

The Insider

American Legion Department of Illinois News

November 2024



Department Commander: Joseph P. Lampert
Department Adjutant: Joshua Thielen
Department Editor: Shandi Green
Department Print Operator: David Scott

SCAN QR CODE
TO VISIT THE
DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE
www.illegion.org



mark your calendar!

NOVEMBER

- NOV 11: **VETERANS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)**
 NOV 15: **75% VETERANS DAY CUTOFF**
 NOV 15-17: **HAVEN RUN/EGYPTIAN PAST
 COMMANDERS CLUB
 (CARBONDALE)**
 NOV 28: **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
 (OFFICE CLOSED 28TH & 29TH)**

DECEMBER

- DEC 1: **BE THE ONE DAY**
 DEC 7: **PEARL HARBOR DAY
 BIG 4 MEETINGS
 75% ALA TARGET DATE**
 DEC 14: **SAL WINTER D.E.C. (DEPT)**
 DEC 24: **CHRISTMAS EVE (OFFICE CLOSED)**
 DEC 25: **CHRISTMAS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)**
 DEC 31: **NEW YEAR'S EVE
 80% CUTOFF**

JANUARY

- JAN 1: **BE THE ONE DAY**
 JAN 9-18: **AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
 CARAVAN**
 JAN 20: **MLK DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)**
 JAN 28: **85% LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE CUTOFF**



The main responsibility of the E.P.C.C. is the support and maintenance of THE HAVEN, located on beautiful Crab Orchard Lake in Carbondale, Illinois. This is an important phase of the 5th Division's rehabilitation work. Our main sources of income are donations, annual dues, annual Post Per Capita Assessment, Annual Jamboree Raffle, Special Pro-

jects, and Poppy money. It is no small undertaking, but with your help, the E.P.C.C. has been able to maintain THE HAVEN since 1950. Your participation in the Annual Jamboree Raffle will help support THE HAVEN for yet another year. 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 11/8/2024, please bring them with you.

JAMBOREE HOUSING FOR 2024: We will again enjoy the accommodations of the Country Inn and Suites, 1306 Halfway Road, Marion, IL, 62959. Due to another event reserving rooms at the Country Inn and Suites, we are offering the Hampton Inn, 2710 W. DeYoung, Marion for your enjoyment as well. The reservation cutoff was October

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15	SATURDAY, NOV. 16	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17
<p>1:00 P.M. Tour of the Marion Veterans Administration Medical Center. (possible limit in attendees)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>11:00 A. M. - Sons of The American Legion 5th Division meeting at The Haven</p> <p>1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. Open House at The Haven</p> <p>5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. Cocktail Hour (Courtesy 5th Div. Am. Leg.) Country Inn & Suites</p> <p>7:00 P.M. Buffet Style Banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1601 W. White St., Marion.</p>	<p>9:00 A.M. Egyptian Past Presidents Club, Meeting, Country Inn and Suites</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Annual Meeting of the Egyptian Past Commanders Club at The Haven</p>



As part of The American Legion Be the One mission to end veteran suicide, we have joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis.

Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training and share the training with their communities. Subscribe to [The American Legion Online Update newsletter](#) (available online) to receive information about new training opportunities as they become available.

After the training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs.
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves.

2024—2025 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

NOVEMBER 2024 - JAN 2025

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	DETAILS & LOCATION
11/02/2024	19TH DISTRICT	TBD	19TH DISTRICT CARAVAN—NOV 2 & 3
11/03/2024	19TH DISTRICT	TBD	19TH DISTRICT CARAVAN—NOV 2 & 3
11/06/2024	1ST DIVISION	7:30 PM	DIVISION MEETING @ TINLEY PARK POST 615
11/15/2024	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ GURNEE POST 771
11/16/2024	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	FALL MEETING @ DIXON POST 12
11/20/2024	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ MORTON GROVE POST 134
11/20/2024	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ DES PLAINES POST 36
11/21/2024	8TH DISTRICT	6:30 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ GLENN MAKER POST 1160
12/18/2024	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ ELLSWORTH-MEINEKE POST 1983
01/2/2025	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ TEUTOPOLIS POST 924
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
01/22/2025	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ FRANKLIN PARK POST 974
02/23/2024	8TH DISTRICT	6:30 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ REHFELDT-MEYER POST 474
01/26/2025	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	(TENTATIVE) DIVISION MEETING @ ST. LIBORY POST 683

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

Email sgreen@illegion.org OR send by mail to:

American Legion, Dept. of IL

P.O. Box 2910 Bloomington, IL 61702 ATTN: SHANDI GREEN



Department
Commander,

**JOSEPH
LAMPERT**

Greetings Legionnaires,

October was a very busy month. We conducted our Department and National Fall Meetings. While in

Indianapolis, I attended the Department Commander / Adjutant Conference. I had the pleasure of attending the 5th Division meeting and thank President Judy for allowing me to speak. We also conducted our Division and District Officer training in Bloomington. The two major items of focus were COMMUNICATION & FAMILY! Without them, our organizations will not survive!

