

Department News

The American Legion - Department of Illinois

JUNE - JULY 2010



Remember the
"VALUE"
of Membership

~ ~ ~

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

~ ~ ~

Top 10 Districts
as of JUNE 25, 2010

~ ~ ~

DISTRICT & DIVISION
RANKINGS

DISTRICT ~ COMMANDER

- 24 ~ WELTY
- 22 ~ FREEMAN
- 10 ~ NAUMAN
- 20 ~ R. WOOD
- 8 ~ P. WOOD
- 18 ~ WILLIAMS
- 15 ~ WALKER
- 11 ~ FISCHER
- 25 ~ MYDLER
- 12 ~ SCHAEFER

DIVISION ~ COMMANDER

- 5 ~ TOWERY
- 2 ~ KEEGAN
- 3 ~ TAYLOR
- 4 ~ PHELPS
- 1 ~ PENN

★ ★ ★ Thank You
Commander Bill
and First Lady Ann
for your Service to
the Dept. of Illinois



Girls State 2010

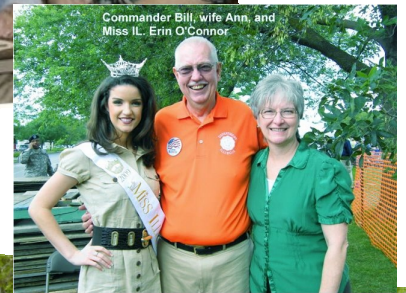


Bill and his Aide
Hank Roberts



Oratorical 2010

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Commander Bill, wife Ann, and
Miss IL Erin O'Connor



SAL Convention
for Detachment
Commander Melone



Governor Quinn signs a bill at SAFB



Boys State 2010





**From The Desk of
Department Commander
William J. Flanagan**



As this will be my last column for the newsletter let me just say thanks to everyone in the Department for making all my visits to all the many functions throughout the state warm and accommodating. I would like to give a special thank you to the entire Department staff for their help during these last two years of service to the Department of Illinois.

May was a very busy month as we had a very special event to show the Department appreciation of

John Geiger. I would like to thank PNC Marty Conatser and Honorable Vince Gaughn for heading up the team from Illinois who put on the event as well as those who attended. It was then off to Indianapolis for the Spring Meetings along with the National Executive Committee meetings from May 2nd thru 6th. My wife Ann and I then traveled to Independence, Missouri along with Sr. Vice Commander Groharing and wife Peggy, as did our NEC Gene Thompson and wife Marian, to honor President Harry Truman on his Birthday. Our good friend Frank Prosser and his wife Linda took good care of us and for a while we all felt like he was back in Illinois. As everyone knows Frank is the Department Adjutant for Missouri and from what I was told he is not doing a bad job. We

all then came back and spent the next weekend in the 2nd Division for Armed Forces weekend. My thanks to the Genoa, Rockford and the Rockton Posts for all the hospitality shown to my wife and me during this visit. Oh, I almost forgot, being in the Air Force I was a little lost on the visit to Great Lakes Naval Training facilities!

On Sunday May 16th I and my wife spent some time at the 9th District Past Commanders and Presidents dinner. The hospitality was outstanding and I must say congratulations to them for the fine job they are doing in the different phases of the American Legion, even with all the adversity they have had this year. I then attended the Mascoutah High School Awards night were I was privileged to pre-

(Dept. Commander continued on page 18)



**From The Desk of
Department
Sr. Vice Commander
Richard C. Groharing**

WOW! Here it is, the almost end of another Legion year. Where does time go when you don't have everything done that you had planned? Why is it that you expect things to get done and somehow it just does not happen. It brings to mind a quote that I read a couple days ago "Due to the fault of no one person or persons, but to the general apathy and neglect of all, our Post stood at a standstill for the better part of the preceding four years. Efforts to remedy this condition were not successful, simply because those efforts did not take

the form of united and concerted action." These are words from a post commander from 80+ years ago and 'Boy' do they ring true today, especially for the Department of Illinois for the last two years. Sounds as though this guy had the same problem that we have, too many chiefs and not enough Indians. Yes, I said it, we have all sat and said what should be done but nobody has got up off their duff and went out and did the work. Yes, I am including myself, I could have done more. But where are all the leaders of this organization when we need them? What are they doing? I don't seem to hear from them until something goes wrong and then 'here comes how to fix it' when they should have been working on it from the beginning. This membership needs a

dramatic boost and it needs to start now, not next week, month or year. This downward spiral has to stop. Commander Flanagan and I both have an open door policy for info and ideas for membership. If you have a working idea for your post, let us know, or better yet, put it in writing and we will put it in the newsletter and give you **ALL** the credit. We just want the membership.

My travels since the last article have been extensive. Peggy traveled with me to attend the 37th Annual Truman Pilgrimage in Independence, Missouri and the spring meeting in Indianapolis. A lot of driving but the weather held for the trip to and from. Enjoyed visiting with Frank Prosser (MO. Adj.) and Lynn his better half while we

(Dept. Sr. Vice Cmdr continued on page 19)





**From The Desk of
Auxiliary
Department
President
Julia Moore**

As I begin to write this last article for The American Legion Newsletter, I am filled with mixed emotions. Yes, I have had so much fun this year representing the members of the American Legion Auxiliary throughout this Department. Yes, I have met many new friends and saw many friends that I only see a couple of times a year. Yes, I have been treated so well everywhere I went. Yes, I am so proud of the accomplishments and activities of The Legion Family this year. Yes, I have enjoyed every minute of this year, but I will enjoy being able to

spend more time with my family. I also hope to be able to reenergize the members of my Unit and District this coming year. I have had the privilege of seeing things done in other Units and Districts and hope to bring some new ideas home.

