

The Insider

American Legion Department of Illinois News
OCTOBER 2024



mark your calendar!

OCTOBER

- OCT 11 -12: **DIST/DIV PLANNING SESSIONS**
 OCT 13: **ALA SECTION 6 FALL FORUM**
 (@ SPRINGERTON)
 OCT 14: **COLUMBUS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)**
 OCT 19: **BOYS STATE MEETING**
ALA 49% TARGET DATE
 OCT 25-27: **NATIONAL STAFF**
REVITALIZATION (DANVILLE)

NOVEMBER

- NOV 2: **UTICA PARADE**
 NOV 5: **ELECTION DAY**
 NOV 5: **MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY**
 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 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



Students and educator at St. John Lutheran School after a successful flag presentation by The American Legion.

**Submitted by Chuck Zelinsky,
Champaign County Flag Alliance Chairman*

American Legion Post 403 from Rochelle presented an award of appreciation to Luke Maier, manager and owner of Culver's restaurant in Rochelle. Culver's has been giving a discount to veterans and has helped with the American Legion essay contest by providing ice cream to those students who submitted an essay.

From left to right Chuck Roberts (Commander), Maier, and Steve Korth (Adjutant).

**submitted by 13th
District Commander
Jerry Howard*



2024—2025 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2024

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	DETAILS & LOCATION
10/13/2024	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	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	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	DIVISION MEETING @ MARION POST 147
10/20/2024	12TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	FALL MEETING @ YORKVILLE POST 489
10/23/2024	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ CENTRALIA POST 446
10/26/2024	20TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	FALL MEETING @ WINCHESTER POST 442
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
11/21/2024	8TH DISTRICT	6:30 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ GLENN MAKER POST 1160

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,
It is great to be back home
after an eventful, fun
filled, National Conven-

tion in New Orleans! I think the biggest highlight was watching our very own Pam Ray being elected and installed as our National Vice President and Butch Ray being elected and installed as our Central Region National Vice Commander! It was great to see the Illinois American Legion Family show up in force!

Speaking of showing up in force....I would like to thank each and every one of you who showed up for my homecoming in Des Plaines. The food and entertainment were fantastic! We were also treated to Chicago's Own Young Marines posting our Nations colors. The Legion, Auxiliary and Sons truly made it a Legion Family event!

With the Department and National Fall meetings going on, I want to reiterate what you have all been hearing me say since July....COMMUNICATION!!! Are you a Division, District or Unit Chairman? After the fall meetings, we usually have something to put. What do we do after that initial presentation? No Report. That is unacceptable. Our National websites are filled with information that can be communicated to our membership.

Starting with this month's article, I plan on providing some information from one of our Four Pillars that can be communicated. This month I'd like to address National Security.

September 20th was National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has reported that on September 9th & 10th that they had accounted for and identified the re-



Department Sr. Vice Commander,

**ROY
SMITH**

Well, the honeymoon is
over and it's time to get to
work.

As our Commander's Mo-
to says, "We Build (Membership), We Fight (For
Veterans)".

We are off to a great start in building our membership, as of writing this we are in 19th place nationally. That's a big jump from where we were at during convention, so congratulations and thank you for the hard work so far!

If you haven't seen it yet, the 2024 - 2025 Membership Awards book and calendar is out. The first cut-off was September 14, 2024 and we needed 60%, as of September 20th only 2 Districts had reached 60%. Water under the Bridge, lets look ahead. The next membership Goal is November 15th and our Goal is 75%. Ask yourself if this is a realistic goal for your Division and your District. Also, don't forget to remind your posts that there is cash money for any post that achieves 100% by 11/15/24.

Each District— as I have learned the hard way—is different. Some jump out to the front early and stay on top the entire year. Some start slow and gradually work their way into the top 10. Whatever the case, the one thing I can guarantee is that you're not alone. There is a team of people ready and willing to help; all you have to do is ask.

One last item, Buddy Check Week is coming November 11 - 16. I would like to challenge every member to visit or call a Veteran, the spouse of a deceased veteran, the child parent or any who you know that may be in distress. Start planning early, BE THE ONE.

What Ever We Do Lets Have Fun Doing It!

Have A great Month

Roy Smith

(Continued on page 11)



Department
President,

**ARLENE
HOLTGRAVE**

HAPPY HALLOWEEN
EVERYONE!

Hope everyone is enjoy-
ing the weather! It's that

time of year you never know what the weather will
be tomorrow.

It was a fun time at Legion Commander Joe's Home-
coming. The camaraderie was good, the food was
good and the music was super! As Commander Joe
stated to everyone that evening "We are a FAMILY"
and that evening we all acted as one!

Fall Forums are underway, please attend one any-
where you would like. There are five Forums to be
held in October. Hopefully one close to you. You are
welcome at any or all of them! Unit members, there
is a lot to learn at the Forums presented to you
FREE. Bring a carload, we'd love to have you. AND
BRING MEMBERSHIP!

