

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-

(Continued on page 11)



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 member-
ship, as of writing this we are in 19th place national-
ly. 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 Member-
ship 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 re-
mind 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 No-
vember 11 - 16. I would like to challenge every
member to visit or call a Veteran, the spouse of a de-
ceased 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



**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 Homecoming. 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 anywhere 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 birthday party, National VA & R zoom meeting, and several Unit meetings. I have traveled to the north and northwest of Illinois for three forums. There is beautiful 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 December 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 equipment 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 Tournament 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







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			
3			
4			
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25			



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 PAYBLE TO: EGYPTIAN PAST PRESIDENTS CLUB

<p><u>PAST PRESIDENTS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM</u> Dues are \$5.00 per year. Detach and mail to: Judy Zimmerman 5531 Oak Street, Highland, IL 62249 Name _____ Dist. _____ Unit _____ Address: _____ _____</p>	<p><u>PAST COMMANDERS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM</u> Dues are \$5.00 per year. Detach & mail to William Flanagan 409 E. Oak, New Baden, IL 62265 Name _____ Dist _____ Post _____ Squadron _____ Address: _____ _____</p>
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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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Phone: 309-663-0361 Fax: 309-663-5783
Email: hdqs@illegion.org Web: www.illegion.org

Department Commander: JOSEPH F. LAMPERT
Department Editor: SHANDI GREEN

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

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Top 10

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.