



SEPTEMBER

SEPT 4: CMDR APPTS(@HQ)

SEPT 11: PATRIOT DAY

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

HOMECOMING (CHICAGO)

SEPT 28: FALL MEETINGS / SAL FALL

DEC (BARTONVILLE POST 979)

OCTOBER

OCT 4: CARAVAN MEETING (@HQ)

ALA REP-DEP MEETING (@HQ)

OCT 5: **DEPT. FALL MEETINGS (@HQ)**

ALA SECTION 1 FALL FORUM

(@ FRANKLIN PARK)

OCT 6: ALA SECTION 17FALL FORUM

(@ RANTOUL)

OCT 7: MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

ALA BIRTHDAY

OCT 7 –10: NATIONAL HQ FALL MEETINGS

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

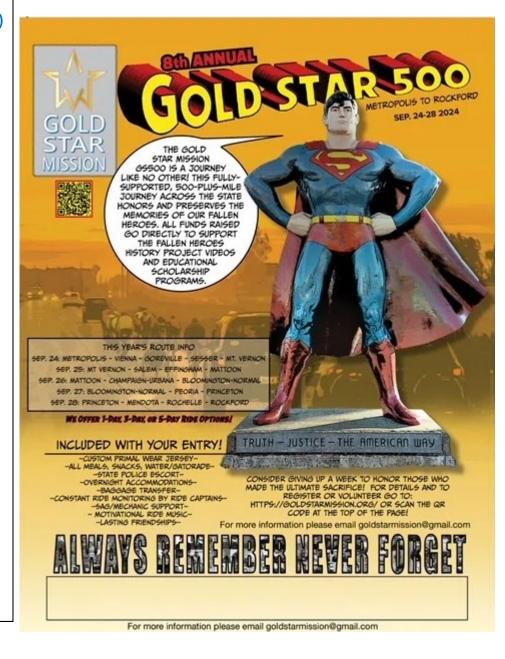
OCT 25-27: NATIONAL STAFF

REVITALIZATION (DANVILLE)

CHANGES FOR DISABLED VETERANS

The Governor signed a new law (Public Act 103-0596) that has made structural changes to the Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities (SHEVD). It primarily impacts the limitations as follows:

- change the SHEVD beginning with 2023 (payable 2024) so that the \$250,000 EAV cap on eligibility is changed to a \$250,000 maximum exemption.
- Change the SHEVD beginning with 2023 (payable 2024) to remove the requirement of an honorable discharge.
- Add veterans of WWII to the eligibility list (irrespective of disability status) beginning with 2024 (payable 2025).



2024—2025 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

SEPTEMBER 2024				
DATE	DIST./ DIV.	TIME	DETAILS & LOCATION	
09/04/2024	IST DIVISION	7:30 PM	DIVISION MEETING @ FRANKLIN PARK POST 974	
09/08/2024	IST DIVISION	11:00 AM	JOINT DIVISION INSTALLATION LONE TREE MANOR (NILES)	
09/18/2024	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ LINCOLNWOOD POST 1226	
09/20/2024	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ ROUND LAKE POST 1170	
09/29/2024	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	DISTRICT MEETING @ GRANVILLE POST 180	

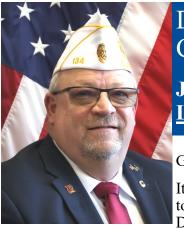
OCTOBER 2024				
DATE	DIST./ DIV.	TIME	DETAILS & LOCATION	
10/06/2024	2IST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ SPRINGFIELD POST 809	
10/06/2024	22ND DISTRICT	11:00 AM	DISTRICT MEETING @ O'FALLON POST 137	
10/13/2024	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	FALL MEETING @ STEWARDSON, IL	
10/13/2024	3rd division	1:00 PM	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	
10/26/2024	20TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	FALL MEETING @ WINCHESTER POST 442	

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

NOTE: WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO INCLUDE YOUR SUBMISSIONS BUT CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL BE. IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE, PLEASE SUBMIT BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR



Department Commander, JOSEPH LAMPERT

Greetings, Legion Family!