September was busy! I attended a Legion Post birth-
day party, National VA & R zoom meeting, and sev-
eral Unit meetings. I have traveled to the north and
northwest of Illinois for three forums. There is beau-
tiful country in the Land of Lincoln! I've been south
to the National Convention in New Orleans. That is a
beautiful country also. My husband Ron "Moose"
and I were discussing a lot about crops during our
travels. We think we know what a cotton field looks
like. The convention itself was very busy and I
learned a lot. Congratulations to Illinois' PAM RAY
who was installed as the National American Legion
Auxiliary Vice President!

My next travel is planned as a car trip to National
President Trish Wards Homecoming in Wichita,
Kansas, September 26, ending September 28, 2024,
with a Western Theme Gala Event at Exploration
Place, Kansas' premier science center. This is going
to be very interesting!

(Continued on page 11)



Detachment
Commander,

**RICK
ALLEN**

Fall is in the air! Let us all
keep working on getting
membership. Our Decem-
ber 31st deadline will be
here before we know it.

In my travels driving through Illinois and out of
state, I get to see firsthand what a beautiful Nation
our Veterans have fought and died. It's a gift that can
never be repaid, but we CAN step up and work to
keep the legacy alive. My dad served during Korean
time and I'm always going to be proud of him and all
Veterans.

I'm looking for Squadrons all over Illinois that want
to take Training. This is a good way to learn about
how the Sons operate correctly. Please contact Larry
Miller at (lmiller.ildiv5@gmail.com) to set a date. I
would like to thank Sr. Vice Wayne Madson for his
work in membership. He is doing a great job!

My special program is Operation Comfort
Warriors (under the 'Be the One' Program). There
are so many service members who return home only
to face a new battle. Some struggle with a TBI
(Traumatic Brain Injury) or PTSD (Post- Traumatic
Stress Disorder). In fact, the Army has estimated that
up to 20% of men and women who served in
Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered a TBI. OCW is
not a program designed to help with bills (mortgage,
rent, utilities, or credit cards), car repairs or home
repairs—but it does cover things like sports equip-
ment to help rebuild strength in their muscles and so
much more! Our Veterans need programs like this
one to help them recover and heal. 100% of the
donations go to the veterans.

So far, I have attended State Fair on Veterans Day
for the parade, the American Legion State Golf Tour-
nament in Danville, the President's homecoming in
Effingham, the National Convention in New Orleans,
a Labor Day Parade in Pontiac, a meeting at

(Continued on page 11)

RIDING TO NOLA

The 2024 National Legacy Ride and TAL National Convention 2024





Pam Ray
National Vice President Nominee



Eagle Project for the American Legion Illinois Headquarters

Keegan Grosse of BSA Troop 2007 of Normal, IL. is working on his Eagle Scout project to benefit the American Legion Illinois Headquarters.

The project entails updating the exterior building sign for the American Legion and creating a memorial for all branches of the military.

Any donation would be greatly appreciated to help fund this project.

Please scan the QR code below for GoFundMe, or make checks payable to

Troop 2007, % Susan Grosse, 405 Plumage Ct. Normal IL. 61761



Gifts to Gift to The Yanks Christmas Gifts Worksheet

Please complete this form and go to
https://orders.minervapromotions.com/gifts_to_the_yanks/shop/home
to order. All orders must be sent before November 1st, 2024

V.A Hospital or Nursing Home Name _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Activity Director or Person in charge _____

Facility Telephone number (include area code) _____

American Legion Representative responsible for delivering gifts _____

Post # _____ Phone # (include area code) _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Facility is located in _____ District of the _____ Division of the Department of Illinois American Legion.

Total number of VETERAN patients in you facility? Male _____ Female _____

I certify these figures are accurate as of today's date _____

Superintendent or Administrator _____

GIFT LIST (ONE GIFT PER VETERAN)
(Please note, these are the only sizes available).

ITEMS	Quantity Each Size					
	<i>Small</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Large</i>	<i>X-Large</i>	<i>XX-Large</i>	<i>XXX-Large</i>
<i>Sweatshirt Top</i>						
<i>Blanket</i>						
<i>GIFT BAG</i>						

A Gift Bag Gift, for a veteran where size may be a problem: GIFT BAGS _____ **One Gift Per Veteran**

Total Gifts Needed _____

Gift to Yanks Christmas Gifts Worksheet

Please complete this form and go to

https://orders.minervapromotions.com/gifts_to_the_yanks/shop/home

to order. All orders must be sent before November 1st, 2024

	Name	Gift & Size	Room #
1			
2			
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86th HAVEN JAMBOREE

Sponsored by the:

EGYPTIAN PAST COMMANDERS AND PAST PRESIDENTS CLUBS

November 15-17, 2024

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

JAMBOREE RAFFLE AND DONATIONS

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

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

If not mailed by **11/8/2024**, please bring them with you.