It was an honor to lay a wreath at President Truman's grave in Missouri, even though it had to be a fast trip in order to get home for Mother's Day.

Congratulations to TAL for a beautiful tribute to Past National Commander John Geiger. I was so impressed to hear how young he was when he served as Department and National Commander. He certainly has devoted a lifetime to our organization. Thank you PNC Geiger.

The Special Olympics Hospitality

Tent has been a favorite of mine for years. I am excited to see the athletes and their medals. They are so proud of their accomplishments as well they should be. I am looking so forward in a couple of weeks to attend the 70th Session of Illini Girls State.

Then it will be the end. I am planning on attending the SAL Convention and then our own a couple of weeks later, followed in a month by the National Convention.

I want to thank everyone in The Legion Family for all the courtesies this year, for the contributions to my Special Projects, and for anything and everything you did to make this year so special for me. I did appreciate everything that was done. The Department Office Staff (both TAL and Auxiliary) always

(Aux. President continued on page 15)



**From The Desk of
Public Relations
and
Membership Director
Denise Fields**

"Have some fun, because it'll all end. You want to look back and say it was a Great Ride." —Mike McCarthy

Well it is time to finish our 2010 membership year. Did you have fun this year? I hope you did. Hard work is easier to do if you're having fun too. Did you renew a membership with any of your past members? Wasn't it nice to talk to some of your comrades that you hadn't seen in awhile? Did you tell a veteran about the benefits of being a member and ask him to join your post? Many of you can

answer yes to every one of these questions and those of you that can; I thank you for a job well done.

What about the rest of you?

If we are going to turn our Membership around we have to follow a 3-prong strategy:

1. Service to our veterans-Do you have a Service Officer that is in the know?
2. Public Relations- Do your post members and your community know what you do?
3. Membership Retention-Do you personally ask every member to renew their membership?

This is the way we maintain our ability to take care of our veterans and continue to insure we never lose the benefits we earned.

Now, let's switch gears a little. How many of you have taken ad-

vantage of any of the many benefits afforded to you as a member of The American Legion? I had an opportunity to see firsthand how valuable my Legion Membership is.

This story starts with me buying a side of beef. Of course I didn't think about where I was going to put this meat; just that I would have fresh beef. So, I went shopping for a freezer. Once I determined what style, I took a trip to my local Sears to price them out. The reason I went to Sears is because as an American Legion Member I have a special purchase program. I priced my freezer and wrote down the style number of my choice. I then called the number listed on the National website under the benefits tab. A Sears's

(Membership continued on page 19)





AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS - news from the saddlebags

SUMMER 2010—Well the ALR riding and event season is well under way. The Legacy Run is getting closer and if you haven't signed up yet the time is NOW! Don't procrastinate get it done and get in on the action for a good cause and a good ride with your fellow Legion Riders. It's going to Milwaukee a biker city and what a great place to end. Home of this year's national convention and as the convention ends the ALR National Romp starts...kind of a three for one deal. Can't beat a deal like that.

The Department Convention will be going July 14th -17th with a Freedom Fest Street Party on Friday night the 16th that will be more fun than you can imagine. This party will be the place to be and it gets better every year. The Commander and everyone involved are doing their level best to make the state convention an activity that ALL Legion members want to participate in. An event that makes you want to become involved in all facets of the Legion, not just the ALR. Come to Springfield and see how it works, view the Legion process and the wheels of progress turning. YOU will have an enjoyable time and meet great people and make some new friends.

I can't say enough about the Legacy Scholarship Fund, it is a great thing and the "Run" itself is the best thing going. Supporting the fund makes you feel good inside knowing that you have gave to the kids of those who gave it all. Supporting their continuing education will promote a living legacy .

If all goes as planned we will try to have a bike show at the Department Convention this year. This is not quite a done deal as of yet, but we are working on it. If it happens it will be Saturday morning, the last day of the convention on Legion Avenue (Adams) between the convention center and the Hilton. No promises but we are going to try. There will be an entry fee with the entry fee going to the Legacy Fund.

Remember August 15th will be Veterans Day at the Illinois State Fair. That is on a Sunday. Legion riders are welcome. We try to ride in the Parade and park our bikes on the grounds. This year we will most likely start the parade in Happy Hollow. Watch the website for more info on this.

We may park our bikes at the Veterans tent as we did last year. Denise Fields most likely will be their along with either the State Commander or State Sr. Vice Commander. I know with vacations, Legacy Run and all of the good things going on it will be difficult to make every event. Again, keep an eye on the website and we will try to post information about this event on this venue. The more visible we are the more recognizable we will become and the more people will become involved.