I am looking forward to all our November activities. There are many Veterans Day events as well as National Buddy Check Week, which starts on Veterans Day. We also have the Haven Jamboree and Egyptian Past Commanders Club in Carbondale. Don't forget that the 75% Veterans Day membership cutoff is right around the corner (Friday, November 15).

This month's Pillar is Americanism: Since 1919, the Americanism Commission has been committed to preserving the constitutional republic by educating the nation's youth in citizenship and social responsibility. As Legion Family Members, we ask Americans to actively participate in their communities, states, and at the national level to advance the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy for all. We must lead by example. One of the most sacred and valued freedoms in America is the freedom to choose our own government to work toward that more perfect union.

By the time you are reading this, Americans will have elected their local, state, and national representatives. It is important that we, as Legion Family Members, dedicated to fostering and perpetuating a 100% Americanism, not only vote personally but encourage our neighbors, friends, and loved ones to vote as well. Let us not forget in all the years to come that it is our privilege and duty to vote for our preferred leaders at every level of government! We, the people, are—and will continue to be—the custodians of our future. By our action or inaction, involvement or apathy, education or ignorance, we determine our own future.

I'd like to wish my Legion Family a blessed and happy Thanksgiving. May God Bless you all!

Joseph P. Lampert,
Department Commander



Department Sr.
Vice Commander,

**ROY
SMITH**

Hello My Fellow Legionnaires!

I can't believe that it's November already. Things are getting busy again!

Many of you are celebrating, honoring or remembering Veterans Day over the course of the first two weeks of November. We also have National Buddy Check Week starting on November 11th which as everyone know is Veterans Day. To some its their favorite holiday of the year! Its pretty high on my list also.

Next on the calendar is a very special weekend, the Haven Jamboree. If you have never been, you need to get it on your schedule! The Haven is a Southern Illinois Jewel on Crab Orchard Lake, a veterans retreat built by and maintained by Past Commanders from the Fifth Division, that welcomes all Veterans to come and front their troubles. The lodge has a Million dollar view that doesn't cost a veteran a dime. The comradery over the course of the weekend is extra special too!

Then we have Thanksgiving which is another day that Families get together to share Fooood and just be thankful for the good things we share.

So we have a busy month, its easy to forget there are Veterans out there that are missing out on the opportunities to join us for the good time. Those that are home bound or those that have no place call home, the forgotten veterans. Take a moment to remember them.

Now a short note on membership, as of this writing we moved up to 10th place Nationally. Keep it up, and lets have a celebration during Caravan in January.

Until next month!

Roy E. Smith,
Department Sr. Vice Commander



**Department
President,**

**ARLENE
HOLTGRAVE**

Hello Everyone from the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois!

Well, it's fall according to the weather, one day it's cool, the next it's hot again! No one knows what the weather will be like by Thanksgiving.

November is a busy month with all the important dates.

Veterans Day, November 11, is fast approaching with all the important activities. Thank you to the planners for not having all Veterans Day service on the same day and time.

The 87th Haven Jamboree is November 15-16, at THE HAVEN on Crab Orchard Lake, Carbondale IL and Knights of Columbus Hall, Marion. Joy the fun and help raise money for this resort for Veterans. This fund raiser only happens once a year.

November 28, 2024, is THANKSGIVING! Everyone has something to be thankful for!

November 25, 2024, the V A hospital Christmas Gift Shops start. The gift shops carry on into December.

National President Tish Ward's Homecoming, September 26- 27-28, 2024, was an experience! I very much enjoyed it. Wichita Kansas and the surrounding areas have lots of History to them. The trip ended with the view of the "Ring of Fire" around the "Keeper of the Plains" statue on the Arkansas River. It was a very educational entertaining trip.

Starting soon are the Christmas gift shops for the Veterans facilities helping veterans give gifts to their loved ones.

Pray for those in the hurricane areas, they need lots of help!

Till next time!

STAY SAFE,
BE HEALTHY
and GOD BLESS AMERICA!



**Detachment
Commander,**

**RICK
ALLEN**

Greetings from the Detachment of Illinois !

I have been busy with harvest! It's over now and I thank the members for the support they gave me.