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your 2024-25 Department Commander.

I am looking forward to working with President Arlene and Detachment Commander Rick this year.

It has been a busy month since Department Convention. I have attended the 1st Division Auxiliary Installation, the National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis, the 10th annual Illinois State Golf tournament in Danville, the American Legion Baseball Midwest RegionTournament dinner in Carol Stream, President Arlene's Fall Board Meeting and Homecoming in Effingham and the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. And by the time you read this, we will have gone to New Orleans for the 105th American Legion National Convention!

My motto for the year is a take on the Seabees; We Build (Membership), We Fight (for Veterans). I believe that all of us working together as a Legion Family will make us successful!

My special projects for the year are the Veterans and Children Foundation and the Illinois Disaster Relief Fund (IDRF).

My homecoming is September 14th in Des Plaines. I am hoping you can attend and look forward to seeing many of you there.

As I finish writing this, I am packing the Indian to participate in the National Legacy Run from Independence, MO to New Orleans, LA. Look out for next month's newsletter with an overview of the Legacy Run and National Convention.

Yours in Service, Joe Lampert



Department Sr. Vice Commander, ROY SMITH

Wow it's been a busy first month! I have been down to Shawneetown to Huntley Illinois and a few stops in between. The Na-

vy had a motto a few years back "It's not just a Job it's an Adventure". This is an Adventure for sure. Not only am I enjoying the sites I am becoming acquainted with wonderful people.

In my travels I have had the pleasure to sit down with all of the Division Commanders and their leadership teams. We have had a chance to get to know one another and I have learned that y'all is not a common term in the north end of the state.

I have been to National Headquarters membership training, with the Illinois membership team. We picked up a few new ideas and relearned a few old ones. During this, I've also figured out that we are doing more right than wrong! Like everything else we can improve and I think the team we have can beat National's expectations. One of those expectations, is our first National Target of 50% by 9/11/24.

I have been to the regional Baseball banquet with teams from all over our region. Young people playing baseball for the love of the game.

I had never been to a car race in my life, but I was able to work the Be the One Booth at the World Wide Technology Raceway in Madison Illinois. The experience of hearing the stories of veterans and meeting people from all walks of life who were ready to stand with the American Legion and take a pledge to help raise awareness of and stop Veterans and Active Duty Suicide was overwhelming.

I will make myself available to help anyone who asks for help. If it training for new Officers, Post, District or Division, if I can't do it I will find someone who can. Don't be afraid to ask.

I have used the term "I" a lot in this article but without "Y'ALL," none of this first month would have been possible. Thank You for giving me this opportunity to represent our American Legion.



Department President,

ARLENE HOLTGRAVE

WOW! It's hard to believe that a month has gone by since installation. What a day that was! Thank you everyone that

attended. I hope everyone enjoyed the reception.

The Summer Workshop and Fall Board meeting are now in the History books. It's a lot of work planning the Auxiliary events, and I appreciate all the help. I could not do it alone. THANK YOU everyone for all your help and attendance.

A special thank you to everyone who attended my Homecoming breakfast. I hope you enjoyed the food and camaraderie.

It has been and still is a busy month! I've attended installations, zoom meetings, finance meeting, Illinois State Fair with the Legion Family, and rode in the Veteran's Parade. August isn't finished yet and we still have the Special Olympics and National Convention to name a few.

September starts the Fall Forums, Commander Joe's Homecoming, and the National President's homecoming in Wichita, Kansas. There are open dates on my calendar, and I would be honored to receive an invitation to an event in your area! You can call, text, and/or email me. I will answer as soon as possible.

My special project this year is the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF). It's an important program and one that is important to me. Let's help everyone in the Auxiliary Family as we "Build a Brighter Future for Our Veterans".

Till next time!

STAY SAFE, BE HEALTHY and GOD BLESS AMERICA!



Detachment Commander, RICK ALLEN

Greetings from the Detachment of Illinois!

As I'm writing this, I am getting ready to head to

National in New Orleans it has been a busy time hope everyone is well.

