guidelines. No changes were noted.

The committee was informed that 110,000 poppies were produced and assembled. All equipment works correctly to complete orders. Currently, all equipment is working, and production is on schedule.

Commander Lamber, Sr. Vice Smith, and Adjutant Theilen entered at 10:34 am. The commander stressed that chairs and vice chairs are to make sure end-of-year reports arrive at the department on time. Sr. Vice spoke about the current membership status, and the Adjutant asked that the committee review the website and submit updates to C. Corsello.

Committee member Dudley asked how to improve constant contact to push information out to blue cappers. The adjutant and Membership should be requested to create a list.

They departed at 10:46 am when PNC Conatser arrived and updated the committee that the Department profited \$70,000 and a new \$6,000 machine was purchased to replace an outdated model. Our poppy cloth production went out of business, and enough material was purchased for output into the following year. The department is having an issue finding new clothing that is made of similar material and starch content. PNC Conatser estimated that 140,000 to 160,000 poppies are ready for sale to posts and units, and volunteers and the print room staff have been instrumental. No external assembly is needed at this time, as Manteno, LaSalle, and Danville veterans are assisting.

The committee continued with its unfinished business, reviewing the website for updates. All Division reps are submitting their Poppy Seminar dates. VC Latham agreed to share his training PowerPoint presentation with the rest of the committee to continue training.

Prayer was offered, and a salute to the colors concluded the meeting adjournment at 10:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Latham, VC

American Legion Department of Illinois
Technology Committee
Meeting Minutes, Fall 2024
October 4, 2024

Meeting held in person, Department HQ, Bloomington, IL

Meeting called to order 1300

Drew Webb 5th Div, Chair
Dick Taylor, 4th Div
Robert Gardner, 3rd Div
Carter Corsello, 2nd Div
Tom Zito, 1st Div

Discussion and Recommendations:

Posts should have a Social Communications officer. They would cover social media, print, and news releases. At first this could simply be by appointment of the commander. Long term, posts should review their by-laws and add this officer and eliminate archaic or no longer used positions.

Encourage leadership at all levels to follow other Posts, Divisions, and Departments on Facebook. It is recognized that no social media platform has 100% reach. However, those that use Facebook can find that the exchange of information and ideas is straightforward.

Mylegion.org. is the data set of record. Members need to update their information. Department should use only the information held within Mylegion to update department directory. If the information is not correct, it is the member that needs to update it. It is recognized that some members still struggle with computers. Post leadership has the capacity to work with someone that can update their information for them.

Reach out to local papers to post news, any news the post may have

We recommend leadership looks at all programs but especially programs such as Orations. Orations were the Tik-Tok of the early 1900's. We have come a long way from that form of communicating insight and persuasion. We recommend the appropriate committee take this challenge and convert to a new contest asking for a video on the year's subject. You would be surprised at the creativity of youth. We ask how many times have you watched a reel or Tic-Tok video over and over and shared it? Now we ask how many times you have watch the full oration video and shared it?

Further, appropriate committee should look at the Scrapbook and Newsprint award. This also may be able to be better converted into post promotion video. The beauty of converting these two current competitions is that once you have the video, you may use them over and over again to promote the Legion or posts.

Have Department challenge each committee to make a video, 30 second to 1 minute, to make a video titled 'This is What We Do'. We recognize that this is not applicable to many committees. However, there are many committees that have product and do great work. Make a short video of what you do and how it is fulfilling the one or more of the four pillars. How is our community involvement effecting veterans, youth, Americanism, and a strong defense? Tell our story.

What is the value of a committee if guidance isn't provided or expectations aren't presented.

Lastly, we discussed, and one committee member felt, it isn't well known that we are a nonprofit. It is important to stress that our organization is a nonprofit.

Meeting adjourned 1430

Yours in service,

Drew Webb, Committee Chairman

VA&R MEETING OCT 5, 2024, STATE HDQRS

VA& R ON WEBSITE PACT ACT?