A special thanks to Wayne nice job! He is working hard on membership and officers training . I hope with Veterans day coming fast that everyone will take the time to show our veterans appreciation. On November 2 I had the pleasure of attending Breakfast at Forrest Post #174, the 16th Annual Veterans Honor Guard Vigil at Ottawa Post #33, and the Utica Parade. This was all in one day! This is what we signed up for—to go and spread the good news for the Legion Family

Many stops to be made this month. Don't forget membership is due before December 31st Let's get this done so you keep your benefits! If you are not certified it has to be done. If any Legion posts are interested in starting a Squadron, get in contact with us and we will show you how it can improve your post. The Sons of the American can help your post greatly. We are a program of the Legion, so call on us soon. Don't waste any time— we can support you in many ways !

We have many programs to participate in starting with the 2025 version of Oratorical Scholarship Program a Constitutional Speech Contest Illinois Premier Boys in June and Police school also in June just three programs don't forget these Programs along with many other opportunities!

Buddy check week starts on the 11th of November for 6 days. Do those checks! We have 2 upcoming training dates: November 23^{is} at Macomb Post 6 and November 24 is at Champaign Post 24. Trainings will be conducted by Larry Miller. These sessions are presented with our Squadron leadership in mind so please attend! Open to Legion as well I will attend Post 24.

In closing I hope I can meet more of you and as a volunteer keep up the good work! With your help the Detachment of Illinois can break new ground in membership. I hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving

Your Detachment Commander,
Rick Allen

Standing Strong for the Legion Family!!!!



Department leadership in Utica, Illinois for the parade on Saturday, November 2.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Here's what local posts and Department Leadership have been up to

While supporting the recent American Legion Post 974 pancake breakfast, the Franklin Park Firefighters Association was pleased to present the Legion with two 65" inch TVs for their facilities. The funds for the TVs were made possible by their T-shirt sales. Plenty of shirts and hoodies are still in stock. They can be purchased on the website or at fire station 2 located at 10001 W Addison.



The Illinois Attorney General invites you to attend webinars to assist Veterans and Service Members



Dear Colleague,

I recognize that the physical and psychological effects of military duty often continue after the tour of duty ends. Likewise, our state's and our country's support for the troops does not stop when they come home.

My Military and Veterans Rights Bureau is dedicated to ensuring that veterans and active duty military service members receive the benefits they have earned. The bureau provides men and women with assistance, including mediation, investigation and litigation. These webinars will provide valuable information to support our service members and veterans and those that work with these individuals.

The What to Know About Veteran Consumer Scams Webinar will provide an overview of common veterans scams, how to spot them and what to do if you may have encountered one. Service members, veterans, their families, and advocacy organizations are welcome to attend. The webinar will be held on **November 7, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Webinar for Veterans Advocates and Service Organizations which will include overviews of the Illinois Attorney General's Military and Veterans Rights, Charitable Trust, Disability Rights and Public Access Counselor (PAC) Bureaus. Staff members will share more information on the services and resources they provide and how they can assist the veteran community. The webinar will be held on **November 13, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 pm.**

I encourage service members, veterans, their families, and advocacy organizations to participate in one or more of these free webinars. To RSVP, please register via the links provided or contact special.events@ilag.gov.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kwame Raoul".

Kwame Raoul
Illinois Attorney General

How to enroll:

To register for a webinar, click on the Zoom registration link and you will be directed to the registration site. Once you are registered, you will receive the log in information. If you need assistance registering or to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Theresa Geary at special.events@ilag.gov or 1-866-376-7215. Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 7-1-1 relay service.

What to Know About Veteran Consumer Scams Webinar Registration Link:

Thursday, November 7, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Register in advance:

<https://tinyurl.com/mwhuzk6a>



Informational Webinar for Veterans Advocates and Service Organizations Registration Link:

Wednesday, November 13, 2024
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Register in advance

<https://tinyurl.com/28yutbf9>



The American Legion Department of Illinois
 PO BOX 2910 Bloomington, IL 61702
 Phone: 309-663-0361
 Fax: 309-663-5783
 Email: hdq@illegion.org
 Web: www.illegion.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED
 FIRST-CLASS MAIL
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 18

* One year Subscription to the Department News - \$20.00
 Newsletter articles must be at Department Headquarters by the

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

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

District	Commander
8	Cornell, Jr
4	Acevedo
17	Thomas
20	Gardner
14	Arbuckle
19	Love
22	Mahan, Sr.
3	Hudson
11	Miller
18	Norton

TOP 10 DISTRICT &
 DIVISION RANKINGS
 UPDATED 11/06/2024

Division	Commander
3	HAZZARD
4	YOUNG
5	PAGE
2	CARLSON
1	HORN