★☆☆ Ride the Legend – The Legion Legend,

Your State committee: Wayne Erickson; Roy Smith; Steve Nunn; Don Walden; Dave Montee; Joyce Correll

ALR HOSTING BIKE SHOW AT DEPT. CONVENTION

American Legion Riders

Hosting Bike Show

Saturday, July 17th

Department Convention

At entrance to convention center

Signup 0900-1000

Registration at ALR Booth inside hall

\$10.00 entry fee

Judging by attendees 1000-Noon

Entry Fees will go to support

Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Classes will be - Touring, Sport, Antique, Custom, Cruiser and Trike

***There will be a Commanders Choice selected by the outgoing and Incoming Commander along with the Ladies Auxiliary President.**





ATTENTION

If interested in Competing in the Color Guard Competition at the 92nd Annual Dept. Convention please contact Christy Rich A.S.A.P at Dept. HQ.

**American Legion - Dept. of Illinois
92nd Annual Convention**

**Please Make Time
To Visit Our Vendors**

Vendor List

1. Boy Scouts
2. Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave
3. Made by Sandy – (Crafts)
4. Children & Youth
5. Attorney General – Lisa Madigan
6. PICA Group Services Inc.
7. American Legion Riders
8. Detachment of Illinois
9. Poppy Sales/Production
10. VA&R
11. 2nd District – District of Champions
12. Historian
13. POW/MIA
14. Secretary of State – Jesse White
15. Miche Bag - (Handbags)
16. Lancaster Bingo Co.
17. Veterans Funeral Care
18. American Legion Charitable Gift Annuity
19. 4th Division
20. 19th District American Legion Auxiliary
21. Diana Umdenstock
22. Illinois Department of Transportation – Traffic Safety
23. Hartley Amusements, Inc.

**New to Convention
- Medical Information Cards -**

Delegates and Alternates will find these cards enclosed in their District Boxes. Please be prepared to fill out the front and back of the Medical Information card then place it behind your credentials/convention badge — Especially if you have a medical condition and are taking medication Emergency Medical Services should be aware of.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Allergies: _____

FRONT



Medications taken regularly	For what condition
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

BACK



92nd Annual Department Convention

July 13 – 17, 2010
Springfield, Illinois

FREEDOM FEST

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO HELP COMMANDER BILL FLANAGAN'S AND PRESIDENT JULIA MOORE'S CELEBRATE THEIR CONVENTIONS AND YEAR OF SERVICE.

Friday, July 16, 2010 6:00 p.m. - Midnight

700 Block of E. Adams

DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD IN THE ROADWAY BETWEEN THE TWO CONVENTION HOTELS.

\$\$\$ NO COVER CHARGE \$\$\$

LIVE MUSIC 7 p.m. – 11 p.m.

BEER, SODA, FOOD

FEATURING CLASSIC ROCK & BLUES BY ***“THE JOE COOKE BAND”***



Party In Honor of our Department Commander Bill Flanagan Thanking Commander for His Years of Service!

Everyone Welcome

Music 7 p.m. – 12 a.m. by Good Vibrations D.J.

The Mess Hall Restaurant serving dinner 4:30-8:30 p.m.

(The Mess Hall Restaurant is inside of and operated by Springfield Post #32, The American Legion)

The Mess Hall Restaurant will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Complete Bar Service at Post 32 Everyday, open at 10:30 a.m.

***Thursday,
July 15, 2010
6 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Springfield Post 32***

*1120 Sangamon Avenue
217/523-3415*

FREE CONTINUOUS SHUTTLE BY HARMONY SERVICE

Operates Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 10 a.m. – 1 a.m. between the hotels, Post 32 and Post 809.



SERVICE OFFICER WORKSHOP



Thursday, July 15, 2010

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Prairie Capital Convention Center

- Buddinger Room -



GUEST SPEAKERS

- ★ Jason Kees
- ★ Wayne Macejak
- ★ Ray Toczek
- ★ Arthur Taylor
- ★ Marc McCabe



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Blood Drive - Friday July 16th

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bloodmobile will be located just outside the Prairie Capital Convention Center on Adams Street, Springfield, IL



Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum

Special Rate of \$5.50 person will be given to the American Legion Family during the 92nd Annual Convention

July 13th—17th, 2010 **Visiting Hours: Daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



Illinois State Military Museum

FREE MUSEUM

Open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, Friday & Saturday July 15th—17th, 2010





Did You Know?

(By: **Raymond P. Toczek Legion Service Officer**)

312-980-4264

Raymond.Toczek@va.gov

That once a year the Department of Veterans Affairs releases a booklet entitled "Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors? This publication is available through the U.S. Government Printing Office and is the most widely requested booklet that they sell. The 2010 edition is now available and can be ordered by calling toll free at 1-866-512-1800. If you are only interested in viewing and printing out certain sections of this booklet then go to http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp. The 2010 edition has 167 pages and covers all VA benefits from Headstones to Home Loans and from Pensions to Prosthetic devices. There is also a page of common VA abbreviations, another with useful websites and phone numbers and the back section contains a listing of all the VA hospitals, community based outpatient clinics, nursing homes, vet centers and VA cemeteries. There are more than 1,400 sites of care.

Each year when I get my copy I glance through it for useful tidbits and to refresh my memory. I usually find something new or an item that I had read about but forgotten. This year is no different and here are some of the items (with their page number) I found worthwhile.

1. Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980 usually must have 24 continuous months of service to qualify but there are many exceptions. (Page 1)
2. Vets who are rated 50% or more service-connected disabled receive priority in scheduling appointments. (Page 4)
3. Travel cost reimbursement for some veterans is now 41.5 cents per/mile. (Page 8)
4. Those who received a Purple Heart Medal can get free hearing aids and eyeglasses. (Page 12)
5. Some vets can get up to \$4,100 for home improvements and structural alterations to their homes. (Page 13)
6. 35 VA Medical Centers offer sheltered workshops to prepare veterans for possible employment. (Page 15)
7. If a vet has a 70% or more rating or is getting the 100% rate of compensation due to individual unemployability the VA will pay for the cost of their nursing home care, whatever the reason. (Page 18)
8. If a vet lacks a bank account but wishes their check to be on direct deposit they can sign up for only \$3 a month. (Page 23)
9. The VA administers pensions to recipients of the Medal of Honor and the current monthly rate is \$1,194. (Page 35)
10. It is now possible to obtain a VA home loan certificate of eligibility directly from certain lenders. (Page 47)
11. The funding fee on a VA home loan is waived for any veteran receiving VA compensation. (Page 51)
12. Reservists and National Guard members who are entitled to retirement pay can have their deceased spouse or dependent children buried in a VA national cemetery. (Page 63).

I could go on and on but you get the general idea. This booklet is a must have for the veteran who seriously wants to know what they are eligible for from the Department of Veterans Affairs. And as always if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the phone number or e-mail address shown above.



KANE COUNTY COUGARS BASEBALL
Welcomes
Troops & Vets Night!
 Presented by Cantigny Park & First Division Museum
 Monday, August 2
 Gates Open 5:30 PM • Gametime 6:30 PM



“Troops & Vets Night” at Kane County Cougars Set for August 2

Ticket sales from first-time event will benefit three charities; A night to “support our troops and honor our veterans”

Cantigny Park and the First Division Museum at Cantigny, each part of the McCormick Foundation, announced they will sponsor “Troops & Vets Night” at the Kane County Cougars on Monday, August 2. Ticket sales for the game will benefit three nonprofit organizations: Honor Flight Chicago, Operation Support Our Troops Illinois and the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans.

“This is sure to be a fun and patriotic evening, and a unique opportunity for people to honor our local veterans and show support for our active-duty service members,” said Paul Herbert, executive director of the First Division Museum. “We’re also pleased to help raise some money for three organizations that do very important work.”

On game night, the Kane County Cougars will donate \$1 for






Directions to Elfstrom Stadium
 From I-88: Take I-88 to the Farnsworth Ave. North exit, 5 miles north to Cherry Lane, left to stadium.
 From I-90: Take I-90 to Route 59 South, to Route 64 West, to Kirk Road south, 3 miles to Cherry Lane, right to stadium.
 From I-290: Take I-290 to I-68. Take I-68 West to the Farnsworth Ave. North exit, 5 miles north to Cherry Lane, left to stadium.




Support Our Troops, Honor Our Veterans

Ticket sales benefit:

- Honor Flight Chicago
- Operation Support Our Troops Illinois
- Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans



Discounted \$8 tickets available online at Cantigny.org and at the Cantigny Park Gift Shop. Or call Cantigny at 630-260-8162.



every ticket sold at the stadium box office in Geneva. That money will be added to funds raised from advance ticket sales through Cantigny.

“We’re excited to partner with Cantigny for this special event,” said Cougars general manager Jeff Sedivy. “It’s an honor to have Elfstrom Stadium and our national pastime serve as the backdrop for recognizing the great dedication of so many Americans who have served and still serve our country.”

The Cougars’ “Troops & Vets Night” opponent is the Burlington Bees. Game time is 6:30 pm; gates open at 5:30 pm. For directions and other information, visit the Cougars online at kccougars.com.

About Cantigny Cantigny, part of the Chicago-based McCormick Foundation, is the 500-acre Wheaton (Illinois) estate of Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. In his will, “The Colonel” left Cantigny as a gift to the community for recreation and education. It is home to the McCormick Museum, First Division Museum, formal gardens, picnic grounds, walking trails and a Visitors Center with banquet and dining facilities. More information, including hours, directions and upcoming events is online at Cantigny.org. Cantigny Golf, adjacent to the park, features a 27-hole championship golf course, full-service clubhouse, Cantigny Golf Academy and the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links. For more information, visit CantignyGolf.com.

Specially priced tickets for “Troops & Vets Night” are available online at Cantigny.org and at the Cantigny Park Gift Shop. Tickets are \$8 each, a savings of \$2 per ticket. Tickets may also be purchased by phone at 630 260 8162. Cantigny will pay all handling and postage costs for mail orders.



Sponsor A Pillowcase To Help The OMK Fund

As a result of a triple deployment for 500 soldiers on the same day, our pillowcase fund is now non existent! We were in need of ink, cases, and iron on transfers to do the project and that money got spent.



How would you or your post like to donate to the fund to replenish the money for the next project? It takes about \$5.00 per case to make a picture pillowcase. If there are four people in the picture, each one gets a free case from the Legion Family. It really gets the American Legion's name out to our soldiers because we have "been there, done that, and we are still serving."

I know "thank you" isn't very much of a reward, but these families sure enjoy having their love one to give a hug to every night that they are deployed.

Cheri Stanton, Children and Youth Chairman

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name & number of Post/Aux./S A L _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

NOTE: Don't forget to include the amount when you complete your Post Consolidated Report Form.