MEMBERS PRESENT- VICE CHAIRMAN, 1ST DIVISION BERNIE STEGMUELLER, 2ND DIVISION- DAVE DAVIS, 3RD DIVISION- CRAIG FETZER, 4TH DIVISION- NONE, 5TH DIVISION- MIKE FUNNEMAN.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:00AM, RODGER BENNETT WAS ABSENT.

DAVE DAVIS ATTENDED VAC TRAINING. PACT ACT COVERS MANY SERVICE RELATED ILLNESSES.

DEPT CMDR JOE LAMPERT VISTED AND PAST NATIONAL CMDR MARTY CONATSER.

COMMUNICATIONS START WITH COMMITTEE

END OF YEAR REPORTS NEED TO BE SENT TO THE DEPT. LAST YEAR ONLY 50% PARTICIPATION.

\$40,000 DENIED BECAUSE OF MISAPPROPRIATE WAS REINSTITUTED WHEN THE PAPERWORK WAS STRAIGHTENED OUT.

ANNA, QUINCY, LASALLE AND MANTINO VETERANS' HOMES IN ILLINOIS.

REVIEWED NA&R BROCHURE.

MARTY STEGMUELLER ACTED AS CHAIRMAN.

844-724-7842 CALL WITHIN 72 HRS IF TAKEN TO THE ER CAN STILL FILE CLAIMS ABOUT CAMP LEJUNE. THIS INCLUDED DEPENDENTS.

FOR SOME REASON, VETERANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO GET ALS.

INITIAL CLAIMS, IT IS NOT LEGAL TO CHARGE A FEE FOR.

ONLY DENIED CLAIMS.

ADJOURNED 11:01AM

CRAIG FETZER

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
VETERANS HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Veterans Home Advisory Committee met on October 5, 2024, at 1:00pm at Department Headquarters.

Dale Tippet 1 st Division:		Present
William Frangquist 2 nd Division:	Absent	Excused
Roger Schwengel 3 rd Division:	Absent	Excused
Ronald Shapland 4 th Division:	Chairman	Present
Gary Fravel 5 th Division:	Vice Chairman	Present

The Chicago Home is at 28% occupancy, Manteno was at 75% as of the last report. Anna Home is 100% with a 6 month wait list.

Some of the homes continue to have outbreaks of the covid virus. Most are operating as normal with many activities and events for the Veterans. Donations continue to come in and are put to good use. They are much appreciated.

The committee meets one time each year. We discussed meeting again at the convention and will try to do that.

Roger Schwengel reported by phone from Quincy after their advisory council was complete.

Amanda Bunch, who has been the temporary adjutant, will now be the adjutant.

The new dormitory is expected to be completed by the end of 2024. The infirmary by the 2nd quarter of 2025.

There is always a need for replacement staff in all positions.

Please keep your donations coming in. They do much to improve the lives of the residents.

Respectfully Submitted

Veterans Home Advisory Committee

Ron Shapland Chairman

The Americanism Commission met at Department Headquarters on October 5, 2024, at 1000hrs. Chairman Micheal Carder called the meeting to order, a salute to the flag was presented, Ralph Rounds presented the opening prayer, and Celeste Latham presented the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, the following members were present:

1st Division: Micheal Carder Chairman

2nd Division: Celeste Latham Vice Chairman

3rd Division: Norm Flowers Excused

4th Division: Mark Young

5th Division: Ralph Rounds

Chairman Emeritus: Philip Mette

Guest: Shandy Green Department Graphics Office

Celeste Latham and Shandy Green presented the new brochures for the 2025 year for the Oratorical Contest and Essay Contest. After review and discussion, the brochures were approved as presented.

The meeting was visited by Department Commander Joe Lampert and Department Adjutant Marty Conatser. Commander Lampert outlined his goals for the department, Adjutant Conatser discussed changes in his office.