JAMBOREE HOUSING FOR 2024

We will again enjoy the accommodations at the Country Inn and Suites, 1306 Halfway Road, Marion, IL, 62959. Please make your own reservations by calling 1-618-997-2444. Be sure to mention The American Legion block of rooms coded **AMERICAN LEGION HAVEN JAMBOREE** for the weekend of **11/17 through 11/19/2023**. Also, the Hampton Inn, 2710 W. DeYoung, Marion, is an option for hotel reservations. Due to another event reserving rooms at the Country Inn and Suites, we are offering the Hampton Inn for your enjoyment. The code is the same, and it is located close, near the Applebees. Your reservations must be received by **October 23, 2024**. The rate for the rooms will be \$98.00 plus tax for queen/king; \$108 plus tax for king studio or suite.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

9:00 A.M. Egyptian Past Presidents Club, Meeting, Country Inn and Suites

10:00 A.M. Annual Meeting of the Egyptian Past Commanders Club at The Haven

REALLY IMPORTANT!

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

CHECKS FOR PAST PRESIDENTS DUES PAYABLE TO: EGYPTIAN PAST PRESIDENTS CLUB

PAST PRESIDENTS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Dues are \$5.00 per year.

Detach and mail to: Judy Zimmerman
5531 Oak Street, Highland, IL 62249

Name _____

Dist. _____ Unit _____

Address: _____

PAST COMMANDERS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Dues are \$5.00 per year.

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

Name _____

Dist _____ Post _____ Squadron _____

Address: _____

STEAK FRY RESERVATIONS Friday evening, November 15, 5-8 P.M. Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$20 per person). Reservations due 11/8/2024

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

Steak _____

Name _____

BANQUET RESERVATION FORM – Knights of Columbus Hall, Marion

Reservations due 11/8/2024 for Buffet Banquet. Detach and mail to William Flanagan
409 E. Oak, New Baden, IL 62265

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$30 per person) for E.P.C.C. Banquet, **Saturday, 11/16/2024.**

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

Name(s) _____

(Department Commander, Continued from page 2)

mains of 3 Korean War and 5 WWII service members. The DPAA has identified/repatriated 145 service members this year (2024).

November 5 is right around the corner. Please take the time to exercise your civic duty—and your PRIVILEGE— and vote!

Until next month!

Department Commander,
Joe Lampert

(Department President, Continued from page 3)

I still have space on my calendar for a visit to your Unit, District, Division or special event in your area. Please contact me with details. National has sent the membership dues renewal notices, so please pay! Units do not hold membership! Please send it in in a timely manner.

Hope everyone has an *interesting* Halloween!

Till next time, STAY SAFE, BE HEALTHY and GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Department President,
Arlene Holtgrave

(Detachment Commander, Continued from page 3)

Squadron 36, Des Plains 9th District Meeting, 1st Division Installation , Commander's homecoming in Des Plains, 9th District Installation at Schiller Park Post, an installation of officers at Franklin Park and a 2.2 mile walk for Be the One Program in DeKalb. I've been keeping busy and am enjoying every minute of it.

I recently came across this and thought it worthy of who the sons are:

Why I Am A Volunteer
I don't do it for money nor fame,
And I don't do it for personal gain.
I volunteer to lend a hand
To the Veteran who served his land.
It's just to give a tithe of self
The job that I do means more than wealth,
It's not for medals worn with pride.
It's for the rewards I feel inside.
My rewards are tucked deep in my heart,
To let me know I have done my part.
I'm helping Veterans far and near,
I am proud to be a volunteer.
--Author unknown--

Rick Allen
Detachment Commander
Standing Strong for the Legion Family

COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING

AND birthday! The Legion Family came together to help celebrate



BE THE ONE



If you're reading this, you have probably heard the phrase "22 a Day is 22 Too Many." Veteran suicide is a heavy topic—and an even heavier epidemic. What can we as a Legion Family do to help? We can start by raising awareness. We can continue to reach out. We can "Be the One to Save One."

On Sunday September 22, another American Legion Be The One walk took place in DeKalb. The community came together to walk 2.2 miles. Department Commander Joe Lampert and Sr. Vice Roy Smith partook in the event, along with other Legion Family members. At the walk there were 22 rocks with the names of veterans who had committed suicide. These names were provided by family members who then carried these rocks on the 2.2 mile walk. During the walk, if these rocks became too heavy for those carrying them, someone else would step in and carry them for a while.



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JOSEPH P. LAMPERT Department Editor
SHANDI GREEN



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Newsletter articles must be at Department Headquarters by the
15th of each month for it to be in the next months issue.

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

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



DISTRICT & DIVISION

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

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



*Scan here to
visit the Dept.
website.*