Armed Forces Day Dinner 2010

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- ~ ~ ~
- INDEPENDENCE DAY**
Office Closed
July 5, 2010
~ ~ ~
- 92nd Annual Dept. Convention
July 14-17, 2010
Springfield, IL
~ ~ ~
- Boys Nation
July 23-31, 2010
Washington, D.C.
~ ~ ~
- Jr. Shooting Sports
August 3-8, 2010
Colorado
~ ~ ~
- Commander Groharing's
Birthday
August 6, 2010
~ ~ ~
- Dept. Service Officer &
National Membership Training
August 5-7, 2010
Indianapolis, IN
~ ~ ~
- 1st Caravan Planning Meeting
@ Dept. H.Q.
Legion—Aux.—SAL
August 11, 2010
~ ~ ~
- American Legion Baseball
World Series
August 13-17, 2010
Spokane, WA
~ ~ ~
- Veteran's Day
State Fair—Springfield
August 15, 2010
~ ~ ~
- All Division & District
Membership Training
August 21, 2010
@ Dept. H.Q.
~ ~ ~



92nd Annual National American Legion Convention
August 27—Sept. 2, 2010
Milwaukee, WI
~ ~ ~

Veteran's Day
DuQuoin State Fair—DuQuoin
August 30, 2010
~ ~ ~

LABOR DAY
Office Closed
September 6, 2010
~ ~ ~

Department Commander's
Appointments Meeting
w/ Division Commander's
September 8, 2010
@ Dept. H.Q.
~ ~ ~

2nd Renewal Cut-Off
September 9, 2010
~ ~ ~

SAL Fall D.E.C.
September 11, 2010
Morton Grove
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Salute the Armed Forces Festival
August 13, 14 & 15 at Hawthorne Racecourse

Join us for three days of food, fun and music. 100% of the proceeds go to support the Wounded Warrior Project and the USO

BAGGO Battle Royale
Compete for a new Nintendo Wii game console
Bring your "A" game, this is serious!

TICKET \$15.00 for adults \$10.00 for kids
All active duty military personnel get in free.

Hawthorne Race Course & Expo Center 3501 S. Laramie Avenue Stickney, IL 60804

National Acts:
Grammy and Golden Globe nominated Artist **Frank Stallone**
Singing Sensation **Sonny Geraci** (Lead Singer of the Outsiders)
• **Dennis Tufano** (Lead Singer of the Buckingham's)
• **4 Troops • The Harry Garner Band**
• **Country Star Kim Anthony • Joanna Connor**
Also featuring • **Heartless • The 45's • Joe "Elvis" Tirrito** and more...

For more information please go to: www.SaluteTheArmedForces.org



The Department News is available free of charge every month at www.illegion.org

USS CAVALIER APA-37
11th REUNION
19-23 SEPTEMBER 2010
LOS VEGAS, NV

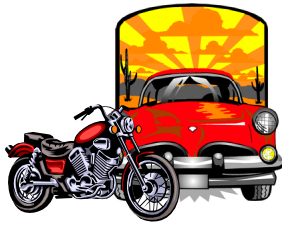
INVITEES: COMBINED USN & USCG PLUS RELATIVES AND FRIENDS
EL CORTEZ HOTEL, 1-800-634-6703.
USE CODE: USSC091910

WEB SITE: http://www.microburmbi.net/index_0.html

CONTACTS: PRES. ED. KIMBLE,
1-775-751-0213
AT: barbed413789@yahoo.com
or: RALPH HALL, 1 630-879-5909

ATTENTION POST, DISTRICT and DIVISION OFFICERS:

When sending out a phone blast please notify Department Headquarters prior to with the information that will be addressed in the phone blast. Please also remember to put in your Post phone number or your District or Division Commander's phone number as the caller I.D.



The Forreston American Legion Post 308 Family Annual *(Sauerkraut – CAR & BIKE SHOW)*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2010
8A.M. – 4P.M.



Our complete American Legion Family Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, as well as Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts will host our Annual Sauerkraut Car & Bike Show at The Forreston City Park in Forreston, Illinois!
Music by 3D Sound
Serving Sauerkraut Brats & Hot Dogs



Registration from 8am – Noon
\$10 Entry fee

- ★ *First 75 entries – Dash Plaques*
- ★ *Trophies awarded at 3pm*
- ★ *Door Prizes – 50/50 Raffle*
- ★ *Grand Prize Drawing*

To pre-register: Send \$10 fee/check payable to:

The Legion Riders, Post 308
Attn: Bret Schemel
501 First Ave
Forreston, IL 61030

Questions? Call 815-238-0713



What is our Department PR Committee up to?
To see what is new and different go to www.jointhelegion.org



Clarification of Post Exempt Status

Dear Commander & Adjutant,

The National Organization of The American Legion was granted its exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service in 1934. In February of 1946, we submitted to the central office of the Internal Revenue Service a complete listing of all Departments and Posts extant in the Legion up to and including December 31, 1945. With our submission we requested a group ruling which would extend exemption from the payment of federal income tax for those Departments and Posts designated on our listing.

Each year since 1946 supplemental listings have been transmitted to the Internal Revenue Service for an over-all group ruling covering those Departments and Posts chartered during the previous year. Group rulings have been issued yearly by the Internal Revenue Service covering those Departments and Posts.