The commission reviewed the new Americanism Pins which were conceived and paid for by Philip Mette. In all there were 250 pins created each division chairman received 50 pins, and it was decided that the pins could be obtained for a donation of \$3.00 or a donation of \$10.00 for 4 pins. The donations would go towards the Americanism Budget. Philip also stated that once the pins were sold out a new pin would be created and again offered for a donation.

With no further business to discuss Chairman Carder asked a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ralph Rounds presented the closing prayer, a salute to the flag was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 1115 hours,

For God and Country

Micheal Carder Chairman

BSA Cmte Mtg
A.L. HQ Bloomington, IL
1000 Hrs 05 Oct 2024
1100 Hrs. Adjourned

Present: Bert Gangolf - Chairman 1st Div - 8th Dist
Leon Kraut VC Chairman - 2nd Div - 13th Dist
Excused: James Watts - 3rd Div - 15th Dist
David K. Morris - 4th Div - 18th Dist
James Page - 5th Div - 22nd Dist

Changes made to God and Country pamphlet:--

Front cover page dates to read 2024-2025

add sentence to bottom of page 5 to read --

(use red lettering)

National application must be completed and received at IL Legion HQ no later than March 15, 2025

Back cover David K. Morris address to be changed to read: street address - 3629 Tuttle St

Dept Cmdr Joe Lampert and Adjnt Marty Conatser visited with us and thanked us for doing a great job and talked about increasing membership.

Date Spring 2025 Meeting set for 03 May 2025, 1000 hrs @ IL Legion Hq.

For God and Country - Bert Gangolf - BSA Cmte Chrman.

Children & Youth Commission Meeting October 5th 2024

The Children & Youth Commission meeting was held at Department Headquarters.

Dave Johnson Chairman called the meeting to order at 1000.

Commission members present were:

Chairman: Dave Johnson 2nd Division 12th District Present

V Chairman: Terry Abdelnour 4th Division 17th District Present

Member: Rich Schomer 3rd Division 14th District absent

Member: Bridget Lattanzi 1st Division 7th District absent

Member: Chris Schoo 5th Division 24th District Present Secretary for meeting

Guests: Department Commander Joe Lampert, Adjutant Marty Conatser

Guest: Chad Miller

Commander Joe Lampert expressed communications is vital for the American Legion to move forward. All of the Committee and Commission members must present current and updated information to Divisions, Districts and Posts.

He asked that any changes we would like to make to the Department website for our Commission needs to be done soon.

Dave is leading the project to get the Children & Youth brochure updated with current information and links for the Departments website.

There is a new Children & Youth Magazine that highlights the American Legion programs. This publication is not out in the public yet but should be very soon and we hope to get a link for the information on the Departments Children & Youth web page. This magazine was received at the National C&Y Conference last weekend at Indianapolis.

Christmas Gifting

One of our projects is Christmas Gifting. This project has been declining greatly in the past several years. The commission is looking at other options including children with autism and other special needs. There are around 1500 different types of autism and is showing up in our Vietnam veterans children and grandchildren. The program gives a \$10.00 gift to a 17 year old and under institutionalized.

Special Olympics Summer Games

June 20-21 2025

Friday June 20th will be unloading and organizing the food.

Saturday 21st is the busiest day, cutting/slicing/cleaning/proportioning, veggies, fruits, crackers.

THIS ALL TAKES HELP! If anyone can come and help please do so. There is never enough help.

For Saturday, Dave will be looking for Legion Riders to come with motorcycles for the kids. Six bikes will be at Olympic Town by Red Bird Arena.

Other donations the commission is looking for is Bob the Builder type toys for the kids, nothing expensive but in the construction type toy for the kids.

Tennis Games

August 16-17, 2025 at Bloomington Evergreen Racquet Club.

Winter Games

Have been canceled this year due to lack of participation.

TFA- Temporary Financial Aide was discussed and how to use it.

Information can be found at legion.Org

This is used for members in good standing SAL and Legionnaires.

There must be a minor child in the household. Used by parents needing aide, homeless, or other needs.

They would need to supply financial records to support needs.

It takes about one week to process.

Checks are mailed to Department to be distributed.