I am excited to start this year. The Legion Team is ready to go with help from Commander Joe Lampert and President Arlene. The golf outing was a big hit this year and I enjoyed the time together. I attended Arlene's homecoming. It was a great time together and I also was able to make the veterans parade at the State Fair. We will see you somewhere down the road.

As we start this membership year, I am looking forward to working with my Senior Vice Wayne Madson. As we enter this membership year of 2024-2025, I am looking to make this an outstanding year with Training, filling out SDR, CSR and getting Certification in on time. I also would like to see membership at 105% by close of business. This is just a few things I would like to see, enough of this for now.

My service project is Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW). The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warrior program was created to provide "non-essential" items that help wounded warriors in their recovery but doesn't usually show up as budget line on government spreadsheets.

My theme is "Be the One that Makes the Difference". Step out and do something you haven't done like go to a District Meeting, a Division Meeting or find new members. Let's go to a DEC Meeting and check on a veteran, we can do this.

We have all chosen the SAL for one reason or another. They are our veterans and we are all volunteers. We can make this organization strong through our actions. Mine are "Planting the seeds of progress for a stronger family". If there is anything the SAL leadership can help with, let us know. We are all part of the American Legion Family. Till we meet again be safe in your travels.

Detachment Commander Rick Allen Standing Strong for the Legion family

Gifting Those Who Have Gifted US



Our Nation's veterans have gifted us with the ultimate Christmas present: our freedom. Our Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave program is a way to give back.

The American Legion Department of Illinois is one of the few states with a program of this nature. It has been providing Christmas presents every year to Veterans in nursing homes, VA hospitals and those who are homebound. And while those presents are indeed special, the most important part of this program is the visit from a Veteran to a fellow Veteran.

During these visits, they spend time together exchanging war stories, sharing laughs (and sometimes

tears) and building friendships. It's something to look forward to during what may come as a difficult time of the year for some. We want to keep providing that experience for our Veterans! As with many other programs, funds have significantly decreased. But Gifts to the Yanks 5th Division Chairman Dutch Jancek of Locklar-Smith American Legion Post 550 has been taking matters into his own hands. He has been visiting local restaurants, such as Chicken Salad Chick and Texas Roadhouse and setting up informational tables to get the word out. He is pictured above at Texas Roadhouse where on August 7, 2024 Locklar-Smith American Legion Post 550 from Freeburg sponsored another fundraiser. They have also been placing donation containers at various locations around their area for this program.

If you'd like more information on this program or how to make a tax deductible donation, please contact your local American Legion post!

Orders due BY NOVEMBER 1, 2024!!

Instructions for online orders below. Gift options and physical order forms on the following pages.









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			c	City/Zip		
Activity Director or Persor	n in charge					
Facility Telephone numbe	r (include are	a code)				
American Legion Represe	entative respo	nsible for de	livering gifts			
Post #F	Phone # (inclu	ide area code	e)			
Address				City/Zip		
Facility is located in[District of the_	Divisio	on of the Dep	partment of I	llinois Americ	an Legion.
Total number of VETERAI	N patients in y	ou facility? N	MaleF	emale	- 2	
I certify these figures are	accurate as o	f today's date	e			
Superintendent or Adminis	strator					
	GIFT LIST (ONE GIFT PER VETERAN)					
	(Please note	e, these are t	he only sizes	s available).		
ITEMS			Quantity E		1077	1000
O 2000 2 40 127 4 T 2 20	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large	XXX-Large
Sweatshirt Top						
Blanket						
GIFT BAG						
A Gift Bag Gift, for a veteran where size may be a problem: GIFT BAGS One Gift Per Veteran					Per Veteran	
Total Gifts Needed						
N						

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 #
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ILLINOIS STATE POLICE AND AMERICAN LEGION YOUTH POLICE CAMP INSPIRES FUTURE PUBLIC PROTECTORS

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois State Police (ISP) and the American Legion hosted the American Legion Youth Police Camp (ALYPC) at the Illinois National Guard Academy at Camp Lincoln in Springfield June 23-28, 2024. Twenty-five 15-17-year-old teens, called Cadets, successfully completed the week-long residency camp. The primary goal of the ALYPC is to establish an interactive and positive relationship between Illinois teens, military personnel and law enforcement officers. The ALYPC is structured to promote educational and learning opportunities for youth from across Illinois in the areas of law enforcement, military, leadership, cultural diversity, personal development, physical fitness, as well as social and interpersonal skills.