Section 101(8) referred to in the exemption letter corresponds to Section 501(c) (4) of the 1954 Code. The American Legion, its component Departments and Posts, were exempt from the payment of federal income tax under this Section up to and including the year 1972. By virtue of the passage of Public Law 92-418 on August 29, 1971, veterans' organizations were given a separate classification under the Code, Section 501(c) (19). Refer to ruling listed below.

Also enclosed please find a copy of a letter we received from the Internal Revenue Service dated February 17, 1976, wherein the National Organization, Departments and Posts were instructed to use the number 0925 as their Group Exemption Number (GEN) when filling their Form 990.

In addition, the status of The American Legion and its Departments and Posts may allow acceptance of charitable gifts and bequests. The following might be of assistance to you.

- ★ Deductibility of Contributions to The American Legion is governed by 26 U.S. C. 170 (c) (3) Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.
- ★ Deductibility for bequests is established by 26 U.S.C. section 2055 (a) (4)
- ★ Section 170 (c)(3) reads as follows:
 - 'Sections 170. Charitable, etc., contributions and gifts
 - (a) Allowance of Deduction
 - (1) General Rule.—there shall be allowed as a deduction any charitable contribution (as defined in sub-section (c) payment of which is made within the taxable year. A charitable contribution shall be allowable as a deduction only if verified under regulations prescribed by the Secretary or his delegate.
 - (c) Charitable contribution defined. For purposes of this section the term 'charitable contribution' means a contribution or gift for the use of—
 - (3) A post or organization of war veterans, or an auxiliary unit or society of, or trust of foundation for, any such post or organization—
 - (A) organized in the United States or any of its possessions, and
 - (B) no part of the net earnings of which insures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

If your post does not know your EIN#, contact the office of the National Judge Advocate at The American Legion National Headquarters.

*Office of the National Judge
Advocate
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206*



New PBS Geiger Citizenship Awarded



Above: Department Officers leading the way to the Premier Boys State commencement ceremonies. Right: Past National Commander John Geiger enjoys visiting with the Boys State Staff.



Above: First place winner Colin Danly receives the Geiger Citizenship Award from Past National Commander John. H Geiger at the 2010 Premier Boys State Session.

Premier Boys State 2010 Session Award Winners

ESSAY

- 3rd—Naveen Pokala (Keller)
Naperville, IL
- 2nd—Timothy Wells – Kennedy
Eureka, IL
- 1st—Nathan McNichols (Savage)
Metropolis, IL

ORATION

- 3rd—Justin Rigler (Savage)
Lemont, IL
- 2nd—Shiv Sundram (Hayes)
Burr Ridge, IL
- 1st—Tyson Dethlefsen (Geiger)
Lake Forest, IL

SAMSUNG SCHOLAR

- James Konsky (Conatser)
Troy, IL

MODEL CITIZEN

- 3rd—Samuel Lawrence (Kennedy)
Grayslake, IL
- 2nd—Peter Kallis (Gleason)
Hinsdale, IL
- 1st—Joey Kim (Keller)
Naperville, IL

GEIGER CITIZENSHIP AWARD

- 3rd—Jacob Halbleib (Stelle)
Lemont, IL
- 2nd—Joey Kim (Keller)
Naperville, IL
- 1st—Colin Danly (Geiger)
Lake Forest

BOYS NATION

- 2nd Alternate
Samuel Barnes (Geiger)
Peotone, IL

- 1st Alternate
Jaisel Patel (Keller)
Edwardsville, IL

Senators

- Garren Randolph (Gleason)
Monmouth, IL
- Colin Danly (Geiger)
Lake Forest, IL

Governor

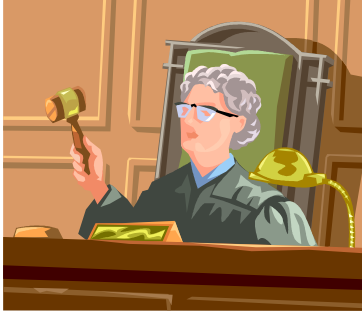
- Garren Randolph (Gleason)
Monmouth, IL

Lt. Governor

- Tyler Bussian (Keller)
Lena, IL

Secretary of State

- Kyle Young (Stelle)
Richton Park, IL



June 12, 2010. Governor Pat Quinn signed a bill into law that creates the Veterans and Service members Court Treatment Act.



The new law allows counties throughout Illinois to create special judicial courts for Veterans who may have mental health or substance abuse disorders.

“Many of our brave service members come home suffering from the effects of war, such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injuries, substance abuse and other service-related disabilities,” said Governor Quinn. “This law will help us take better care of our Veterans who need treatment, not jail.”

House Bill 5214, sponsored by Rep. Mike Tryon (R-Crystal Lake) and Sen. Pamela Althoff (R-Crystal Lake), allows the chief judge of each judicial circuit in Illinois to create a Veteran and Service members Court Program (VSCP) for military Veterans charged with nonviolent crimes.

Veterans who receive approval for enrollment in the VSCP will receive mental health and substance abuse screenings, and must submit to treatment. Upon successful completion of the program, the original charge(s) may be dismissed.

“This is groundbreaking legislation that allows qualifying veterans the opportunity to pay their debt to society while also receiving much-needed treatment for service-related disabilities,” said Dan Grant, Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “It is a proven and successful method of restoring mind, body and spirit to a veteran in need.”