This is also good for the National Guard. They also have one year to apply if a spouse is KIA.

Be The One Project: Dave has talked with Tony Cross National Chairman for Be the One Project. He wants Division and District officers to sign up for the Columbia University's on-line class so we will be spreading the information. The three members in attendance have already taken the class. Tony mentioned there was a video available along with other information. Dave is working with Tony to get this information so it can be passed on.

Consolidated Post Reports.

It is the responsibility of the Post Adjutant to complete and submit this report. The Executive Board and post members should help provide information on what the post has done. Reports are due June 1st. C&Y Division chairmen are accountable to

be at Department Headquarters the 2nd week of June to complete your Division report. The exact date will be provided later.

Respectfully,

Dave Johnson
Children & Youth Chairman

SAFTEY LAW & ORDER OCT 5, 2024

1st Division- Chevonne Woodard, present

2nd Division- Chuck Coffey, Vice Chairman, present

3rd Division- Amanda Congdon, present

4th Division- Paul Garrett, excused

5th Division- Wayne Madson, Chairman, present

Guest Mike Widger 21st District Rep, Don Scheyer, 22nd District Rep, Don Scheyer, Delmar Buske, Past Dept Cmdr.

The meeting started at 10am

Commander Joe Lampert & Marty stopped by with greetings.
Ask Chairman to update website.

The committee reviewed and made corrections on our pamphlets.

Discussion about alternative places to eat during Police School to reduce costs.

Delmar asked if the Committee would appropriate \$1,000 from Safety Law & Order to have a serve and protect award. Amanda Congdon seconded the motion and motion passed.

Meeting ended at 11:00 am

Wayne Madson, Chairman

EDUCATON & SCHILARSHIP COMMITTEE

On Monday, October 21, 2024 the Education & Scholarship Committee met by zoom and in person consult. In attendance were Don Horn (1), Tom Marciciak (2), Jeffery Kosowski (3), Richard Taylor (4); and absent was Dudley Maden (5)

Items discussed:

- Getting the word out to our Districts: The application and information plus time line is on the Department page at www.illegion.org but not everyone has computer access and the tab was not working for a while. Currently it is up and running. Will ask Department to make sure the sidebar link is also workable. Will send hard copy of information and application to our Districts, and will look into a flyer to assist.
- Will ask Districts to promote toward the Posts who will promote into the schools.
- Scholarship setup seemed to work great and lot of positive feedback for Trade School Scholarships.
- We had good number of applications last year with 58 in total (49 General, 4 Trade School, 5 Didn't Qualify). Will ask Department if they have the capability to review applications ahead of time, if not will ask they forward to me and I can sort and return the list for their review.
- Rubric worked well and will keep as is for the upcoming spring selection. This was added earlier this year in hopes of keeping as much subjectivity out of the selection process as possible given the nature of the questions.
- Next meeting will be Spring 2025. Will discuss with Department our options for dates and attempt to pick one which will maximize our success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Horn
Chairman

NATIONAL SECURITY REPORT.

8-28-2024

Meeting Convened at 10:00am

Roll call- All present.

Send emails to all members of the Committee.

Budget is same as last year.

Reach out to Schools.

Zoom call for future meetings. (Celeste)

All forms for Committee- update emails.

Hezbollah leaders eliminated National Security concerns for US citizens.

Updated National Security web page, David Scott to be contacted (POC) for School award requests.

Remember to vote in the upcoming general election.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am

POW/MIA Report September 28, 2024

Our booth at Convention went well. We were a bit short of help due to several members health. Thanks to Chris Shoo and his wife of 5th Division for the help.

If you have stopped at our booth you have met Chella. Chella passed away Sept. 5. She was a Vietnam veteran serving as an air traffic controller. She was past Post, District, Division commander and past Chairman of the POW/MIA Committee.

Derrick Stinson of the 1st Division had a stroke several months ago and is doing well and gaining every day.

We gave out most of our T shirts as usual. The mesh back caps went well and we will be getting those again next year.