"The American Legion has enjoyed another successful year of our American Legion Youth Cadet Program, with the assistance of the Illinois State Police and the Illinois National Guard," said Chairman Wayne Madson of the American Legion. "We graduated 25 cadets this year on the 28th of June. It is very rewarding to watch these young kids grow in a week's time. During the week, you saw kids working together for a goal of completing a task, and building confidence in themselves," he added.

American Legion volunteers and ISP staff were assigned to manage the program and serve as instructors and mentors. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Secretary of State as well as the Illinois National Guard provide numerous resources and counselors for the camp. Many of the American Legion and ISP volunteers are former graduates of the program. The ALYPC Cadets were honored at a graduation ceremony and received a graduation certificate.

While the camp's primary goal is to build positive relationships with teens, it also builds a path towards a potential career in law enforcement or the U.S. military. The ALYPC is one of four youth camps across the state ISP participates in - Principia College in Elsah, Lewis University in Romeoville, and Touch of Nature in Makanda. Anyone interested in joining the ranks of the Illinois State Police is encouraged to visit the Illinois State Police Merit Board (ISPMB) website at www.illinoistrooper.com for application information.

Welcome to Hyatt Leverage.

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

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REMINDER: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

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

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

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

THANKS FOR SHARING!

Here's what your fellow Legion Family members are up to!



The Rochelle American Legion Post 403 had its annual summer banquet and officer installation at Storybook Gardens on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. The speaker was Miguel Ortiz, Congressional Aide, Office of U.S. Congressman Darin LaHood of Illinois. He presented on Congressman LaHood's efforts on behalf of veterans. From left to right: Eric Welles (Finance Officer), Paul Bearrows (Chaplain), Steve Korth (Adjutant), Jerry Howard (13th District Commander and installation officer), Miguel Ortiz, Chuck Roberts (Commander), Gary Tarvestad (Sargent at Arms) and Paul Hardcastle (Senior Vice-Commander).



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





The National Medal of Honor Museum staff hosted Mike Wickam of Jerry Wickam Post 1148 to officially make a donation in June. He donated various items belonging to his late father Jerry Wickam, including his original Medal of Honor. *see full list and photos of donation items.

When complete, the museum will house rotating exhibits featuring select MOH recipients. The Wickam Family has been invited to attend the ceremony when the museum will officially open in March 2025.

Although Jerry's personal effects will probably not be displayed at the grand opening, his Medal of Honor will be!

*information submitted by Paul Detmer



Items donated by the Wickam Family: original Medal of Honor, other original decorations and medals, the American flag that draped over his casket, Vietnam-worn field jack, bayonet, beret, wallet, various pictures from Vietnam, White House Medal of Honor ceremony, and personal photos telling part of Jerry Wickam's story, news articles, over 500 letters to and from Jerry Wickam while in the service, the original Leaf River American Legion Post IL-1148 proclamation renaming the post in his honor (first of many namesakes over the past 50+ years)



American Legion Department of Illinois leadership lent a hand at the St. Louis Race activation. Thanks to their hard work, **412 people made the pledge to Be The One**, and we were able to share information about the Legion and support on site to veterans FROM veterans. This is the second-largest pledge result aside from the Indy 500, and considering the attendance numbers of both races, their efforts were phenomenal!

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Department Commander 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
2	CARLSON
4	YOUNG
1	HORN
5	PAGE

District	Commander
8	Cornell, Jr
4	Acevedo
14	Arbuckle
17	Rodriguez
16	Bennett
15	Hagie
12	Brubach
22	Mahan
11	Miller
13	Howard



Scan here to visit the Dept. website.