The VSCP models other diversionary courts across the nation, such as drug and mental health courts. The first Veterans’ court was created in Buffalo, N.Y. in 2008. There are now more than 30 similar courts nationwide. Cook and Madison Counties in Illinois created Veterans Court programs in 2009. The law takes effect immediately.

(Aux. President continued from page 3)

welcomed me with a smile and were always so helpful whenever I needed anything. My special thanks to each of you. I will sincerely miss seeing you so often next year.

To Commanders Bill and Mark—I couldn’t have asked for any better Commanders to serve with. You were always willing to go along with anything I asked and included me in everything that we participated in. You both had an integral part in making my year so special and so much fun.

As we end this year of “Striking Up The Band For Our Veterans!” please remember that our work will never be done. Our organizations have grown to be so large because of the dedication of those who

came before us. We should never let their efforts and time have been in vain.

*Always remember to forget
The things that made you sad,
But never forget to remember
The things that made you glad.
Always remember to forget
The friends that proved untrue,
But never forget to remember
Those that have stuck by you.
Always remember to forget
The troubles that passed away,
But never forget to remember
The blessings that come each day.
I will remember each of you always.*



Department of Illinois American Legion Family



NATIONAL CONVENTION PARADE SHIRT

Example of Embroidery

ONE FORM PER ORDER



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Order your Legion Family National Parade shirt for \$30.00 each today. **Order forms must be turned in to Executive Secretary Christy Rich.** The deadline for shirt orders is July 23, 2010.

**NO LATE ORDERS
WILL BE ACCEPTED**

PLEASE NOTE: Please complete this order form by selecting your shirt style (i.e.: men or women's), your shirt size and your emblem of choice then turn the form in to Christy by the deadline date of July 23rd. Parade Shirts will be available for pick up at National Convention in the Department Headquarters Office.

MEN'S SHIRT SIZE	MENS SHIRT (Choose one)	WOMAN'S SHIRT SIZE	WOMENS SHIRT (Choose one)	LOGO CHOICE <i>Legion / Auxiliary/ SAL</i>	PRICE \$30 each
------------------	-------------------------	--------------------	---------------------------	---	--------------------

Small		X-Small			
Medium		Small			
Large		Medium			
XL		Large			
XXL		XXL			
3-XL		Plus 1X			
4-XL		Plus 2X			

**Brand of shirt is -
Sport Tech Dry Zone**

Total \$

Payment Type: _____ Check -or- _____ Credit Card

(Checks Payable to: AMERICAN LEGION—DEPT. OF IL)

Please charge \$ _____ on my:

Card No.: _____ Card Exp Date: ____ / ____

Signature: _____

(Required)



The Legacy Run is Coming Through Illinois!



THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY RUN

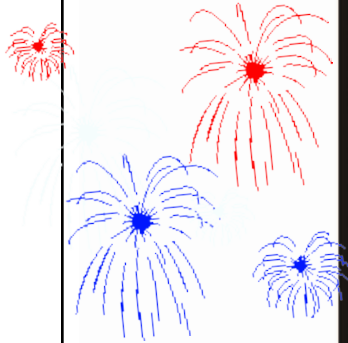
INDIANAPOLIS TO MILWAUKEE
AUGUST 22 - 26, 2010

benefitting

THE AMERICAN LEGION
LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

Meet us on
Sunday, August 22nd
at
Effingham Post 120

200 W. Washington St.
Effingham, IL.



The riders will be stopping for lunch in Effingham at Post 120
200 W. Washington St. Effingham, IL. Sunday, August 22nd. ETA: 10:15 AM

***Riders wishing to ride through Illinois or any part of
are welcome to jump in at this point.***

Illinois' donations to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship may be dropped off at
this location, National Commander Hill will be there to accept your donations.

However, if you are unable to join us in Effingham, please send your Legacy
Scholarship donations to Dept. of IL HQ. Illinois donations will be presented at
the 92nd American Legion National Convention to be held in Milwaukee, WI.

**DEPT. OF ILLINOIS LEGION FAMILY IS PROUDLY ASSISTING WITH THE
NATIONAL GOAL OF \$450,000 FOR THE LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

New National Emergency Fund Application Form

— And the policies that govern the program—



Please use the new form instead of the old one (before 2007) when submitting grant applications, if at all possible, as they capture much more information that is now needed to process these applications.

Bottom line, the member must be **displaced** from their home to apply for grant monies and the area must be in a declared disaster zone.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

Eligibility criteria:

1. Eligibility open to Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members (up to \$1,500) Legion Posts (up to \$5,000).
2. Applicant must have been displaced from their primary residence due to a declared natural disaster and provide proof of out-of-pocket expenses.
3. Not meant to replace or repair items, only to meet most immediate needs (i.e., temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.)
4. Does not cover insurance compensation or monetary losses from a business, structures on your property (barns, tool sheds, etc.,) equipment or vehicles.
5. Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.

Go to National; web site for the NEF application <http://www.legion.org/emergency/apply>

(Dept. Commander continued from page 2)

sent graduating senior Perry Draper with a Samsung Scholarship worth \$20,000 to help toward his studies in college.

Memorial Day weekend was spent attending services at my home Post in New Baden and then on Monday traveling to Fairfield to be the guest speaker at their Memorial Day service.