We also passed out information that showed the U S unaccounted for from Illinois in the Vietnam War. This information showed POWs, missing in action and killed in action/ bodies not recovered. This list is 65 total but from 2019.

I have a more current list from 2020 which is 47 unaccounted for.

Several committee members will be speaking at events this coming Veterans Day. I will be speaking at a combined Legion, VFW event in Chillicothe.

The third Friday in September is always POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Yesterday, Sept. 27th our committee had a meeting at Dept. headquarters.

So far in 2024 there have been a total of 122 returned for proper burial. From WWII 97, Korean War 22, Vietnam War 3.

Still missing from WWII 72,041, Korean War 7,464, Vietnam 3, Cold War 126.

1. Call to order at 1:00 PM
 - a. Salute the colors
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Pledge
2. Roll call: Div 1- D. Horn, Div 2-T. Latham, Div 4-R. Walker Guest: Glen Goodrich attended
3. Approval of Prior Minutes 9/30/2023 Motion to approve by R. Walker with second by D. Horn passing by voice vote.
4. Unfinished Business
 - a. Approval of the July 2024 Committee Annual Report submitted to Department. A motion was offered by R. Walker with a second by D. Horn and the motion passed.
 - b. Feedback on Department Convention Training
 - i. Comments- Members will continue to look for feedback as they attend post, district and division meetings.
 - ii. How can we deliver content and what is wanted from the committee? How or who will handle training requests?
5. New Business
 - a. The Leadership Manual. The committee might use our training seminar data/notes/slides to create a manual.
 - b. T. Latham mentioned a dedicated Leadership page on the Department website. A lot of departments have a training page. We could put our training offerings online and then have additional links to National's *Training Tuesdays* and *Training in a Box*.
 - c. We need to offer training in person although it is not certain what that looks like. Keep in mind our budget is \$3,200. That means we need to come up with shoestring stuff.
 - i. Is it going to be difficult to get people to attend and by region.

Here is a delivery idea:

Illinois Department Post Officer Training 1,2,3

- Choose from 3 methods: Manual/Online 1,2,3/In Person

Manual:

Self-explanatory

Online 1,2,3 might consist of something like videos divided in the following way:

1. General Video [This would be like the general training at the seminar before the breakouts]
2. Officer Position Training [Each office position divided into three 20 min videos to be watched little by little or all at once; viewer's choice]
3. Basic Training [From the National Legion website]

In Person

These would be the trainings where we go throughout the state and train face to face as in the past. I'm hoping dividing our great state up might be something to look at so that folks don't have to go too far.

We usually had folks register at 8:30am, started seminar at 9am, lunch at 12pm then wrapped up around 2pm. How to get people to register will need to be decided and a registration. T Latham asked what about using Doodle to synchronize the committee members' availability prior to instruction dates.

The Chair could play with the timetable so that we don't start too early and don't get out too late for those driving furthest.

Some options could be:

- Time of Year training such as Spring & Fall at HQ
- Divide the state into 2 locations: Near Peoria & Vandalia [North & South]
- Divide the state into 3 locations: Near Streator, Springfield, Centralia [Straight down the center]
- Divide the state into 4 locations: Near Streator, Jacksonville, Mahomet, Centralia (Salem? /Mt Vernon?) [Diamond shape]
- Robbie Walker has access to the auditorium in Rantoul
- Or post with a large enough training area

After reviewing the proposed locations Div 1 and 2 committee reps felt northwest, northcentral and a northeastern location should be added and considered.

Some hurdles:

This idea presents some problems, of course. Here are some of the cons:

Online:

- How/to make videos.
- Our website is maintained very well, and we would have to rely on a 3rd party for postings and updates.

In Person:

- In the past we did seminars by request, and this was not effective outside of the 1st & 2nd divisions. So maybe we just offer as proposed above.
- In the past there weren't really any reimbursements beyond an occasional hotel room for those traveling several hours in the winter.
- Not sure how to work that budget or how you all feel about mileage and such.

Everything above is open for discussion, and the Chair asked members to get the manual together for the new year - January - for a good start!

Don Horn- 1st Division had a poor turnout at training. Bodies but busy with other Legion tasks, opportunities, the Div would want more training but closer to home in the 1st. District meeting would like it for new officers and procedures and unfamiliar roles/responsibilities. Last training in 1st was years ago with 80-100 but locations not easy to get to but have food and space. His thought was do it locally in Cook Co. and wait for the committee to meet. Individuals offered to teach but the 1st Div will do something.

Todd Latham proposed using the second half of the membership caravan to become an afternoon of training since they are membership training. Half day membership and speakers, half day legion leadership training. Would require Dept to preschedule and get registration done early.

My Legion in leadership manual is a need area for training.

How to capture data, fill out and use CPR.

The Website content of the committee needs to be updated and shared with the Technology Committee or Adj. Theilen.

6. Closing Ceremonies
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Salute the colors
7. Committee adjourned at 1:56 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Latham, VC

Date: July 26, 2024

To: Commander Lampert, SVC Smith

From: Todd Latham, Legion Leadership Committee Chair

Subj.: Year End Report

The Legion Leadership Committee (LLC) met at the Department of IL HQ in September 2023 to discuss Legion Leadership's role, responsibility, and future. The following areas for improvement were identified.

The goals set by the chair included:

- Delivery Methods
- Legion Leadership Manual
- Review and Assess Existing Training (National and Department)
- Create a Legion Leadership Landing Page on the Department website
- Create a Mentor Program by Region/Division
- Create a Resource Page

Delivery Methods

- Feasibility of In-Person Delivery
- Ability to Use Virtual Training
- Consider cost to delivery, locations, weather

Legion Leadership Manual

- Review and Update Content
- Add MyLegion Guide, Be the One, How to Complete a CPR, Templates for Welcome Letter/Newsletter, Update Officer Roles
- Sal/ALR Governance and programs

Review Existing Legion Training

- Review National Training: TAL, Training Tuesday, Basic Training, Membership
- Goal: Do Not Duplicate Training National to Dept
- Fill Training Gaps
- ID Delivery Methods
- Grow a Training Team-Versatile in All Areas of the Legion

Create a Mentor Program for New Officers

- Guide, Advise, and Assist New Commanders
- Be a Sounding Board
- Guidance on Situations, Meeting Preparation, Meeting Conduct

Create/Documents for New Members

- New Member Letter
- Monthly Newsletter

- Minutes Template
- How to Run a Meeting
- Parliamentary Procedure
- CPR (Consolidated Post Report)
- Recruitment, Retention, Buddy Checks
- Conducting a Revelation/Veterans Outreach

Create a Legion Leadership Page on Department Website

- Repository of Resources
- List of Links for National Training
- Mentor Contact List by Region/Division
- Ask a Question

Other

Consider offering training to 2910 members

Leadership and Membership cross-over or duplication

Much of the Committee's work was "set aside" for months as we worked with Celeste Latham on developing Officer Training for the Annual Convention. This was a considerable effort, but it will serve us well as we pivot back to the other goals.

Next Steps Regroup Committee -Post Department Convention

- Resume work on completing a new Legion Leadership Guide with the goal of having a draft before the end of the calendar year
- Work with the Technology committee on a new Landing Page
- Set Training Schedule for face-to-face and/or Zoom meeting delivery with break-out room options for 2024-2025 with Department approval
- Add training links to a landing page
- Identify Mentors by content, officer level, or position
- What does the Department need this committee to deliver?

The committee met post-Department Convention. The following comments were collected:

- The training was well attended. Some questioned attendance if lunch was not provided. We would work with the Department on signage if it were done again.
- What would be the incentive to take training elsewhere, such as Division meetings or requested district meetings?
- Can we restrict our page access to Illinois Members only to protect content?
- The committee felt we could deliver this program in person, via Zoom, or with a combination of both until we expand our trainers by number and topic.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Latham

Legion Leadership Chair