So far the month of June is equally as busy attending Boys State when possible and attending Girls State and Youth Police School later in the month, as well as attending Conventions of the other Veterans Organizations in the State.

Just a short reminder our 92nd Convention will be coming up next month July 13th thru the 17th and I am asking all members to come and be a part of this Conventions and help make decisions that may effect all of you. I am asking that all participants dress appropriately by not wearing shorts, tee shirts or blue jeans and wear your Legion cover and if you're a member of the ALR, by all means wear your vest and Legion cover. I am told by not allowing this dress I will cut into attendance, but if the American Legion means something to you the dress code will not matter. I would also like to see a great attendance at the Commanders and Presidents Dinner Saturday night, so please come and honor President Julia and me.

Membership is still behind last year but I would like to thank each and every Post for the hard work you have done in membership this year. As I look over the membership for the entire State even with the hard work of all the Posts, we will once again lose about 8,000 members for membership year 2010. Once again thanks for all your hard work this year, but remember, it's not what you paid to belong, it's what you paid to be eligible. Only you know the VALUE of your membership.



(Dept. Sr.. Vice Cmdr. continued from page 2)

were there. The next weekend we were entertained by the 2nd Division at the Armed Forces Day festivities and visited the Veterans Memorial in Rockford, which is a beautiful tribute to all veterans. National Commander Hill was the guest speaker and the Rockton Post hosted the event. The next day we were guests for the annual 9th District Past Commanders and Presidents dinner and enjoyed a great meal and camaraderie with all that were there.

The next week we attended the 23rd District Convention with Commander Flanagan and I observed while they elected their new staff for the next year. I have to believe that the founders of our constitution knew what they were doing when they wrote our by-laws. This changing of the guard every year gives the newer members of our organization a chance to see what they are made of and what they can do to improve.

I then was invited to speak at the Genoa Post for their Memorial Day ceremony. 2nd Division Commander Gary Keegan hosted this meeting also as the Genoa Post Commander. I guess when you are good at what you do, you get asked to do more. Great evening Gary.

I was very impressed at the 75th Boys State Graduation. What a great program and remarkable group of young men. A week later was a guest at the 70th Girls State Graduation and enjoyed a fantastic talent show given by the young ladies.

The next week I was in Springfield witnessing the graduation of The Youth Police School at the State Police Academy. These youngsters really changed in one week.

This was just a sampling of the programs that we support and I can tell you that they truly make a change in the lives of the youth in Illinois. It is a lot of traveling, but if you ever get the opportunity, during the month of May, to visit these three specific programs you will not be disappointed. Go see what our time and dues go to support, it's worth it.

Finally I was honored to attend the Sons of The American Legion Convention in Bloomington and installed Garrett Slevin Jr. as Commander and his Sr. Vice Commander Harl (Butch) Ray. Here is wishing them both a very successful year.

Finally I will say that this has been a very enlightening year and with the Good Lord's help will be an even better one next year. The past month and a half has really shown me the True Value of Membership. Believe it's tangible.

(Membership continued from page 3)

representative took the information and called me back the next day. I saved \$100 off the sale price in the store. I ordered my freezer and had it delivered the next week.

The phone rep and the delivery guys were fantastic. I am now enjoying my fresh beef and my new freezer, best of all that one purchase paid for my first 4 years or ¼ of my Paid-up-for-life membership. So I have to ask, do any of you need a major appliance? I can honestly say to someone that says they can't afford to be a member; you can't afford not to be a member.

I want to finish with a big Congratulation to all of our award winners this year. Thank You for your efforts in membership this year. Thank you to all of our District, Division and Department Leadership for their efforts this year. This is always a team effort. Please come to Dept convention and support the team and be involved. Whether you are at a Post, District or Division Level of involvement in the American Legion you need to come to convention and be part of what we do. If you go to www.jointhelegion.org you will see a video of a personal invitation from our Dept Commander.

I need to do a little housekeeping before I close the door on 2010 card year. Don't forget send your Post Certifications for the new card year right away. The sooner we get it, the sooner we can mail your cards to you. I also need to say thank you to The Membership Staff here at headquarters. Dee, Deloris and Marsha, do a fantastic job of taking care of all of us Legionnaires and our membership needs. I am sure you will agree we couldn't do our jobs without them. Thank You Ladies!

Remember, I hope you had fun this year. Now, let's go have fun next year.

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***"NOW IS THE TIME TO STAND
TOGETHER FOR OUR FLAG"***

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* One year Subscription to the Department News
\$5.00 for 11 issues
Newsletter articles must be at Department
Headquarters by the 15th of each month.

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

JUNE—JULY TRIVIA:

1. What amendment in the U.S. Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of religion, speech and the press?
2. What did Elizabeth I have removed from her palaces when her hair thinned and her cheeks hollowed?
3. What historic structure was saved from a real estate syndicate by a donation from a Texas cattle heiress?
4. What was the number of the British armored Division known as the Desert Rats?
5. Who, during the Vietnam War, was known as Hanoi Jane?
6. Where did Nazi leader Rudolf Hess crash land in 1941?

LAST MONTHS TRIVIA ANSWERS:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. British Columbia | 5. The Lakers |
| 2. St. Louis | 6. Japan |
| 3. Mediterranean | |
| 4. Switzerland | |

